

The background of the slide features a sepia-toned photograph of a classical building. On the left and right sides, the upper portions of two large domes are visible, each topped with a decorative finial. The domes are supported by a series of columns. The central area of the image is a plain, light-colored background where the text is centered.

HISTORY OF TRAVEL
UNIT 04
BTM 4TH SEMESTER
406 – GEOGRAPHY & HISTORY
ANSHAY SINGH

PALEOLITHIC AGE IN INDIA

During the Paleolithic period the man was a hunter and food gatherer. The human being used to use simple chipped and chopped type stone tools for hunting and other purposes.

The people were not aware of neither agriculture nor home construction hence the life was not properly settled. It has been traced that people survived consumed roots of trees and fruits and lived in caves and hills. The Paleolithic man was a hunter and food gatherer.

1. Lower Paleolithic Age mainly spread in Western Europe and Africa and early human lived a nomadic lifestyle. No specific human group was the carrier of Lower Paleolithic period, but many scholars believe that this era was a contribution of Neanderthal-like Paleoanthropic men (Third stage of hominid evolution)

2. Middle Paleolithic Age was mainly associated with early form of man, Neanderthal, whose remains are often found in caves with evidence of the use of fire. He got his name from the valley of Neander (Germany).

Neanderthal was hunter of prehistoric time. The Middle Paleolithic man was scavenger but few evidences of hunting and gathering were traced. The dead were painted before burial.

3. Upper Paleolithic Age was characterized by the appearance of new flint industries and Homo Sapiens (Modern type men) in world context. This was the last part of the Paleolithic Age which gave rise to the Upper Paleolithic culture.

This period covered approximately 1/10th time of the total Paleolithic Period but in short span of time, the primitive man made greatest cultural progress. The culture has been referred as the Osteodontokeratic culture, i.e. tools made up of bone, teeth, and horns.

Indian sites of Old Stone Age (Paleolithic Age)

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Lower Paleolithic | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Valley of Sohan in Punjab (now in Pakistan)2. Kashmir and Thar Desert3. Belan Valley in Mirzapur district, UP4. Bidwana in Rajasthan5. Narmada Valley |
| Middle Palaeolithic | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Narmada River Valley2. Tungabhadra River Valley |
| Upper Palaeolithic | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Andhra Pradesh2. Karnataka3. Central MP4. Maharashtra5. Southern UP6. South Bihar Plateau |

THE MESOLITHIC AGE

The Mesolithic Age, also known as Middle Stone Age, was the second part of the Stone Age. In India, it spanned from 9,000 B.C. to 4,000 B.C. This age is characterized by the appearance of Microliths (small bladed stone tools).

The Mesolithic Age was a transitional phase between the Paleolithic Age and the Neolithic Age. The people of this age lived on hunting, fishing, and food gathering; later on they also domesticated animals.

Important Facts related to the Mesolithic Age

1. In India, it spanned around 9,000 B.C. to 4,000 B.C. This age was a transitional phase between the Paleolithic Age and the Neolithic Age.
2. The people of this age lived on hunting, fishing, and food gathering initially but later on they also domesticated animals.
3. The characteristic tools of this age were Microliths.
4. The people of this age practised painting. The paintings depicted birds, animals, and human beings. A considerable number of painted rock shelters have been found in Bhimbetka, Madhya Pradesh.
5. Mesolithic sites have been found in Rajasthan, south of the river Krishna, central and eastern parts of India, and also in southern Uttar Pradesh
6. Bagor in Rajasthan and Adamgarh in Madhya Pradesh are examples of Mesolithic sites in India.

List of Indian Mesolithic sites, their locations, and characteristics

| Name of Mesolithic Sites | Location | Characteristics |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| Bagor | Rajasthan | It had a microlithic industry and its people lived on hunting and pastoralism. |
| Adamgarh | Madhya Pradesh | It shows the earliest evidence for the domestication of animals. |
| Bhimbetka | Madhya Pradesh | It has more than 500 painted rock shelters. |
| Langhnaj | Gujarat | Provides the earliest evidence of burial of the dead. |
| Mohrana Pahara | Mirzapur, Uttar Pradesh | Provides the earliest evidence of burial. |

THE NEOLITHIC AGE

The Neolithic Age, which means New Stone Age, was the last and third part of the Stone Age. In India, it spanned from around 7,000 B.C. to 1,000 B.C. The Neolithic Age is mainly characterized by the development of settled agriculture and the use of tools and weapons made of polished stones. The major crops grown during this period were ragi, horse gram, cotton, rice, wheat, and barley. Pottery first appeared in this age.

Important points related to the Neolithic Age

1. The time span of the Neolithic Age in India was around 7,000 B.C. to 1,000 B.C.
2. The Neolithic Age was preceded by Mesolithic Age (9,000 B.C. to 4,000 B.C.) and succeeded by Chalcolithic Age (c.2100 to 700 B.C.).
3. The major crops grown were ragi, horse gram, cotton, rice, wheat, and barley. The people of this age domesticated cattle, sheep, and goats. They resided in pits near a lake side and had hunting and fishing economy.
4. The people used microlithic blades in addition to tools made of polished stones as well as bones. They used axes, adzes, chisels, and celts.
5. Pottery first appeared in this age and included grey ware, black burnished ware, and mat-impressed ware.
6. The Neolithic Age is significant for its Megalithic Architecture.
7. The people of this period lived in circular or rectangular houses which were made from mud and reed. At some places they lived in mud-brick houses.
8. They had common rights over property and led a settled life.
9. The Neolithic settlements have been found in North-Western part (Such as Kashmir), Southern part (Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and Andhra Pradesh), North Eastern frontier (Meghalaya), and Eastern part (Bihar and Odisha) of India.
10. Some of the important Neolithic settlements are Mehrgarh (located in Baluchistan, Pakistan), Burzahom (Kashmir), Gufkral (Kashmir), Chirand (Bihar), and Utnur (Andhra Pradesh).
11. The oldest Neolithic settlement in the Indian Subcontinent was Mehrgarh which is located in Baluchistan, a province of Pakistan.
12. Jarf el Ahmar and Tell Abu Hureyra (both in Syria) were the major Neolithic sites in Asia.

List of Neolithic sites, their locations, and characteristics

| Name of Neolithic Site | Location | Time Span | Characteristics |
|---|-----------------------|--------------------------|---|
| Mehrgarh | Baluchistan, Pakistan | 7,000 B.C. | Produced cotton and wheat and lived in mud-brick houses. |
| Burzahom (the place of birch) | Kashmir | 2,700 B.C. | The people lived on a lake side in pits. Domestic dogs were buried along with their masters in their graves. Used tools and weapons made of polished stone as well as bone. |
| Gufkral | Kashmir | 2,000 B.C. | Practiced both agriculture & domestication of animals. Used tools and weapons made of polished stone as well as bone. |
| Chirand | Bihar | 2,000 B.C. | Used tools and weapons made of bone. |
| Pikilihal, Brahmagiri, Maski, Hallur, Takkalakota, T. Narsipur, Kodekal, Sanganakallu | Karnataka | 2,000 B.C. to 1,000 B.C. | The people in Pikilihal were cattle-herders. They domesticated sheep, goats, and cattle. Ash mounds have been found. |
| Paiyampalli | Tamil Nadu | 2,000-1,000 B.C. | |
| Utnur | Andhra Pradesh | 2,000-1,000 B.C. | |