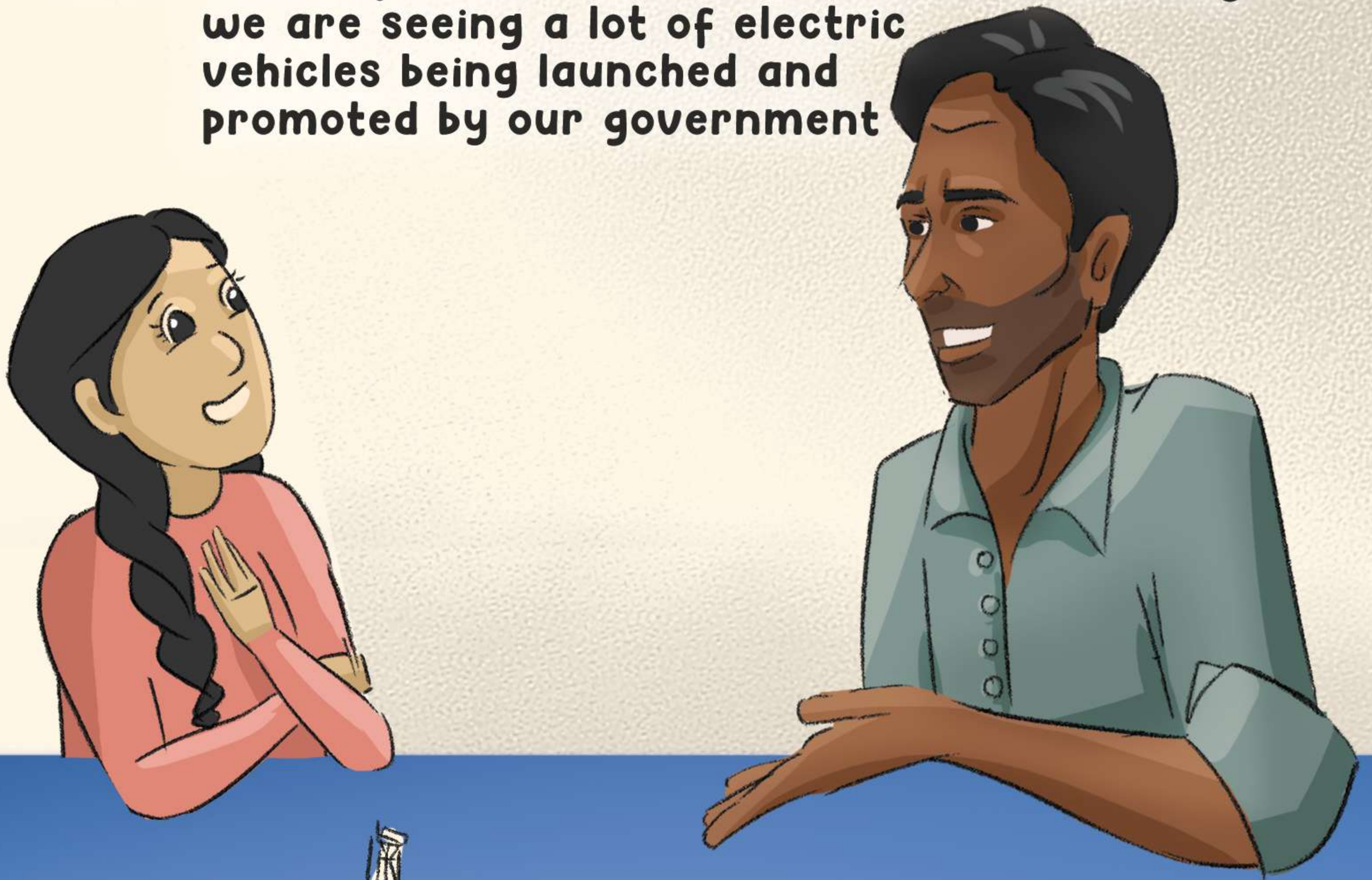


That is why it is easy to distinguish between fossilized and non-fossilized remains. They play a huge role in helping us know what kind of environment was earlier and how our ancestors lived.



Bhuli- I remember studying fossil fuels. Our teacher said that diesel and petrol are fossil fuels and that many governments including India are trying to move to healthier and sustainable fuel options to protect our environment.

Sunil- Exactly... You are very aware of current issues. I am impressed. This is the exact reason why we are seeing a lot of electric vehicles being launched and promoted by our government



