

Neolithic (New Stone Age) Art

9000-2300 BCE

Prehistoric Europe and the Near East

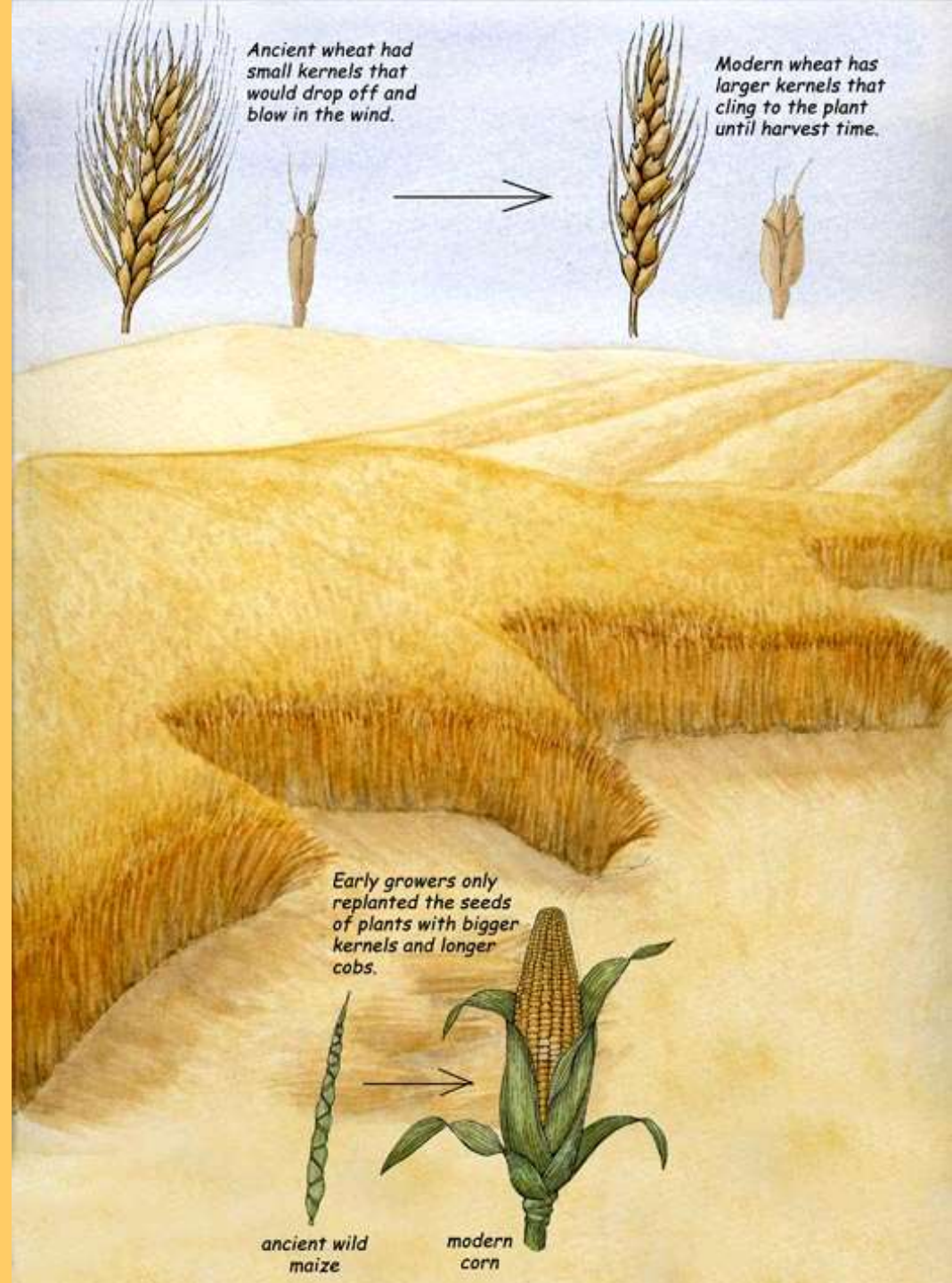


Neolithic: Ancient Near East

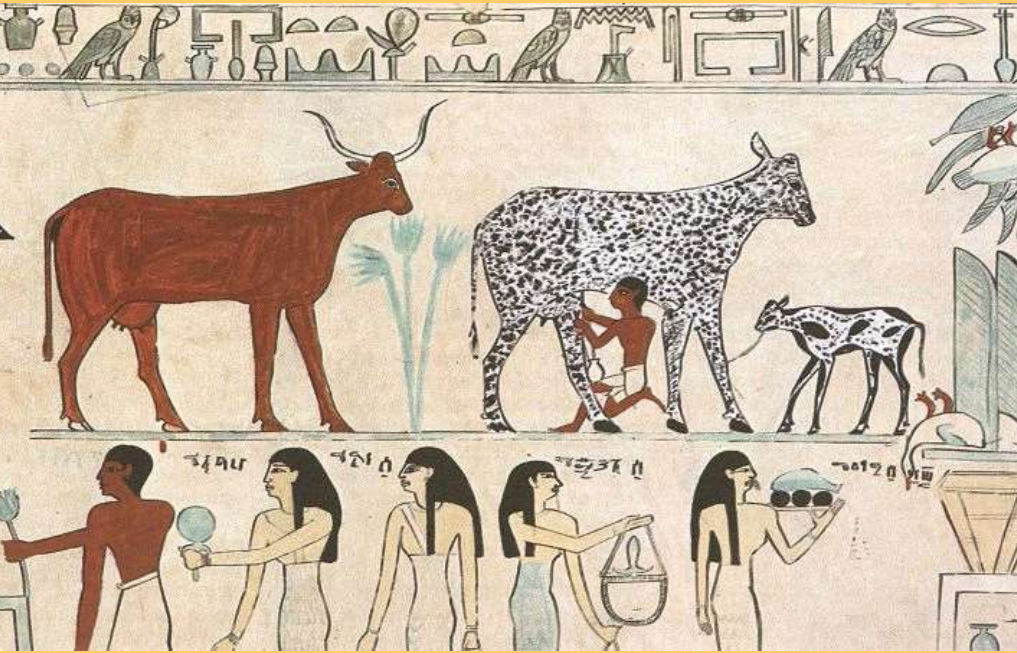
Agriculture :

The Domestication of Plants (Wheat, barley, figs etc.)

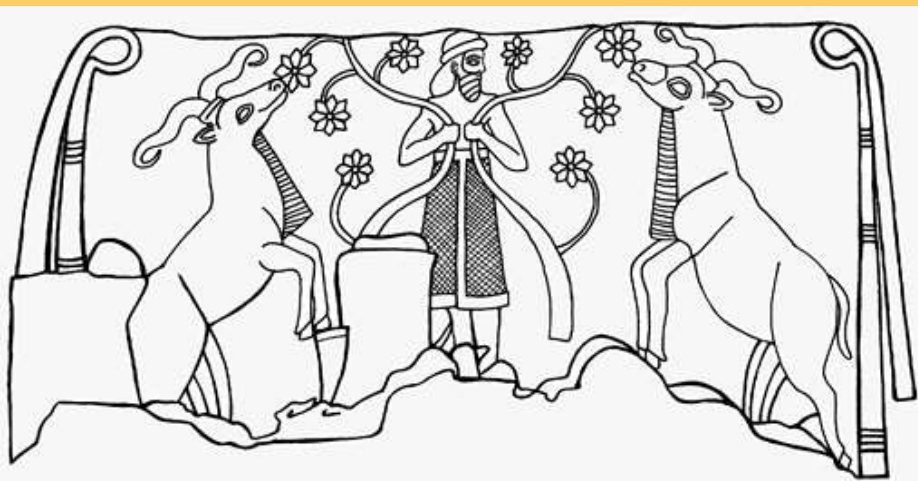
Wild plants were domesticated



Domestication of Animals



Egyptian mural showing cows being milked



Dumuzi feeding sheep.

