

THE STONE AGES AND EARLY CULTURES

TOPIC 1 PRESENTATION

PALEOLITHIC AGE

Greek “old stone” (up to c. 10,000 B.C.E)

Learned which plants to eat and which animals to hunt

- Did not know how to grow crops or raise animals
- Gathered
 - Wild nuts, berries, fruits, and a variety of wild grains and green plants
- Captured and Consumed
 - Buffalo, horses, bison, wild goats, reindeer, and fish

Nomads

- 20-30 people
- followed animal migrations and vegetation cycles

Equality existed between men and women

- Both made decisions that governed the activities of the Paleolithic band

PALEOLITHIC AGE

Shelters (especially cold climates)

- Caves
- Wood or bone pole structures covered with animal hides

Fire

- Light, heat, cooking (last longer, taste better, easier to chew and digest)

These two technological innovations, and many others, allowed humans to survive during periodic ice ages that posed a considerable threat to human existence.

Paleolithic people actually did more than just survive as evidenced by the cave paintings which bear witness to the cultural activity of Paleolithic peoples.



PALEOLITHIC AGE



NEOLITHIC AGRICULTURAL REVOLUTION

Significant change in living patterns

shift from hunting animals and gathering plants to producing food through systematic agriculture

planting of grains and vegetables

domestication of animals

sheep, goats, cattle, pigs

meat, milk, fibers such as wool for clothing

beasts of burden

People gave up nomadic ways and began to live in settled communities



MESOLITHIC AGE

“Middle Stone Age” (c. 10,000 B.C.E. to 7,000 B.C.E.)

- Gradual transition from a food-gathering and hunting economy to a food-producing one and witnessed a gradual domestication of animals as well
- Paleolithic hunters/gatherers had already grown crops to supplement their traditional sources of food
- Neolithic farmers still hunted and gathered and nomadic herding remained a way of life for many people around the world

NEOLITHIC AGE

Greek “new stone” (c. 8,000 B.C.E to 5,000 B.C.E.)