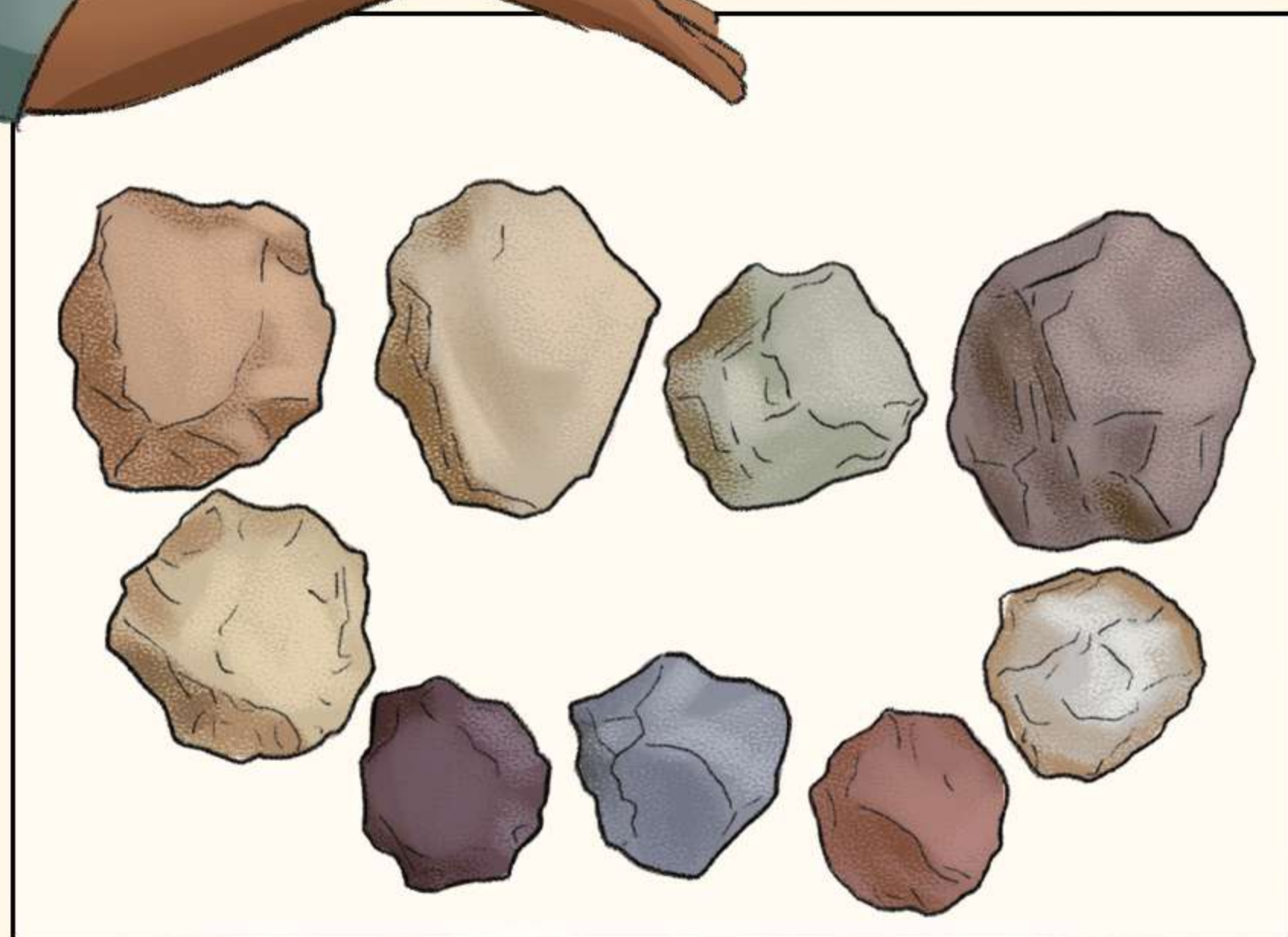
Kalu- Are there any fossils of our ancestors that have been found in India?

Sunil- Yes absolutely... A fossil of our early ancestors has been recovered from the Narmada Valley in the central part of India. The exact locality from where it was recovered is called Hathnora. Hence, we call it the Narmada Fossil or the Hathnora Fossil.

