

# Sources of Ancient Indian history



## 1. Literary sources

### Major literary sources

Vedic literature

Vedas and Vedangas

Upanishads

Later Vedic literature

Aranyakas

Brahmanas

Puranas

Buddhist literature(Written in Pali language)

Jain literature(Written in Prakrit language)

Sanskrit

Greeks

Foreign accounts

Chinese

Arabian

### Common perceptions on literary sources

Religious in nature

Improper or insufficient chronology

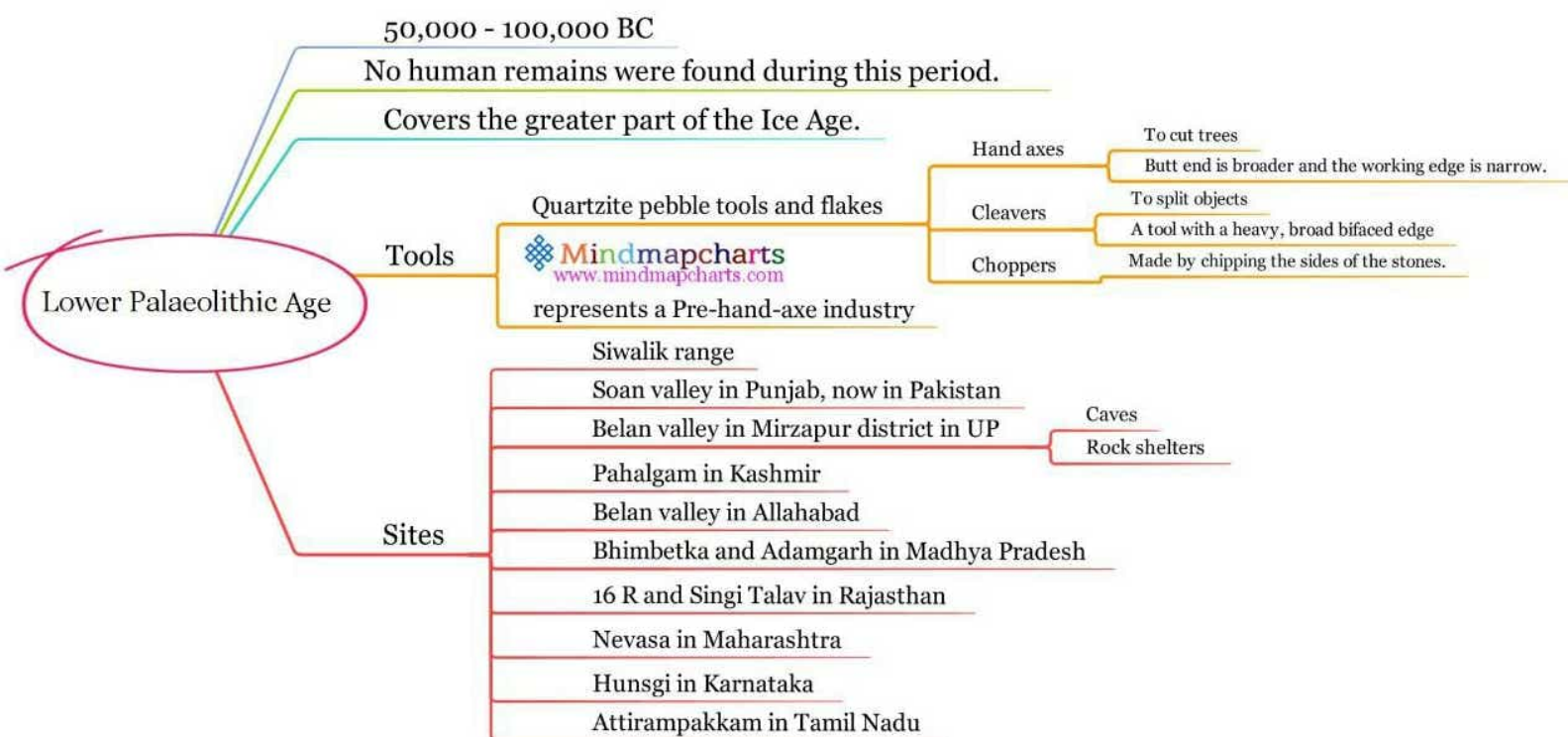
## 2. Archaeological sources

Architectural sources

Excavations

Epigraphic sources(Inscriptions)

Numismatic sources



# Middle Palaeolithic Age

## Sites

Soan valley

Crude pebble industry during himalayan glaciation

Rohri hills

Tools and weapons

Narmada valley

Samnapur

Tungabadra

Bhimbetka

Nevasa



Mindmapcharts  
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## Flake tools