Mesopotamian cylinder seal. Marble. c. 3200-3000 BCE.

Funerary Stela of Intef and Senettekh. Egypt, c. 2065–2000 B.C.



List of domesticated animals

Dog - c. 30,000-15000 BCE Euroasia

Sheep 11000-9000 BCE Southwest Asia

Pig 9000 BCE Near East, China

Goat c. 8000 BCE Iran

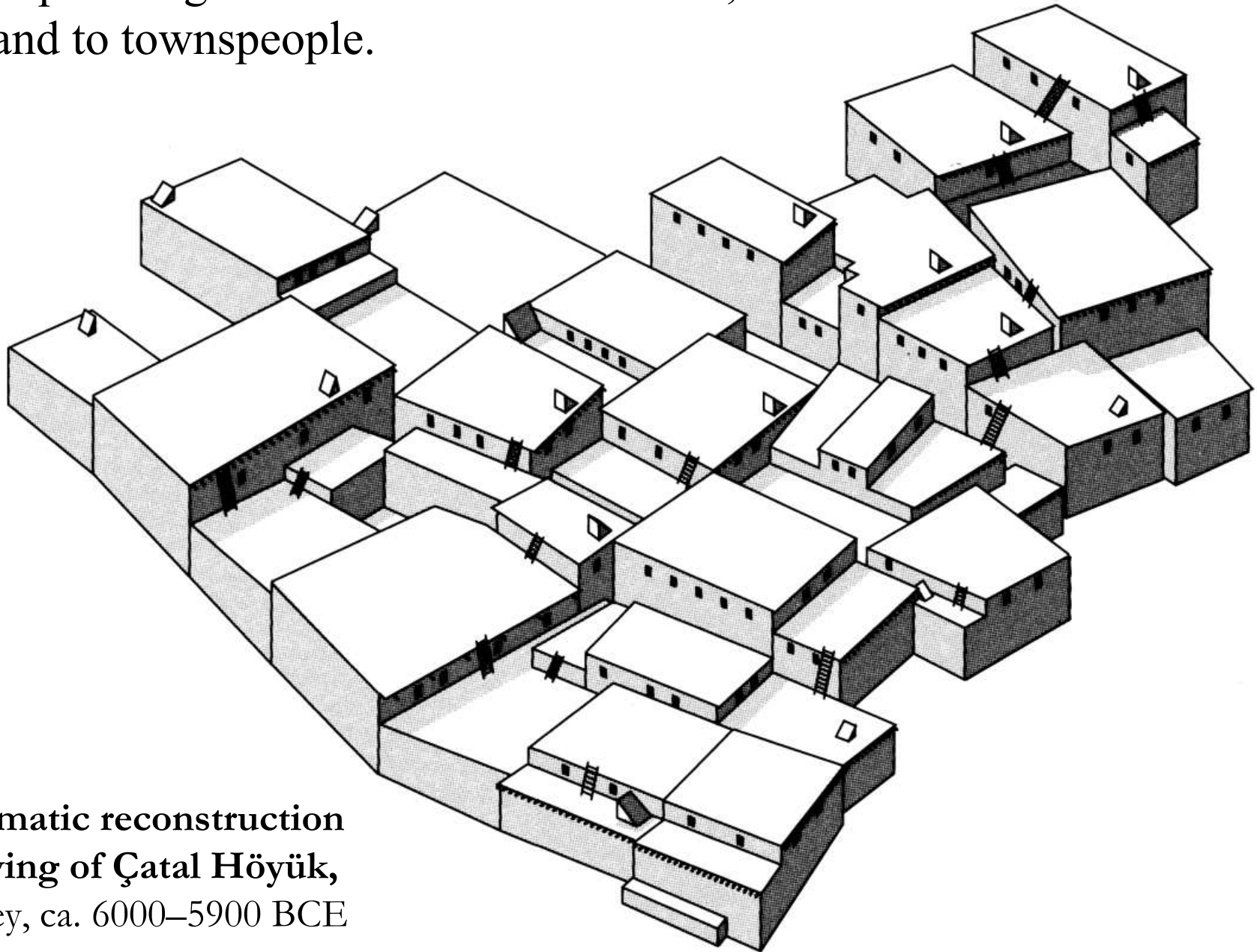
Cow c. 8000 BCE India, Middle East, and Sub-Saharan Africa

Donkey c. 5000 BCE Egypt



Neolithic Grinding Stone. France. Beauvais Museum

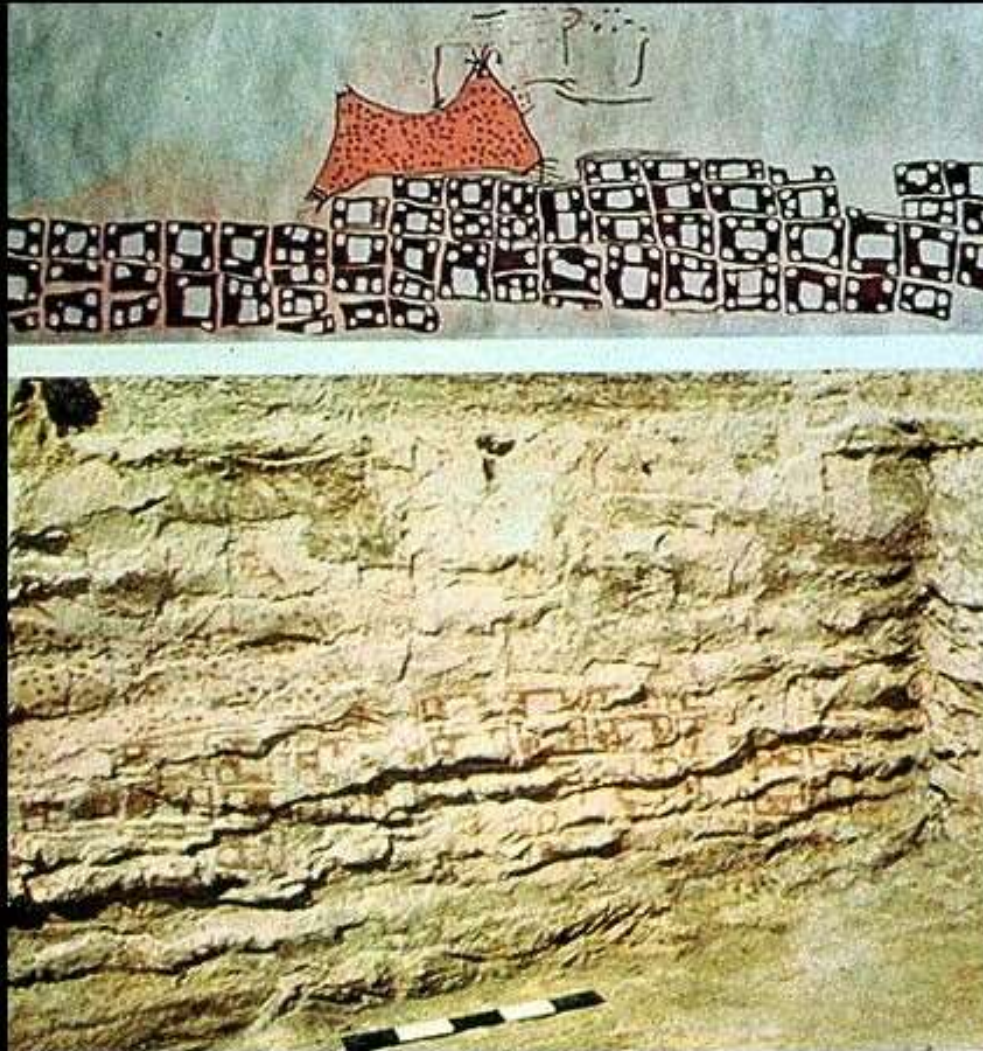
Permanent Settlements: Their food supply assured, many groups changed from hunters to herders, to farmers and to townspeople.



