

# Global Prehistory

30,000-500 B.C.E

Paleolithic – 35,000 -

Neolithic

Europe: 4,000-1,500

Near East: 6,000-3,500

## Dating Conventions and Abbreviations

B.C.=before Christ

B.C.E.=before the Common Era

A.D.=*Anno Domini* (the year of our Lord)

C.E.=Common Era

c. or ca.=circa

C.=century

# THE BACK STORY, THE STORY OF HUMANS

- Modern humans first appeared about 200,000 years ago
- The last Ice Age ended in 30,000 B.C.E
- Painting and sculpture first appeared around 25,000 B.C.E (this is also about when humans turned up in the Americas)



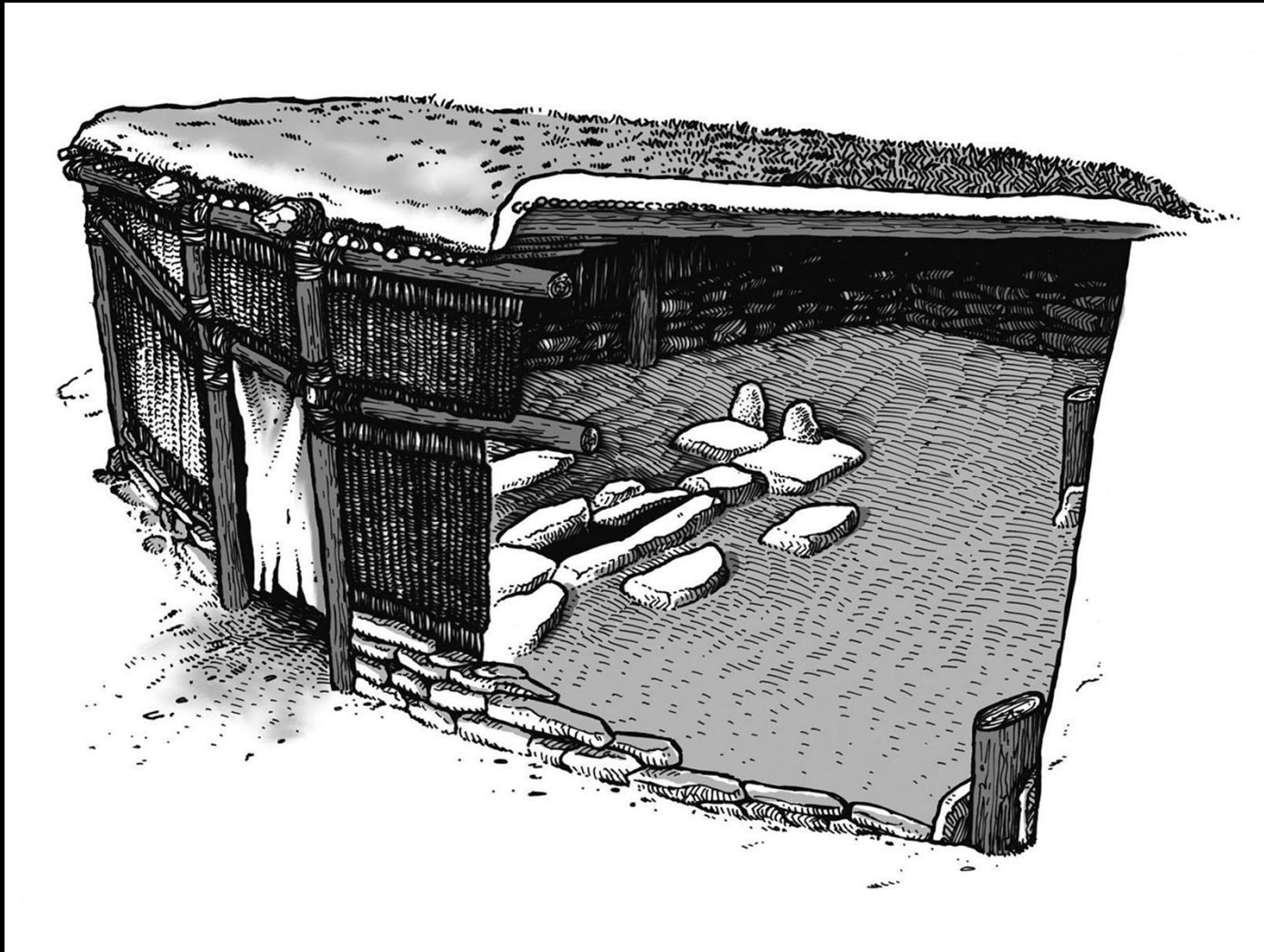
- There are examples of prehistoric art from around the globe but when we think of cave people art, what we are usually thinking of is Europe.
- It is important to remember that this time in human history witnessed an unprecedented expansion of humans across the globe along with catastrophic climate change.

- The stone ages, as they are called, is when the last ice age occurred. Seas were suddenly solid, allowing humans to travel great distances in search of increasingly scarce food. And we can wonder if there was something about the catastrophe that drove them to create the first art, but we don't really know.
- It started in Africa, spread throughout Europe, Asia and the Americas.

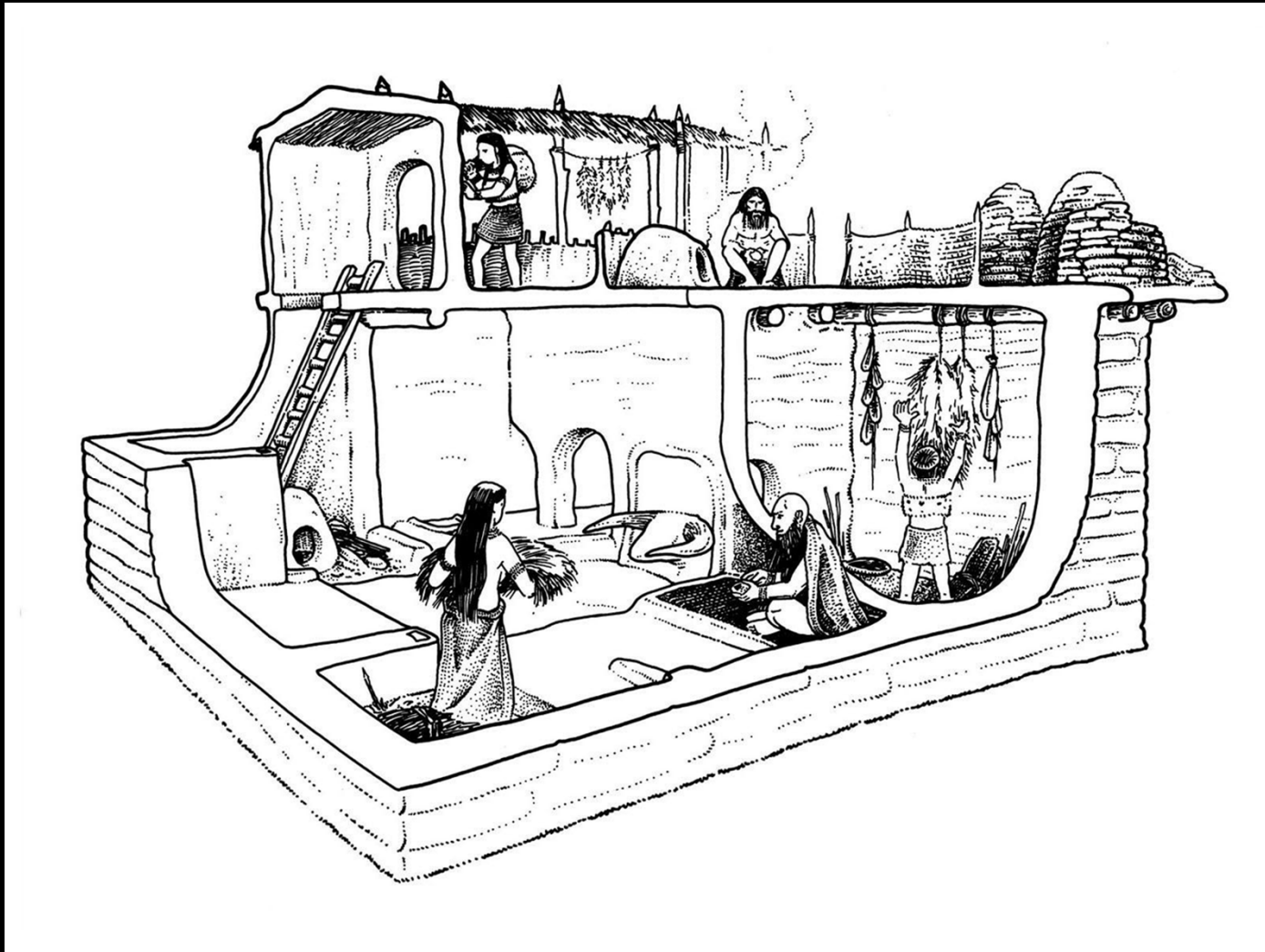
What was life like for these Upper Paleolithic people? And why do we think they believed in an afterlife?