Made of Chert

a piece of hard stone made by chipping the edges

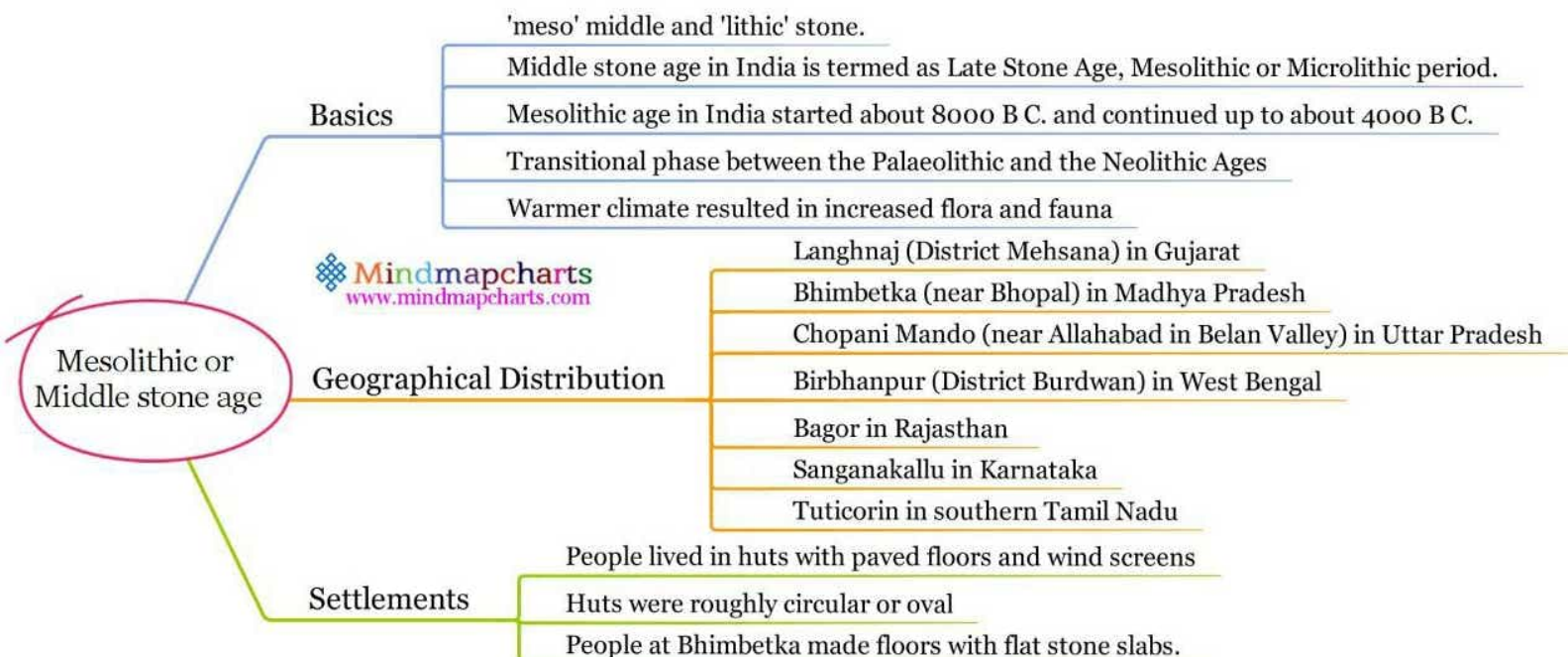
### Tool types

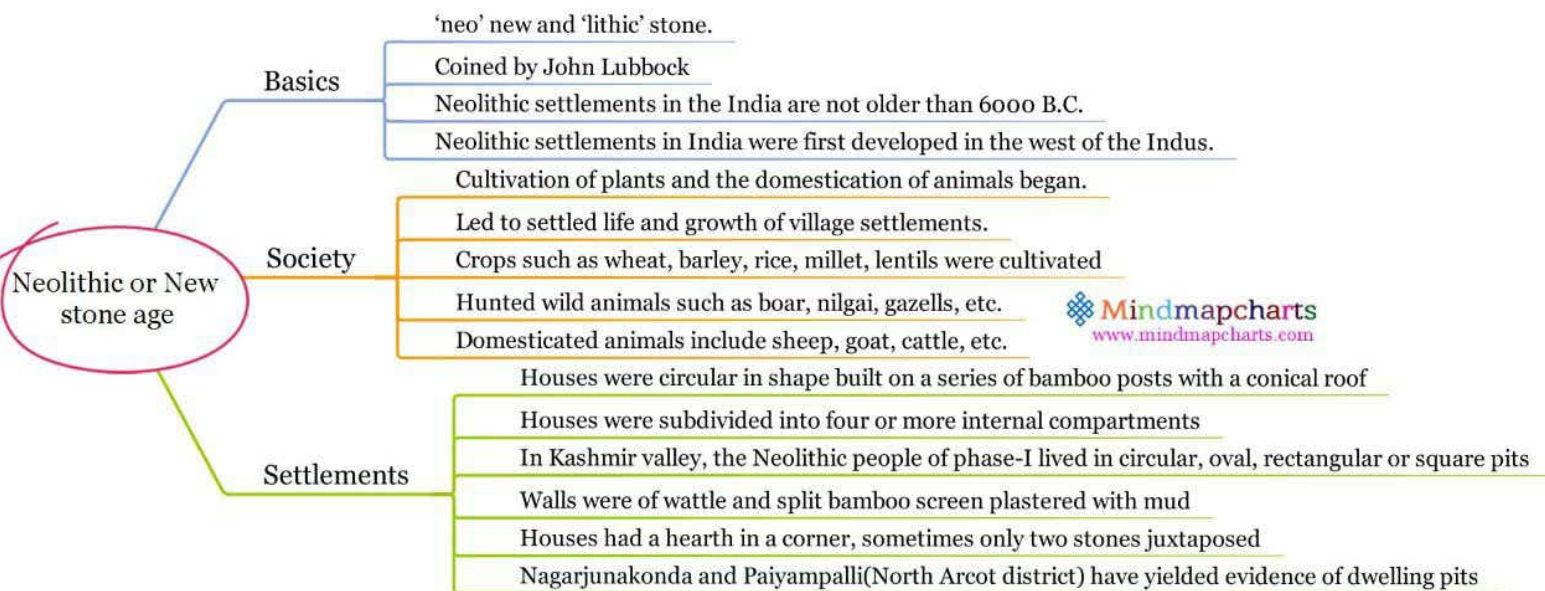
small and medium-sized handaxes and cleavers