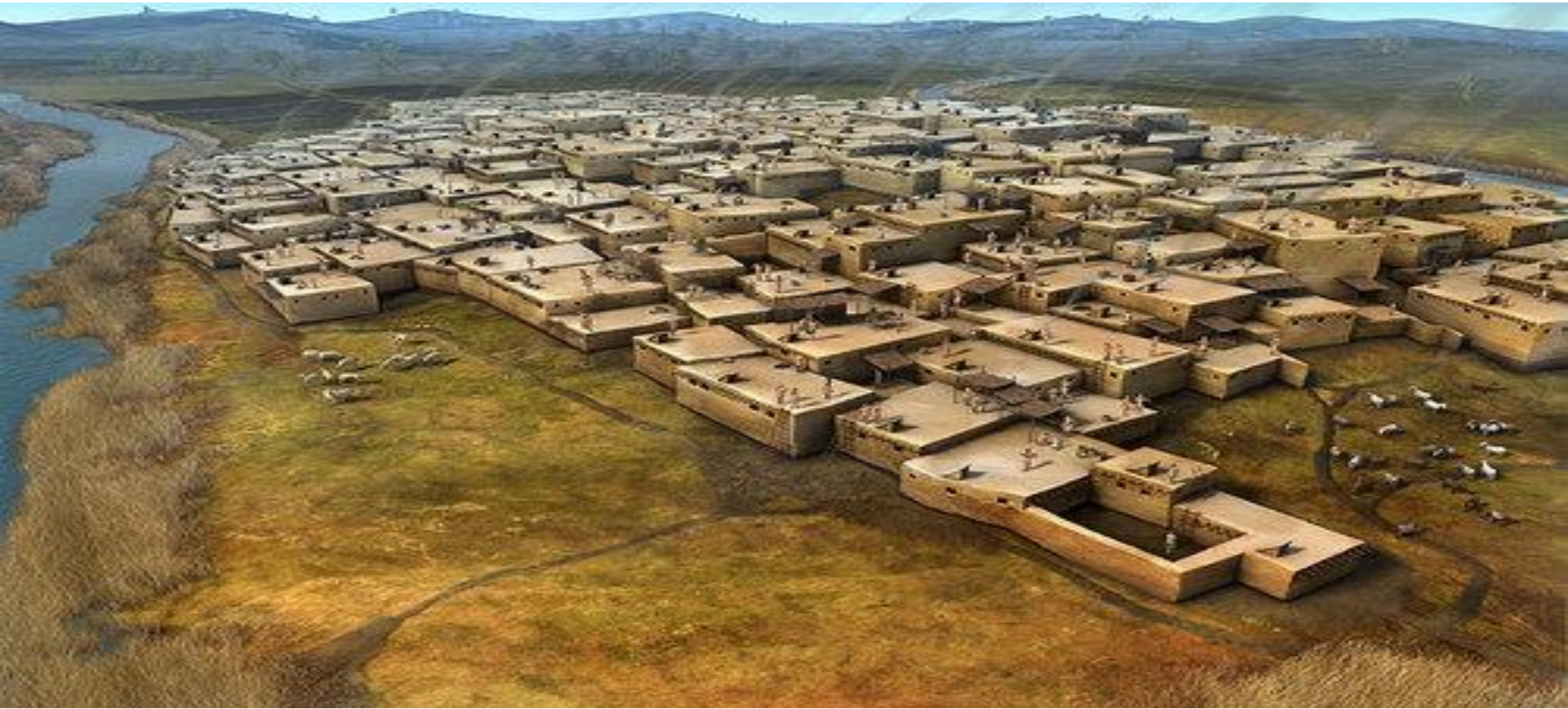
Neolithic Farming Villages

- Jericho (8,000 B.C.E)
 - Palestine
 - Protective wall
 - Mud-brick home
- Çatal Hüyük (6,700 B.C.E. to 5,700 B.C.E.)
 - 32 acres surrounded by wall
 - Population 6,000
 - People walked on rooftops, entered through ceiling

ÇATAL HÜYÜK




ÇATAL HÜYÜK



NEOLITHIC AGE

Consequences

- Built homes
 - Trade
 - Job specialization
 - Men worked fields, hunted
 - Women cared for children, household chores
 - Work done outside the home perceived as more important
 - Men assumed dominant role in human society
 - Turning point in human history
 - Writing invented
 - Use of metals
 - Complex society
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COMPARATIVE ESSAY

From Hunter-Gatherers and Herders to Farmers

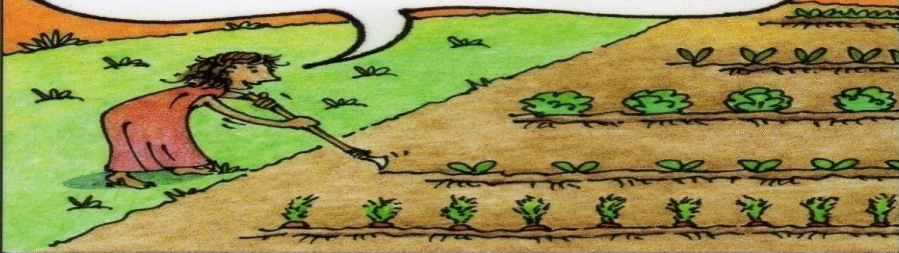


PALEOLITHIC TO NEOLITHIC CARTOON

Back in Paleolithic times... people had to move around and look for their food. They hunted wild animals and collected fruits, seeds, and grains from wild plants.

But in Neolithic times...

You won't find me going all around trying to find wild plants. Nowadays, we grow our own food by collecting and planting the seeds of different plants.

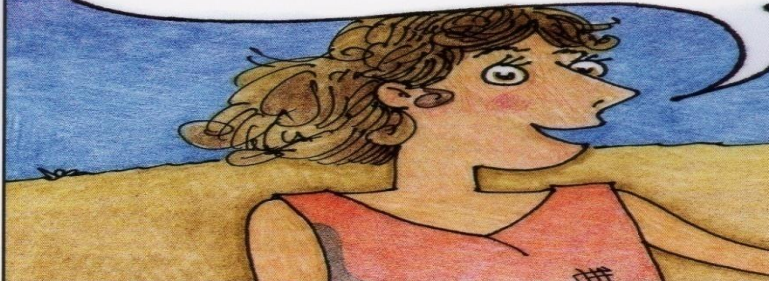


Hunting animals? I just do that on the weekends for fun! Now that we have learned how to domesticate animals, I spend my time herding our cows and goats instead of battling bears and bison.



These changes are important because...

We eat better now because we have a more stable food supply.



And we don't have to move from place to place looking for food. Want to join us for dinner?



ÖTZI THE ICEMAN

Discovered in 1991 by two German hikers near the border of Austria and Italy

In his 40's when he died from an arrow wound

Ate wild goat, red deer, and grains hours before his death



ÖTZI THE ICEMAN

The tool kit found with Ötzi included:

- 6 foot longbow
- Deerskin case with 14 arrows
- Antler-tip stick for sharpening flint blades
- Small flint dagger in a woven sheath
- Copper ax
- Medicine bag