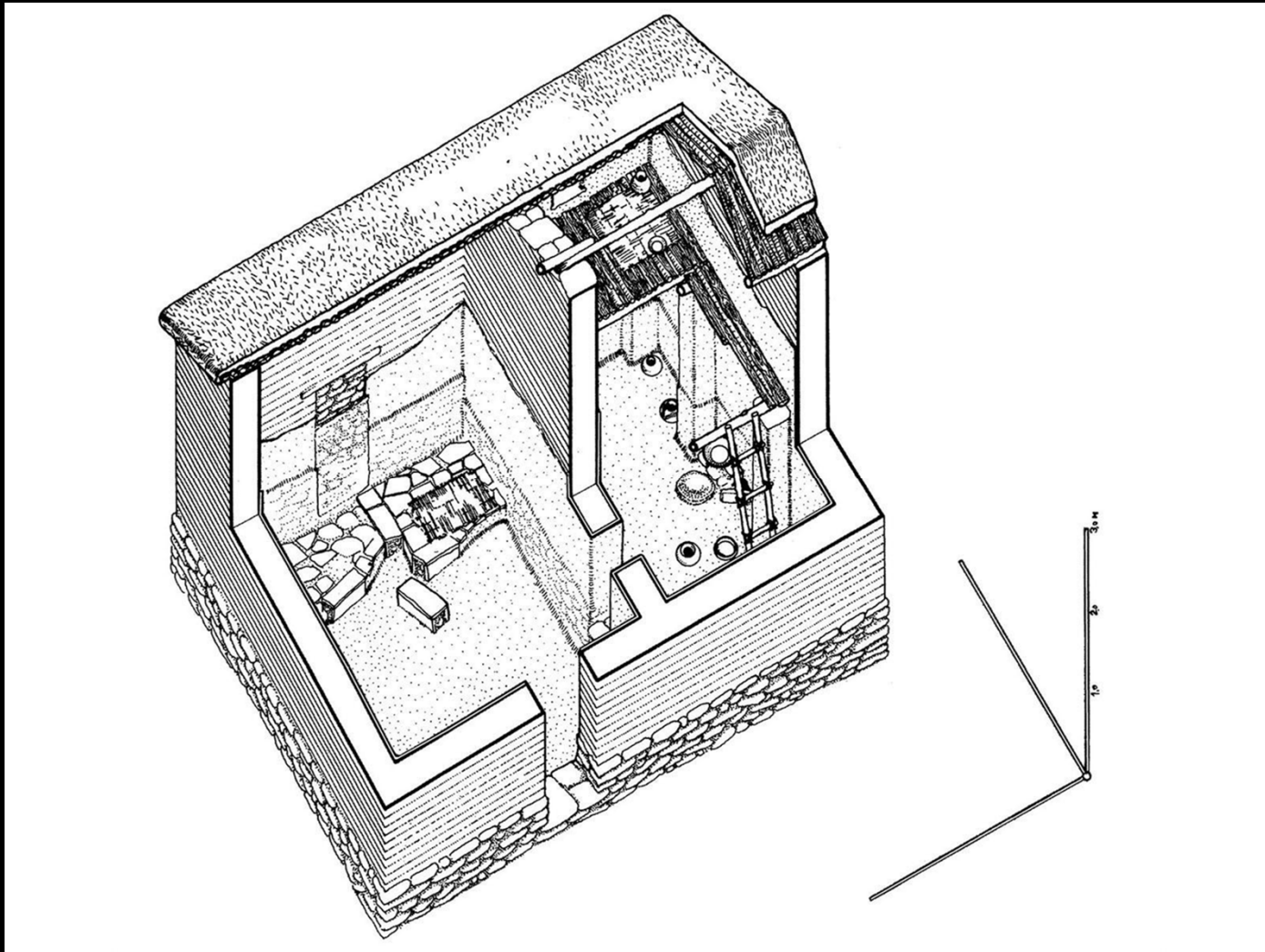
**Reconstruction Drawing of Mammoth-Bone Houses. c. 16,000–10,000 BCE.**