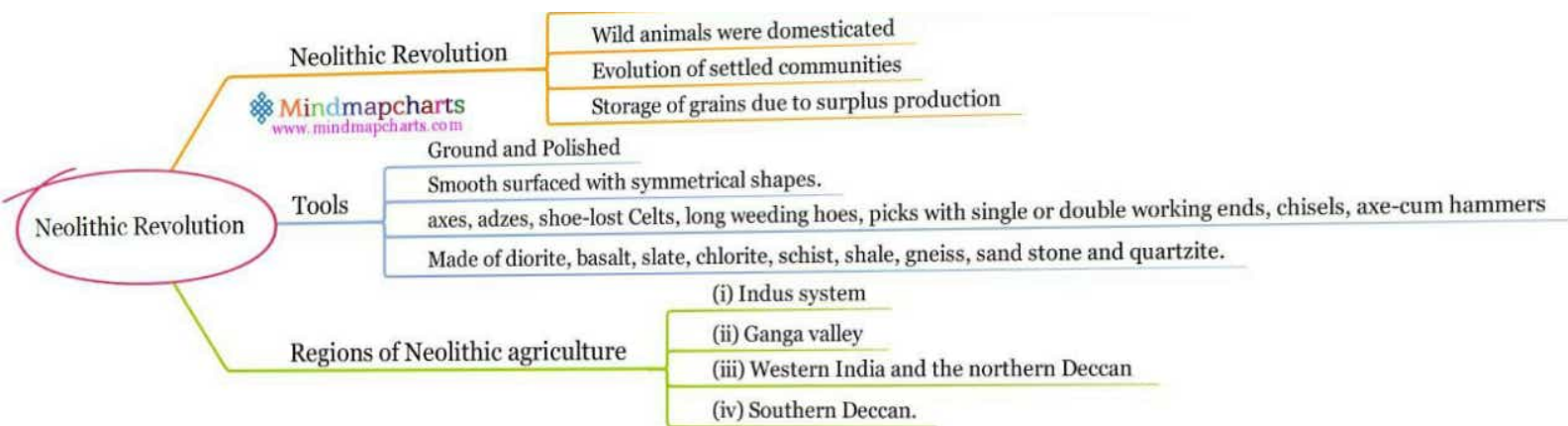
Scrapers

Borers large borers or awls

Blade-like tools

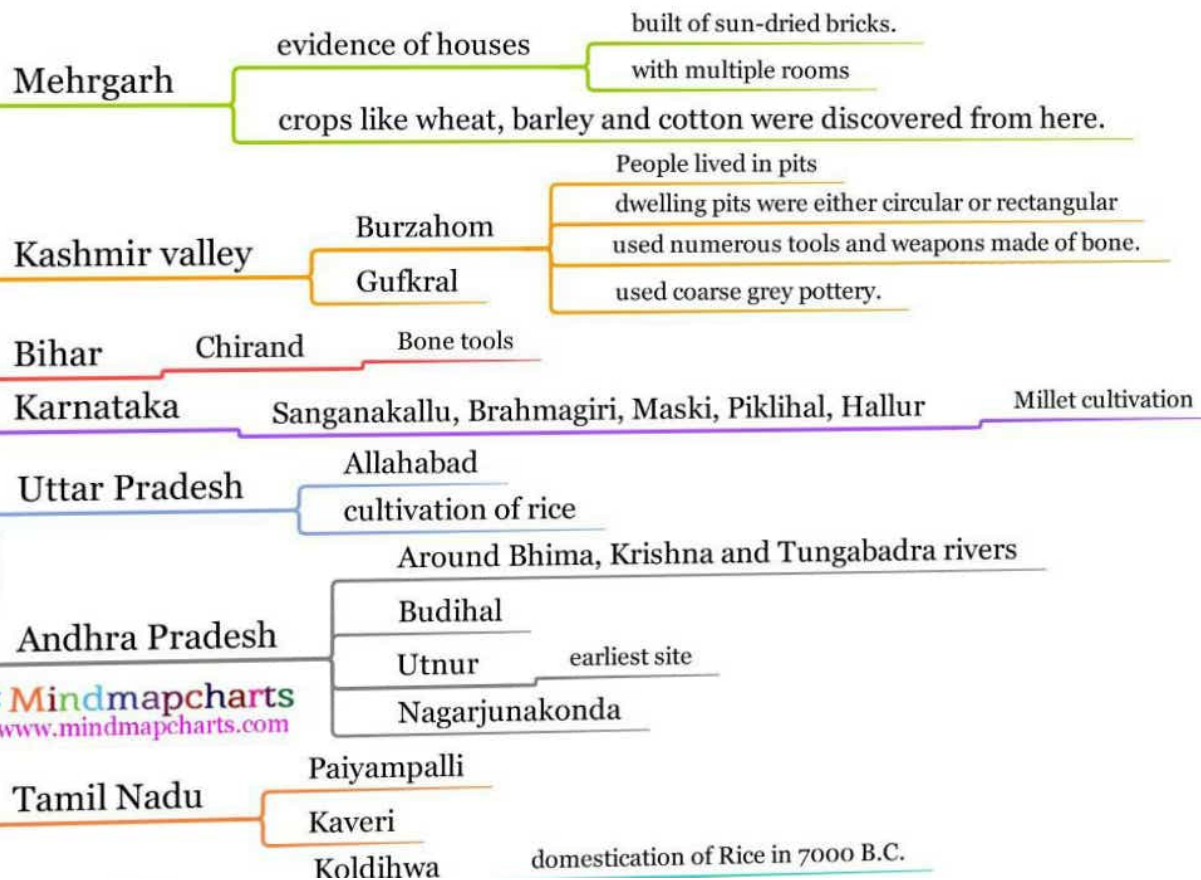


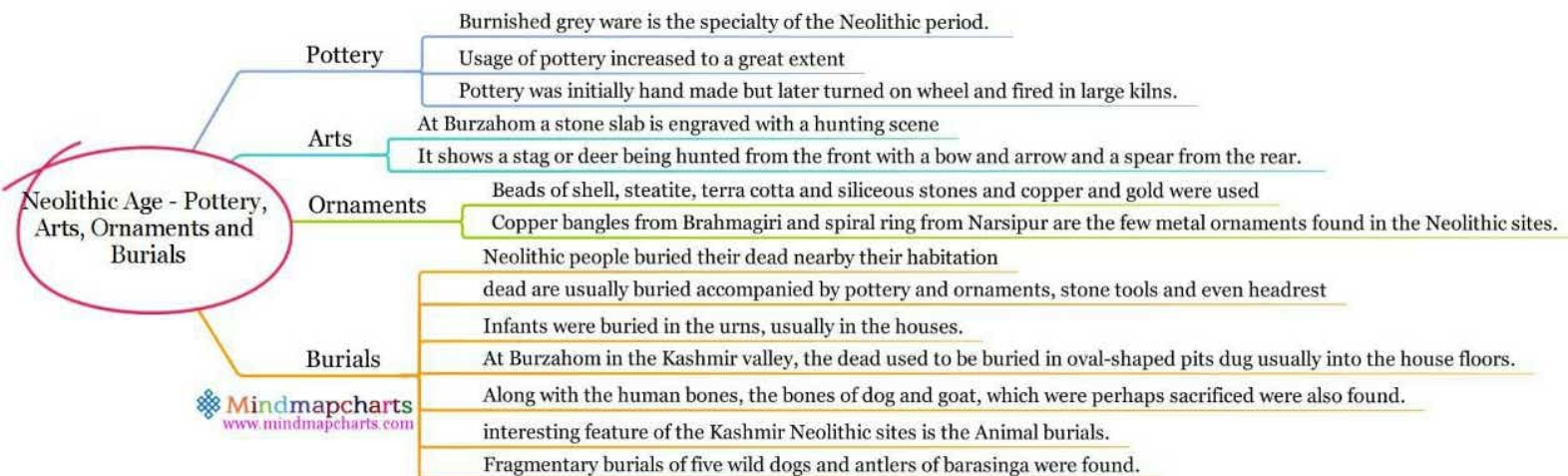






## Neolithic Age - Major sites







# Chalcolithic age

## Basics

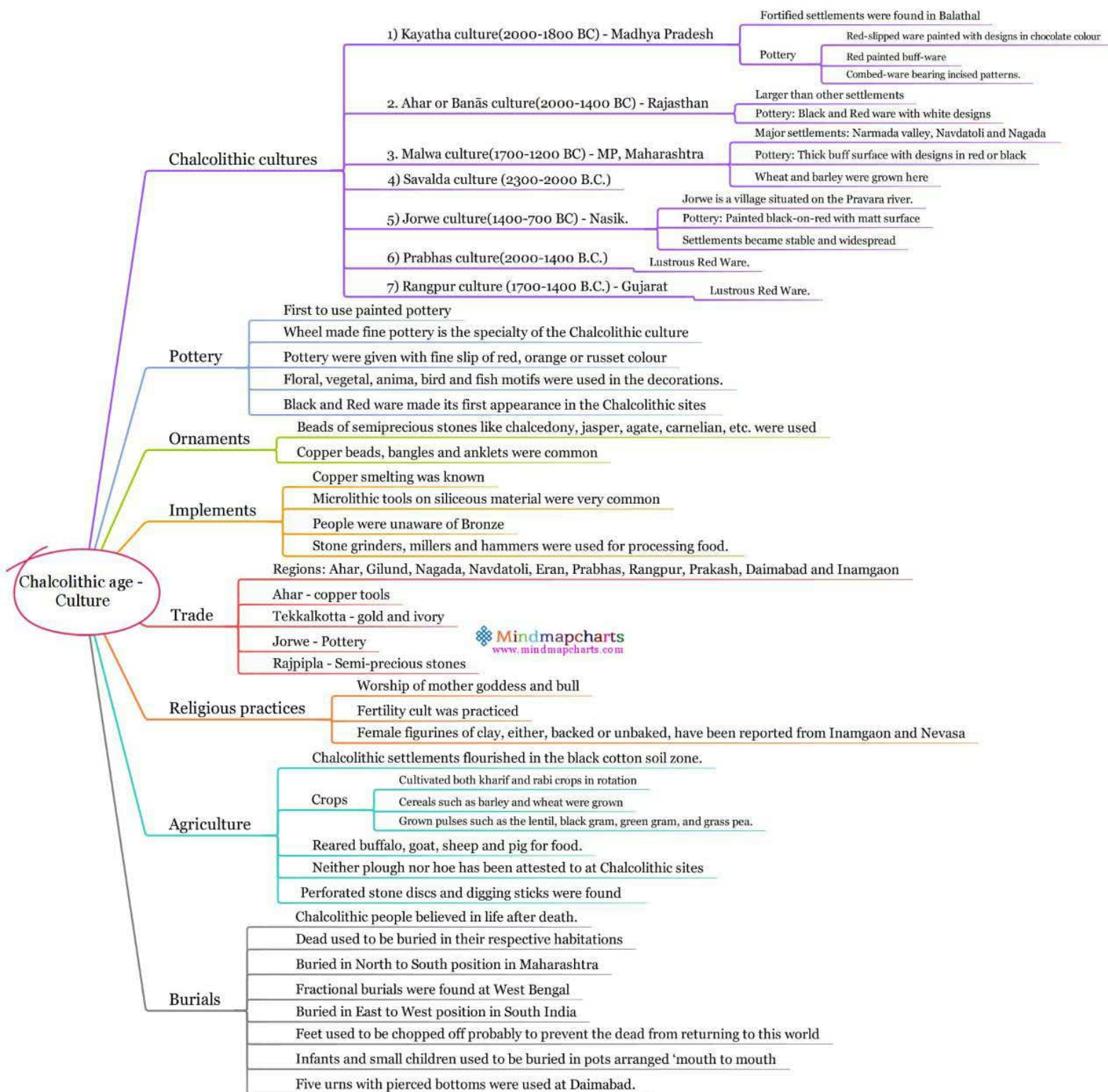
- Chalco - copper and lithic - stone
- First metal age, copper and its alloy bronze were used
- Marked the transition from stone age to metal age.
- In south India the Chalcolithic phase is called Neolithic-Chalcolithic phase

