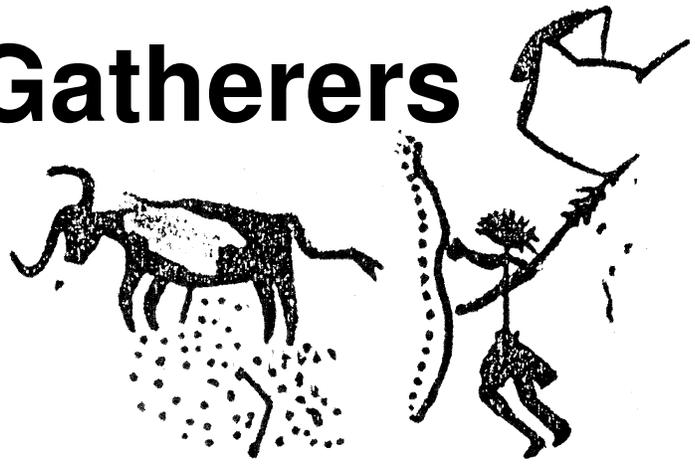


# Hunter-Gatherers



*A rock painting from Bhimbetka, MP, made perhaps as early as 6000 BCE*

- (1) Supriya wanted to find out whether people living 20,000 years ago were vegetarians or non-vegetarians. She looked in some books, but she found some statements that she thought did not make sense and some that did make sense. Which of the following statements do **you** think make sense? Tick the ones that make sense and put a cross over the ones that don't make sense.
- (a) We know this tribe was non-vegetarian because we found deer bones near ashes from fires they had made.
  - (b) Since we found deer bones near some human bones by the side of the river, we know they were definitely non-vegetarians.
  - (c) Since we found no animal bones, but some grains and seeds near the places where they built fires, the second tribe may have been vegetarian.
  - (d) Some buffalo bones were found that looked like they had been cut by tools, indicating that people may have eaten buffalo meat.
  - (e) We found beads made from wild boar bones, which indicates the people were non-vegetarians.
  - (f) Since there are no 20,000 year old books mentioning people hunting, the people at that time must have been vegetarians.
  - (g) Since we find pictures of wild boars on the walls of certain caves, the people who lived there were non-vegetarian.
  - (h) We find pictures of people shooting arrows at cows on the walls of caves, so we know the people lived there were non-vegetarian.
  - (i) Since we found sharp arrow heads made of stone near the first cave, we know the people hunted and ate animals.
  - (j) We think the people living in this area 20,000 years ago may have been non-vegetarian because there is a primitive tribe of hunters living today nearby.
- (2) Suppose people had fur like some other animals. How might this have changed history?
- (3) List all the things hunter-gatherers may have used stones for. Think of all the things people need to live, and whether any of these things could have been made of stone.
- (4) Assuming there were hunter-gatherers living 20,000 years ago in the area around what is now your home, tell:
- a. What kinds of clothes you think the women, men and children might have worn?
  - b. Why did they wear what they wore? List several possible reasons.
  - c. How might their clothing have been different from that of people living in other areas? Explain.

- (5) There are two theories about why a group of hunting and gathering people may have settled down and started living in villages:
- I. The people found plenty of food in one place, so they didn't need to travel around.**
  - II. The people could not find enough food, so they started to grow food, and for this they had to spend time in the same place.**
- a. Give two reasons why the first theory may be correct.
  - b. Give two reasons why the second theory may be correct.
  - c. Which of these theories do you think makes the most sense? Explain why.
  - d. What kind of evidence could we find to tell which theory is true?
- (6) Explain how each one of the following could cause a city to decay and disappear:
- a. food
  - b. water
  - c. another event in nature (something not caused by people)
  - d. religion
  - e. an invention
  - f. trade
  - g. money
  - h. something else of your choice
- (7) Now explain how each one of the above could cause a city to prosper.