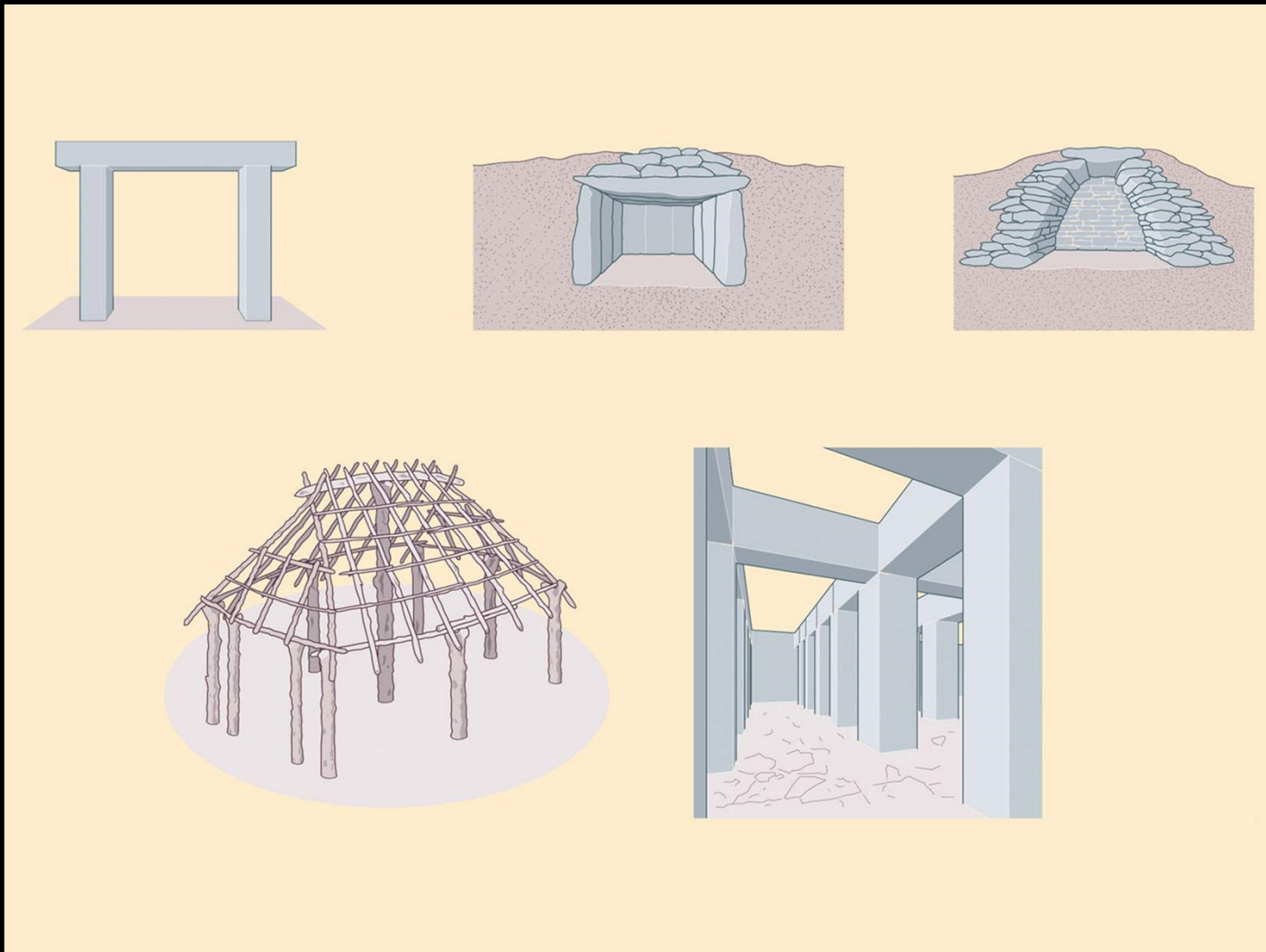
**Reconstruction of Lepenski Vir House/Shrine. 6000 BCE.**



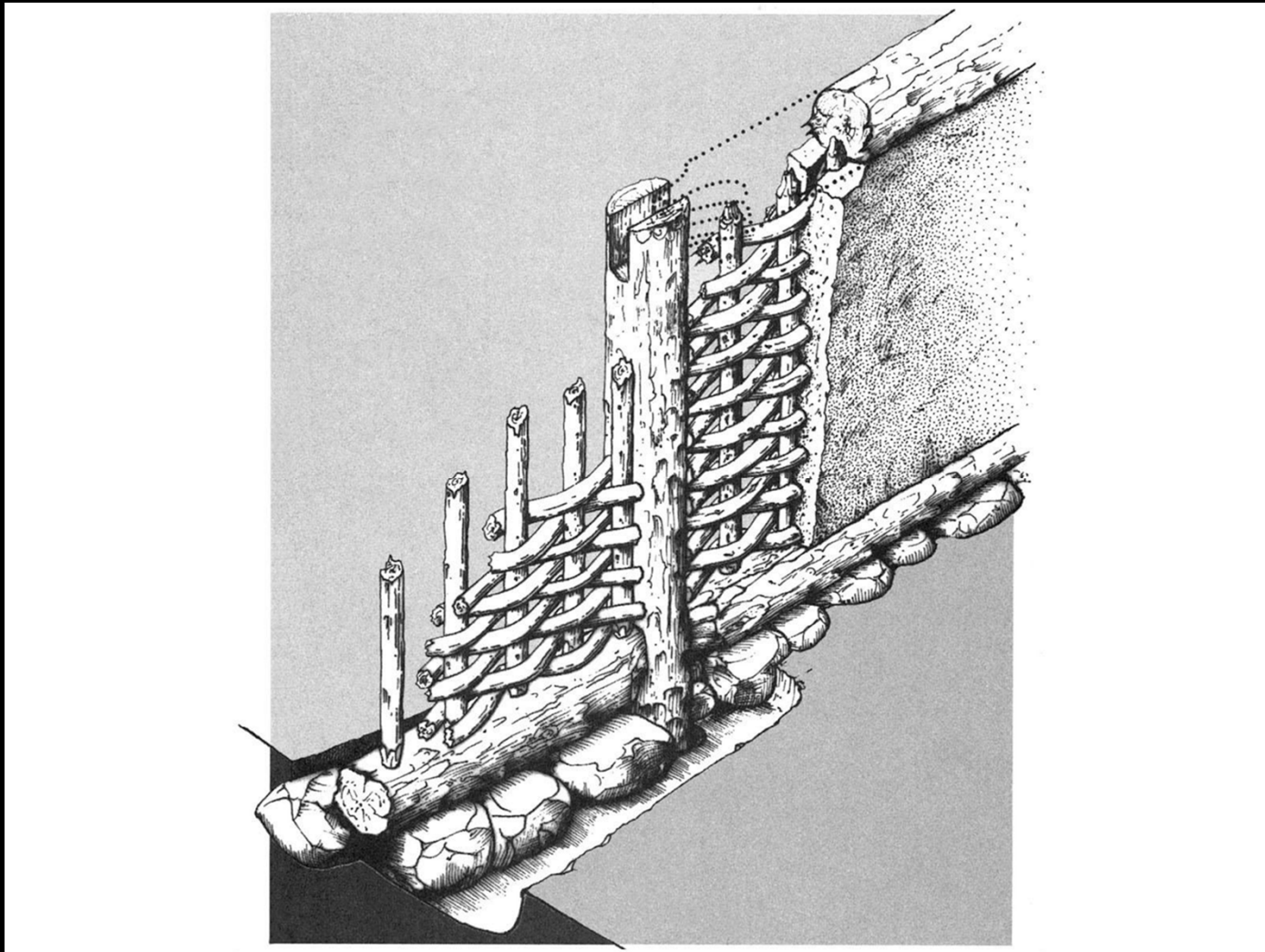
Çatalhöyük, Turkey. 7400–6200 BCE.



