



CLASS 6 SOCIAL SCIENCE · 2026-27

Early humans and the first cities

History

28

QUESTIONS

25

MINUTES

3

EXERCISES

This belongs to _____ Date _____

WHAT YOU'LL GET GOOD AT

- Explains why early people moved from hunting to farming
- Says how historians know about a period, not just what happened
- Compares two ways of life and gives a difference that matters

Take your time, and have a go at every one. If you get stuck, look at the orange box — Ollie has already done one for you.

Early humans and the first cities

History · 28 questions · tick each box as you finish

Exercise 1 of 3 · 10 questions Answer in one or two sentences.



WRITE THE ANSWER

HERE'S ONE DONE FOR YOU

Why did early people move from place to place? -> because the food ran out and they had to follow it. The answer names the cause, not the behaviour. 'Because they were nomads' just renames the fact - and that is the most common way marks are lost in this chapter.

1) Why did early people move from place to place?

2) Why did people begin to settle in one place?

3) Why did early settlements grow near rivers?

4) Why did people begin to keep animals rather than only hunt them?

5) Why were stone tools used for such a long period?

6) Why did the discovery of fire change how early people lived?

7) Why did farming lead to people owning things for the first time?

8) Why did trade begin between early settlements?

9) Why do we know far more about later periods than about the earliest ones?

10) Why did some early settlements grow into cities while others stayed villages?

Exercise 2 of 3 · 10 questions How do historians know? Name the kind of evidence. ☐

WRITE THE ANSWER

HERE'S ONE DONE FOR YOU

That Harappans planned their cities -> from the remains of streets and drains laid out in a grid. The question is not what happened but how anyone knows. Every 'how do we know' answer names a source: an object, a building, a grain, or a piece of writing. That is a whole category of marks children never expect.

1) That early people made stone tools

2) That Harappans planned their cities carefully

3) That people grew wheat and barley

4) What kings of a later period ordered to be done

5) That Harappans traded with distant lands

6) That people cooked their food

7) What clothes people wore

8) That a settlement was suddenly abandoned

9) How old a wooden object is

10) That people kept cattle

Exercise 3 of 3 · 8 questions Give one important difference between each pair. ☐

WRITE THE ANSWER

HERE'S ONE DONE FOR YOU

Hunter-gatherer versus farmer -> one moved to follow food, the other stayed to look after crops. A good comparison names the same thing about both sides. 'Farmers grew crops' describes only one half and does not compare anything - the word 'while' is a useful test that both sides are present.

1) A hunter-gatherer and a farmer

2) A Harappan city and a village of the same period

3) A stone tool and an iron tool

4) A written source and an object dug up from the ground

5) The Equator and the Prime Meridian

6) A map and a globe

7) A gram panchayat and a gram sabha

8) A village livelihood and a city livelihood

**All done? How did that feel?**

Colour in a star. Three stars means you could teach it to someone else.



Tricky · Getting there · Easy now



Answer key

For grown-ups

Early humans and the first cities · keep this page back until your child has finished.

1. Answer in one or two sentences.

- 1) Because they hunted animals and gathered plants, and both ran out in one place, so they had to follow the food.
- 2) Because they learned to grow crops, and a crop has to be looked after in one place until it is ready.
- 3) Because rivers gave water for drinking and for crops, and the land beside them was fertile.
- 4) Because keeping animals gave a steady supply of milk and meat instead of depending on a successful hunt.
- 5) Because stone was found everywhere and could be shaped without any other tool, and metals were not yet known.
- 6) Because it gave warmth, light and protection from animals, and cooked food, which is easier to eat and to digest.
- 7) Because a stored harvest could be kept and passed on, which nothing a hunter-gatherer carried could be.
- 8) Because different places had different things - grain, stone, metal - and each settlement wanted what it could not produce itself.
- 9) Because later periods left writing and inscriptions, while the earliest ones left only objects that have to be interpreted.
- 10) Because those with surplus food, a river and a trade route could support many people who did not farm, such as traders and craftsmen.

2. How do historians know? Name the kind of evidence.

- 1) From the tools themselves, found at sites where people lived.
- 2) From the remains of streets, drains and buildings laid out in a grid.
- 3) From burnt grains found at excavation sites.
- 4) From inscriptions - writing carved on stone or metal.
- 5) From Harappan seals and beads found at sites far outside the Harappan region.
- 6) From hearths, ash and charred bones found where they lived.
- 7) From figurines, sculptures and paintings that show people dressed.
- 8) From objects left behind in place, with no sign of the settlement being rebuilt.
- 9) From dating the wood scientifically, which tells us roughly when the tree died.
- 10) From animal bones found at settlement sites, and from cattle shown on seals.

3. Give one important difference between each pair.

- 1) A hunter-gatherer moved to follow food, while a farmer stayed in one place to look after crops.
- 2) The city had planned streets, drains and large buildings, while a village had fewer houses and no such planning.
- 3) An iron tool was stronger and stayed sharp longer, so it could clear land and cut crops far more easily.
- 4) A written source tells us directly what someone thought worth recording, while an object has to be interpreted and cannot say why it was made.
- 5) The Equator is a line of latitude running east to west, while the Prime Meridian is a line of longitude running pole to pole.
- 6) A globe shows the true shape and size of the Earth, while a map is flat and can show far more detail of a small area.
- 7) The panchayat is the small elected body that makes decisions, while the gram sabha is the meeting of all adult voters that it answers to.
- 8) A village livelihood usually depends directly on land, water or weather, while a city livelihood usually depends on customers, wages or trade.

WHILE YOUR CHILD WORKS

- 'Because they were nomads' renames the fact instead of explaining it. Ask 'but why did they do that?' whenever an answer restates the question.
- The 'how do we know' questions are a whole category of marks children do not expect. Every answer names a source: an object, a building, a grain, an inscription.
- In comparisons, check the word 'while' or 'whereas' appears. If it does not, usually only one side has been described.

**Spotted a gap while marking?**

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