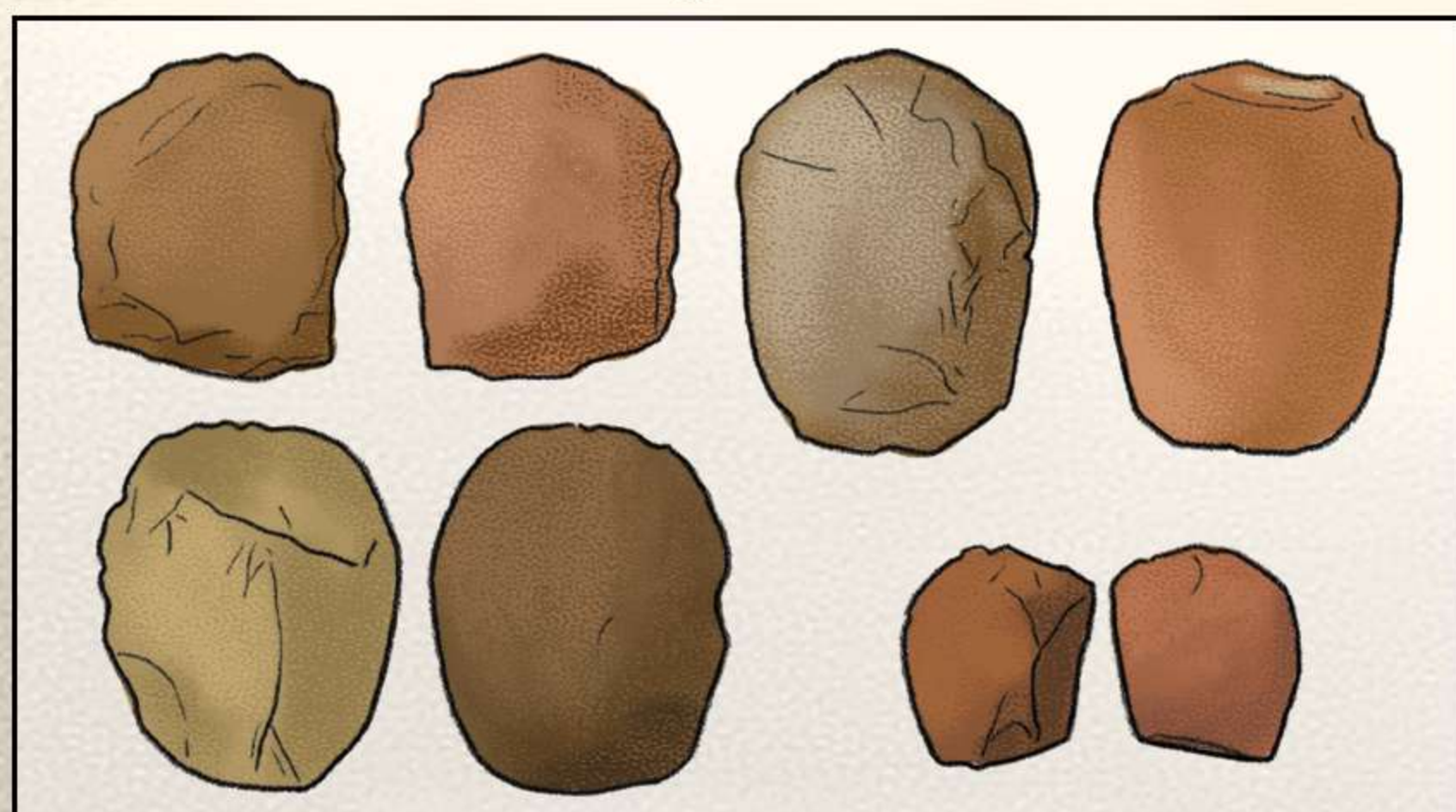


Bhuli- So... How old is the Prehistory of India? What are the oldest remains that we have found so far?

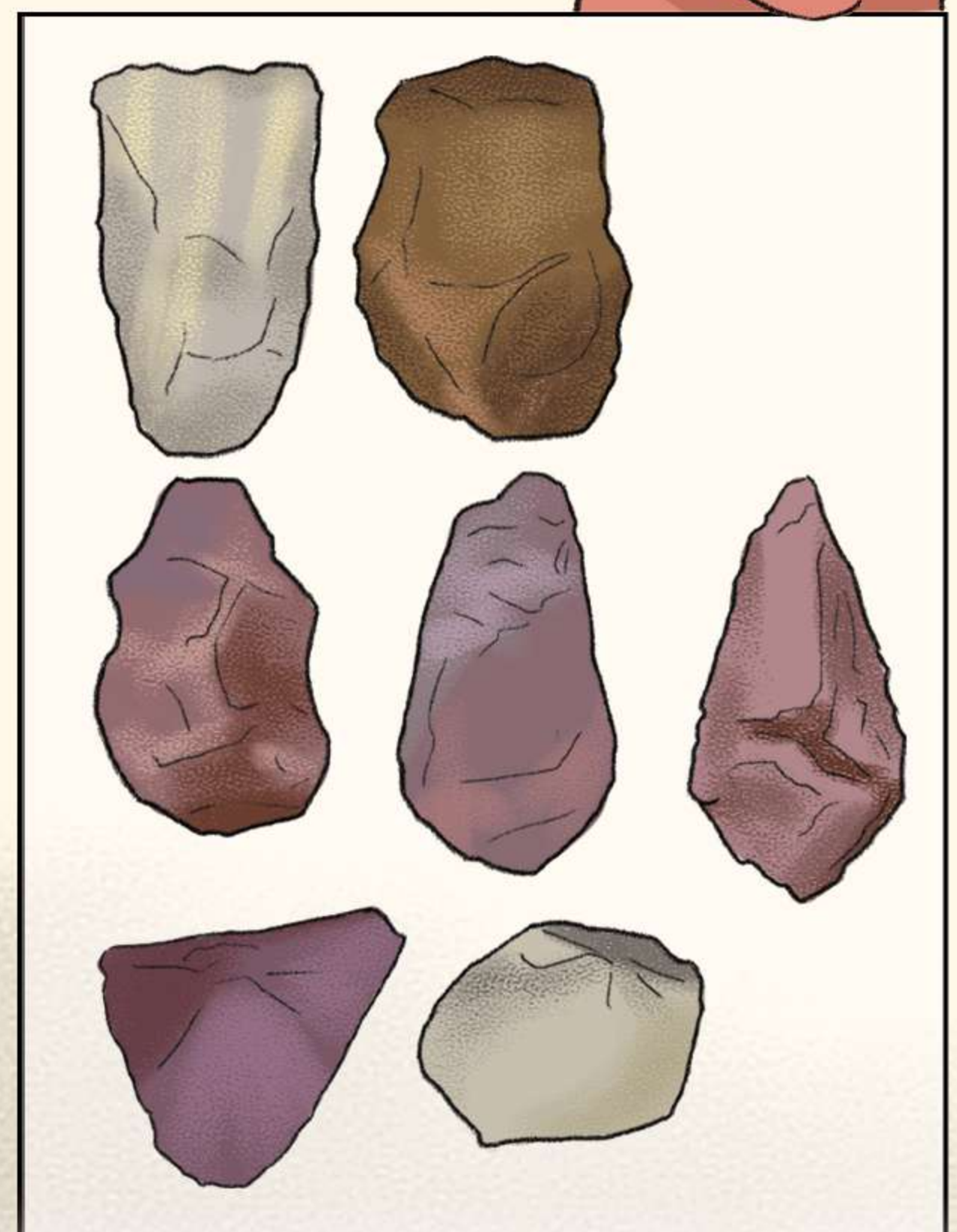
Sunil- Based on the stone tool typologies and fossils found along with these tools, two sites have revealed amazing dates. Not very far from our Haryana in the Shiwaliks, a site at Masol has given approximate dates of 2.6 million years while a site in present-day Tamil Nadu called Attirampakkam has given dates from 1.5 to 2 million years. In undivided Punjab, we have the Soan Valley where we got stone tools dating to roughly 1.5 million years ago.