Schematic reconstruction
drawing of Çatal Höyük,
Turkey, ca. 6000–5900 BCE



Restored view of a section of Level VI, **Çatal Höyük**, Turkey, ca. 6000–5900 BCE



Landscape with Volcanic Eruption (?)
Wall painting at Çatal Höyük, Turkey. C. 6150 BCE

Great Tower of Jericho
Jericho, Palestinian Authority.
ca. 8000–7000 BCE.
8.5-metre-tall (28 ft) stone
structure

The tower contains an internal
staircase





Restored Pottery from Tell Sabi Abyad, Syria. c. 6600-6500 BCE

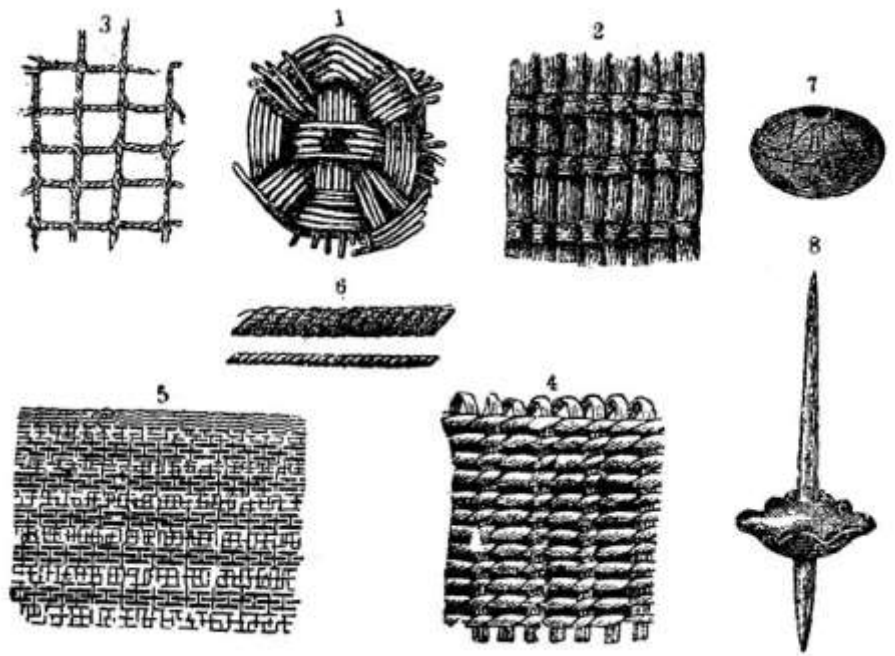
Weaving is the systematic interlacing of two or more sets of elements to form a coherent structure.

Ancient textiles were made mostly of linen, wool, cotton (india), and silk (China)

Weaving in Ancient Egypt



Prehistoric woven objects and weaving tools





Fragments of earliest-known surviving textile. Maybe used fabrics used to wrap the dead. From Çatalhöyük; Turkey, 6th millennium BC; Museum of Anatolian Civilizations, Ankara, Turkey



Funerary Scene (?)

From shrine in Hierakonpolis. Upper Egypt. c. 3500 BCE. Wall painting

Neolithic Sculpture: Ancient Near East

Head from Jericho

c. 7000-6000 BCE

Human skull; Plaster; Shells





L. Human skull with molded features. Jericho. 7000-6000 BCE
R. Painted Skull from Papua-New Guinea. 19th-20th c.

The Beginning of Monumental Sculpture

Human figure, from Ain Ghazal, Jordan
ca. 6750–6250 BCE. Plaster and reed, painted
and inlaid with cowrie shell and bitumen, 3' 5
3/8" high



Human figure, from Ain Ghazal,
Jordan. ca. 6750–6250 BCE.

Plaster and reed, painted and inlaid with
cowrie shell and bitumen. 3'5"





World Oldest Masks

Neolithic 'spirit' masks from the Judean Desert. Stone.

C 7000 BCE (Pre-Pottery Neolithic).



Lovers

Ain Sakhri. Judean Desert
Early Neolithic. C. 9,000 BCE
Calcite cobble. 10.2 X 6.3 cm
British Museum





Enthroned Birth Goddess

Çatal Huyuk.c. Turkey. 6000
BCE





Comparison: Venus of Willendorf
from Willendorf, Austria, ca. 28,000–25,000
BCE Limestone, approx. 4 1/4” high



