

SOCIAL SCIENCE • CLASS 9

CHAPTER 4

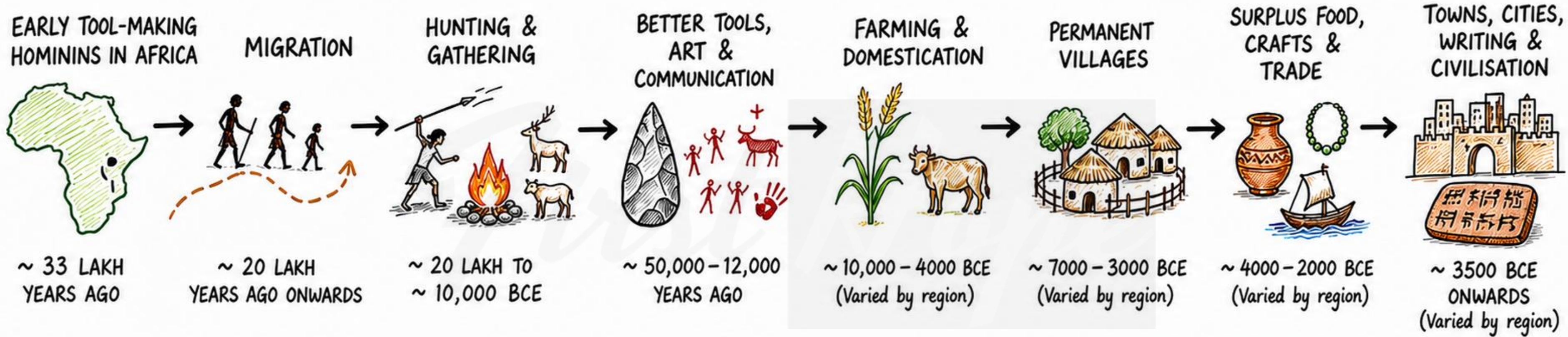
Early Humans and Beginning of Civilization

CHAPTER NOTES



EARLY HUMANS AND BEGINNING OF CIVILISATION

- Early human history is the long story of biological and cultural change before and after writing.
- More than 99% of human history belongs to the period before writing.



★ **PREHISTORY**: the period before written records; known mainly from material evidence.

★ **HISTORY**: the period for which written records are also available.

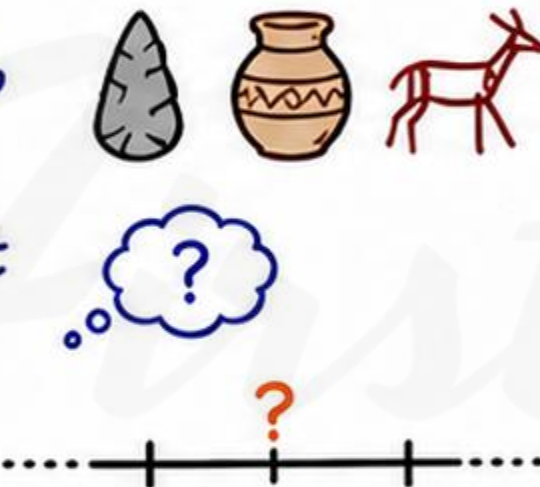
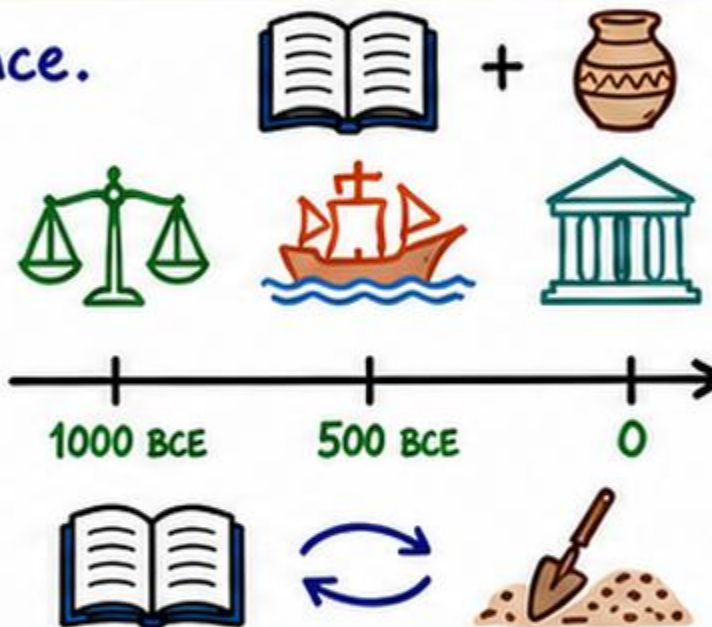
★ **CIVILISATION**: an organised society with settlements or cities, specialised work, administration, trade and shared cultural systems.