**Sesklo Stone Foundation House. 6500 BCE.**



**Early Construction Methods (Line Drawing).**



**Neolithic Building Methods. 6000 BCE.**



EUROPE

# “Venus” of Willendorf

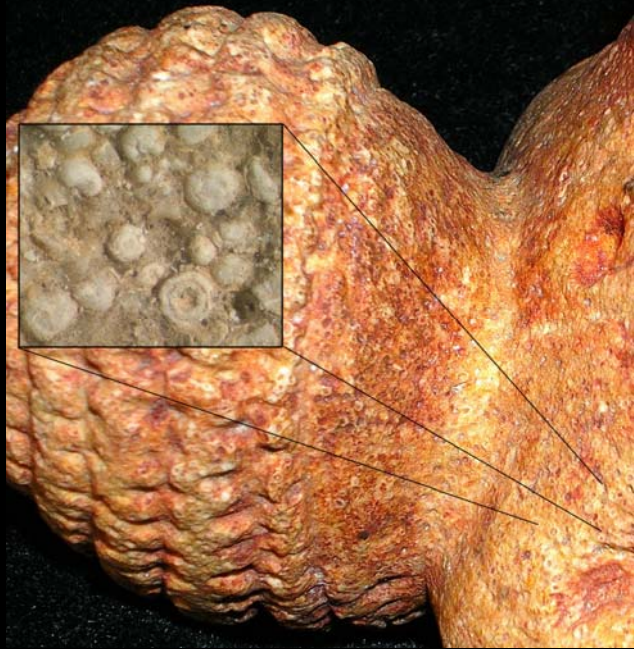


Willendorf, Austria  
c. 28,000 - 25,000 B.C.E.  
Oolitic limestone tinted with ochre  
4 and 3/8 inches

PREHISTORIC EUROPE AND THE NEAR EAST







## 2. Great Hall of the Bulls



Lascaux, France

Paleolithic Europe. 15,000-13,000 B.C.E

Rock Painting

Largest bull is 11ft long



PREHISTORIC EUROPE AND THE NEAR EAST







Theme: Animals in Art

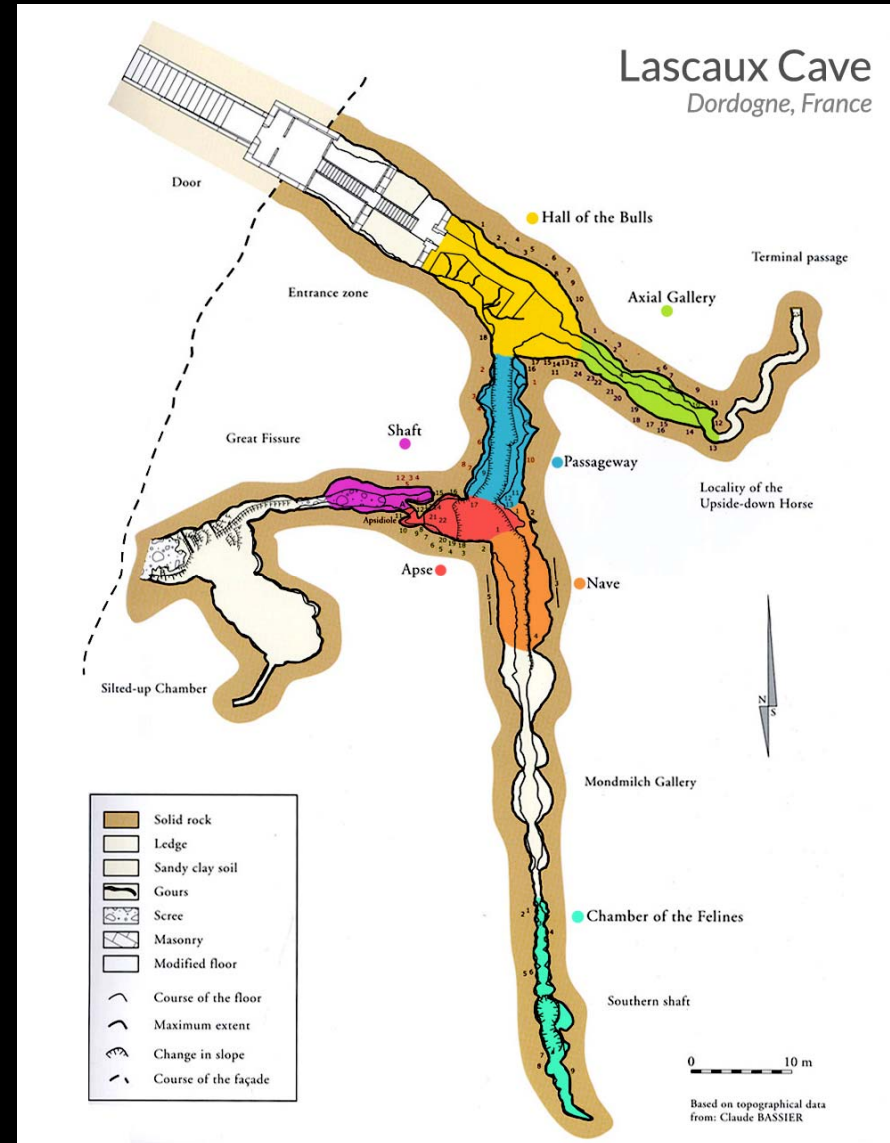




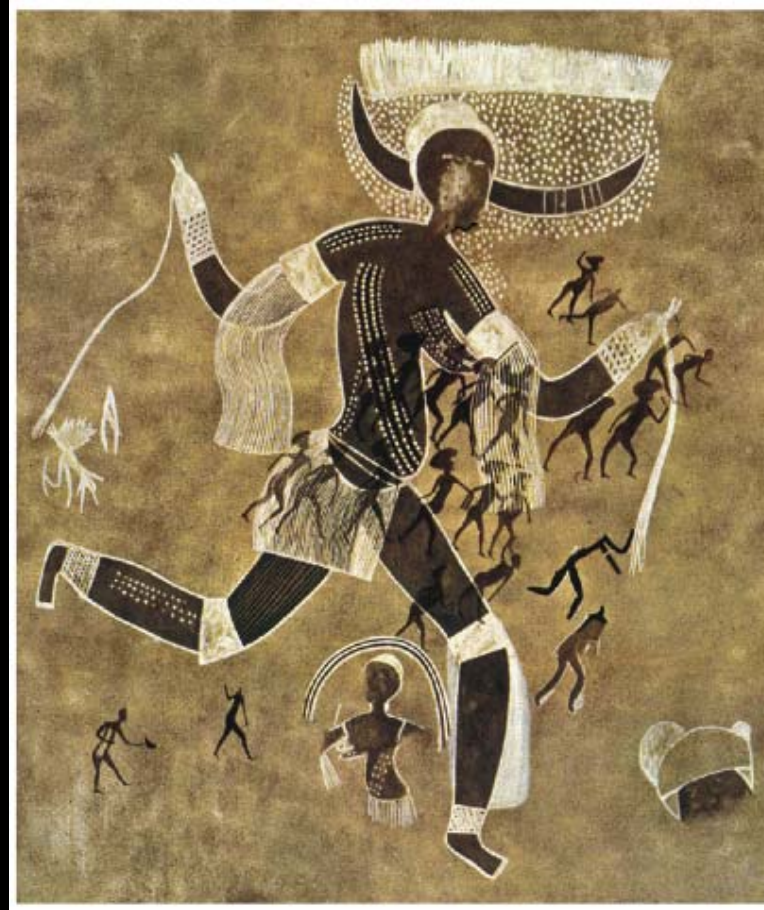




Prehistoric Wall Painting (Line Drawing).