Soan Valley Stone Tools



Masol Stone Tools



Attirampakkam Stone Tools

Bhuli- Does our state of Haryana also have a rich Prehistoric past?

Kalu- Ohh no... We forgot to ask about the Rock Art. Can you tell us about the art of our ancestors?

Kalu- Hahaha... Yes, our Haryana also has a vibrant Prehistoric past and why don't I take you to the forest area adjoining the main road where I'll show you some rock art myself? But please get permission from your parents when you come here.



Mother1 - Arreey Sunil... The kids told us how they were pestering you yesterday. These two didn't even introduce themselves to you. This is my son Kalu and this is Bhuli.

Mother2 - We always thought you were a wildlife researcher. But based on what the kids told us, you seem to be an archaeologist too.



Sunil- Hahaha... Well, I am a wildlife researcher who accidentally stumbled upon some Prehistoric rock art in our forests. The Deputy Director Ma'am from the Archaeology Department of Haryana came here and told me its significance. Since then, I have been wandering all over the forests and documenting these sites.

Today, I will take Kaalu and Bhuli to the forest area along the main road and show them some of these sites. We will be back in a few hours.






Let's continue from where we ended yesterday. Bhuli... To answer your question first, Our Haryana has a vibrant Prehistoric past too.

We find several Prehistoric finds such as stone tools, fossils, and rock art along the Shivalik and the Aravalli.

Can one of you tell me why we get these finds along these regions only and not other parts of Haryana?



An illustration of a woman and a man in a conversation. The woman, on the left, has dark hair in a braid and is wearing a red tunic. She is gesturing with her right hand towards the man. The man, on the right, has dark hair and is wearing a light blue shirt and purple pants. He is holding a rolled-up yellow scroll. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

