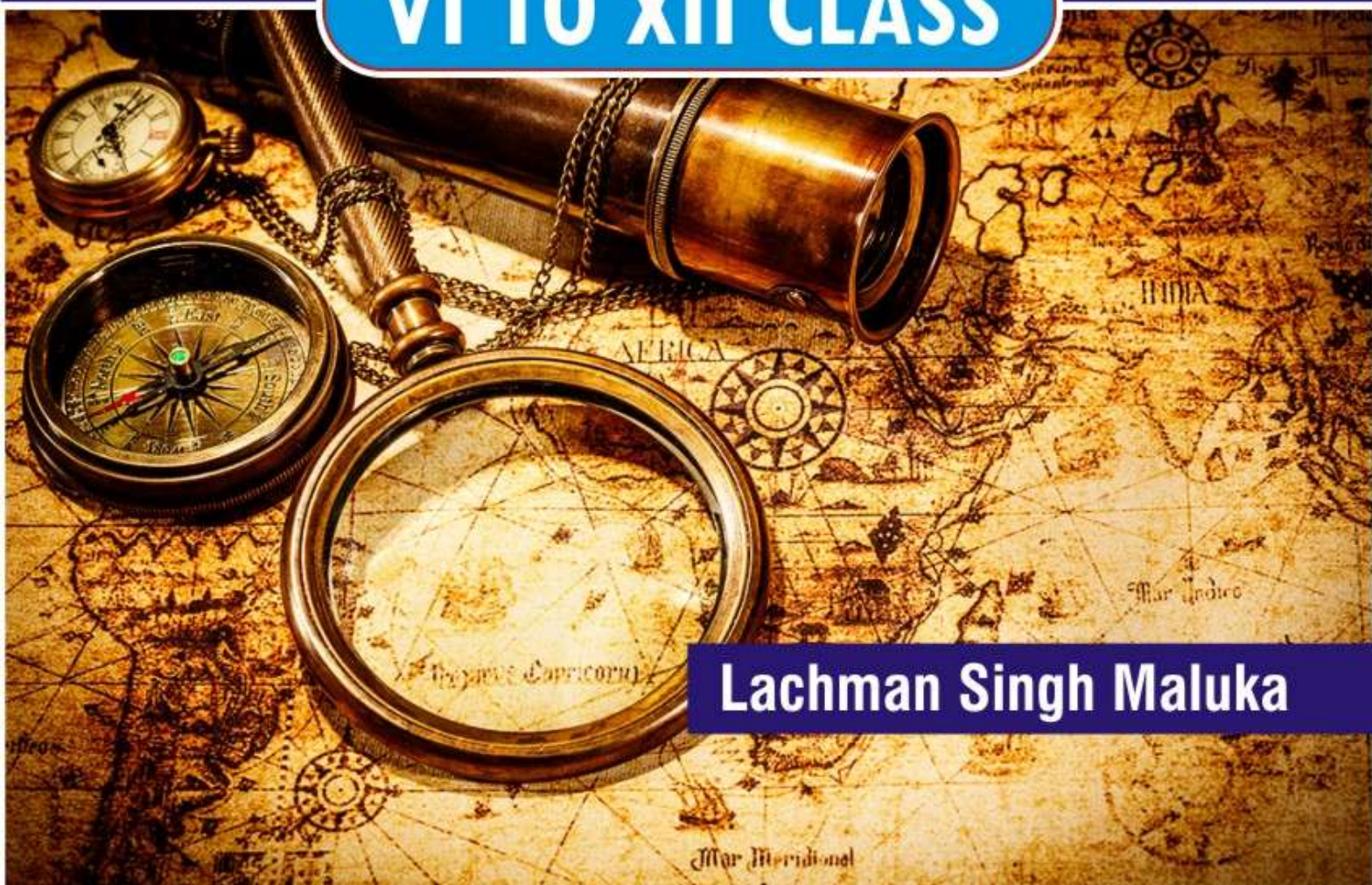




MALUKA IAS

SYNOPSIS OF NCERT
HISTORY
ART & CULTURE

VI TO XII CLASS



Lachman Singh Maluka

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CLASS IV HISTORY (Our Pasts- I)

CHAPTER 1

WHAT, WHERE, HOW AND WHEN?



Life near Narmada River-

- Skilled gatherers
- knew about the vast wealth of plants in the surrounding forests, and collected roots, fruits and other forest produce for their food
- hunted animals

Life in Sulaiman and Kirthar hills to the northwest-

- Women and men first began to *grow crops such as wheat and barley* about 8000 years ago are located here.
- Rearing animals like sheep, goat, and cattle,
- People lived in villages

Life in Garo hills to the north-east and the Vindhyas in central India-

- Agriculture developed
- *Rice was first grown in the north of the Vindhyas.*

Life near Indus River and its tributaries-

- About 4700 years ago, some of the earliest cities flourished on the banks of these rivers.
- Later, about 2500 years ago, cities developed on the banks of the Ganga and its tributaries, and along the sea coasts.
- Tributary- smaller rivers that flow into a larger river

Life near Ganga and its tributary called the Son-

- South of the Ganga was known as Magadha now lying in the state of Bihar
- Its rulers were very powerful, and set up a large kingdom.