★ The pace and timing differed across regions. ★

TOOLS + FOOD PRODUCTION + COOPERATION + RECORD-KEEPING CHANGED HUMAN LIFE.

BEFORE AND AFTER WRITING

- Writing creates records that can preserve names, events, ideas and transactions.
- Writing began at different times in different regions; it does not divide all societies at one universal date.

BEFORE WRITING — PREHISTORY	AFTER WRITING — HISTORY
• More than <u>99%</u> of human history. • Main evidence: tools, bones, fossils, pottery, art and settlements. • Thoughts and names are difficult to recover directly. • Dates are usually approximate. 	• Written records join material evidence. • Records may reveal names, laws, trade, beliefs and events. • Dates can often be more precise. • Written sources must still be checked with archaeology. 

EARLY SCRIPTS

HARAPPAN / SINDHU LIPI	CUNEIFORM	HIEROGLYPHS	BRAHMI
 Pictographic signs on seals and pottery; not yet deciphered.	 Wedge-shaped marks on clay tablets in Mesopotamia; deciphered.	 Picture-like signs in ancient Egypt; deciphered.	 Ashokan Brahmi inscription (stylised) Used in parts of India by about 400 BCE and prominent in Ashokan inscriptions in the 3rd century BCE.

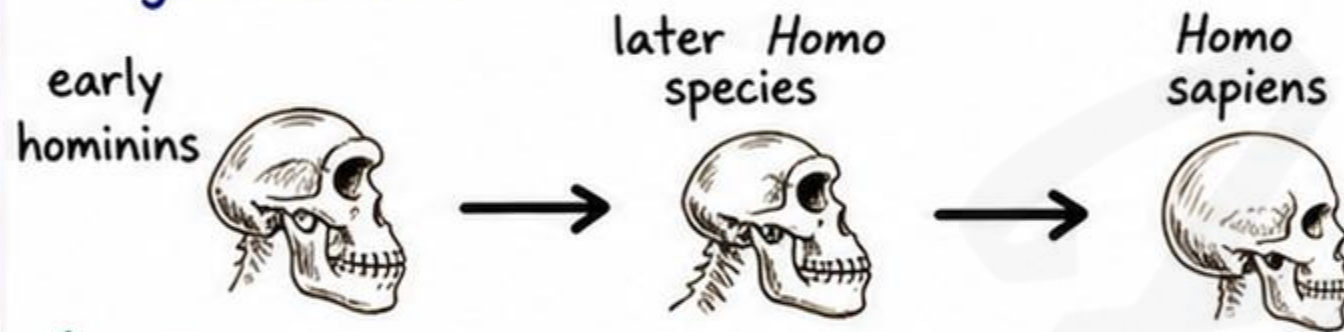
MATERIAL EVIDENCE + WRITTEN RECORDS GIVE A FULLER PICTURE OF THE PAST.

BIOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL EVOLUTION

Early human history explains both changes in our bodies and changes in our ways of living.

BIOLOGICAL EVOLUTION

Definition: Gradual inherited physical and genetic changes across many generations.



(Simplified sequence; many species existed at the same time.)
Our story follows one broad line.)

- Includes changes in skull, face, brain, hands, posture and movement.
- Australopithecines were early human-like ancestors; *Homo sapiens* are modern humans.
- It occurs over very long periods through populations, not within one person's lifetime.

CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT

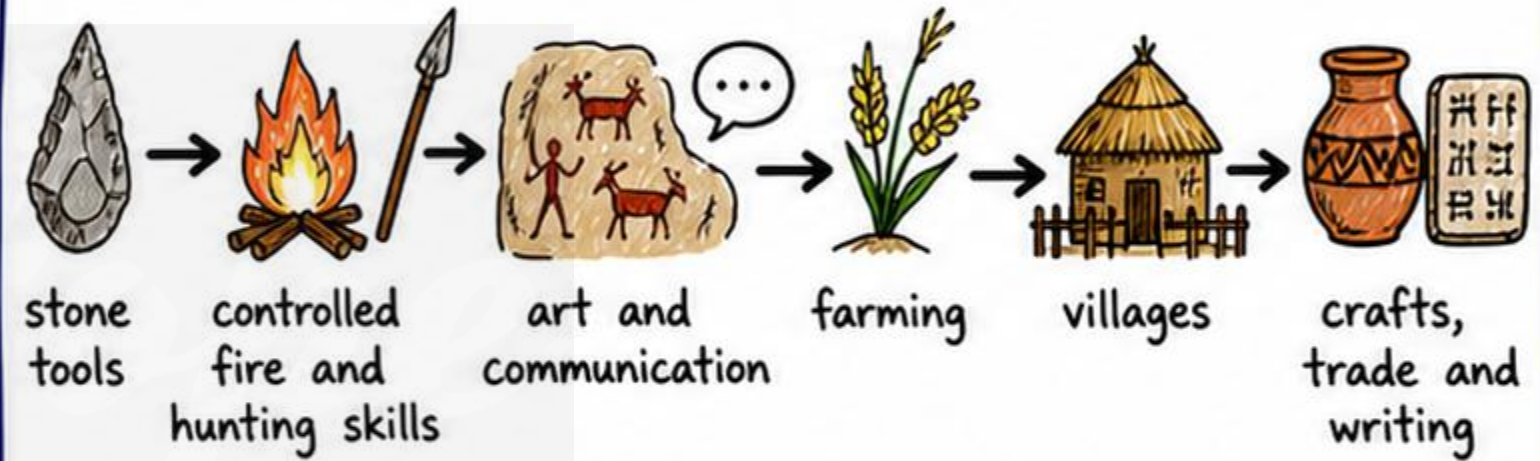
changing temperature, rainfall, plants and animals