# 4. Running horned woman



Tassili n'Ajjer, Algeria

6,000-4,000 B.C.E

Pigment on rock

19.8f H x 9.9ft W



I know Algeria is not in Europe, but it is on the Mediterranean and not near southern and western Africa like the rest of the Africa stuff!



Theme: Masks and Headdresses

# 8. Stonehenge



Wiltshire, UK

Neolithic Europe c. 2,500-1,600 B.C.E

Sandstone

108 ft diameter

24 ft high





Theme: Ritual Centers/Places of Worship

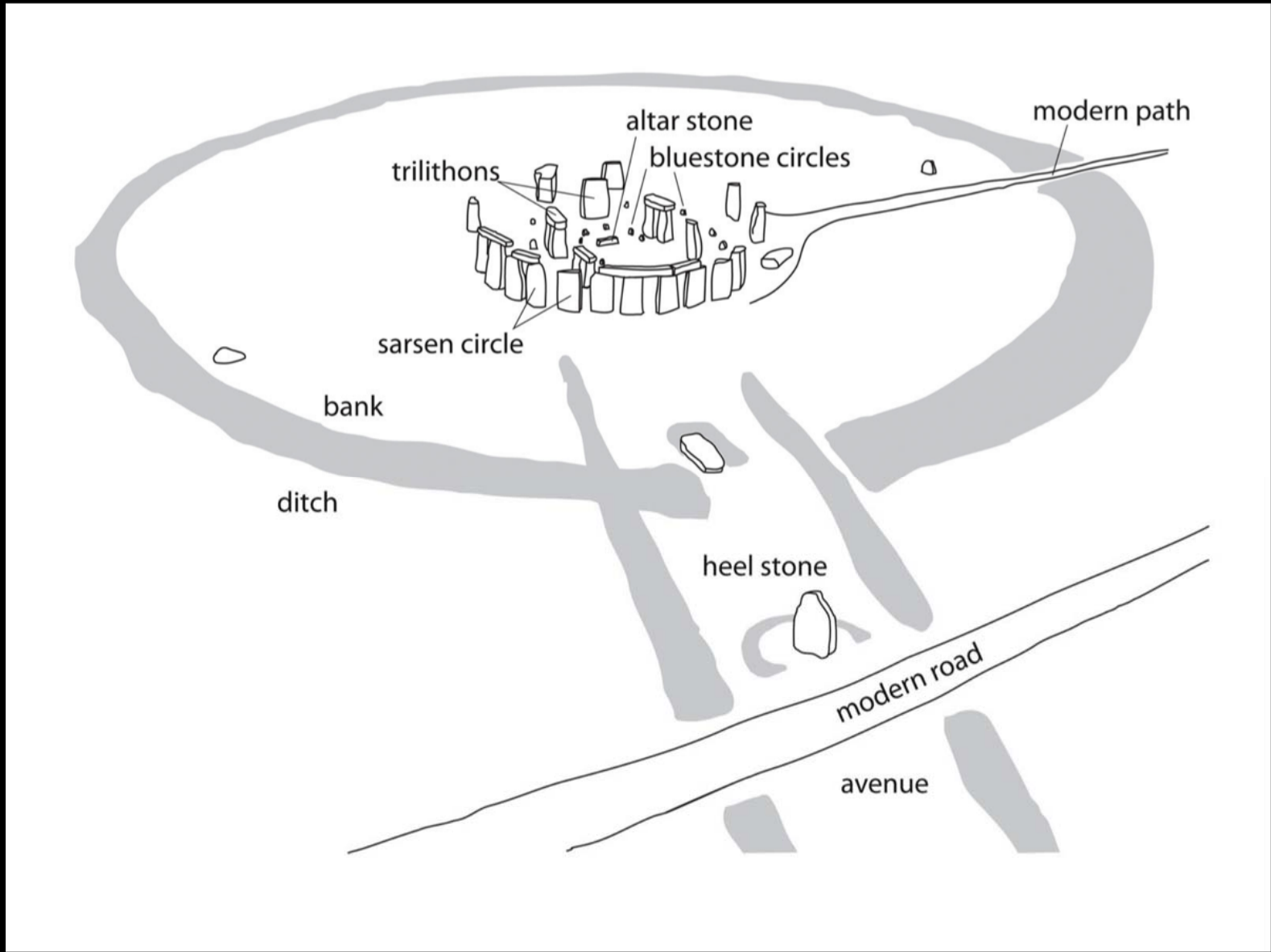




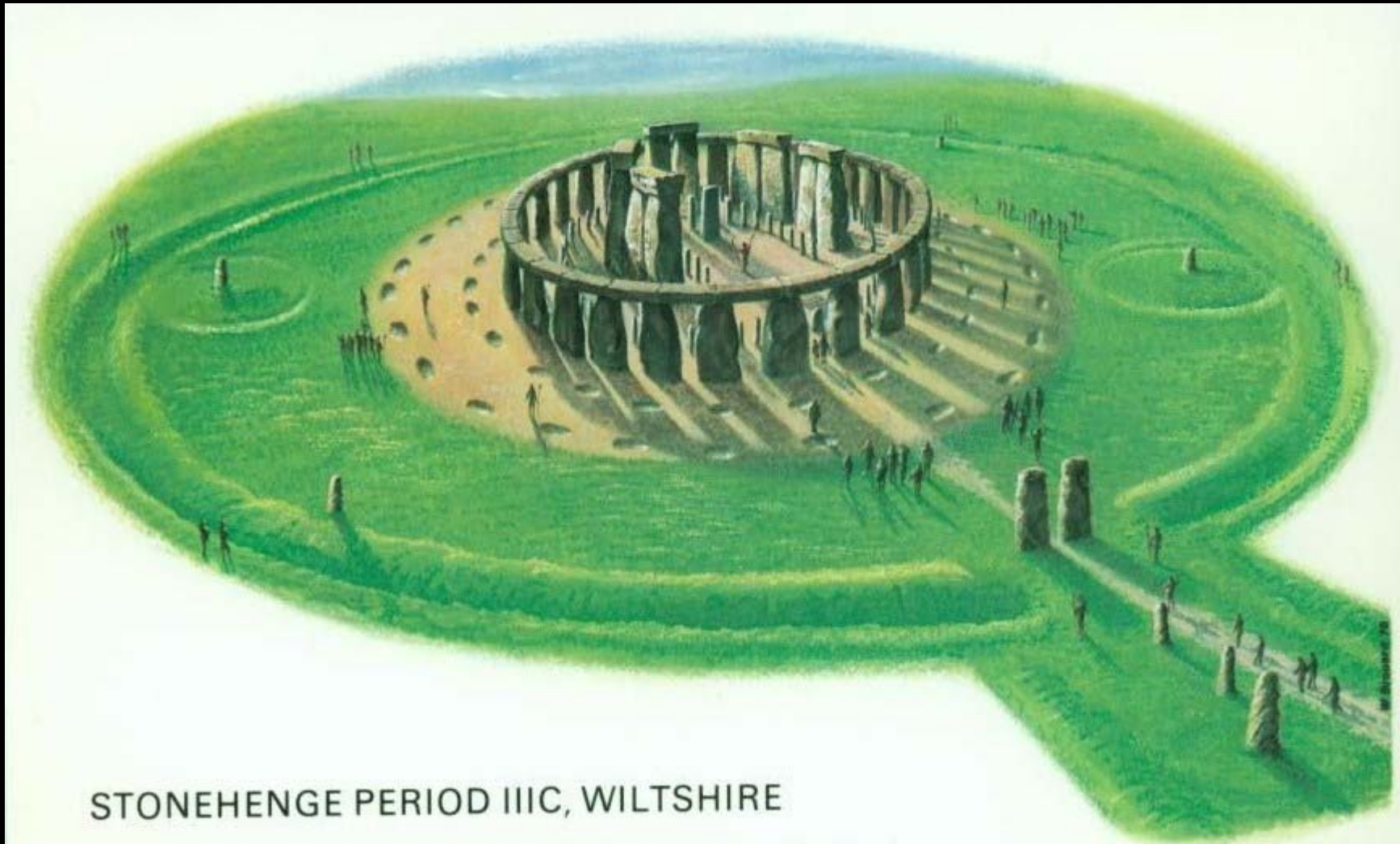


# PREHISTORIC EUROPE AND THE NEAR EAST





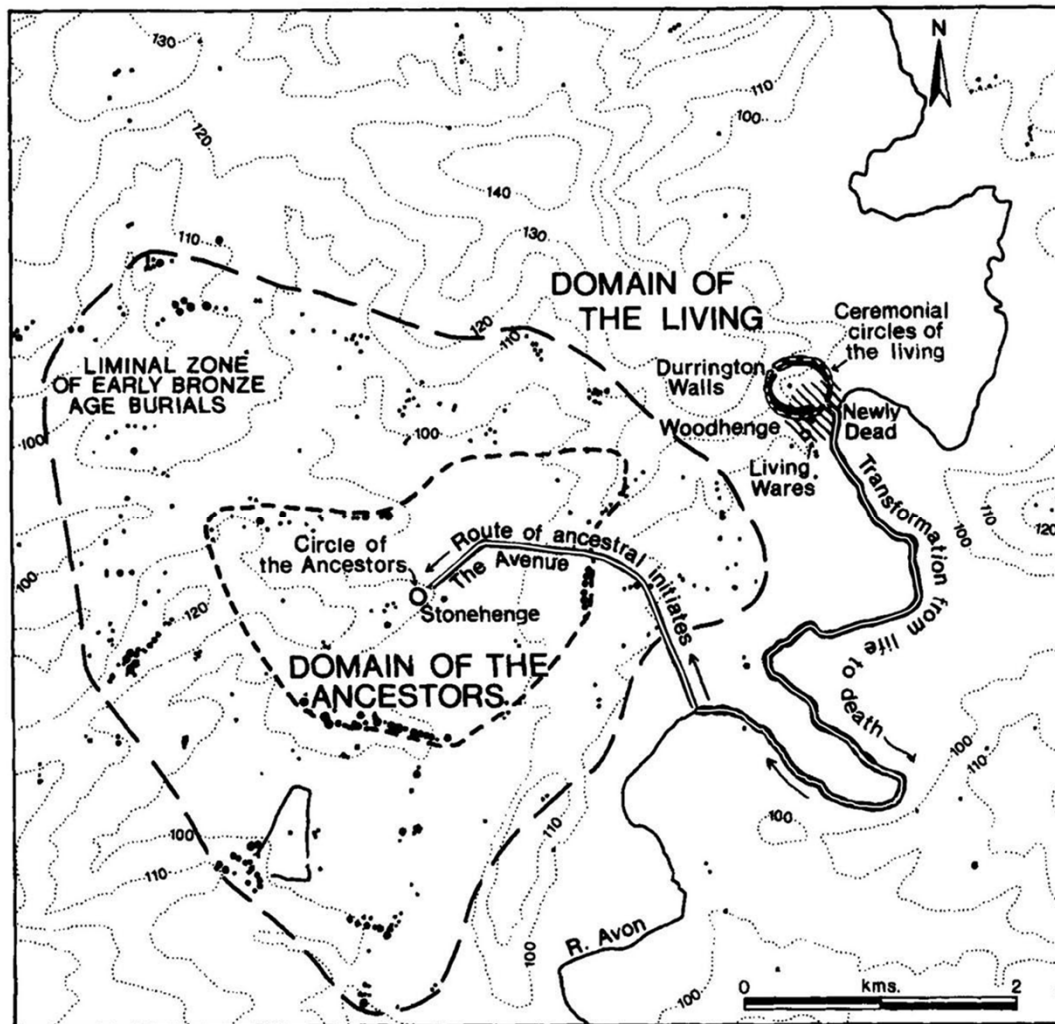




## STONEHENGE PERIOD IIIIC, WILTSHIRE

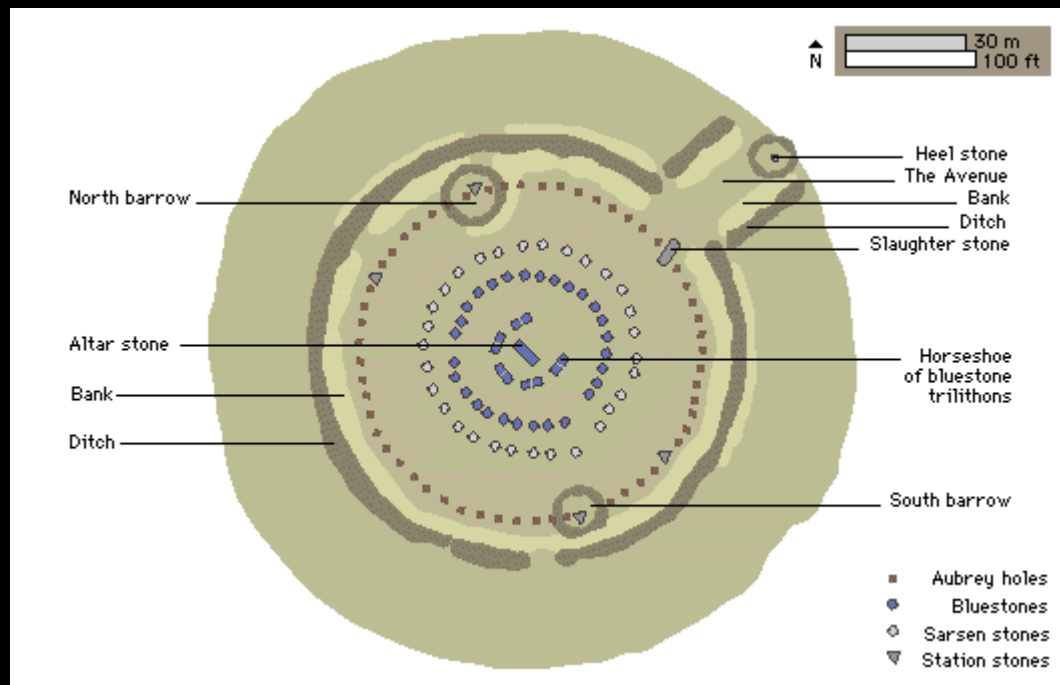
Stonehenge from the east, as it might have appeared in the final phase of its construction, about 1550 BC