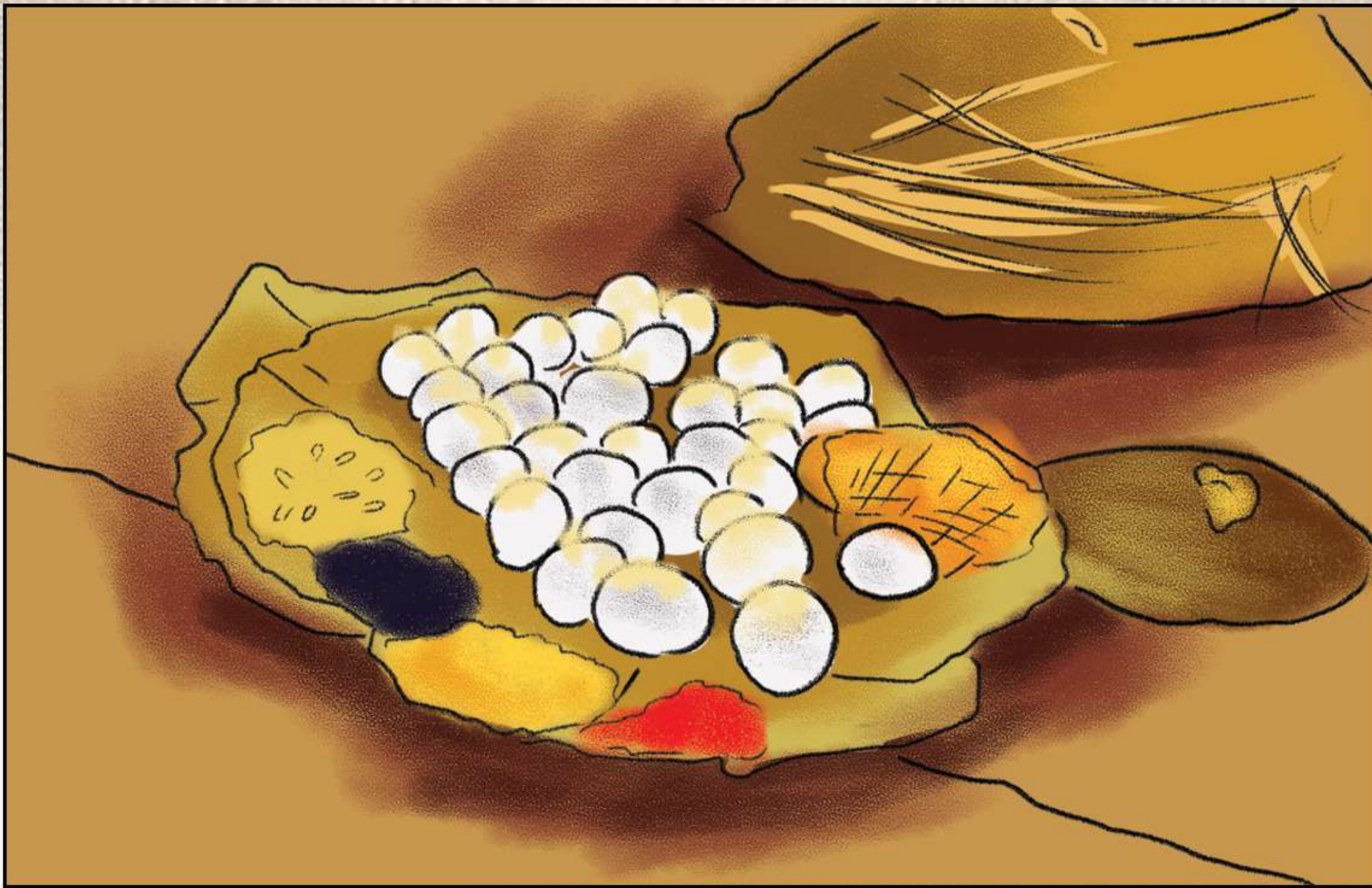
Bhuli- Is it because these mountain ranges are a lot older than the other regions of Haryana?

Sunil- Precisely. Good job Bhuli. The Aravalli Range is the oldest mountain range in the world. Hence, it is not surprising that the Prehistoric remnants of our ancestors are still visible here.

Sunil- Look... These are what we call Cup Marks or Cupules. We find them all over the world.

Kalu- Wow... What is so special about them? How old are these? How did our ancestors make them?