Enthroned Birth Goddess. Çatal Huyuk.c. Turkey. 6000 BCE

**Yarmukian
Goddesses**

Jordan Valley
5500-5000 BCE

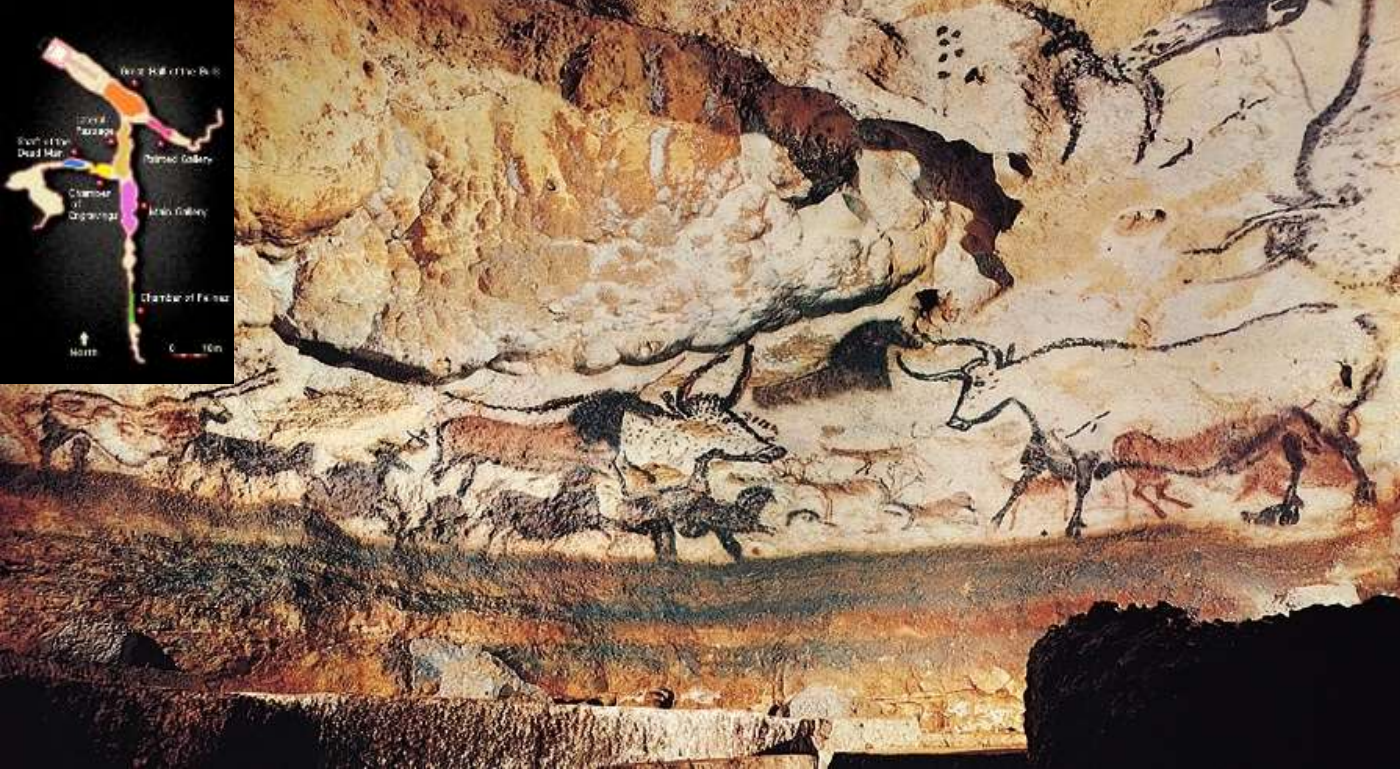
Clay & pigment.
65x14 cm



Neolithic Painting: Ancient Near East



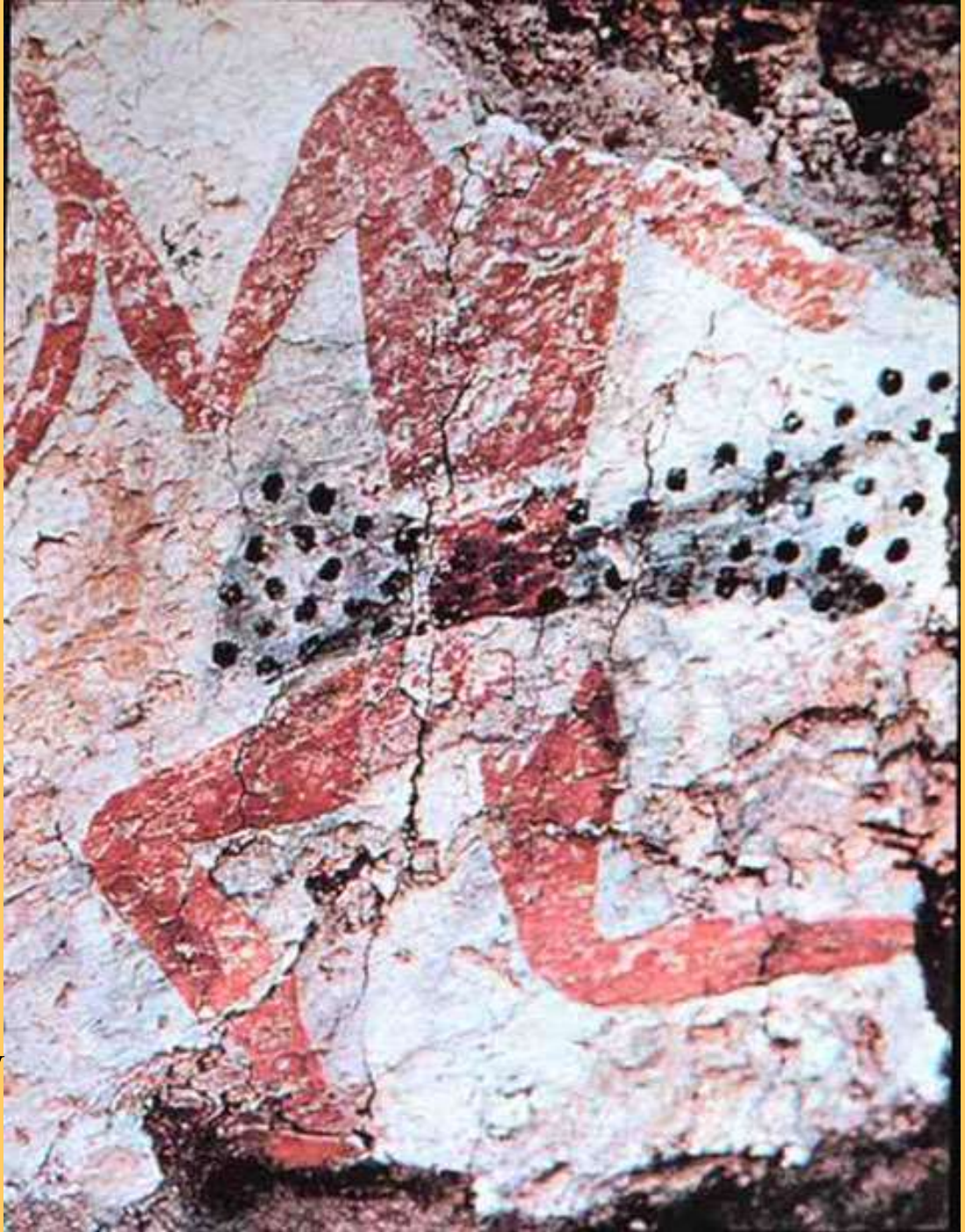
Deer Hunt. Wall painting from Çatal Höyük, Turkey, ca. 5750 BCE



Comparison: Hall of the Bulls,
Lascaux, Dordogne, France
ca. 15,000–13,000 BCE. Largest bull
approx. 11' 6" long

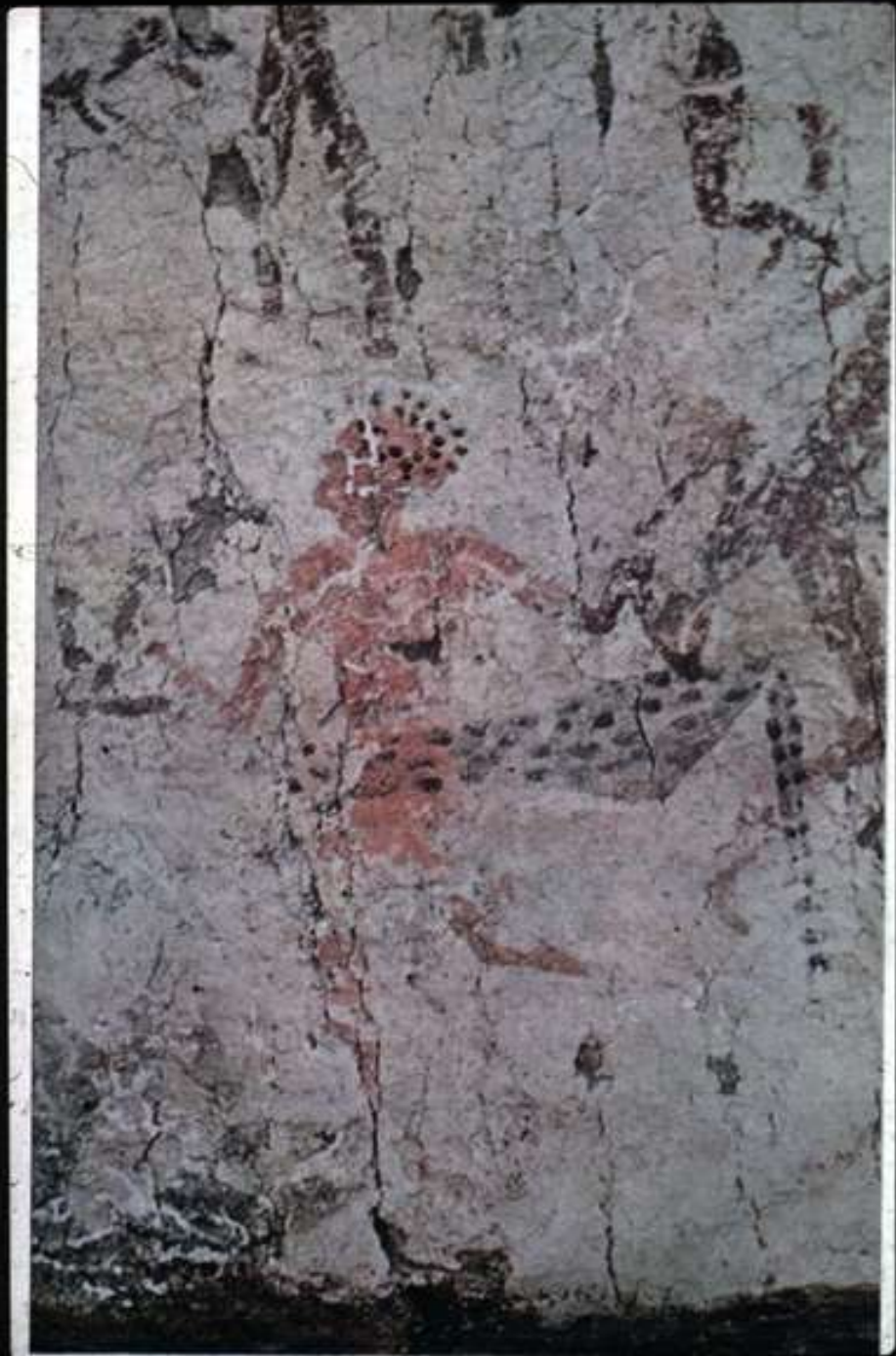
Deer Hunt. Wall painting from
Çatal Höyük, Turkey, ca. 5750 BCE