**Plan of Stonehenge and Its Surrounding Settlements.**



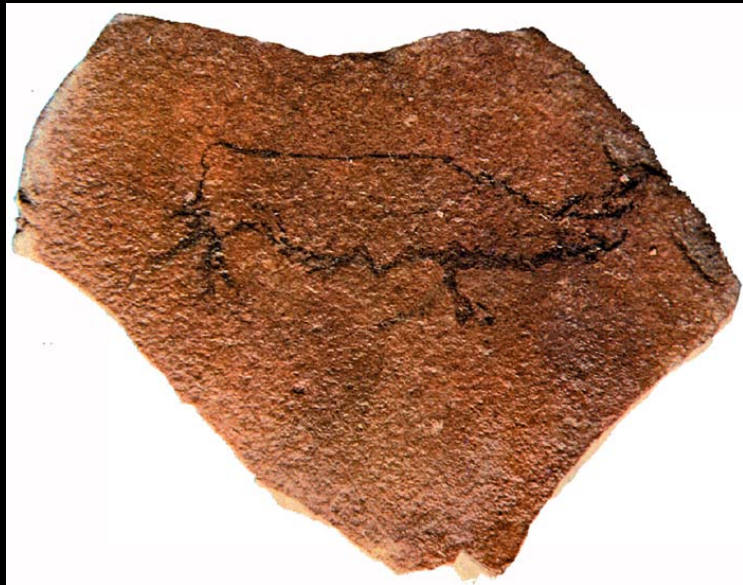
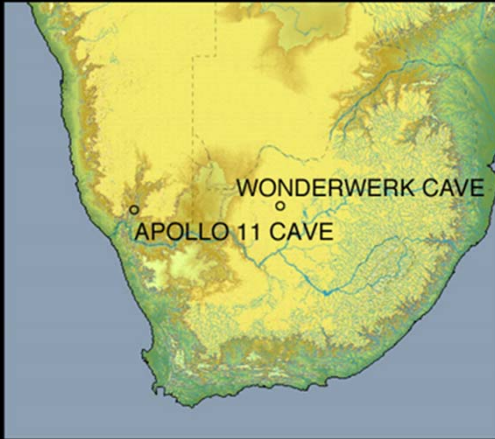


AFRICA

# 1. Apollo 11 stones



Namibia  
c. 25,500-25,300 B.C.E.  
Charcoal on stone  
5" x 4.25"



