

EXERCISE QUESTIONS

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Let's Recall

1. Complete the sentences

(a) **Hunter-gatherers chose to live in caves and rock shelters because** – they found protection from rains, winds and sunlight.

(b) **Grasslands developed around** —12,000 years— **ago**

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

Solution 2:

When they plant a seed, it takes some time to grow. Depending on the type of seeds used, the time taken would vary from days, weeks, and months to years. It means they had to stay in the same place to take care of the plants by watering, weeding, driving away animals and birds till the grain ripened. Once ripened, they had to think of ways to store it. Hence, they had to stay in the same place for a long time.

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

Solution 3:

Archaeologists found the bones of many animals such as deer in the earlier levels. Hence, they could conclude that they were hunters to start with. Herding became important because they found bones of sheep and goat in the later levels.

4. Why did the hunter-gatherers travel from place to place? In what ways are these similar to/different from the reasons for which we travel today?

Solution 4:

There are 4 reasons:

1. They would have used up all the plant and animal resources.
2. Animals move from place to place, hence they had to follow their movements.

3. Plants and trees bear fruits in different seasons. So, people may have moved from season to season, in search of different kinds of plants.
4. They need water to survive, and many rivers and lakes were seasonal. So, they had to go in search of water during dry seasons.

5. List three ways in which hunter-gatherers used fire (see page 15). Would you use fire for any of these purposes today?

Solution 5:

It was primarily used for 3 purposes.

1. Clearing forest area
2. Cooking
3. For protection from wild animals

Nowadays, we use fire for:

1. To keep ourselves warm
2. Cooking

6. List 3 ways in which the lives of farmers and herders would have been different from that of hunter-gatherers.

Solution 6:

1. Farmers and herders would stay in one location; whereas hunter-gatherers would have to move from place to place, following the movement of animals.
2. Farmers and herders would stay in huts or houses, whereas hunter-gatherers would stay in caves.
3. For farmers and herders, the food source would be crops and domesticated animals like sheep and goat, whereas hunters would rely on wild animals as a source of food.