Hunter. Çatal Höyük, Turkey
c.5750 BCE

**Wall painting, hunter wearing
leopard skin, Çatal Höyük, Turkey
c.5750 BCE.**





Wild-Bull Hunt

Wall painting from Çatal Höyük, Turkey.
c. 5750 BCE



Neolithic Shrines

Earliest Stone Circles

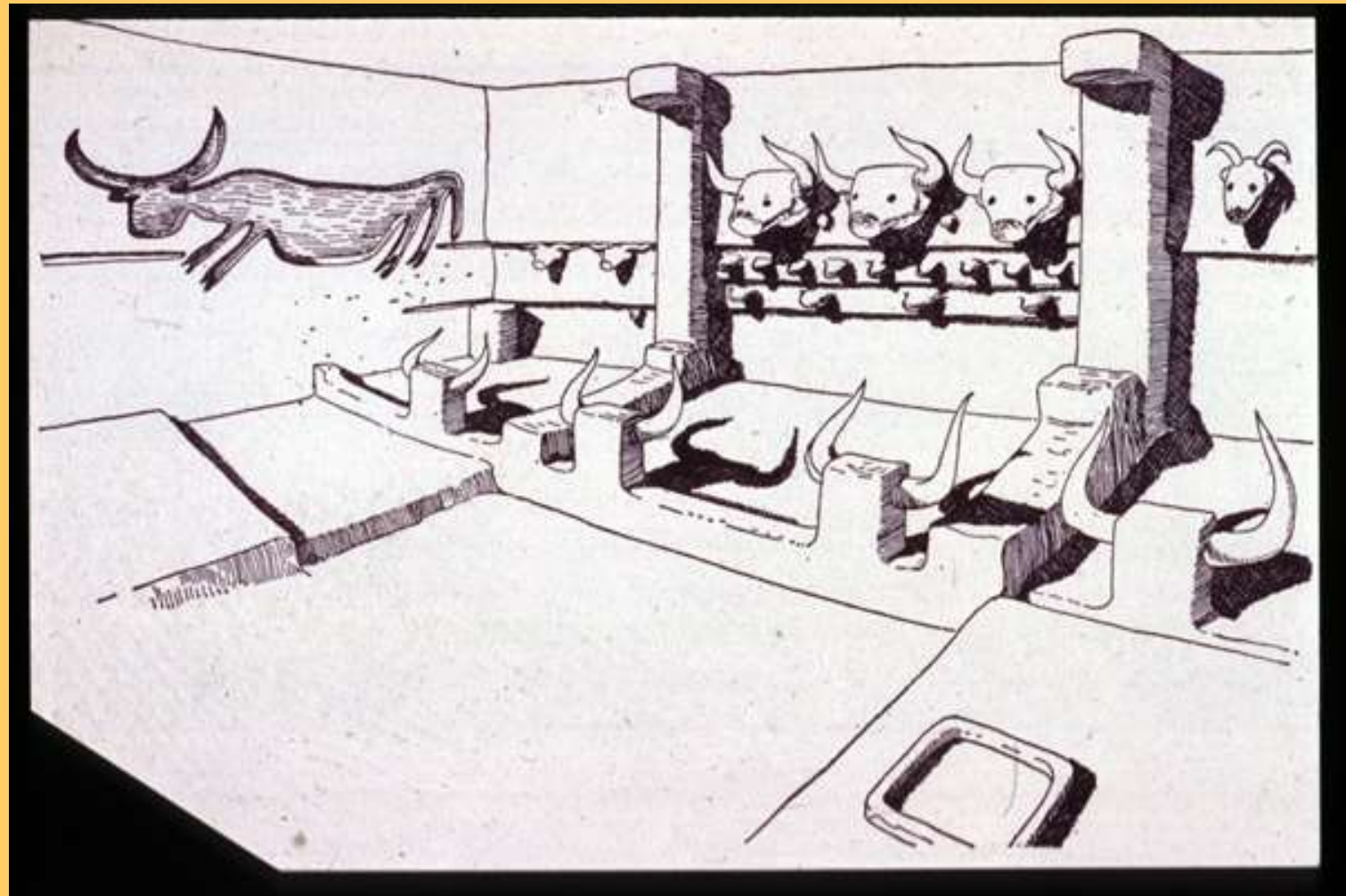
More than 200 pillars in about 20 circles. Each pillar has a height of up to 6 m (20 ft) and weighs up to 10 tons.



Gobekli Tepe. Turkey Ca
9000-10,000 BCE

<https://youtu.be/IDXTmCwAETM>





Reconstruction of shrine. Çatal Huyuk Level VI. Turkey. c. 5900 BCE

Reconstruction of shrine

Çatal Huyuk Level VI.

Turkey

c. 5900 BCE





**Comparison: Woman holding
a bison horn**

from Laussel, Dordogne, France,
ca. 25,000–20,000 BCE. Painted
limestone 1' 6" high

Neolithic: Europe

Megalithic Monuments

(Megalith= Huge, often undressed stone used in various types of Neolithic monuments.)

Henge : a circular area, often containing a circle of stones or sometimes wooden posts, dating from the Neolithic and Bronze Ages.

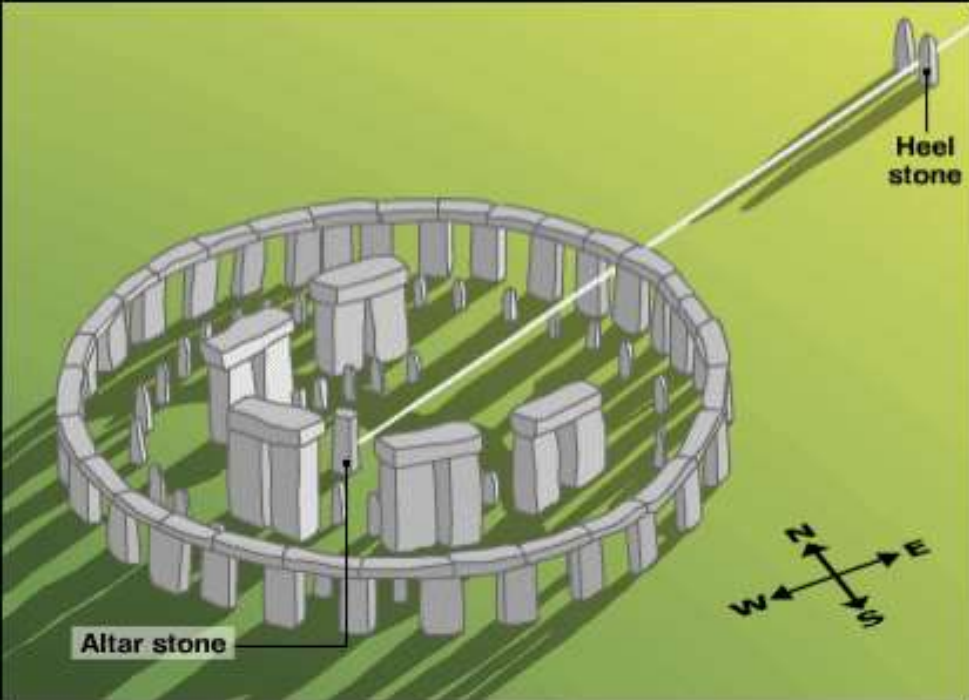


Aerial view of Stonehenge, Salisbury Plain, Wiltshire, England, ca. 2550–1600 BCE.
Circle is 97' in diameter; approx. 24' high.



