

The Neolithic Revolution

Causes

- Hunter-gatherer bands scattered seeds near campsites that resulted in the growth of new crops (10,000 years ago)
- Climate change- rising temperatures led to longer growing seasons and drier land.
- Growing populations led to a discovery of new food resources and a steady, reliable source of food.

Consequences:

- Shift from food-gathering to food-producing cultures lead to the establishment of permanent settlements and eventually to the first cities.
- In the long run, leads to the development of civilization.
- Positive Effect: settlement leads to the development of complex cultures- art, religion, specialization of labor, irrigation systems.
- **Negative Effects:**
domestication of animals and population density leads to an increased spread of disease. Also, villages and cities more susceptible to attacks and natural disasters.

Origin of Neolithic Age

The Neolithic Age started in 9,000 B.C. in world context but in Indian context it was varying from 7,000 B.C. to 1,000 B.C. In South India, the Neolithic settlements are generally considered to be around 2,500 B.C. old while the Neolithic sites discovered on the northern spurs of the Vindhyas are not older than 5,000 B.C. Some Neolithic sites found in parts of Eastern India and South India are only 1,000 B.C. old.

Characteristics of Neolithic Age

The Neolithic Age saw the man turning into food producer from food gatherer. It also witnessed the use of pottery for the first time. People used microlithic blades in addition to tools made of polished stone. The use of metal was unknown.

1. Agriculture: The people of Neolithic Age cultivated ragi, horse gram, cotton, rice, wheat, and barley and hence were termed as food producers. They domesticated cattle, sheep, and goats.

2. Tools: The people used microlithic blades in addition to tools made of polished stones. They used stone hoes and digging sticks for digging the ground. The ring stones of 1-1/2 kg of weight were fixed at the ends of these digging sticks. They also used tools and weapons made of bone; found in Burzahom (Kashmir) and Chirand (Bihar).