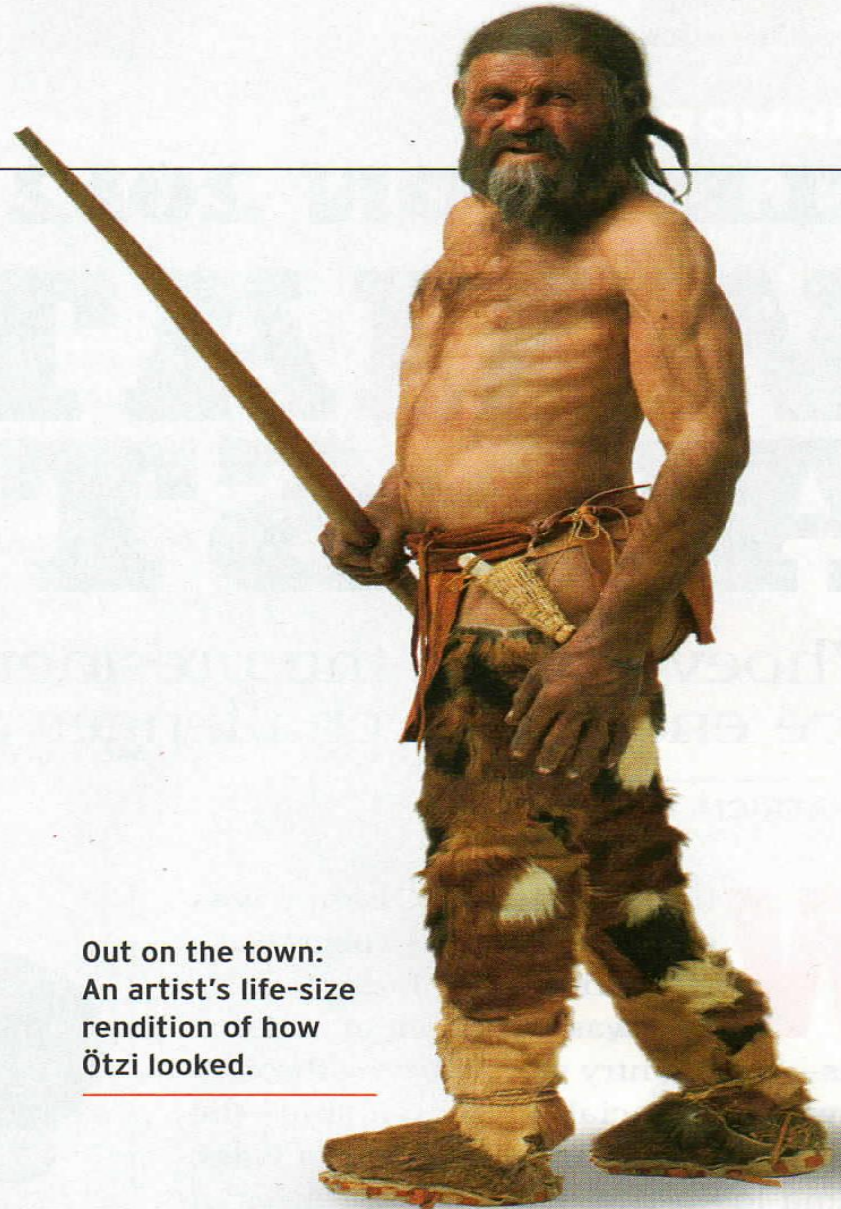
ÖTZI the ICEMAN VIDEO

ÖTZI THE ICEMAN

Prehistoric World

Defrosting the Ice Man's DNA

Scientists have long considered heart disease a modern problem. But “Ötzi,” the mummified man discovered in 1991 by two Germans hiking through the Italian Alps, may turn that theory on its head. Ötzi was well-preserved in ice and snow for 5,300 years, so scientists have been able to learn a lot about him, including his age (46) and how he died (shot by an arrow). Now, after mapping out Ötzi’s DNA, they know even more: Not only did he have brown hair, brown eyes, and type O blood, but he also suffered from lactose intolerance—the inability to digest dairy—and heart disease. The dairy allergy makes sense since there were no domesticated animals in early times, so early humans didn’t need to digest animal milk. The heart disease was surprising. “Obviously, this disease was present already 5,000 years ago,” says one researcher. “So now we can get a better understanding why such diseases develop.” ●



Out on the town:
An artist's life-size
rendition of how
Ötzi looked.

EMERGENCE OF CIVILIZATION

Civilization

complex culture in which large numbers of people share a variety of common elements

urban focus

new political and military structures

new social structure based on economic power

development of more complexity in a material sense

distinct religious structure

development of writing

new and significant artistic and intellectual activity



URBAN FOCUS

Cities became centers for political, economic, social, cultural, and religious development

Much larger than farming villages, communities, towns



NEW POLITICAL AND MILITARY STRUCTURES

Organized government bureaucracy arose to meet the administrative demands of the growing population

Armies were organized to gain land and power and for defense



NEW SOCIAL STRUCTURE BASED ON ECONOMIC POWER

Upper Class

kings, priests, political leaders, warriors

Middle Class (free common people)

farmers, artisans, craftspeople

Lower Class

slaves



DEVELOPMENT OF MORE COMPLEXITY IN A MATERIAL SENSE

Agricultural surpluses allowed people to pursue other occupations

Ruling elites demanded luxury items which created new products

Organized trade grew as finished goods were exported to neighboring populations in exchange for raw materials



DISTINCT RELIGIOUS STRUCTURE

The gods were deemed crucial to community success

Professional priestly class served as stewards of the gods' property and regulated relations with the gods



DEVELOPMENT OF WRITING

Kings, priests, merchants, and artisans used writing to keep records



NEW AND SIGNIFICANT ARTISTIC AND INTELLECTUAL ACTIVITY

Monumental architectural structures, usually religious, dominated the city's landscape



WORKS CITED

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