



Class 9 Social Science – Chapter 4

Free Worksheets – Early Humans and Beginning of Civilisation

Book: *Understanding Society: India and Beyond – Grade 9, Part 1*

Chapter 4: Early Humans and Beginning of Civilisation

The worksheet pack below follows the official textbook topics: early humans, archaeological evidence, communication before writing, the Palaeolithic–Mesolithic–Neolithic periods, the beginning of agriculture, early settlements, Bronze Age civilisations, rivers, writing, trade and early innovations. The chapter's four Big Questions focus on these themes.



WORKSHEET 1 – Early Humans

Name: _____

Class: _____ **Date:** _____

A. Fill in the Blanks

1. The period before the development of _____ is mainly understood through archaeological evidence.
 2. Early humans depended largely on _____ and gathering for food.
 3. The Old Stone Age is also known as the _____.
 4. The Middle Stone Age is called the _____.
 5. The New Stone Age is called the _____.
 6. Early humans used _____ tools made from stone.
 7. Cave paintings provide evidence about the lives and activities of _____ humans.
 8. The development of agriculture gradually encouraged people to live in more _____ settlements.
-

B. Choose the Correct Answer

1. Which source is especially important for studying the period before writing?

- A. Newspapers
- B. Archaeological evidence
- C. Modern websites
- D. Printed books

2. Which period is associated with the earliest stone tools?

- A. Palaeolithic
- B. Neolithic
- C. Medieval
- D. Modern

3. Which period is associated with the beginning of agriculture and settled life?

- A. Palaeolithic
- B. Mesolithic
- C. Neolithic
- D. Iron Age

4. Cave paintings are useful because they can provide information about:

- A. Modern governments
 - B. Early human life and activities
 - C. Modern industries
 - D. Written laws
-

C. Match the Following

Column A

Column B

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Palaeolithic | a. New Stone Age |
| 2. Mesolithic | b. Middle Stone Age |
| 3. Neolithic | c. Old Stone Age |
| 4. Archaeology | d. Study of material remains |

Answers:

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____



WORKSHEET 2 – Stone Age & Human Life

A. Complete the Table

Period	Tools	Settlement	Food / Subsistence
Palaeolithic	_____	_____	_____
	—	—	
Mesolithic	_____	_____	_____
	—	—	
Neolithic	_____	_____	_____
	—	—	

The textbook itself asks students to compare the **Palaeolithic**, **Mesolithic** and **Neolithic** periods by examining tools, settlements, art and subsistence.

B. True or False

1. Early humans always lived in permanent cities. _____
 2. Stone tools changed over time. _____
 3. Agriculture encouraged more settled ways of life. _____
 4. Archaeologists study material remains to understand the past. _____
 5. Writing existed throughout the entire period of early human history. _____
 6. Early humans used their environment to meet their needs. _____
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C. Short Answer Questions

1. How did early humans obtain food?

2. How did tools help early humans?

3. Why was the development of agriculture important?

4. How did settled life change human society?



WORKSHEET 3 – Beginning of Agriculture

A. Fill in the Blanks

1. The transition to agriculture involved the domestication of _____ and _____.
2. Agriculture encouraged people to establish more permanent _____.
3. Farming required knowledge of soil, water, seasons and _____.
4. The cultivation of crops changed the relationship between humans and the _____.

B. Think & Answer

1. Why did humans begin practising agriculture?

2. What were some advantages of settled agricultural life?

3. What new challenges could arise when people began living in permanent settlements?

4. How might agriculture have contributed to population growth?



WORKSHEET 4 – Early Civilisations

A. Identify the Civilisation

Write the appropriate civilisation.

1. Developed around the Nile River: _____
2. Developed in Mesopotamia: _____
3. Developed along the Sindhu–Sarasvatī river system: _____
4. Ancient civilisation associated with the Yellow River and other regions of China:

B. Complete the Table

Civilisation	Important River/Region	Important Features
Mesopotamia	_____	_____
Egypt	_____	_____
Sindhu–Sarasvat ī	_____	_____
China	_____	_____

C. Choose the Correct Answer

1. The Egyptian civilisation developed along the:

- A. Nile
- B. Ganga
- C. Indus only
- D. Amazon

2. Mesopotamia developed between the:

- A. Nile and Ganga
- B. Tigris and Euphrates
- C. Indus and Yamuna
- D. Yangtze and Ganga

3. The Harappan civilisation is also associated with the:

- A. Sindhu–Sarasvatī civilisation
 - B. Roman civilisation
 - C. Greek civilisation
 - D. Egyptian civilisation
-



WORKSHEET 5 – Writing & Communication

A. Match the Script with the Civilisation

Script	Civilisation
1. Cuneiform	a. Ancient Egypt
2. Hieroglyphic	b. Harappan/Sindhu–Sarasvatī
3. Harappan script	c. Sumerian/Mesopotamian

Answers:

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

The textbook explains that the **Harappan script remains undeciphered**, while the cuneiform script of the Sumerians and the hieroglyphic script of ancient Egypt have been deciphered.

