

Paleolithic and Neolithic

Terms

- Homo-sapiens/ humans
- Paleolithic
- Neolithic
- Material culture
- Neolithic revolution
- Fertile Crescent
- Mesopotamia

Terminology

- BCE/BC and CE/AD
- Centuries
 - 1st Century BCE – 99-0 BCE
 - 2nd Century BCE – 199-100 BCE
 - 1st Century CE – 1-99 CE
 - 2nd century CE – 100-199 CE
 - 21st Century CE – 2000-2099 CE

What is history?

Humans – Homo-Sapiens

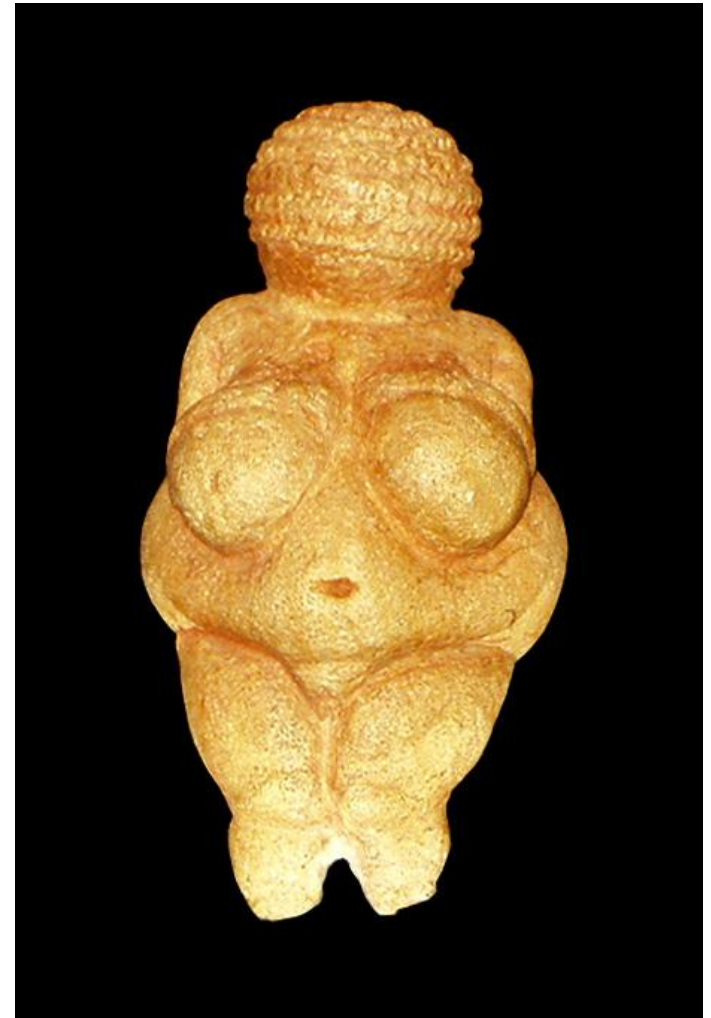
- Physical characteristics
 - Brain size
 - Posture
 - Interaction with the environment
- Non-physical characteristics:
 - Hunter-gatherer
 - Culture



Lucy – ancestor of homo-sapiens

Paleolithic Period

- 200,000 BCE to 10,000 BCE
- Nomadic hunter-gatherers
- Life Expectancy 25-30 yrs
- ~40,000 BCE left Africa
- Development of material culture
- Stone tools
- Religion – Venus statues
- Matriarchical



Cave Drawings



Photograph by Sisse Brimberg



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Lascaux, France

What is civilization?

- *civilization*: 1. an advanced state of human society in which a high level of culture, science, and government has been reached. 2. those people or nations that have reached such a state 3. any type of culture, society, etc. of a specific place, time, or group 4. the act or process of civilizing or being civilized. 5. cultural and intellectual refinement 6. cities or populated areas in general, as opposed to unpopulated or wilderness areas 7. modern comforts and conveniences, as made possible by science and technology. –*The Random House Webster’s College Dictionary (1997)*

Civilization

- A state of society that is more advanced than before, based on the relationships and interactions between human groups, and development of culture and government
- Historically linked to permanence, but permanent society is not a requirement of the modern definition of civilization

Neolithic Period

- 10,000 BCE – 8,000 BCE
- Neolithic Revolution
 - Agriculture -> Settlement -> Animal Husbandry
- Fertile Crescent
- Building of permanent housing
- Hierarchical
- Patriarchal and patrilineal



Recap

Paleolithic – 200,000 – 10,000 BCE

- Migration out of Africa
- Hunter/gatherer
- Nomadic
- Development of stone tools
- Less hierarchical
- Development of religions
- More matriarchical
- Development of material culture

Neolithic – 10,000 – 8,000 BCE

- Neolithic revolution
 - Domestication of plants through agriculture
 - Settling in permanent housing
 - Fuels animal husbandry
- More hierarchical
- More patriarchal
- Structure in religion