

Language, Art and Religion

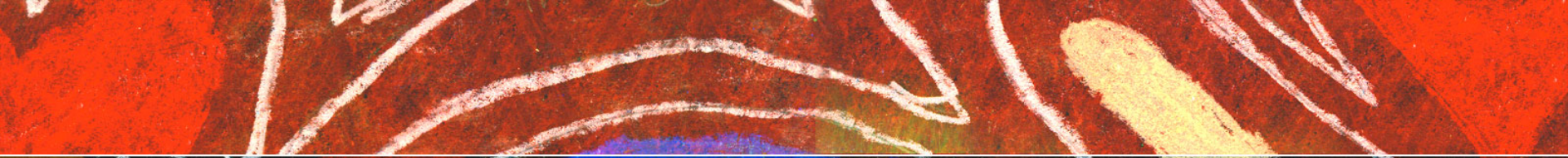
- The most important development of early Stone Age culture was language.
- Scientists have many theories about why language first developed.
- Some think it was to make hunting in groups easier.
- Others think it developed as a way for people to form relationships.
- Still others think language made it easier for people to resolve issues like how to **distribute** food.



Language, Art and Religion

- Language wasn't the only way early people expressed themselves.
- They also created art. People carved figures out of stone, ivory and bone.
- They painted and carved images of people and animals on cave walls.
- Scientists still aren't sure why people made art.
- Perhaps the cave paintings were used to teach people how to hunt or maybe they had religious meanings.





Language, Art and Religion

- Scholars know little about the religious beliefs of early people.
- Archaeologists have found graves that included food and artifacts.
- Many scientists think these discoveries are proof that the first human religions developed during the Stone Age.



Cave Paintings Lascaux, France



- Lascaux (15,000 BC) in the southwestern France, is an interconnected series of caves with one of the most impressive examples of artistic creations by Paleolithic humans.



Cave Paintings Lascaux, France

- Discovered in 1940, the cave contains nearly two thousand figures, which can be grouped into three main categories – animals, human figures, and abstract signs.
- Over nine hundred images depict animals from the surrounding areas, such as horses, stags, aurochs, bison, lions, bears, and birds—species that would have been hunted and eaten, and those identified as predators.
- The paintings contain no images of the surrounding landscape or the vegetation of the time.



Cave Paintings Chauvet Cave, France



- The Chauvet-Pont-d'Arc Cave (30,000 BC) in the Ardèche department of southern France contains some of the earliest known paintings, as well as other evidence of Upper Paleolithic life.



Cave Paintings Chauvet Cave, France

- The Chauvet Cave is uncharacteristically large and the quality, quantity, and condition of the artwork found on its walls have been called spectacular.
- Hundreds of animal paintings have been catalogued, depicting at least 13 different species—not only the familiar herbivores that predominate Paleolithic cave art, but also many predatory animals, such as cave lions, panthers, bears, and cave hyenas. Images from the cave's notable "Horse Panel" are seen in .





Cave Paintings Chauvet Cave, France

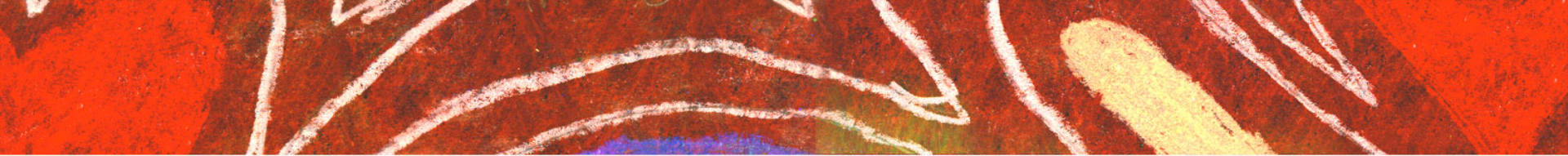
- As is typical of most cave art, there are no paintings of complete human figures in Chauvet.
- There are a few panels of red ochre hand prints and hand stencils made by spitting pigment over hands pressed against the cave surface. Abstract markings—lines and dots—are found throughout the cave.



Cave Paintings Altamira, Spain



- Altamira (18,000 BC) is a cave in northern Spain famous for its Upper Paleolithic cave paintings featuring drawings and polychrome rock paintings of wild mammals and human hands. The cave and its paintings has been declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO .



Paleolithic	Mesolithic	Neolithic
"Old Stone Age" Palaio – Old Lithos - stone	'Middle Stone Age' Meso – Middle Lithos - Stone	'New Stone Age' Neo – New Lithos - Stone
Until around 10,000BC	Around 10,000 BC	10,000 – 4,000 BC
Hunting & Gathering	Hunting, Gathering and Fishing	Agriculture
Nomadic	Nomadic	Settled Communities
Cave Art Venus Figurines	Domestication of Dogs Cattle	Domestication of Livestock (cattle sheep goats)



The First Farmers

- After the Middle Stone Age came a period of time that scientists call the Neolithic Era.
- It began as early as 10,000 Years ago in South West Asia.
- In other places this era began much later and lasted much longer than it did there.
- During the New Stone Age people learned to polish stones to make tools like saws and drills.
- People also learned how to make fire.
- Before they could only use fire that had been started by natural causes such as lightning.