Names of the land

- The word India comes from the Indus, called Sindhu in Sanskrit.
- The Iranians and the Greeks who came through the northwest about 2500 years ago and were familiar with the Indus, called it the Hindos or the Indos, and the land to the east of the river was called India.
- The name Bharata was used for a group of people who lived in the northwest, and who are mentioned in the Rigveda, the earliest composition in Sanskrit (dated to about 3500 years ago).
- Later it was used for the country.

Manuscript

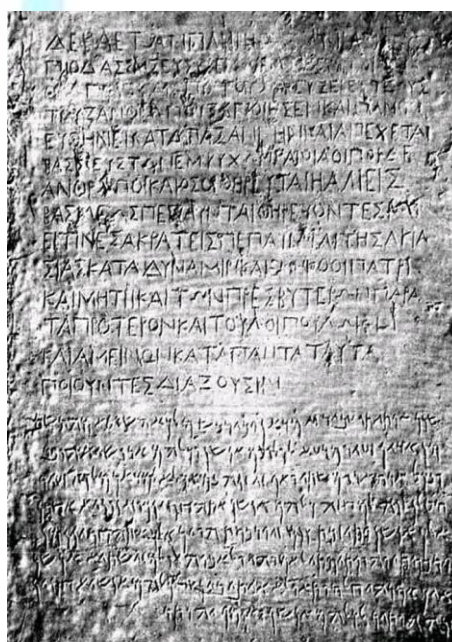
- They were written by hand (this comes from the Latin word 'manu', meaning hand)
- These were usually written on palm leaf, or on the specially prepared bark of a tree known as the birch, which grows in the Himalayas.
- Over the years, many manuscripts were eaten away by insects, some were destroyed, but many have survived, often preserved in temples and monasteries.
- Subjects: Religious beliefs and practices, the lives of kings, medicine and science.
- Besides, there were epics, poems, plays.

- Language- Sanskrit, others were in Prakrit (languages used by ordinary people) and Tamil.



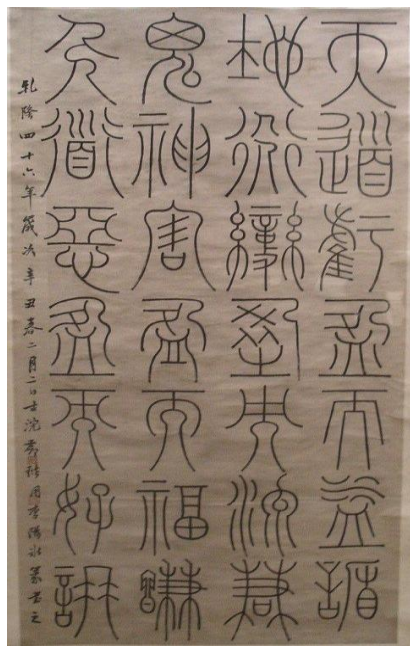
Inscriptions

- These are writings on relatively hard surfaces such as stone or metal.
- Sometimes, kings got their orders inscribed so that people could see, read and obey them.
- There are other kinds of inscriptions as well, where men and women (including kings and queens) recorded what they did.
- For example, kings often kept records of victories in battle.
- Inscription in Kandhar (Afghanistan; 2250 years ago)- Orders of a ruler named Ashoka



Script

○ Letters or Signs



What do dates mean?

- 2000 means 2000 years after the birth of Christ.
- All dates before the birth of Christ are counted backwards and usually have the letters BC (Before Christ) added on

- a) BC- 'Before Christ.'
 - b) AD - two Latin words, 'Anno Domini', meaning 'in the year of the Lord' (i.e. Christ).
 - c) CE stand for 'Common Era' and BCE for 'Before Common Era'.
 - d) We use these terms because the Christian Era is now used in most countries of the world.
- In India we began using this form of dating from about two hundred years ago.
 - And sometimes, the letters BP meaning 'Before Present' are used.

