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Early Humans

Lesson Plan

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- ▶ Discovery of fire
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- ▶ The invention of the wheel
- ▶ Discovery of metal

Objectives

- ▶ Learning how early humans lived.
- ▶ The evolution of their lives – the tools and homes and occupations.
- ▶ From nomads and hunters to farmers and cattle-rearers.
- ▶ Use of fire, invention of the wheel and discovery of metals leads to changes in lifestyle.

Teacher's Aids

- ▶ Pictures, internet, charts and films from National Geographic, etc.

Tips for Teacher

- ▶ Make the students imagine how they would live without any of the present-day conveniences – clothes, houses, vehicles, fire, farming, shops, etc.

Gear Up, Background and Reading

- ▶ The third picture in Gear Up is correct.
- ▶ Read the lesson and points to remember aloud and explain.
- ▶ Early humans lived in jungles – afraid of wild animals – searched for food – food-gatherers: fruits, roots of plants – did not cook.

/// Tools

- ▶ Hunters – No tools or weapons available – killed small animals with stones
- ▶ Then tools made of long sharp bones – tied sharp stones to sticks to make spears – to kill from a distance.

/// Home

- ▶ Found caves – protection from heat, cold, rain, wild animals
- ▶ Huts were built later

/// Discovery of Fire

- ▶ Forest fires in summer – humans and animals frightened – but comfortable in winter – didn't know how to make fire – kept fire from jungle burning.
- ▶ Noticed that rubbing sticks or stones produced spark of fire – discovery of fire great step – could heat caves and kept wild animals away.
- ▶ Realised that flesh of wild animal got cooked in the fire – roasted flesh tastier and softer to eat – began cooking.

/// The Beginning of Farming

- ▶ Early humans – nomads – food – gatherers and then hunters
- ▶ Ate fruits and threw away seeds – saw them growing into plants – on soft land – in hot, wet weather.
- ▶ Began sowing seeds in soft ground – maybe this was how farming started.
- ▶ Later on – used stones and bones to dig – maybe ploughed land like this.

/// Rearing of Animals

- ▶ Domesticated dogs – for hunting and for keeping animals and birds away.
- ▶ Developed plough with hardwood sticks – pulled it themselves – then used animals to pull the plough.

/// Settling Down

- ▶ Tamed more animals – sheep, goats, cows, buffaloes, pigs, horses, etc.
- ▶ Got milk, meat and skin from them.
- ▶ Stayed near fields and animals with family. Members of family helped each other.

/// Life of Early Humans

- ▶ Villages near rivers and lakes.
- ▶ Made pictures on cave walls – animals, plants, hunting scenes.
- ▶ Made clay pots for storing grain, baskets with reeds and straw. Progress slow.

/// **The Invention of the Wheel**

- ▶ Early humans pushed or pulled carts or sledges – only possible on smooth ground.
- ▶ Saw a round log of wood rolling downhill – got idea of wheel – made round pieces of wood and fitted them under carts – move more easily – first wheel.

/// **Discovery of Metal**

- ▶ Observed stone melting in fire – resulted in metal
- ▶ Early humans began to make tools for hunting and farming with metals.
- ▶ They became settled farmers.