The First Farmers

- The New Stone Age ended in Egypt and Southwest Asia about 5,000 years ago, when toolmakers began to make tools out of metal.
- But tools weren't the only major change that occurred during the Neolithic Era.
- In fact, the biggest changes came in how people produced food.



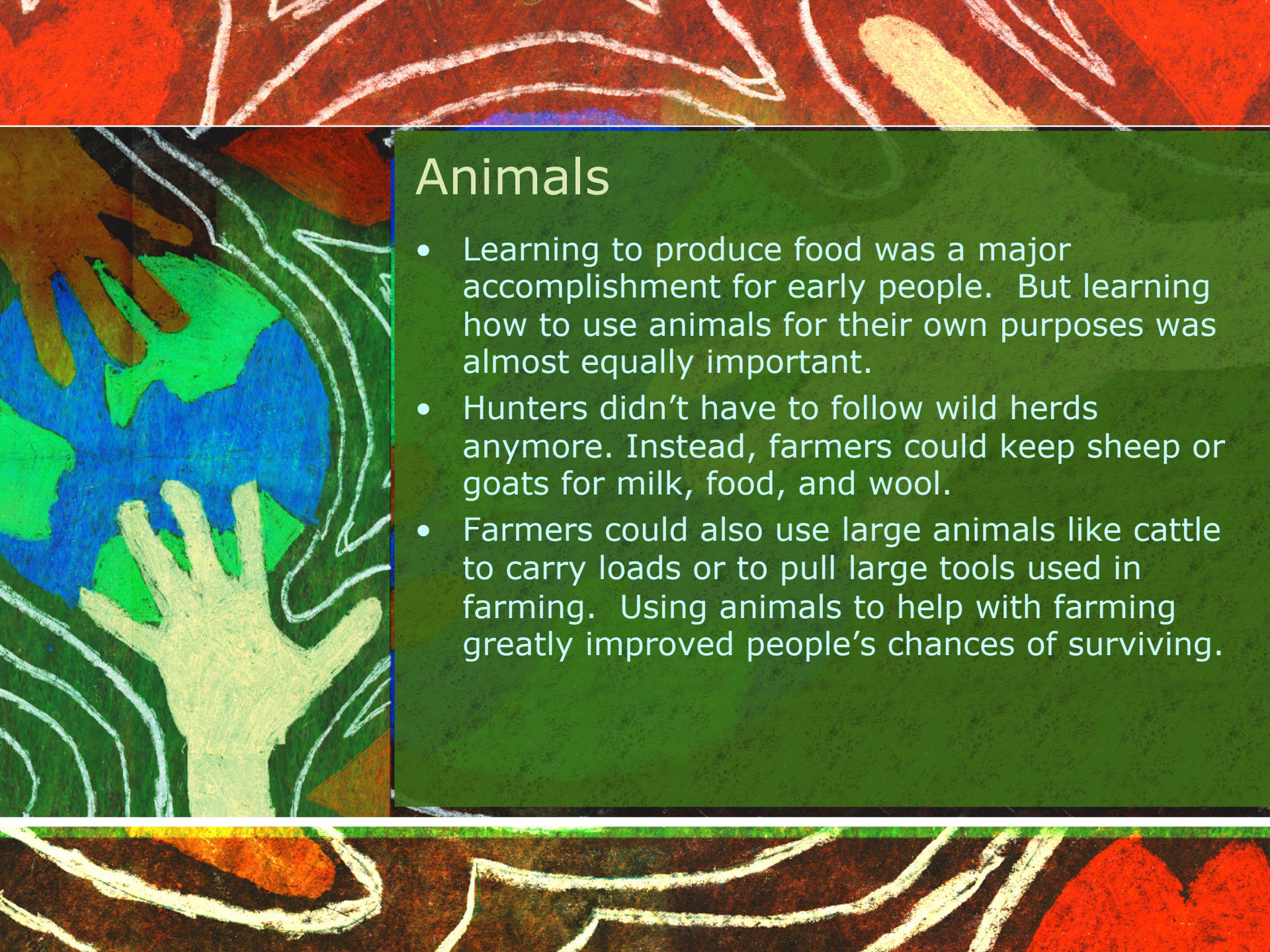
Plants

- After a warming trend brought an end to the ice ages, new plants began to grow in some areas.
- For example, wild barley and wheat plants started to spread throughout Southwest Asia.
- Over time, people came to depend on these wild plants for food.
- They began to settle where grains grew.
- People soon learned that they could plant seeds themselves to grow their own crops.
- Historians call the shift from food gathering to food producing the Neolithic Revolution.
- Most experts believe that this revolution, or change, first occurred in the societies of Southwest Asia.