B. Short Answer Questions

1. Why is writing important for understanding ancient civilisations?

2. How did people communicate before writing was invented?

3. What can inscriptions and written records tell historians?

4. Why is the undeciphered Harappan script an important subject for historians?



WORKSHEET 6 – Map Skills

A. Locate the Civilisations

On a blank world map, locate and label:

-  Mesopotamia
 -  Egypt
 -  Sindhu–Sarasvatī / Harappan region
 -  Ancient China
-

B. River Connections

Complete:

Mesopotamia → _____ + _____

Egypt → _____

Sindhu–Sarasvatī civilisation → _____

China → _____

C. Map-Based Thinking

1. Why did many early civilisations develop near rivers?

2. What advantages did rivers provide to early societies?

3. What challenges could rivers create?

The textbook specifically asks students to locate the major rivers and civilisations and mark the trade links between them.



WORKSHEET 7 – HOTS & Application

1. Archaeologists discover stone tools, pottery and animal bones at a site.

What can these objects tell us about the people who lived there?

2. Imagine the Harappan script is deciphered tomorrow.

What kinds of new information might historians discover?

This is directly inspired by the textbook's question about the possible discovery of the meaning of the Harappan script.

3. “Rivers were both helpful and challenging for early societies.”

Explain this statement.

Advantages:

Challenges:

The textbook specifically asks students to examine both the advantages and disadvantages of settling near rivers.

4. Why might different early civilisations develop similar features even when they were far apart?



WORKSHEET 8 – Quick Revision Quiz

Circle the Correct Answer

1. The period before writing is mainly studied using:

- A. Archaeological evidence
- B. Newspapers
- C. Modern records
- D. Government reports

2. The Palaeolithic is known as the:

- A. New Stone Age
- B. Middle Stone Age
- C. Old Stone Age
- D. Bronze Age

3. The Neolithic period is associated with:

- A. Agriculture and settled life
- B. Modern factories
- C. Printing
- D. Computers

4. Cuneiform was used in:

- A. Mesopotamia
- B. Ancient India only
- C. Modern Europe
- D. Ancient America

5. Hieroglyphic writing is associated with:

- A. Egypt
- B. China
- C. Mesopotamia
- D. Harappan civilisation

6. The Harappan script is:

- A. Fully understood
- B. Undeciphered
- C. A modern script
- D. Roman

7. Early civilisations often developed near rivers because rivers provided:

- A. Water and fertile land
- B. Only mountains
- C. Only minerals
- D. No useful resources

8. Archaeology helps us study the past through:

- A. Material remains
- B. Guesswork
- C. Fiction
- D. Rumours



BONUS – Assertion & Reason

1. Assertion:

Archaeology is important for studying early human history.

Reason: Archaeologists examine material remains to reconstruct aspects of past human life.

2. Assertion:

Agriculture encouraged settled communities.

Reason: Farming required people to remain closer to cultivated land and resources.

3. Assertion:

Rivers played an important role in the development of early civilisations.

Reason: Rivers provided water and supported agriculture and other human activities.

4. Assertion:

The Harappan script remains an important mystery.

Reason: It has not yet been deciphered.



BONUS ACTIVITY – Mini Civilisation Research

Choose one:

-  Mesopotamia
-  Egypt
-  Sindhu–Sarasvatī / Harappan civilisation
-  Ancient China

Find and write:

1. Location: _____
2. Major river: _____
3. Writing system: _____
4. One important innovation: _____
5. One important archaeological site/object: _____
6. One interesting fact: _____

The textbook itself suggests preparing a mini-scrapbook or presentation about one early civilisation, including innovations in tools, writing, art and architecture.

ANSWER KEY

Worksheet 1

A.

1. **writing**
2. **hunting**
3. **Palaeolithic**
4. **Mesolithic**
5. **Neolithic**
6. **stone**
7. **early**
8. **settled**

B.

1. **B**
2. **A**

3. **C**
4. **B**

C.

- 1 – **c**
 - 2 – **b**
 - 3 – **a**
 - 4 – **d**
-

Worksheet 2

B.

1. **False**
 2. **True**
 3. **True**
 4. **True**
 5. **False**
 6. **True**
-

Worksheet 4

A.

1. **Egyptian civilisation**
2. **Mesopotamian civilisation**
3. **Sindhu–Sarasvatī / Harappan civilisation**
4. **Chinese civilisation**

C.

1. **A**
 2. **B**
 3. **A**
-

Worksheet 5

A.

1 – c

2 – a

3 – b

Worksheet 8

1. **A**

2. **C**

3. **A**

4. **A**

5. **A**

6. **B**

7. **A**

8. **A**