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## From Gathering to Growing Food

### Lesson at a Glance

- Different plants grow in different conditions. Different animals also prefer different environments.
- **Farming** developed as a result of the **climate change** of the world. People observed plants and how they grow. Gradually they also started growing crops.
- People also got interested in **taming animals**. The dog was the first animal to be tamed. Animals like sheep, goat, cattle were also tamed and so people became herders.
- Grains were used as seeds, as food, and as gifts. They were stored by humans.
- Animals were also 'stored' since they can serve as a source of milk and also ready meat. So animals were used as a 'store' of food.
- Some sites have given evidence of farmers and herders. Plant remains and animal bones have been found and studied.
- Archaeologists have found traces of huts or houses at some sites. Pit-houses were built by digging into the ground.
- The period of history after about 10,000 years ago is called the **Neolithic Age**. Mortars and pestles and other tools of the Neolithic age have been found.
- People also grew cotton by this time and so weaving of clothes had begun.
- Many farmers and herders lived in groups, which were called **Tribes**. Certain customs and practices were followed by them.
- Mehrgarh was located in a fertile plain, near the Bolan Pass. Here, people learnt to grow barley and wheat. It is one of the **earliest villages**.
- On excavation, levels are found which indicate chronology (order of events).
- In Mehrgarh, remains of houses have been found. They had four or more compartments. Several burial sites have been found in Mehrgarh.
- Stone tools, a stone called jadeite, etc. have been found in Daojali Hading near the Brahmaputra Valley.

### TEXTBOOK QUESTIONS SOLVED

#### Let's Recall

**Q. 1.** *Why do people who grow crops have to stay in the same place for a long time?*

**Ans.** People growing crops have to stay in the same place for a long time since the crops require maintenance, like constant watering and care for proper growth.

**Q. 2.** *Look at the table on page 25 of the textbook. If Neinuo wanted to eat rice, which are the places she would have visited?*

**Ans.** Neinuo would have visited these places if she wanted to eat rice:

- (i) Koldihwa in present-day Uttar Pradesh, and
- (ii) Mahagara in present-day Uttar Pradesh.

**Q. 3.** *Why do archaeologists think that many people who lived in Mehrgarh were hunters to start with and that herding became more important later?*

**Ans.** On excavation, archaeologists have found bones of wild animals in the lowermost levels. On upper levels, they found cattle bones. This means that hunting wild animals was important much before herding was.

**Q. 4.** *State whether true or false?*

- (a) *Milletts have been found at Hallur.*
- (b) *People in Burzahom lived in rectangular houses.*
- (c) *Chirand is a site in Kashmir.*
- (d) *Jadeite, found in Daojali Hading, may have been brought from China.*

**Ans.** (a) True, (b) False, (c) False, (d) True.

#### Let's Discuss

**Q. 5.** *List three ways in which the lives of farmers and herders would have been different from that of hunter-gatherers.*

**Ans.** Three points of difference between the lives of farmers/herders from hunter-gatherers :

- (a) Hunter-gatherers kept travelling from place to place whereas farmers had to live at same place for longer periods of time to take care of their crops.

- (b) Hunter-gatherers depended on meat of wild animals whereas farmers and herders used plants, crops and cattle.
- (c) Hunter-gatherers did not have any settled life whereas farmers and herders gradually settled in huts, pit-houses, etc.

**Q. 6.** Make a list of all the animals mentioned in the table on page 25 of the textbook. For each one, describe what they may have been used for.

**Ans.** Animals mentioned in the table are:

- |                 |          |
|-----------------|----------|
| (a) Sheep       | (b) Goat |
| (c) Cattle      | (d) Dog  |
| (e) Ox, Buffalo | (f) Pig. |

Animals were possibly used as a source of milk and meat.

### LET'S DO

**Q. 7.** List the cereals that you eat.

**Ans.** Some cereals eaten by us are listed below :

- |             |             |
|-------------|-------------|
| (a) Wheat   | (b) Rice    |
| (c) Maize   | (d) Millets |
| (e) Barley  | (f) Lantil  |
| (g) Grains. |             |

**Q. 8.** Do you grow the cereals you have listed in answer no. 7? If yes, draw a chart to show the stages in growing them. If not, draw a chart to show how these cereals reach you from the farmers who grow them.

**Ans.** Do yourself with the help of your friends and subject teacher.