SOME IMPORTANT DATES

- The beginning of Agriculture (8000 years ago)
- The first cities on the Indus (4700 years ago)
- Cities in the Ganga valley, a big kingdom in Magadha (2500 years ago)
- The present (about 2000 AD/CE)

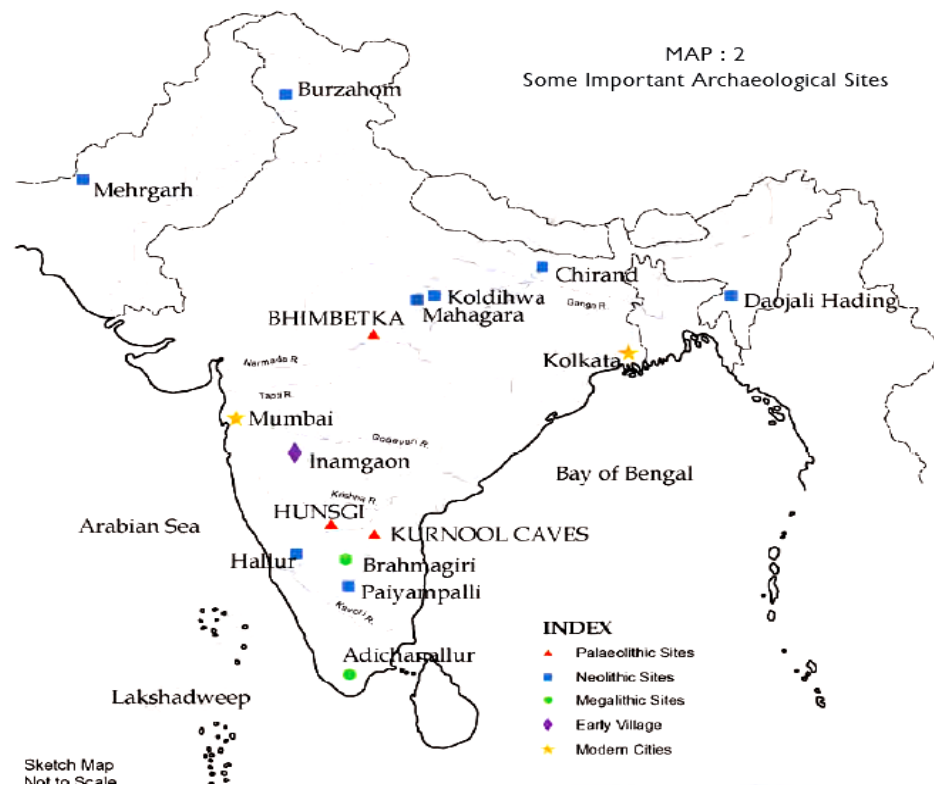
Chapter 2 ON THE TRAIL OF THE EARLIEST PEOPLE

Why hunter gatherers moved from place to place?

a) 1st If they had stayed at one place for a long time, they would have eaten up all the available plant and animal resources.

- b) 2nd, animals move from place to place— either in search of smaller prey, or, in the case of deer and wild cattle, in search of grass and leaves. That is why those who hunted them had to follow their movements.
- c) 3rd, plants and trees bear fruit in different seasons. So season wise movement
- d) 4th, people, plants and animals need water to survive. So near rivers

Hunter- gatherers places



Making stone tools

1. The first is called stone on stone.

2. Pressure flaking-

- Here the core was placed on a firm surface.
- The hammer stone was used on a piece of bone or stone that was placed on the core, to remove flakes that could be shaped into tools.

Kurnool caves-

- Andhra Pradesh
- Traces of ash which tells fire was used in that period.

- Use of fire- as a source of light, to roast meat, and to scare away animals)

Ostriches in India-

- Ostriches were found in India during the Palaeolithic period.
- Large quantities of ostrich egg shells were found at Patne in Maharashtra.

Palaeolithic-

- 'palaeo', meaning old,
- 'lithos', meaning stone
- 2 million- 12,000 years ago

Mesolithic (middle stone)-

- Stone tools found during this period are generally tiny, and are called *microliths*.
- *Microliths were probably stuck on to handles of bone or wood to make tools such as saws and sickles.*
- At the same time, older varieties of tools continued to be in use.

Rock paintings-

- Madhya Pradesh and southern Uttar Pradesh
- These paintings show wild animals, drawn with great accuracy and skill



A painting from a rock shelter.

Hunsgi-

- Karnataka
- Early Palaeolithic sites were found here.
- Sites close to river
- At some sites, a large number of tools, used for all sorts of activities, were found.
- habitation-cum factory sites
- Some areas- tools were made
- Most tools were made from limestone, which was locally available.

SOME IMPORTANT DATES

- The Mesolithic period (12,000-10,000 years ago)
- The beginning of the Neolithic (10,000 years ago)

CHAPTER 3
FROM GATHERING TO GROWING FOOD

Neolithic period-

- The beginnings of farming and herding
- The first animal to be tamed was the wild ancestor of the dog.
- Domestication start- The earliest domesticated animals include sheep and goat.
- These include tools that were polished to give a fine cutting edge, and mortars and pestles used for grinding grain and other plant produce.
- Mortars and pestles are used for grinding grain even today, several thousand years later.