new challenges and opportunities

ADAPTATION

CULTURAL EVOLUTION

Definition: Changes in learned behaviour, knowledge, skills and social life.



- Knowledge can be learned, shared and improved.
- Tools and techniques helped people use natural resources.
- Surplus food and specialised work helped settlements grow.



Much of this story belongs to the **Quaternary Period**—the last 26 lakh years, including the present.

~26 lakh years ago

present

BIOLOGICAL TRAITS ARE INHERITED; CULTURAL TRAITS ARE MAINLY LEARNED AND SHARED.

ARCHAEOLOGY, ARTEFACTS AND FOSSILS

Archaeology studies the human past through material remains and their context.

ARTEFACT

An object made, modified or used by humans.

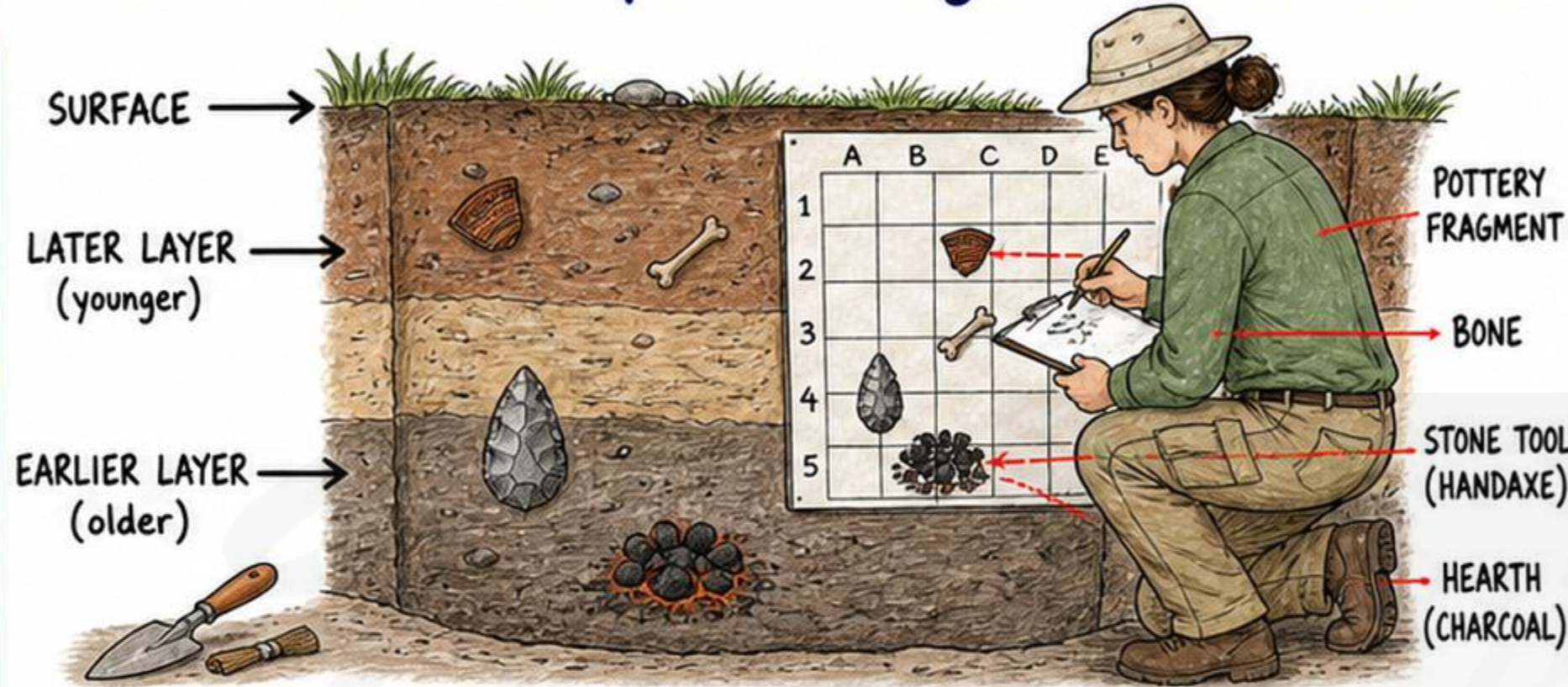
Examples:

- handaxe
- scraper
- bead
- pottery
- seal



What it can show:

- technology
- food-getting
- craft
- trade
- daily work



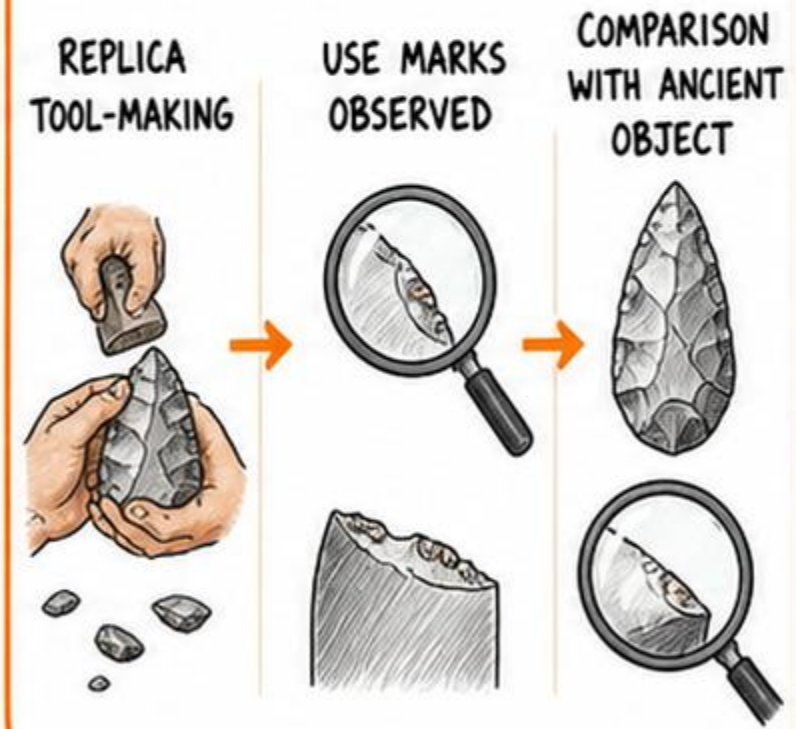
CONTEXT =

where an object is found, its layer, and what lies near it.

Lower layers are usually older when the layers have not been disturbed.

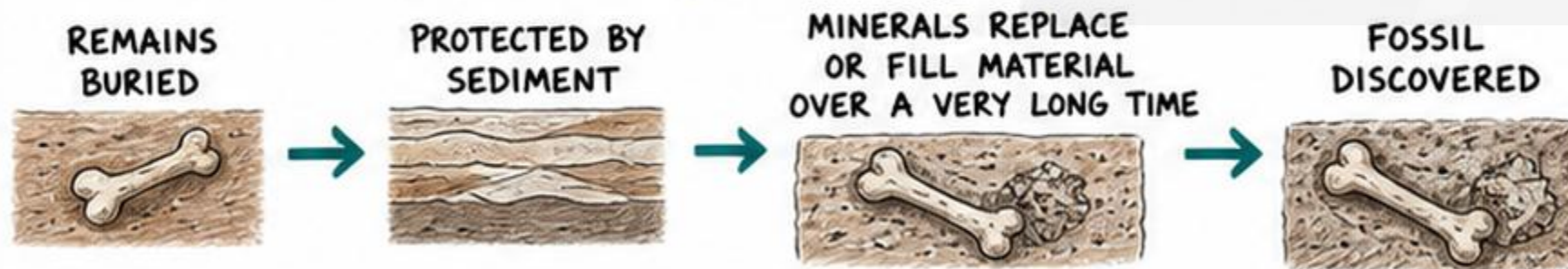
EXPERIMENTAL ARCHAEOLOGY

Researchers make and use similar tools to test how they may have been produced and used.



FOSSIL

Preserved remains, traces or impressions of past plants, animals or humans.



Not every buried remain becomes a fossil.

DISCOVER

Careful excavation brings evidence to light.



RECORD CONTEXT

Exact position, layer and what is near it are recorded.



DATE & ANALYSE

Dating methods and scientific analysis provide information about the evidence.



COMPARE EVIDENCE

Evidence from different sites, times and places is compared.



INTERPRET

Build a careful explanation of the past. One artefact does not prove an entire way of life.





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