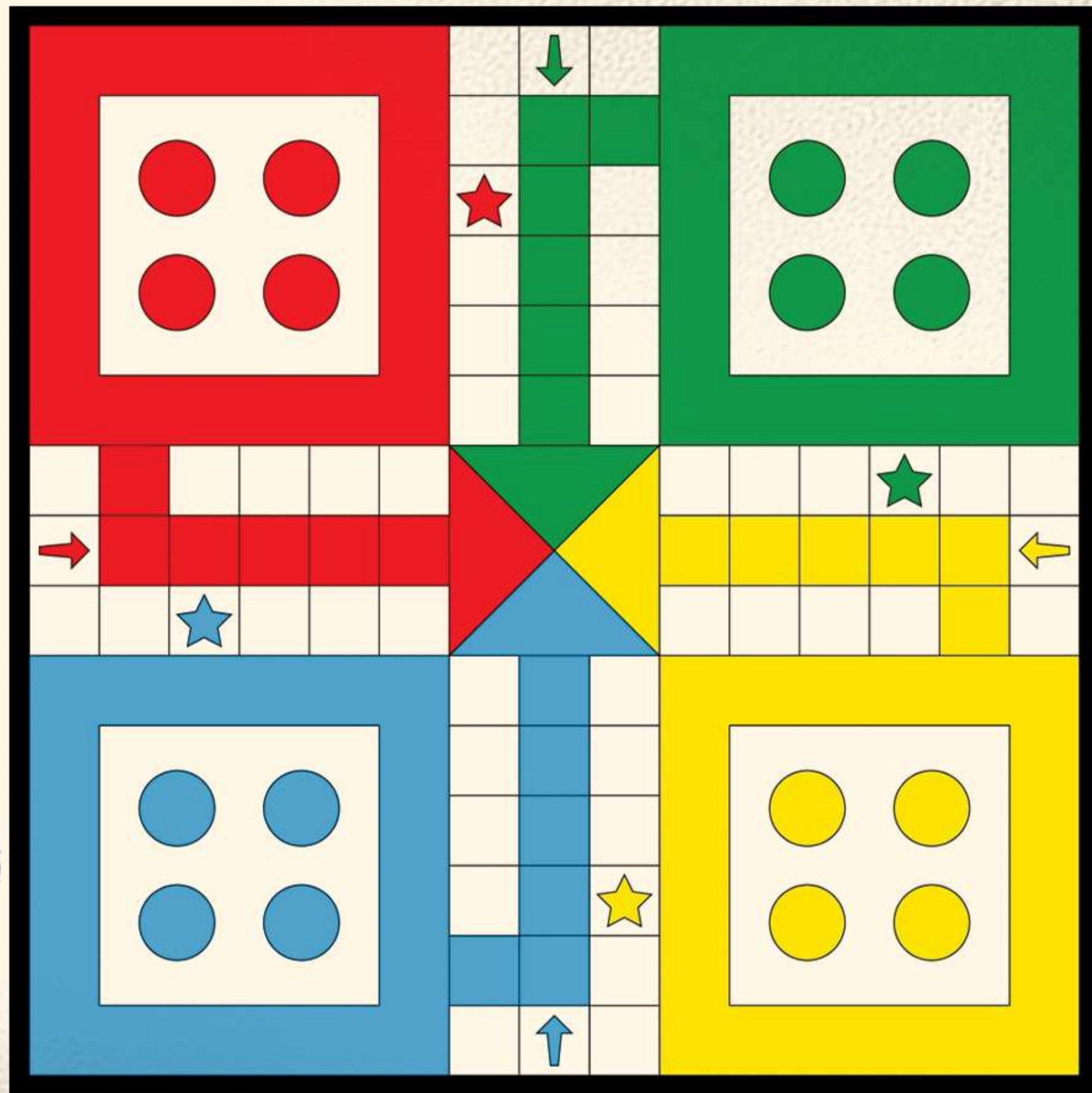


Easy Kaalu. Let us address one question at a time.

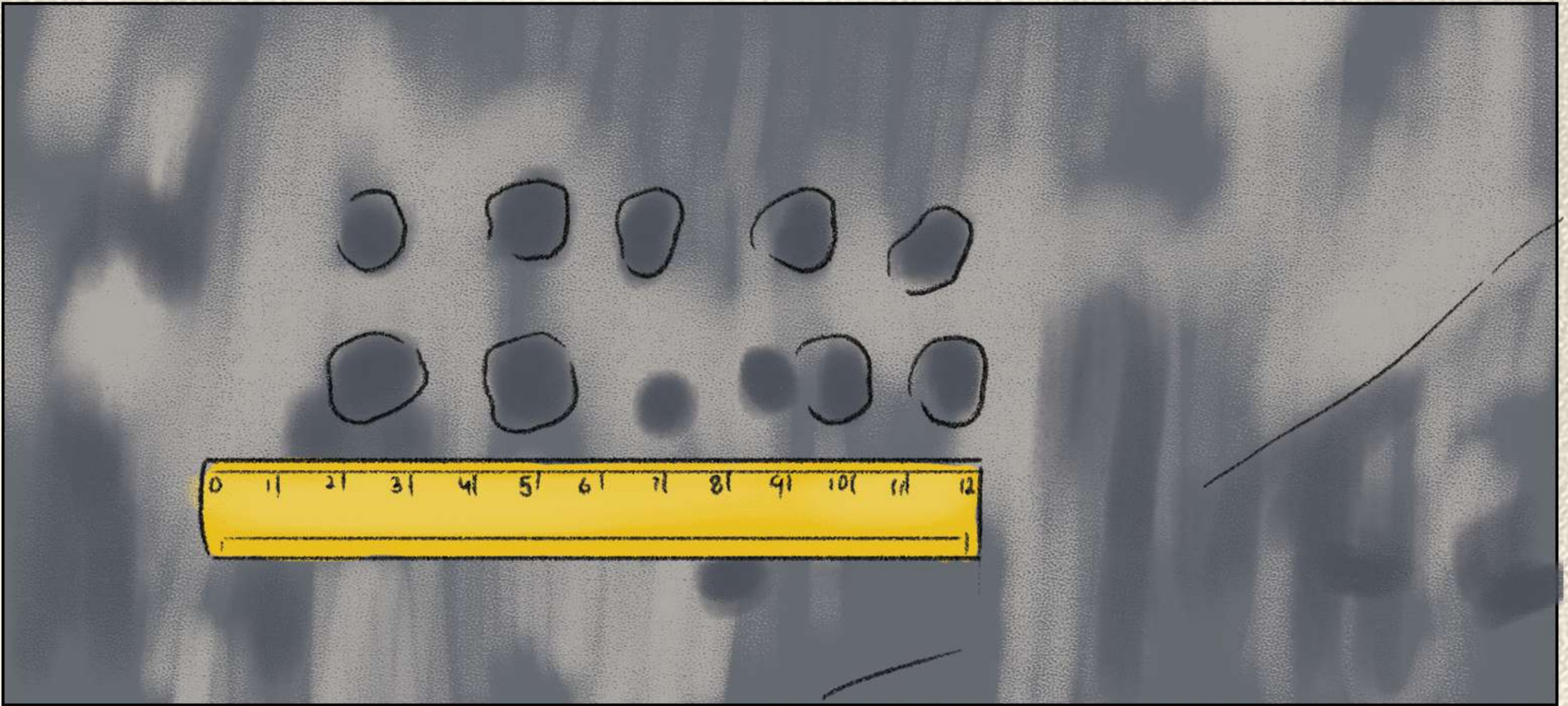
All over the world, archaeologists have been trying to interpret the meanings behind these cupules and some interpretations have received considerable agreement among various scholars.