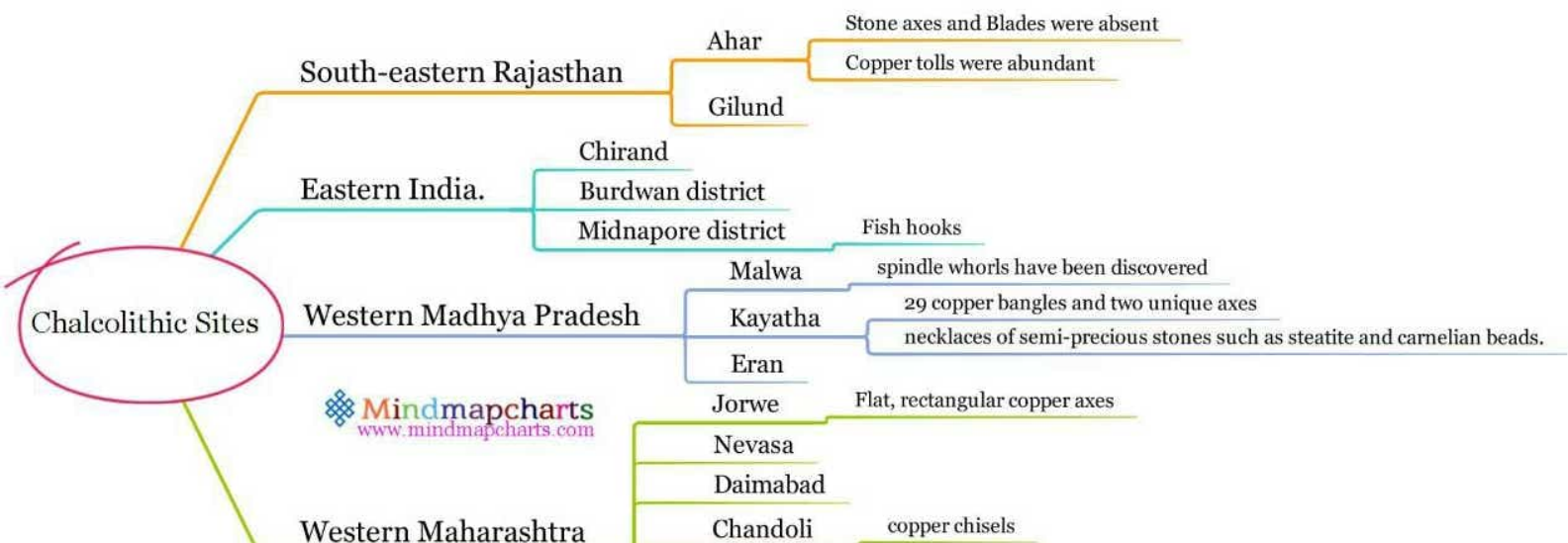
## Society

- Both farming and hunting was prevalent
- Nucleated settlements
- Beginning of social inequalities.
- People did not know writing
- Fish and meat formed the staple diet
- Cotton was produced in Deccan
- People knew spinning and weaving

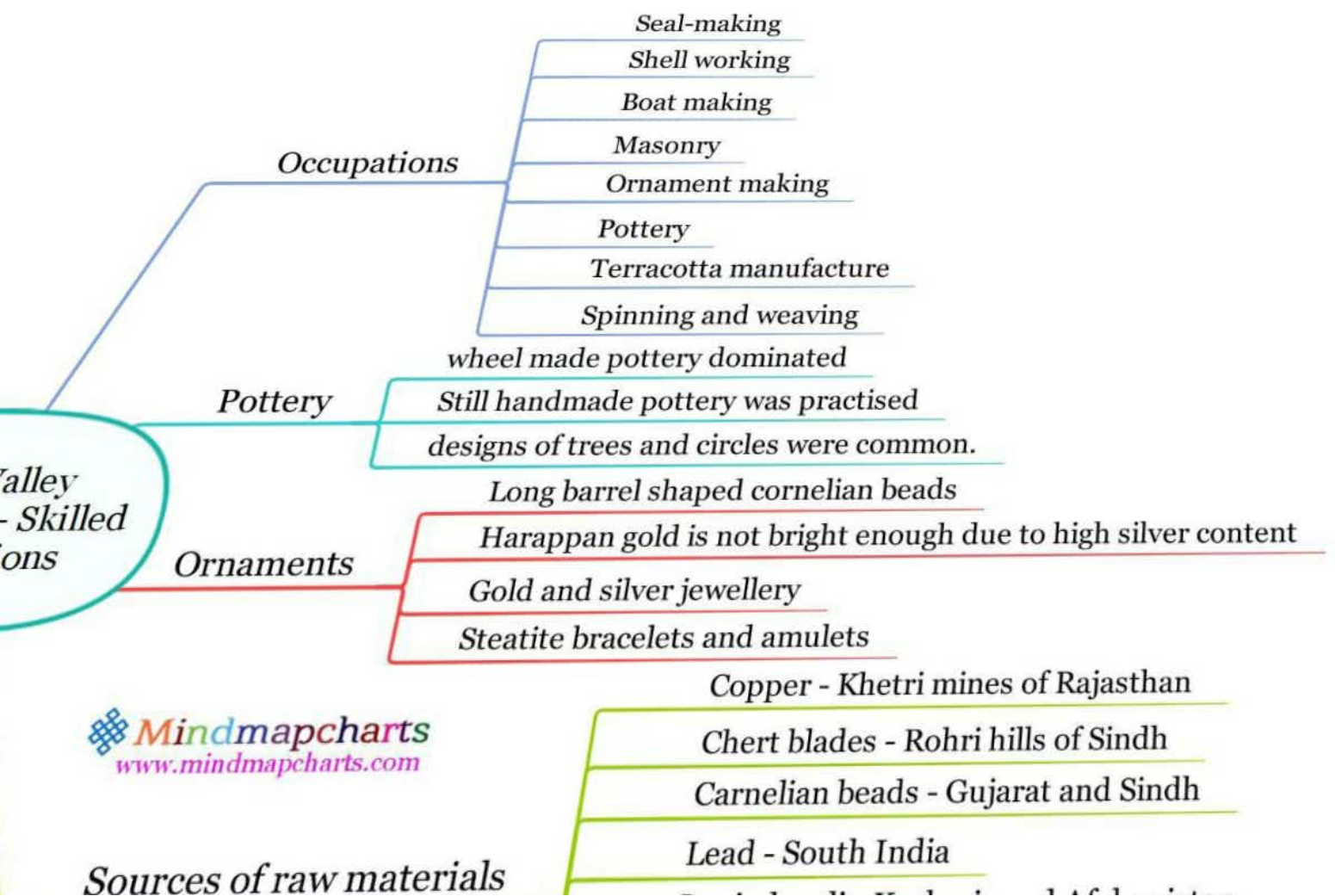
## Settlements

- Developed in the regions of central India and Deccan
- First village system in India
- Chalcolithic people did not use bricks
- No burnt bricks were used