Heel Stone

Astronomers have determined that the sun appeared to rise over the “heel stone” at the midsummer solstice when one stood in the center of the circle in front of the altar.



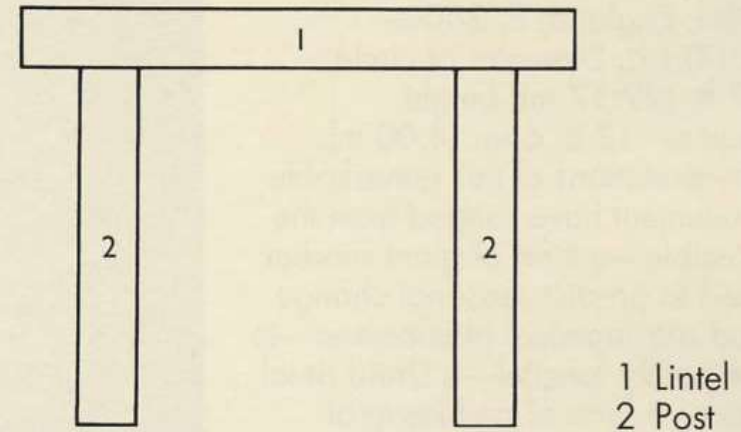
**Stonehenge.
Reconstructive
models**

Sarsen (gray stone) and
bluestones



Post-and-Lintel Construction

In this system of construction, vertical uprights (posts) support a horizontal element (the lintel). Figure **1.24** is a diagram of the most basic single post-and-lintel form, called a **trilithon**. In later eras, this simple system was elaborated into highly complex structures.



1.24 Post-and-lintel construction.

Major trilithon (three stones construction.) Stonehenge





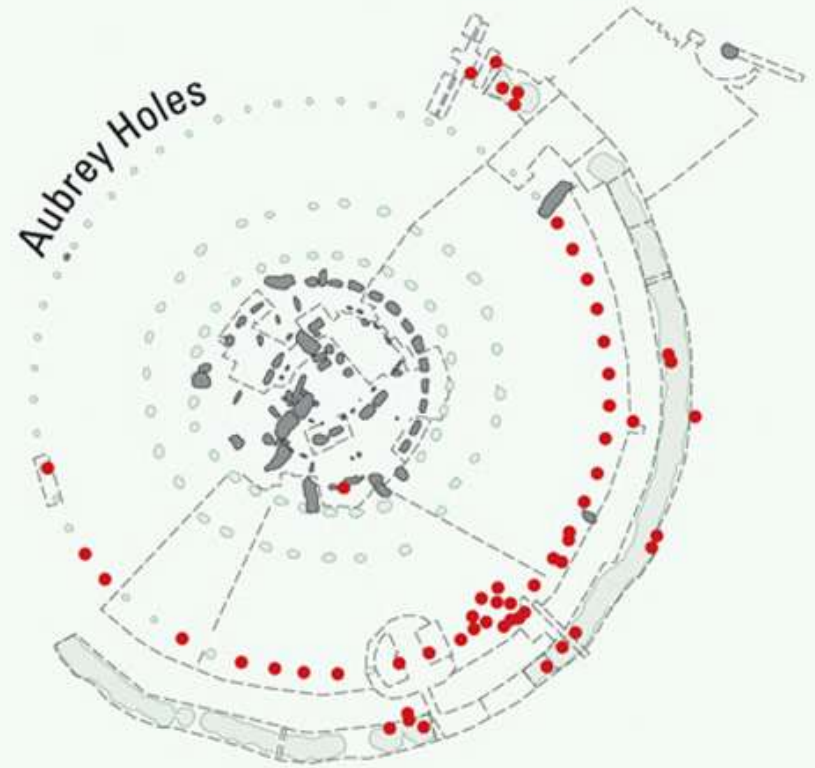
Stone from the inner circle of Stonehenge.

Approximately 50 tons

At the top is a small protuberance called a “tenon” which was used to secure the upper lintel that connected this stone with its mate.

Bones from a burial site at Stonehenge.

Radiocarbon dating indicates that they date back to the same time people started to erect the mysterious landmark. Other bones found there suggest people continued to use the area as a burial site until well after the stones went up around 2500 B.C.