Like, they might have been used for religious purposes. These could have been used for the preparation of things through grinding like pastes for paints from flowers and vegetable dyes or even for preparing spices.





Interestingly, some even say that they were used for record-keeping like the number of livestock. Lastly, a lot of scholars believe that they could have been used for recreation and past times like we have board games today.

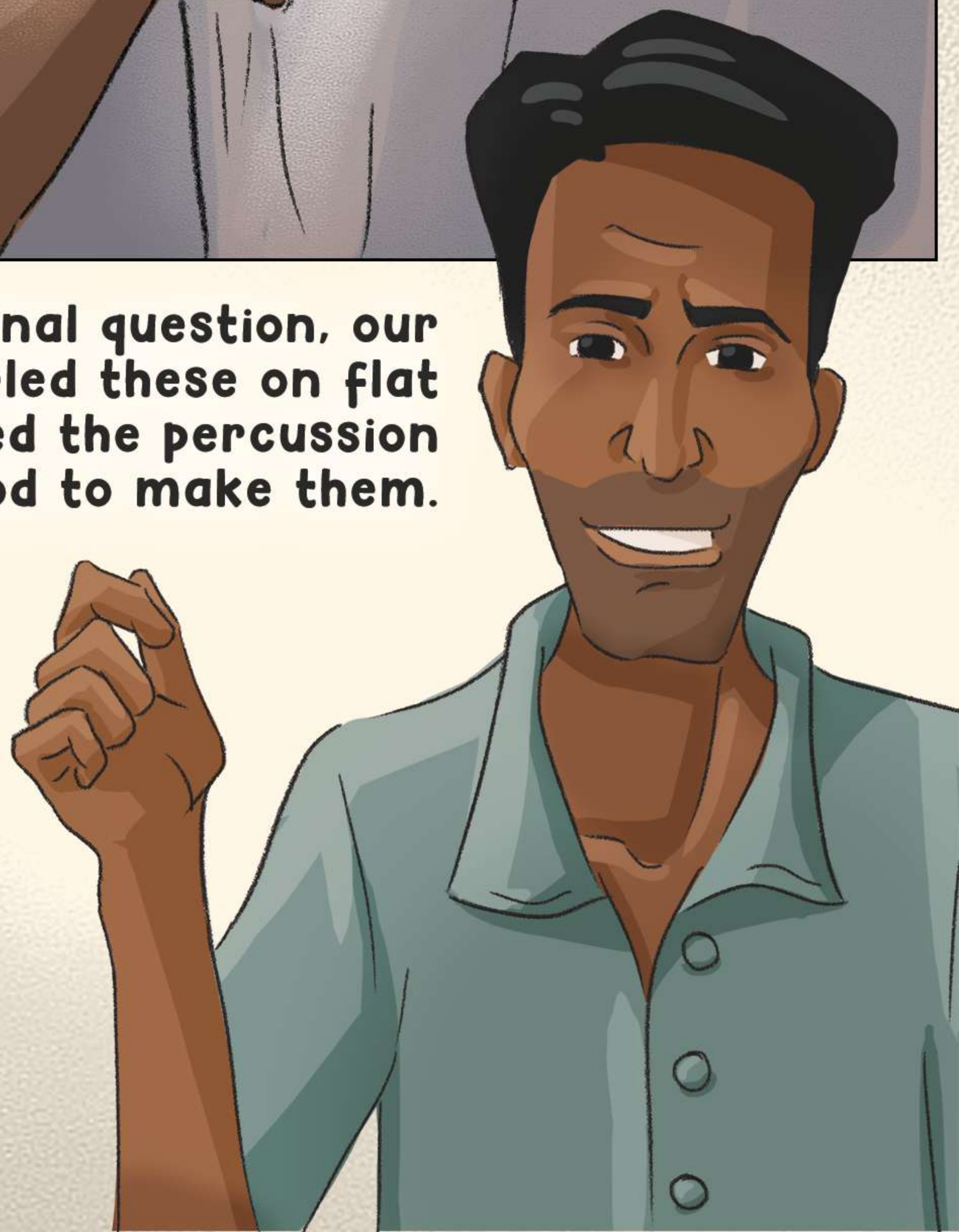


Now coming to your question of how old are these. Based on the current research, many scholars think that these cupules are between 10,000 years to 50,000 years old. They have compared these with many specimens from India like at Dara Ki Chattan or even Europe and Africa and come to this conclusion.





To answer your final question, our ancestors either chiseled these on flat rock surfaces or used the percussion method to make them.