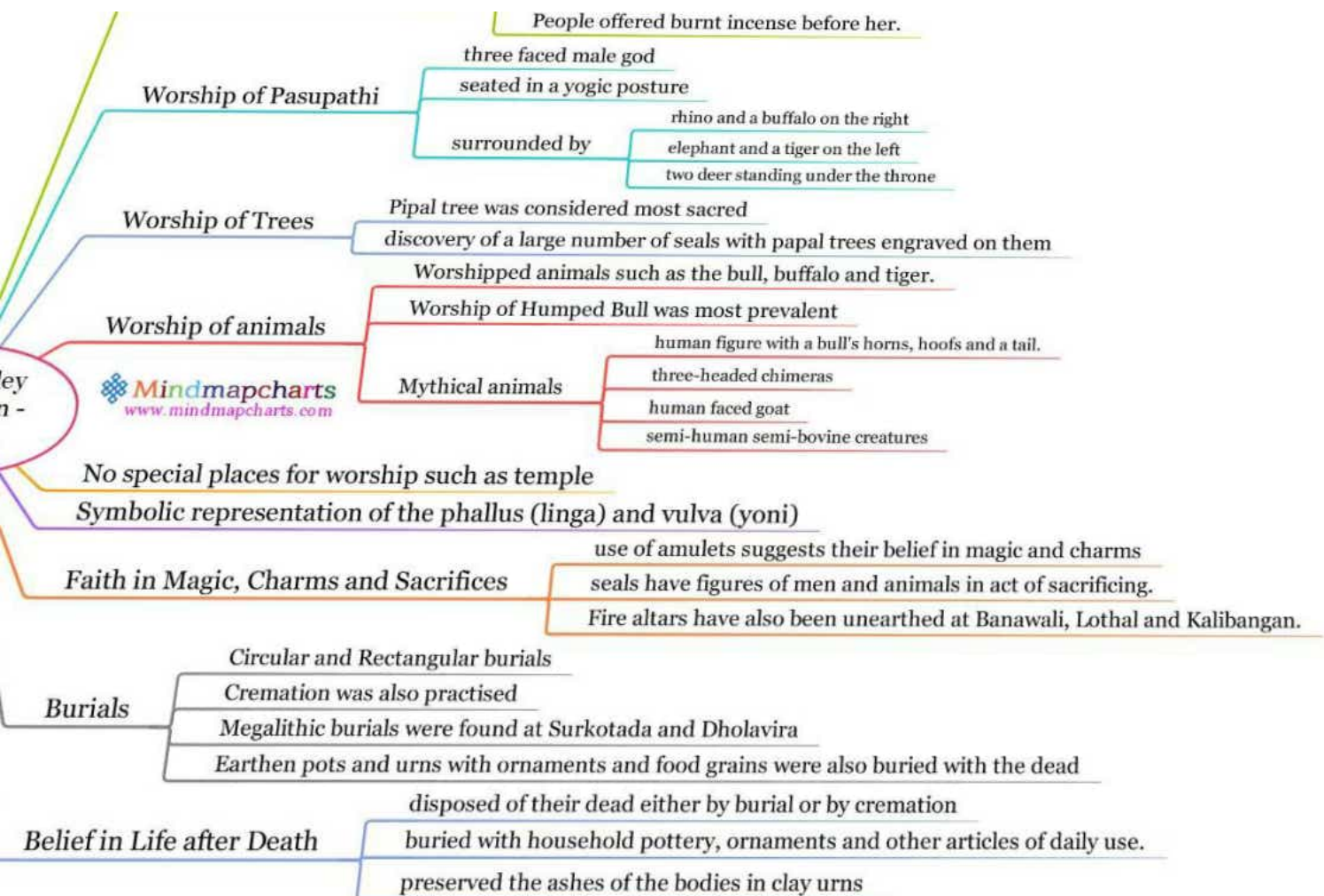














# Harappan or Indus valley Civilization - Town planning

## Materials

- Sun dried bricks
- Baked bricks



## Buildings

### (i) Private houses

Both Single and multi room houses

well and water reservoirs were common  
taps inside every home

Bathing areas and drains were made with baked bricks or stone.