- Cremation deposit
- Excavation trench
- ◡ Pit, ditch, or bank

► Stone

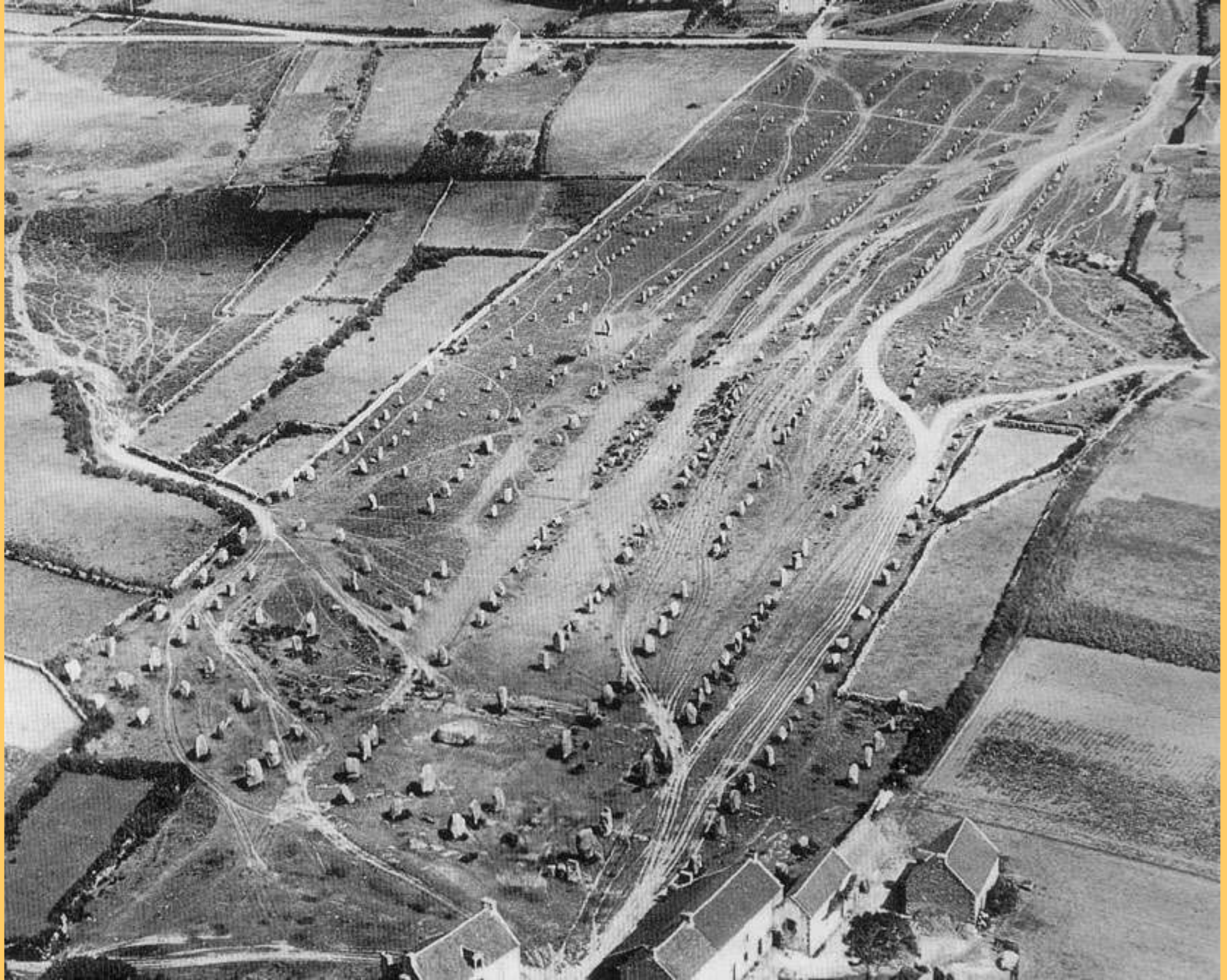
0 yd 30
0 m 30



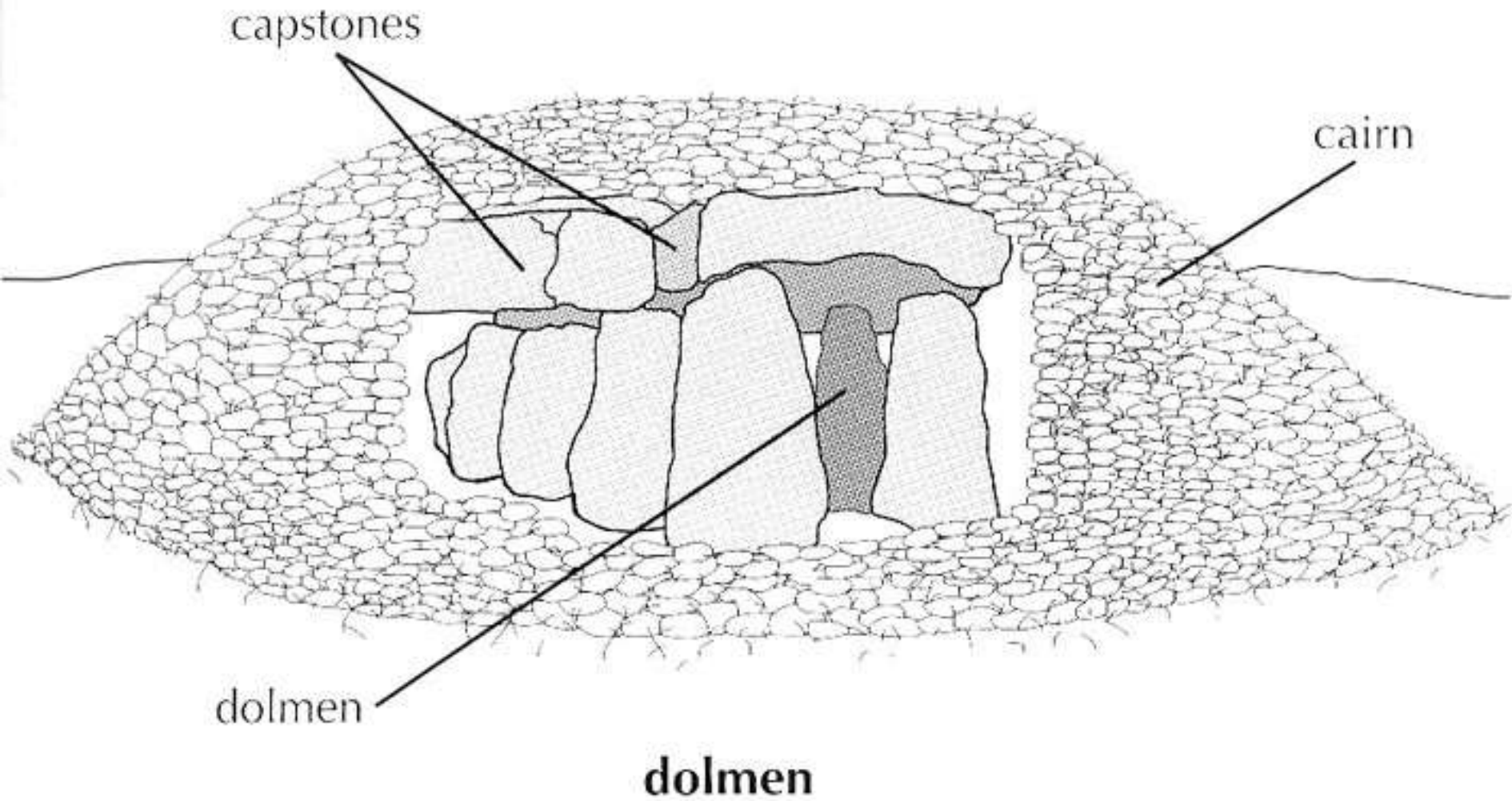
Stone Alignments . Carnac, France. c. 4250-3750 BCE. Over 3000 granite stones. 20-350 tons. Approximately 12 feet high. Each set begins at the west with the tallest stones and ends with shorter ones.



Stone Alignments. Carnac, Brittany, France. c. 4250-3750 BCE



Stone Alignments, Carnac, Brittany, France, c. 4250-3750 BCE



Dolmen ("stone table" in Breton): Single-chamber megalithic monument usually consisting of several large stone slabs set upright to support a flat stone roof, all covered by a mound of earth that in most cases has weathered away. Frequently served as tomb.



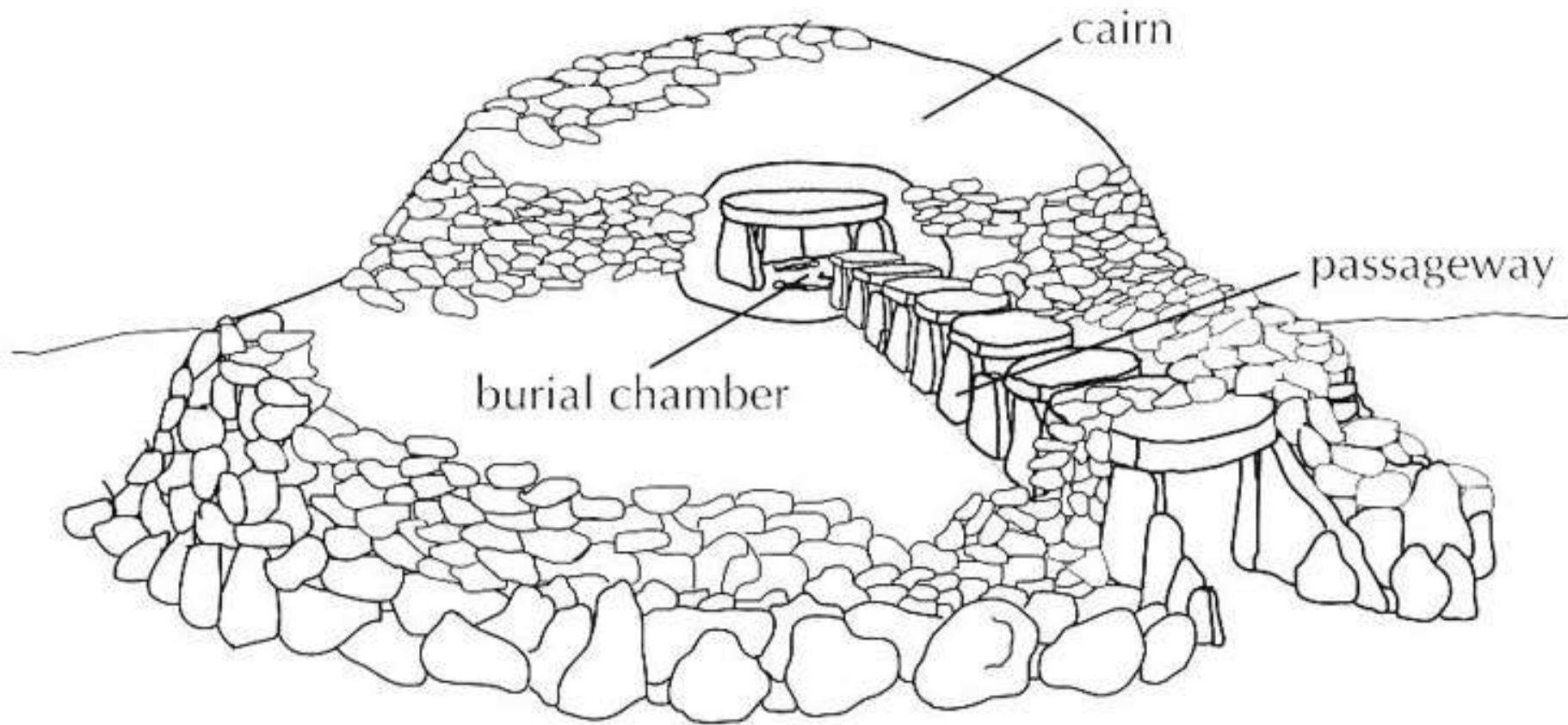
Poulnabrone Dolmen. Ireland. 3800 to 3200 BCE



