

Beginning of civilization in India

The word 'History' originates from Greek word 'Historia' meaning 'inquiry' (Knowledge acquired by investigation). It is the study of the Past. It is divided into three categories:-

1. Pre-history
2. Proto-history
3. History.

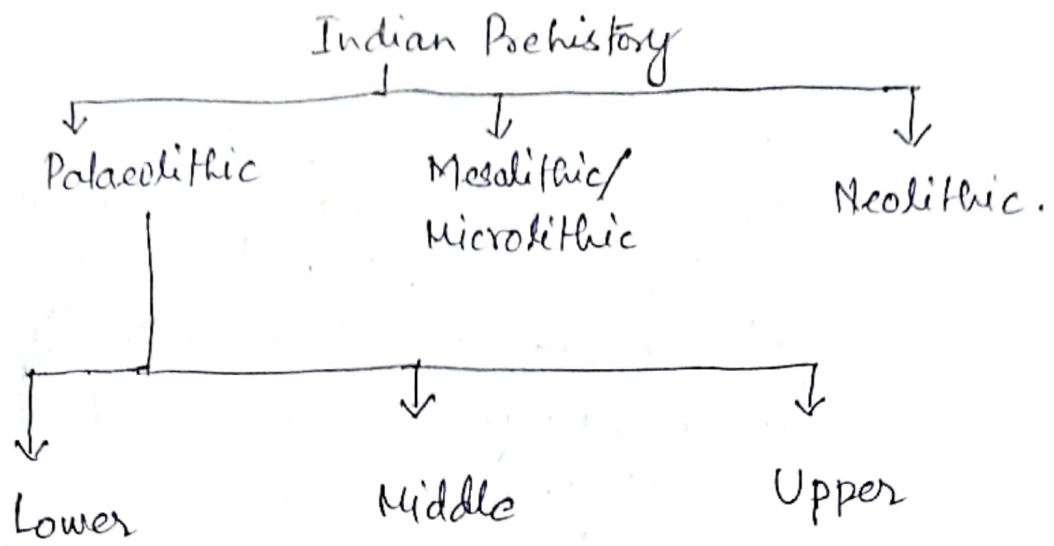
1. Pre History :- Events that occurred before the invention of writing are considered as Pre-history. Pre-history is represented by the three stone ages.

2. Proto-history : It refers to the period between pre-history and history. Written records are available of this period but yet undeciphered. For example, the scripts of the Indus valley civilization remains undeciphered.

3. History : Written records are available and used as primary sources in understanding past.

⇒ Father of Indian Prehistory : British geologist Robert Bruce Foote. He worked during the 60's, 70's & 80 of 19th century. In 1863 Foote discovered the first Indian Palaeolithic artifact from a local of Pallavaram near Madras.

Colonel Meadows Taylor, Prof. H. De Terra and T. T. Patterson, Sir Aurel Stein also give many contributions in this field.



Palaeolithic Age

Palaeo (Old) + Lithois (Stone)
= Old Stone Age.

- ⇒ First human habitation noticed.
- ⇒ Communities were living in open-air or cave settlements.
- ⇒ **Lower Palaeolithic sites:** Riwat (Pakistan) on Soan river, Pabbi Hills in upper Siwalik region in Pakistan, Valley of Beas river, Attirampakkam, Pallavaram near Kurnool, Cuddapah, Nellore, Prakasham, Guntur, Anantapuram, Nelgonda, Worrangal, Karimnagar, Adilabad district in A.P. in the river valley of Penna.
- ⇒ Cave at Gudiyam near Attirampakkam shows that the early man has not regularly and ~~continuously~~ continuously inhabited the cave.
- ⇒ Isampur sites revealed a tool manufacturing industry.
- ⇒ **Stone tools of Lower Palaeolithic:**
Hand-axe, chopping tools, ovates and few cleavers.

- ⇒ The majority of tools found in all parts of Subcontinent are made of Quartzite.
- ⇒ The stone hand axes were hafted to wooden handles for easy handling.

Middle Palaeolithic

The middle Palaeolithic tools industry is characterized by 'Flake-core types' which is distinct from previous bifacial industry of Acheulian. Technique used was Core technique or Levallois technique which indicates cognitive change in evolutionary significance.

Important sites : Attirampakkam, Kadmalu River basin, Bhembeta, Chandra Baluch, Panchmahal, Godavari valleys, Ganjara valley, Upper Son, Mangalpuria.

- ⇒ Reduction in bifaces sizes during this period and also a presence of blade & flake blade industry
- ⇒ Raw material used : - Quartzite, chert & crypto crystalline rocks.