Two storey houses were common

Rooms were paved with bricks or fired Terracotta cakes

### (ii) Large houses surrounded by smaller units

### (iii) Large public structures

Granaries

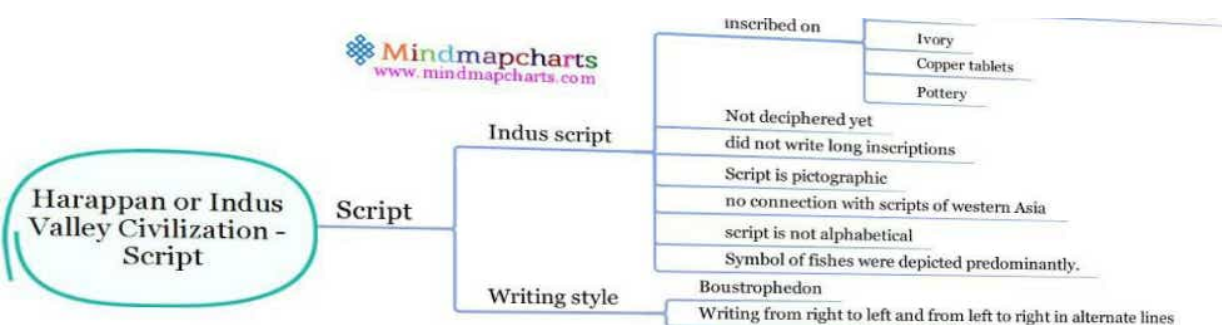
Citadel

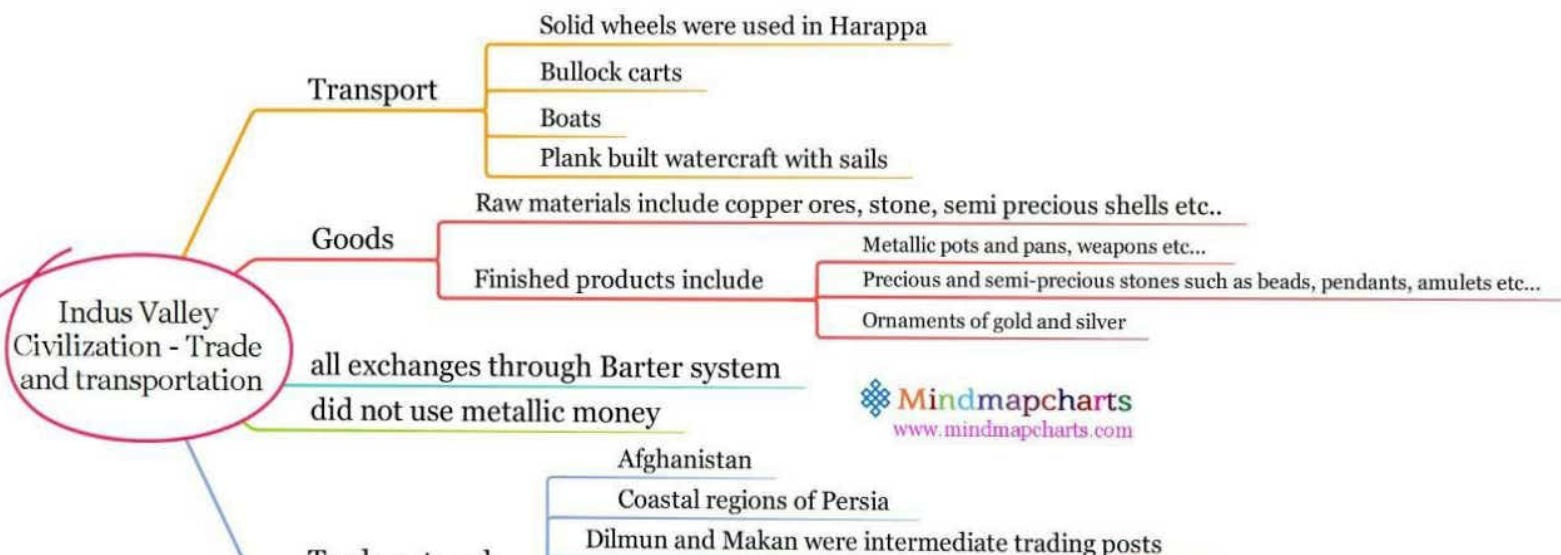
## Roads

- Straight roads
- Grid or rectangular pattern

## Drainage

- Underground or covered drainage
- Connected from rear side of the houses





# Decline of Indus Valley Civilization

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## Decline of IVC

Natural causes

Shifting of river channels

Deforestation

Drying of rivers

Floods

Drought

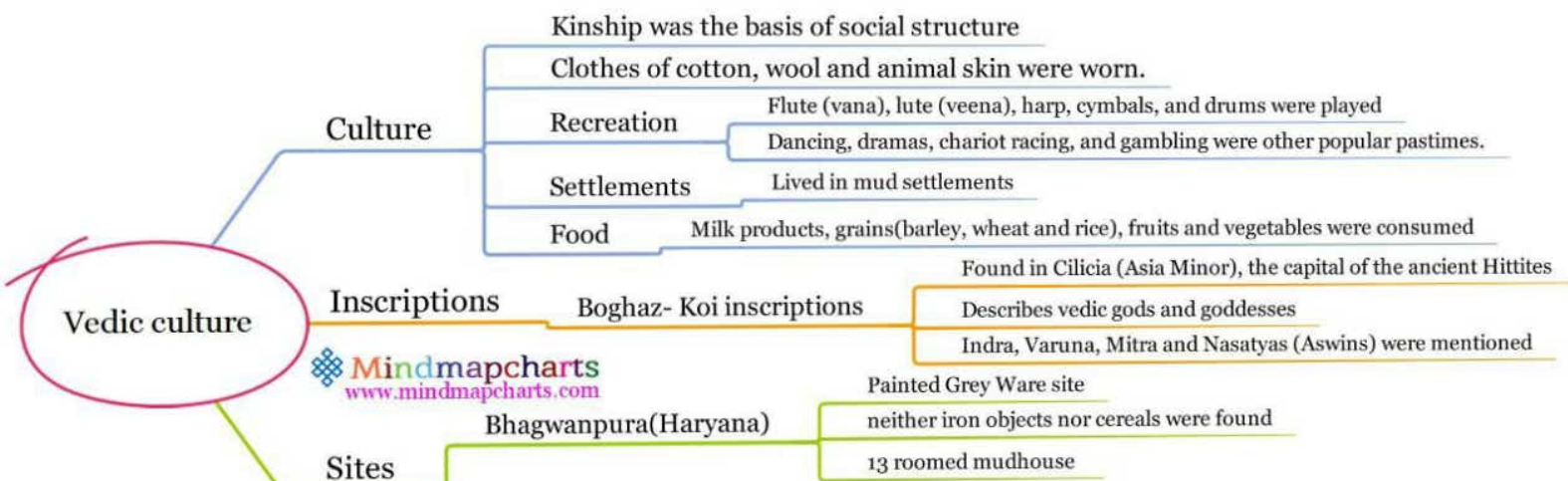
Indo-Aryan Migration

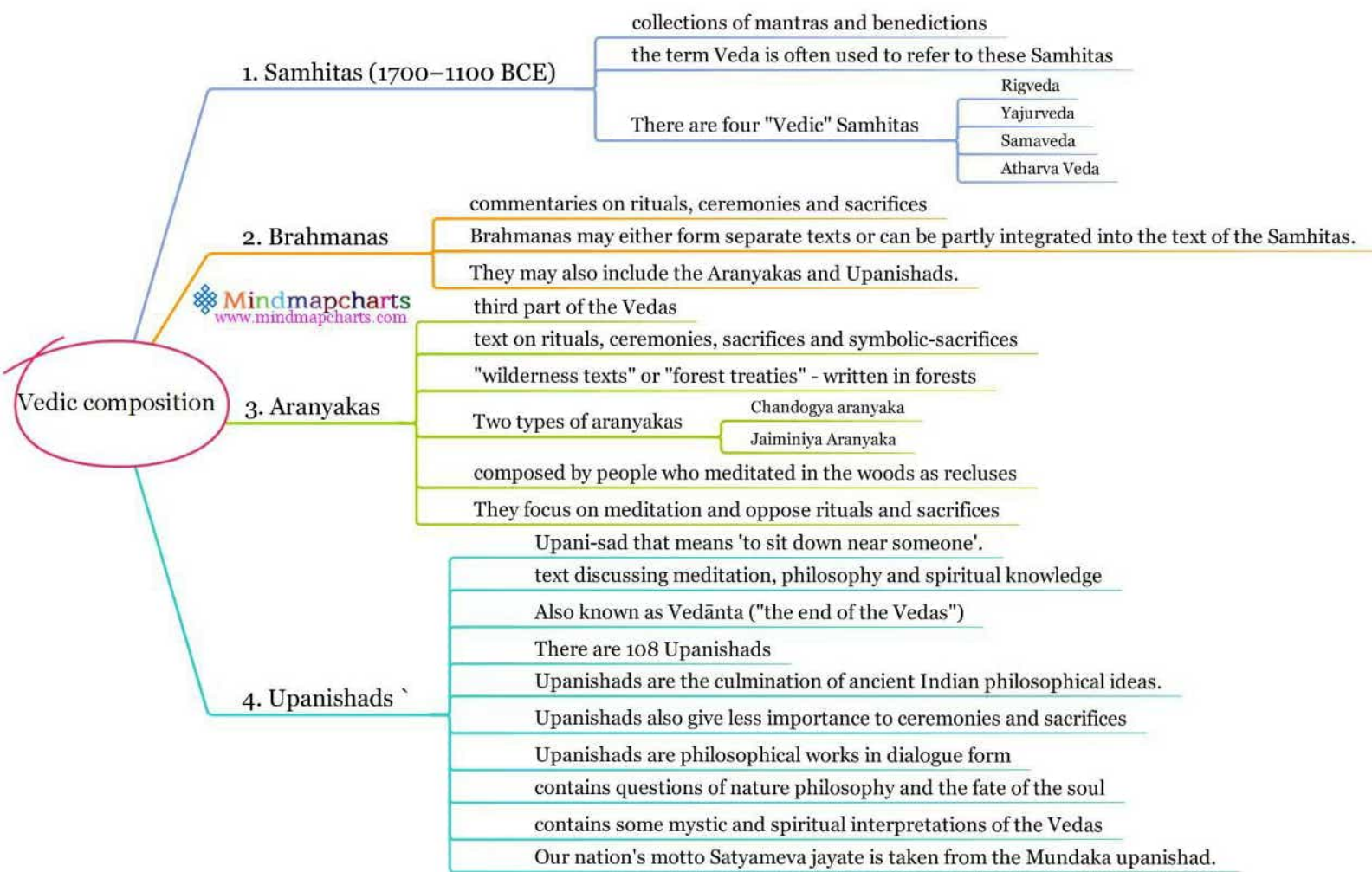
Decline in trade with Egypt and Mesopotamia

