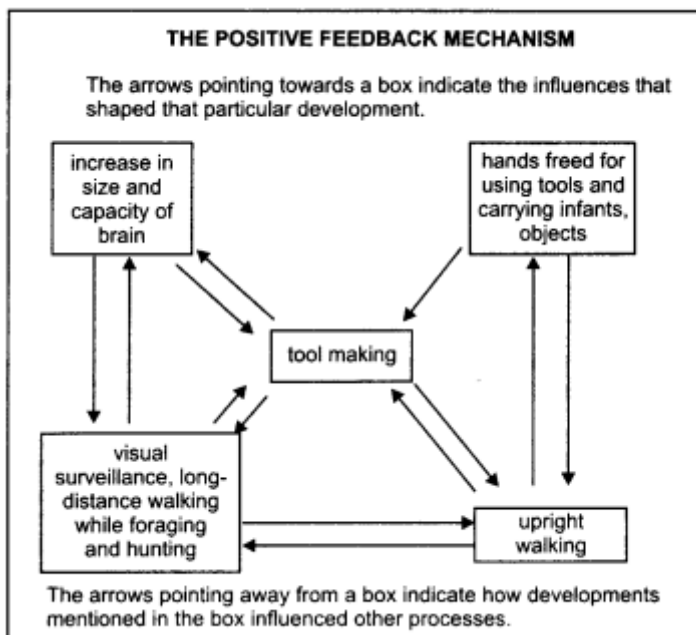


Chapter - 1

From the Beginning of Time

Question 1.

Look at the diagram showing the positive feedback mechanism on page 13. (See NCERT Textbook). Can you list the inputs that went into tool making? What were the processes that were strengthened by tool making?



Answer:

After going through the positive feedback mechanism following points can be inferred:

(a) Inputs that helped in tool making:

- Increased brain size and capacity of brain
- Upright walking
- Visual surveillance long distance
- Walking while foraging and hunting.

(b) The processes that were strengthened by tool making:

- Upright walking
- Increase in size and capacity of brain
- Visual surveillance, long distance walking while foraging and hunting.

Question 2.

Humans and mammals such as monkeys and apes have certain similarities in behaviour and anatomy. This indicates that humans have possibly evolved from the . apes. List these resemblances in two columns under the headings of

(a) behaviour and

(b) anatomy.

Are there any differences that are noteworthy?

Answer:

Similarities

(a) Behaviour:

Humans	Monkeys and Apes
1. Humans can climb on trees.	Monkeys and apes can also climb on trees.
2. Mothers give birth to their young ones.	Monkeys also give birth to their young ones.
3. They can walk long distances.	They can also walk long distances.

(b) Anatomy:

Humans	Monkeys and Apes
1. Humans are vertebrates.	1. They are also vertebrates.
2. Humans have two feet and two hands.	2. Monkeys and apes are also quadrupeds.

Question 3.

Discuss the arguments advanced in favor of the regional continuity model of human origins. Do you think it provides a convincing explanation of the archaeological evidence? Give reasons for your answer.

Answer:

According to the Regional Continuity Model, the Homo sapiens evolved in different regions at different rates into modern humans. So there was a variation in the first appearance of modern humans in different parts of the world. It was based on the regional differences in the features of present day humans. The advocates of this view found that the dissimilarities are due to the differences between the Homo erectus and Homo heidelbergensis populations of the same regions.

The Regional Continuity Model does not give a convincing explanation of the archaeological evidence.

Question 4.

Which of the following do you think is best documented in the archaeological record: (a) gathering, (b) tool making and (c) use of fire?

Answer:

Tool making is documented in the archaeological record.

Question 5.

Discuss the extent to which: (a) hunting and (b) constructing shelters would have been facilitated by the use of language. What other modes of communication could have been used for these activities?

Answer:

(a) Use of language helped hunting activities of human beings in numerous ways:

- Now people are in a position of organizing and managing hunting expeditions
- They are now free to exchange their ideas about different animals in different regions.
- They could now discuss the nature and behavior of animals.
- They could now discuss regarding the types of tools to be used.

(b) Language helped in constructing shelters for early humans in the following ways:

- Now people could discuss regarding secure and safe places for the construction of shelters.
- Now people could gather information about the materials used in the construction of shelter.
- Information regarding resources in and around their surroundings can be easily obtained.
- They were now in a position to discuss the means to protect their shelters in severe conditions.

Other modes: Signs, symbols, cave paintings, engraving on walls and on the ceilings of caves were the other modes of communication used for various activities

Question 6.

Choose any two developments each from Timelines 1 and 2 at the end of the chapter and indicate why these are significant.

Timeline 1 (mya)	
36-24 mya	Primates; Monkeys in Asia and Africa
24 mya	(Superfamily) Hominoids; Gibbons, Asian orang-utan and African apes (gorilla, chimpanzee and bonobo or 'pygmy' chimpanzee)
6.4 mya	Branching out of hominoids and hominids
5.6 mya	Australopithecus
2.6-2.5 mya	Earliest stone tools
2.5-2.0 mya	Cooling and drying of Africa, resulting in decrease in woodlands and increase in grassland
2.5-2.0 mya	Homo
2.2 mya	Homo habilis
1.8 mya	Homo erectus
1.3 mya	Extinction of Australopithecus

0.8 mya	'Archaic' sapiens, Homo heidelbergensis
0.19-0.16 mya	Homo sapiens (Modern humans)

Timeline 2 (years ago)	
Earliest evidence of burials	300,000
Extinction of Homo erectus	200,000
Development of voice box	200,000
Archaic Homo sapiens skull in the Narmada valley, India	200,000
	130,000
Emergence of modern humans	195,000
	160,000
Emergence of Neanderthals	130,000
Earliest evidence of hearths	125,000
Extinction of Neanderthals	35,000

Earliest evidence of figurines made of fired clay	27,000
Invention of sewing needles	21,000

Answer:

Developments from Timeline-1

- The evidence of the first Hominids was found about 5.6 mya. The Hominids evolved from Hominoids. They had some common features. Hominids had larger brain than Hominoids. Hominids had an upright posture and bipedal locomotion. There was a marked difference in regard to hand. It helped them in use of tools.
- Around 2.5 mya, large parts of the earth were covered with snow. There were major changes in the environment. It led to expansion of grassland.

Developments from Timeline-2

- Around 200,000 years ago, the evolution of the voice box took place. After the evolution of voice box, now the man was about to speak and express his views.
- About 27,000 years ago, the earliest evidence of figurines made of fired clay was also found. The invention of sewing machines made the life of people more comfortable.