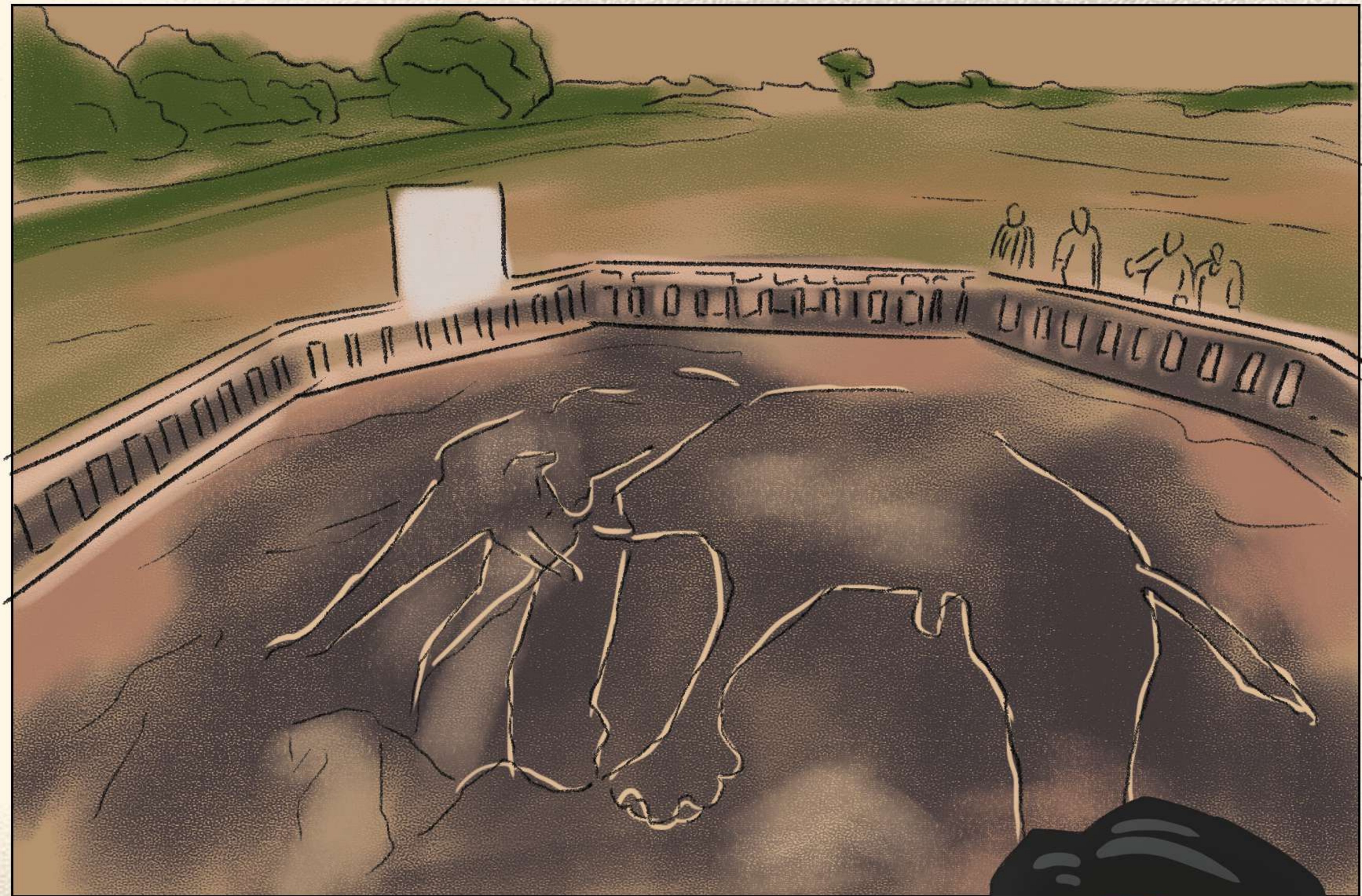


Sunil- These are Petroglyphs

Bhuli- Petro what?

Sunil- Hahaha... Petro means something related to Rocks and Glyphs are carvings or groovings made directly using chisels and hammerstones. Hence, Petroglyphs are carvings made on rock surfaces and they are a form of Prehistoric Rock Art. Our ancestors produced different types of rock art. We already saw cupules and now these are Petroglyphs.





The most known Petroglyphs from India are the Konkan Petroglyphs from Maharashtra. These are huge carvings on large rock surfaces.



Bhuli- So you are saying all these carvings here are made by our ancestors? How old are these?

Sunil- Yes... These were made by our ancestors around 40,000 to 50,000 years ago.





This is the final type of Prehistoric Rock Art. Here, you can see that painting has been done using vegetable dyes and mineral dust on a flat smooth rock surface. These are also known as Pictographs

This is not as old as the previously shown cupules and Petroglyphs. This is just a few thousand years old but it shows that in these regions, where we don't see elephants anymore, people were aware of them and even domesticated them.





Bhimbetka Caves in present-day Madhya Pradesh have one of the best Rock Art depictions in the world. They are even listed under the UNESCO World Heritage Sites