Major hypothesis

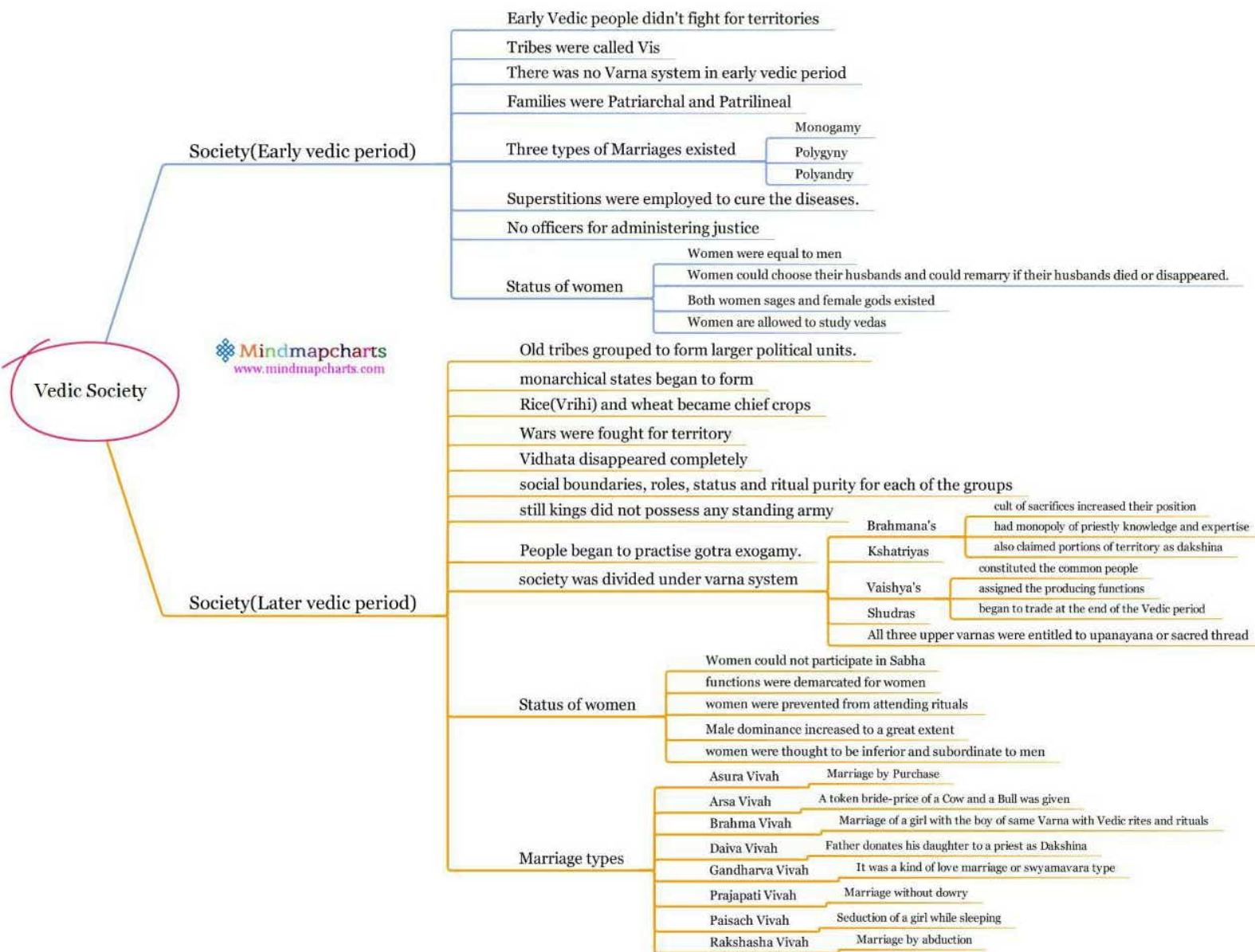
John Marshall and others - Environmental degradation.

Mortimer Wheeler - Aryan invasion









Economy during Vedic period

Economy(Early vedic period)

- Cattle were the medium of exchange
- Number of Cattle determined the wealth
- war was termed as gavisthi(search for cows)
- wealthy person was called Gomat
- gifts were in terms of cows and women slaves
- Private properties were not well established



Economy(Later vedic period)

Artisans such as Iron smiths, potters, jewellers took prominence

Agriculture

- Still agriculture was the main occupation
- Wooden Ploughshare was used with upto 12 oxen at a time

Metals

- Iron also called as syama or Krishna Ayas came into use
- Copper called as Lohit ayas was also used

Money lending became common

Weaving was confined to women

# Organization of Vedic people

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## Hierarchy

1. Family (Kula) led by Grihapati
2. Village (Grama) led by Gramani
3. Clan (Vis) led by Vispati
4. People or Tribe (Jana)
5. Country (Rashtra)

## Rajan

Chief of tribe

Other name - Gopati Janasya

Duty is

to protect his tribe and their cattle  
to lead campaigns to possess cattle

visa

Election of chief by tribes  
Mentioned in Atharva Veda

