

CHAPTER – 3

FROM GATHERING TO GROWING FOOD

❖ IMAGINE

Q. 1 You are in charge of a small plot of land and have to decide what food crops to grow. What are the plants you would choose? Where would you get the seeds from? How would you plant them? How would you look after your plants? And when would they be ready for harvesting?

Answer:

I would prefer planting rice crops.

Seeds of crops are available at local seed distribution shops.

Before planting I will plough the soil to soften it then I will put the seeds.

Rice needs a lot of water; hence I will irrigate them regularly.

Rice crops are ready for harvesting after approximately 160 days.

❖ LET'S RECALL

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

Answer:

People who grow crops have to stay in the same place for a long time because:

1. The crops take time to grow and ripe.
2. Crops need protection from animals.
3. Watering the plants is very important otherwise crops would die.

4. Humans need to take care of their crops.

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

Answer:

Neinuo should have visited the following places to eat rice:

1. Koldihwa (Located in present day Uttar Pradesh)
2. Mahagara (Located in present day Uttar Pradesh)

NOTE: Remains of rice grains were found at the above mentioned places by archaeologists.

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?

Answer:

Archaeologists think that people who lived in Mehrgarh were hunters initially but became herders later because during excavation bones of wild deer and pigs were found which suggest that they were hunters. Further excavation led to discovery of skeletons of domestic animals like Goats and Sheep which suggests that started herding animals.

NOTE: Mehrgarh is located in present day Pakistan, it was one of the most important routes to Iran.

Q. 4 State whether true or false:

- (a) Millets 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.

Answer:

a) Millets have been found at Hallur: **True**

Millets were found at Hallur which is located in present day Andhra Pradesh.

b) People in Burzahom lived in rectangular houses: **False**

People in Burzahom lived in pit-houses. Burzahom is located in present day Kashmir. Rectangular houses were found in Mehrgarh.

c) Chirand is a site in Kashmir: **False**

Chirand is located in present day Bihar, not in Kashmir.

d) Jadeite, found in Doajali Hading, may have been brought from China: **True**

Jadeite a stone may have been brought from China.

❖ LET'S DISCUSS

Q. 4 List three ways in which the lives of farmers and herders would have been different from that of hunter-gatherers.

Answer:

Lives of farmers and herders was different from that of hunters-gatherers in following ways:

Farmers-herders	Hunters-gatherers
1. They stayed at one place for long time.	1. They didn't stay at one place for long, they kept on moving.

2. They grew their own food.	2. They were dependent on the wild animals and plants for their food.
3. They domesticated animals like sheep and goat for rearing.	3. They didn't domesticated animals.
4. They lived in permanent settlements.	4. They lived in temporary settlements.

Q. 5 List three ways in which hunter-gatherers used fire (see page 16). Would you use fire for any of these purposes today?

Answer:

The earlier hunter-gatherers used fire:

1. For keeping away animals.
2. For cooking food.
3. As a source of light.

We, today use fire primarily for cooking purpose. In rural areas where there is no electricity, fire is the primary source of light. Fire is also used for keeping ourselves warm.

Q. 6

Make a list of all the animals mentioned in the table (page 25). For each one, describe what they may have been used for.

Answer:

S. no.	Hunter – gatherers	Modern day
1	Fish	Fish
2	Birds	Meat
3	Wild animals	Fruits
4	Fruits	Plants

5	Stalks	Canned food
6	Roots	Fast foods
7	Leaves	

❖ LET'S DO

Q. 7 List the cereals that you eat.

Answer:

List of cereals that we eat:

1. Wheat
2. Maize
3. Rye
4. Millets
5. Rice

NOTE: Cereals refer to the grains of grass that are edible, for example wheat and rice.

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.

Answer:

I) If yes.

Yes, my family grows the rice in our fields. The stages in growing them are as listed.

Preparation of fields: Before planting rice we need to prepare the fields by ploughing. It softens the soil enabling it to absorb and retain water.

Stages in the growth of rice:

- a) Sowing: sowing refers to the planting of seeds in the fields.
- b) Germination: After sowing, the sapling comes out of seeds, this process is called germination. It is the beginning of life of rice crop.
- c) Ripening: After few months, the rice crop starts to ripen. Now they are ready to be cut.
- d) Harvesting: It refers to the cutting and packaging of the rice crops after they ripe.

II) If no,

No, my family doesn't grow cereals. The cereals reach our home from farms in following steps.

Farmers → Middle man → Whole seller → Retailer → Customers

Farmers: The people who grow crops.

Middle man: The person who helps farmers to sell crops.

Whole seller: The person who buys huge quantity of crops.

Retailer: The local shop keepers in your locality are called retailers.

Customers: The people like us who consume food. We buy cereals from retailer.