Dolmen from Garde-Epee. Near Angouleme. France



Boston Historic Graveyard



passage grave

Passage Grave: form of megalithic tomb in which a burial chamber set in the centre of a barrow is approached by means of a narrow passage. The barrow is usually round in plan, but other shapes are known.



Passage Grave. Loughcrew, Ireland. c. 3300 BCE



Autumn Equinox.. Loughcrew, Ireland

The main cairn of Loughcrew is illuminated on the Spring and Fall Equinox

The back stone at the chamber
of Loughcrew, Ireland. c. 3300
BCE





Passage grave at Newgrange, Ireland. c. 3100 BCE. 300 feet in diameter and 36 feet high. The white quartz is modern reconstruction based on excavations.

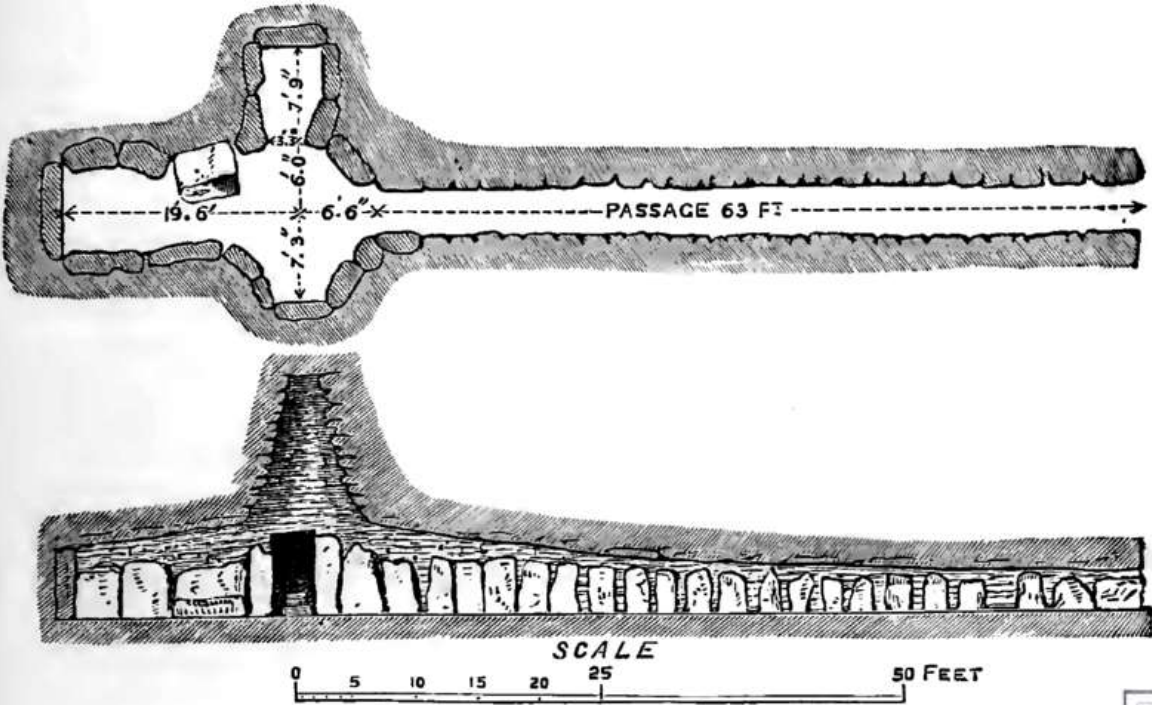
In the five days around the winter solstice, light from the rising sun enters through the doorway and the roofbox and illuminates the chamber for about 15 minutes.



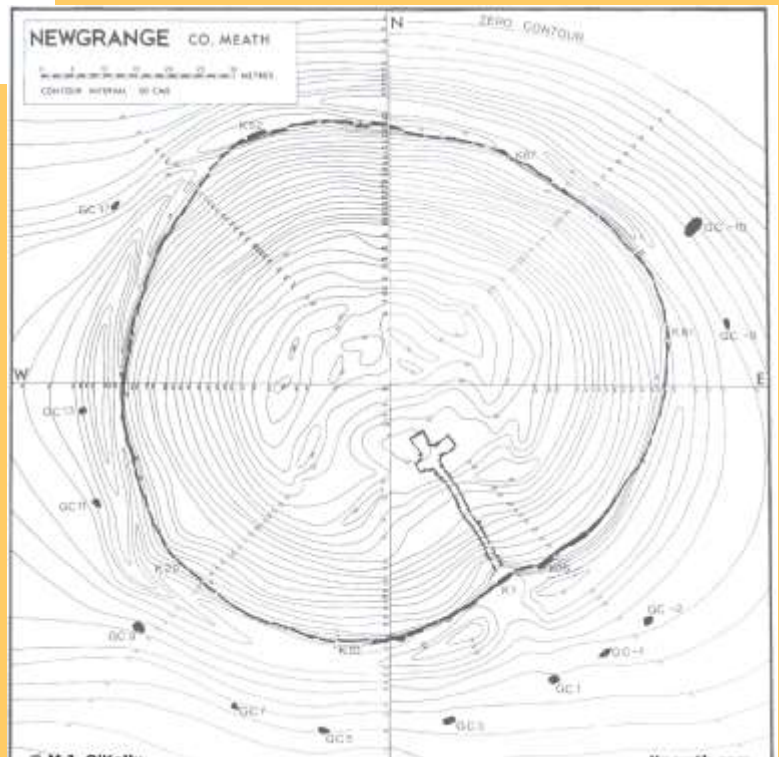
Passage grave at Newgrange, Ireland. c. 3100 BCE



The Roofbox over the entrance where the solstice sun is beamed to the chamber.



Plan and Section of Chamber in Newgrange Tumulus.





Entrance Stone from passage grave at Newgrange, Ireland
c. 3500-2000 BCE



Silbury Hill. Wiltshire, England. 2700 BCE. 130 feet (40 m.) high. 5 acres.



Silbury Hill. Wiltshire, England. 2700 BCE 130 feet (40 m.) high. 5 acres.



Venus of Willendorf
from Willendorf
Austria, ca. 28,000–25,000
BCE approx. 4 1/4" high

**Aurochs, horses, and
rhinoceroses**, wall
painting in Chauvet Cave,
France, ca. 30,000–28,000
BCE.



Discussion Question:

In what way did the social and economic changes that took place in human development between the Paleolithic and Neolithic periods affect the art and architecture produced in each period?



Human figure, from Ain Ghazal,
Jordan.
ca. 6750–6250 BCE. 3'5"

Deer Hunt. Wall painting from
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Aerial view of Stonehenge,
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