Grain and Bones	Sites
Wheat, barley, sheep, goat, cattle	Mehrgarh (in present day-Pakistan)
Rice, fragmentary animal bones	Koldihwa (in present-day Uttar Pradesh)
Rice, cattle (hoof marks on clay surface)	Mahagara (in present-day Uttar Pradesh)
Wheat and lentil	Gufkral (in present-day Kashmir)

Grain and Bones	Sites
Wheat and lentil, dog, cattle, sheep, goat, buffalo,	Burzahom (in present-day Kashmir)
Wheat, green gram, barley, buffalo, ox	Chirand (in present-day Bihar)
Millet, cattle, sheep, goat, pig	Hallur (in present-day Andhra Pradesh)
Black gram, millet, cattle, sheep, pig	Paiyampalli (in present-day Andhra Pradesh)

Towards a settled life

Burzahom (in present-day Kashmir)

- People built pit-houses, which were dug into the ground, with steps leading into them
- Cooking hearths both inside and outside the huts

Tribes

- Usually two to three generations live together in small settlements or villages.
- Most families are related to one another and groups of such families form a tribe.
- Occupations- hunting, gathering, farming, herding and fishing
- Women- agricultural work, including preparing the ground, sowing seeds, looking after the growing plants and harvesting grain
- Men are regarded as leaders
- Rich and unique cultural traditions, including their own language, music, stories and paintings
- Own gods and goddesses

Mehrgarh

- Fertile plain, near the Bolan Pass, which is one of the most important routes into Iran
- Women and men learnt to grow barley and wheat, and rear sheep and goats for the first time here
- Bones of wild animals such as the deer and pig
- Remains of square or rectangular houses.
- Each house had four or more compartments, some of which may have been used for storage
- Burial system (dead person was buried with goats, which were probably meant to serve as food in the next world)

Daojali Hading

- Site near the Brahmaputra Valley, close to routes leading into China and Myanmar
- Stone tools, including mortars and pestles

- People were probably growing grain and preparing food
- Other finds include jadeite, a stone that may have been brought from China.
- Also common are finds of *tools made of fossil wood* (ancient wood that has hardened into stone), and pottery.

Turkey

- Most famous Neolithic sites, Catal Huyuk, was found in Turkey
- Several things were brought from great distances —flint from Syria, cowries from the

Red Sea, shells from the Mediterranean Sea — and used in the settlement

- No carts — most things would have been carried on the backs of pack animals such as cattle or by people.

SOME IMPORTANT DATES

- Beginnings of domestication (about 12,000 years ago)
- Beginning of settlement at Mehrgarh (about 8000 years ago)



CHAPTER 4 **IN THE EARLIEST CITIES**

The story of Harappa

- Developed about 4700 years ago

City Structure-

- Cities were divided into two or more parts
- Usually, the part to the west was smaller but higher (known as *citadel*)
- Generally, the part to the east was larger but lower (Known as lower town)
- Use of baked brick
- Bricks were laid in an interlocking pattern and that made the walls strong.
- In some cities, special buildings were constructed on the citadel.
- For example,
- Mohenjodaro, a very special tank, which archaeologists call the Great Bath, was built in this area
- This was lined with bricks, coated with plaster, and made water-tight with a layer of natural tar.
- There were steps leading down to it from two sides, while there were rooms on all sides.
- Water was probably brought in from a well, and drained out after use.

Kalibangan and Lothal-

- Fire altars found which tells, sacrifices may have been performed.

Mohenjodaro, Harappa, and Lothal-

- Had store houses

Houses, drains and streets-

- Generally, houses were either one or two storeys high, with rooms built around a courtyard.
- Most houses had a separate bathing area, and some had wells to supply water.

- Many of these cities had covered drains
- Each drain had a gentle slope so that water could flow through it.
- Drains in houses were connected to those on the streets and smaller drains led into bigger ones.
- Drains were covered, inspection holes were provided at intervals to clean them.
- All three — houses, drains and streets — were probably planned and built at the same time.

Life in the city

- Rulers planned the construction of special buildings in the city.
- Rulers sent people to distant lands to get metal, precious stones, and other things that they wanted.
- They may have kept the most valuable objects, such as ornaments of gold and silver, or beautiful beads, for themselves.
- And there were scribes, people who knew how to write, who helped prepare the seals, and perhaps wrote on other materials that have not survived.
- Besides, there were men and women, *crafts persons, making all kinds of things* — either in their own homes, or in special workshops.
- People were travelling to distant lands or returning with raw materials and, perhaps, stories.
- Many terracotta toys have been found and children must have played with these.

Harappan Seal-

- The signs on the top of the seal are part of a script.
- This is the earliest form of writing known in the subcontinent.
- Scholars have tried to read these signs but we still do not know exactly what they mean.