Plants

- Eventually, people learned to change plants to make them more useful. They planted only the largest grains or the sweetest fruits.
- The domestication of plants led to development of agriculture, or farming.
- For the first time, people could produce their own food.
- This development changed human society forever.



Animals

- Learning to produce food was a major accomplishment for early people. But learning how to use animals for their own purposes was almost equally important.
- Hunters didn't have to follow wild herds anymore. Instead, farmers could keep sheep or goats for milk, food, and wool.
- Farmers could also use large animals like cattle to carry loads or to pull large tools used in farming. Using animals to help with farming greatly improved people's chances of surviving.



Farming Changes Societies

- The Neolithic Revolution brought huge changes to people's lives. With survival more certain, people could focus on activities other than find food.
- Domestication of plants and animals enabled people to use plant fibers to make cloth. The domestication of animals made it possible to use wool from goats and sheep and skins from horses for clothes.
- People also began to build permanent settlements. As they started raising crops and animals, they needed to stay in one place. Then, once people were able to control their own food production, the world's population grew. In some areas farming communities developed into towns.



Farming Changes Societies

- As populations grew, groups of people gathered to perform religious ceremonies. Some put up megaliths.
- **Megaliths** – are huge stones used as monuments or as the sites for religious gatherings.
- Early people probably believed in gods and goddesses associated with the four elements, air, water, fire and earth – or with animals. For example, one European group honored a thunder god, while another group worshipped bulls. Some scholars also believe that prehistoric peoples also prayed to their ancestors. People in some societies today still hold many of these same beliefs.

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- A Neolithic City in Modern Day Turkey
- 6,000 BC



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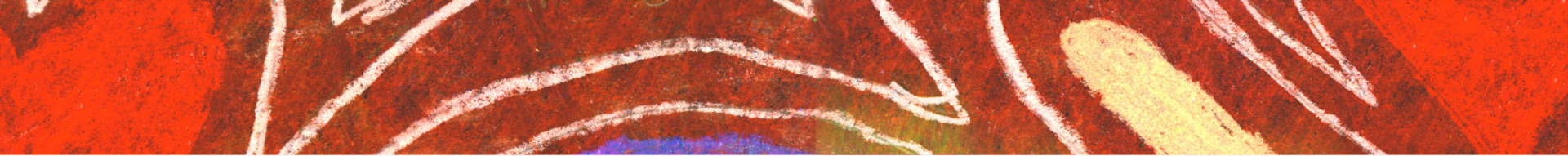
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- The Seated Woman





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Civilization – Are we there,
yet???



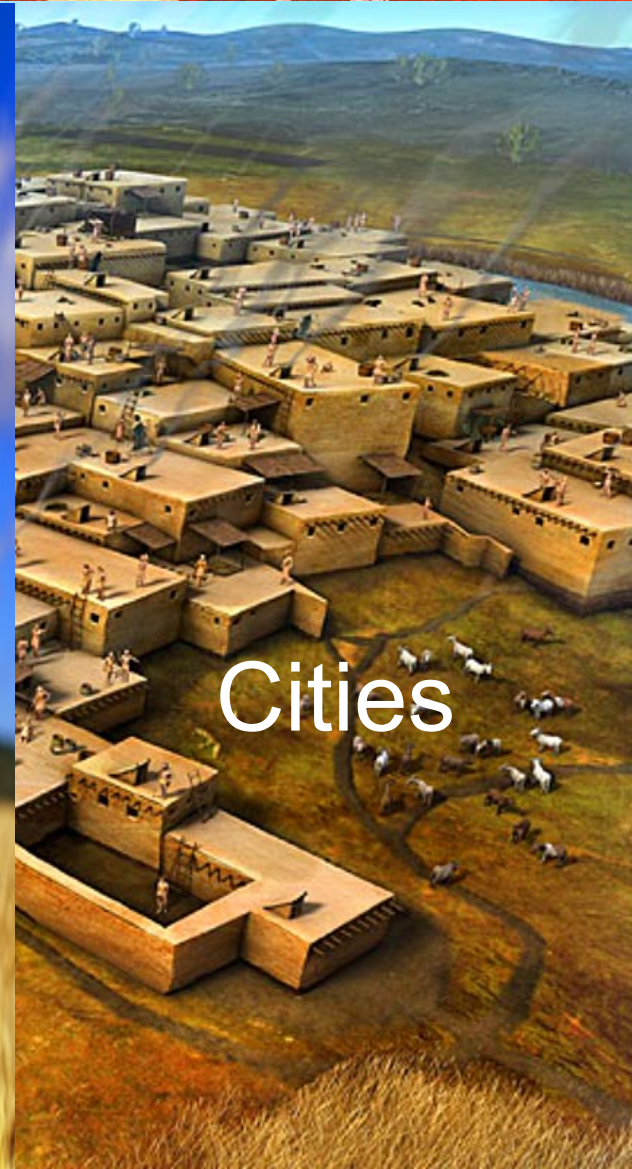
Fire



Agriculture



Cities



What's Missing?



WRITING