

WORLD HISTORY-1

MODULE I-PREHISTORIC SOCITIES



TOPIC-MESOLITHIC AGE
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MESOLITHIC AGE



- The Mesolithic of the Middle stone age denotes the period in the development of human technology between the paleolithic and neolithic ages.
- It began at the end of the old stone age and generally ended with the beginning of agriculture.
- Man did make significant advances in his life style and technology during this period
- The mesolithic age is identified with the use of small tools called microliths.
- The small composite fine tools included arrows, fishing tackle, stone adzes and wooden objects.



- Microliths, the typical stone implements of the mesolithic period are smaller and delicate than those of the paleolithic age.
- The mesolithic people were able to produce large number of blades from a single piece of stone, which could also be attached to shafts of wood to form primitive arrows.
- Stone blades were used as scrapers also when they killed animals they made use of its bones and skin also.
- Animal skin was used for clothing and to make sacks and water carriers.
- The stone scrapers were used to clean any remaining flesh on the skin.
- It is assumed that these technologies first occurred in Africa before spreading to the other parts of the world.



- Culturally and technologically continuous with the paleolithic people, the mesolithic cultures could develop diverse local adaptations to special environments.
- The mesolithic hunter achieved a greater efficiency than did the paleolithic and able to exploit a wide range of animals and vegetable food sources.
- As the mesolithic period is characterised by a suite of material culture, its timings varies depending upon their locations.
- The Azalian culture, centered in the Pyrenees region covering Switzerland, Belgium, and Scotland was one of the earliest representatives of the mesolithic culture in Europe.
- The mesolithic period in other areas is represented by the Natufian culture in the middle east, North Africa etc.



- The Natufian culture also provides the earliest evidence of an evolution from a mesolithic to neolithic way of life.
- The mesolithic people did not begin agriculture, they had harvested the food grains which grew wild in some regions.
- They had begun the practice of the domestication of animals.
- The earliest evidence for the domestication of animals is the skeleton of dog found together with human, nearly 12000 years ago in Palestine area.
- The stratified excavations at Jericho in Palestine have revealed the transformation of mesolithic culture to neolithic culture.

Mesolithic tools



Microlithic tool