Theme: Animals in Art and Murals

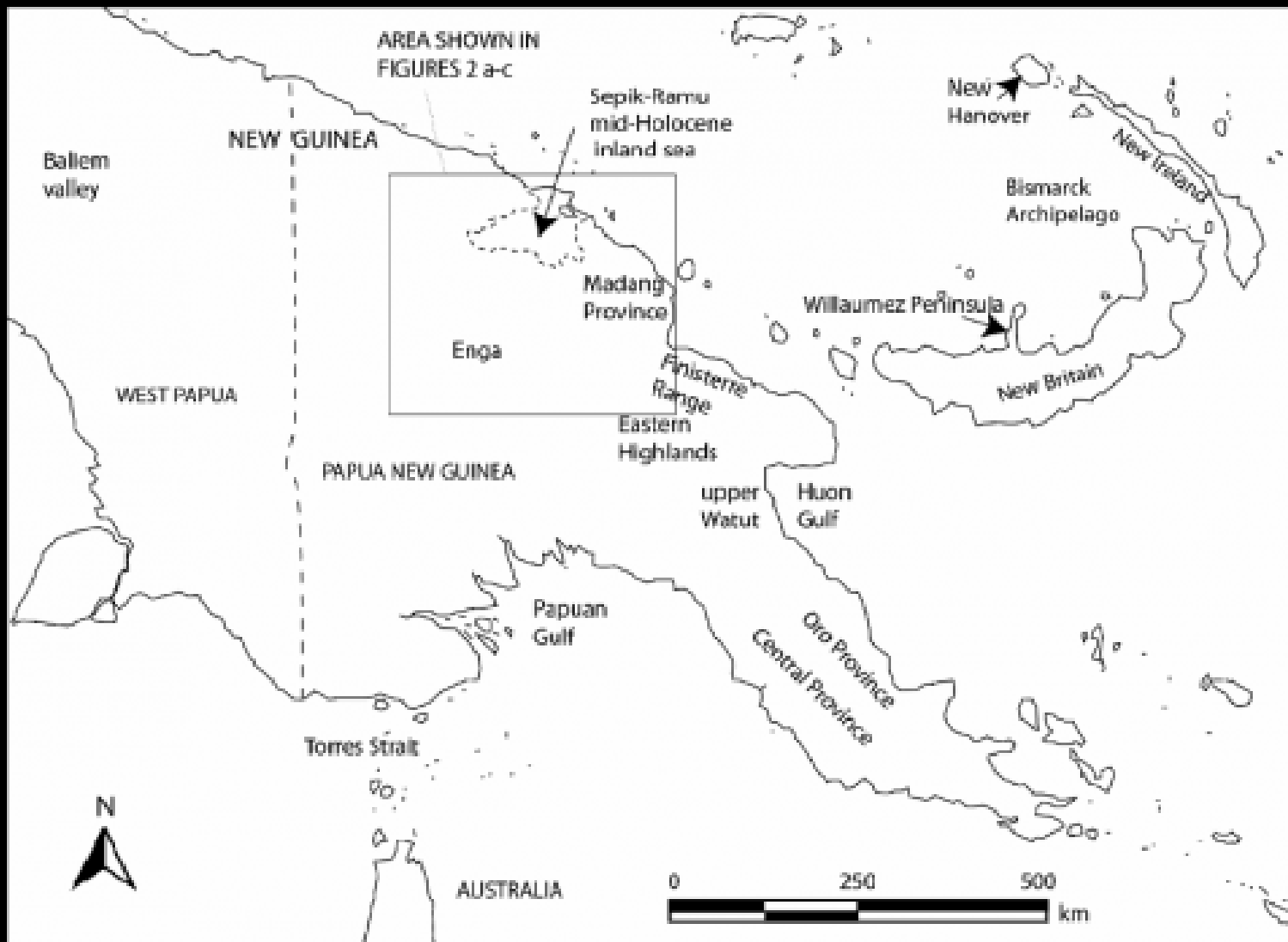


# 9. Ambum Stone

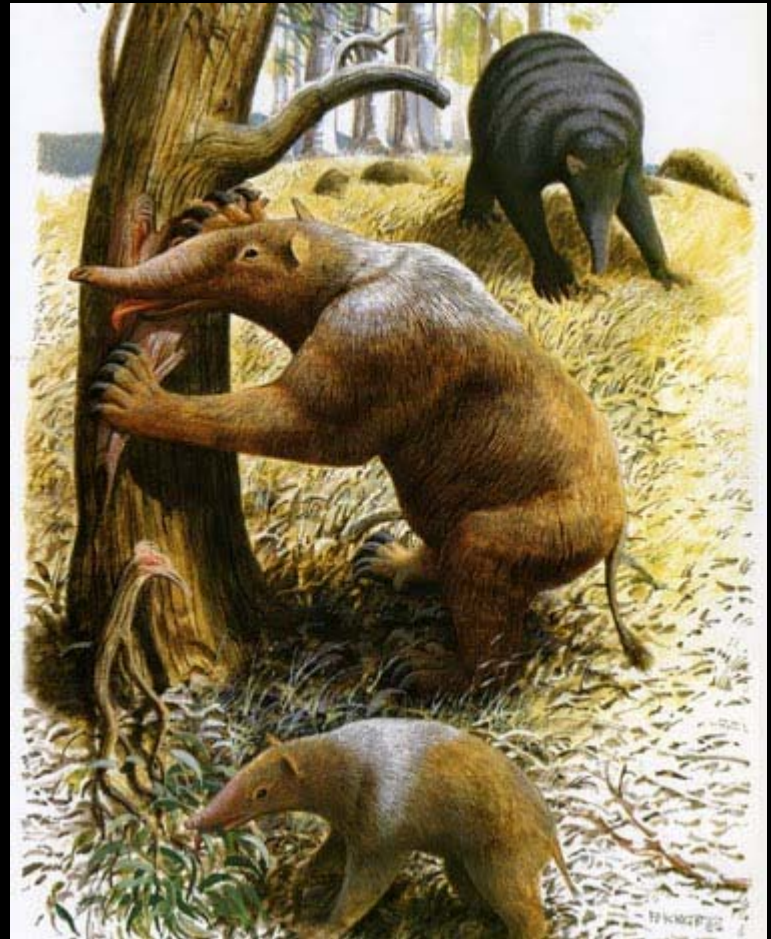


Ambum Valley, Enga Province, Papua New Guinea  
c. 1500 B.C.E  
Greywacke  
7.8 inches high





Theme: Animals in Art



# 11. Terra cotta fragment



Lapita Solomon Island, Reef Islands  
1000 B.C.E  
Terra cotta (incised)  
3 inches high





Lapita pottery has been misunderstood from the day it was discovered when an archaeologist picked up a piece of pottery from the bottom of his pit. Some natives arriving on the scene exclaimed "Xaapeta!" Which means "He dug a pit!" Unfortunately the scientist thought the natives were getting excited about the piece of rubble he was holding in his hand and decided that the exclamation "Xaapeta" was the name of the culture the pottery represented. Unfortunately he misheard them and decided the word said was Lapita, and through his "scientific" paper, the Lapita name has stuck.

Theme: Geometrics in Art

MEXICO

### 3. Camelid sacrum in the shape of a canine



Tequixquiac, central Mexico

14,000-7,000 B.C.E

Bone



# Tequixquiac

Mexico, Mexico

maphill

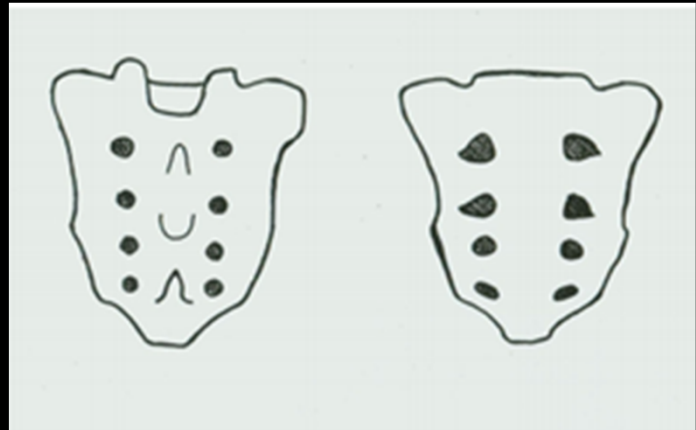
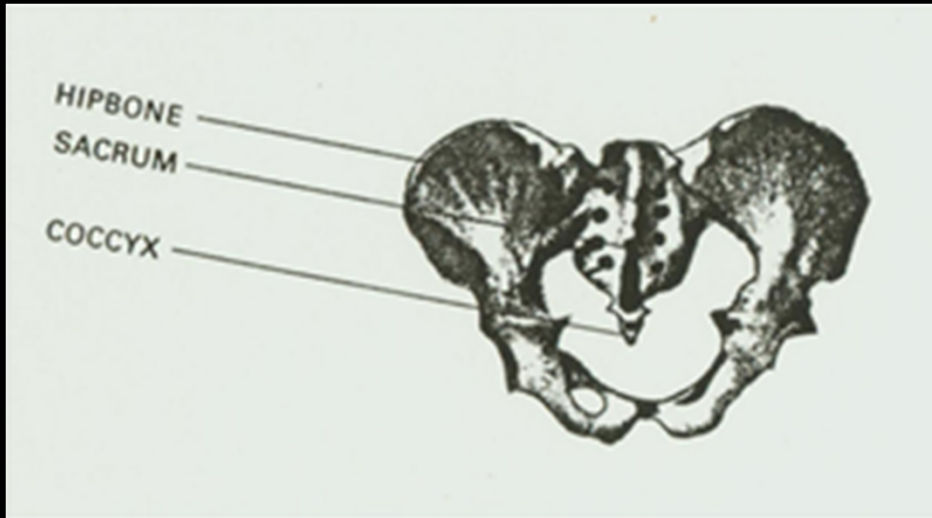


maphill

maphill



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Theme: Animals in Art

# 10. Tlatilco female figurine

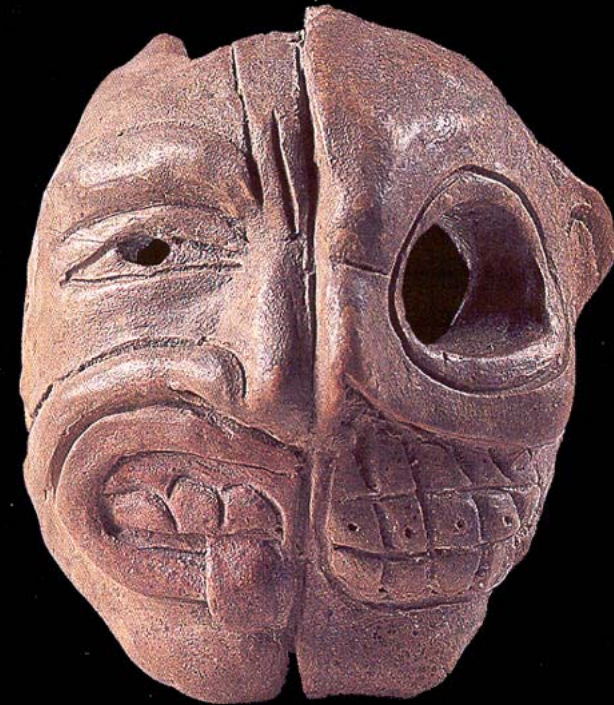


Central Mexico, site of Tlatilco  
1,200-900 B.C.E  
Ceramic  
3.75 inches high





Tlatilco –  
Pronounced t-la-til-co



Theme: Depictions of Human Figure

# MIDDLE EAST AND ASIA

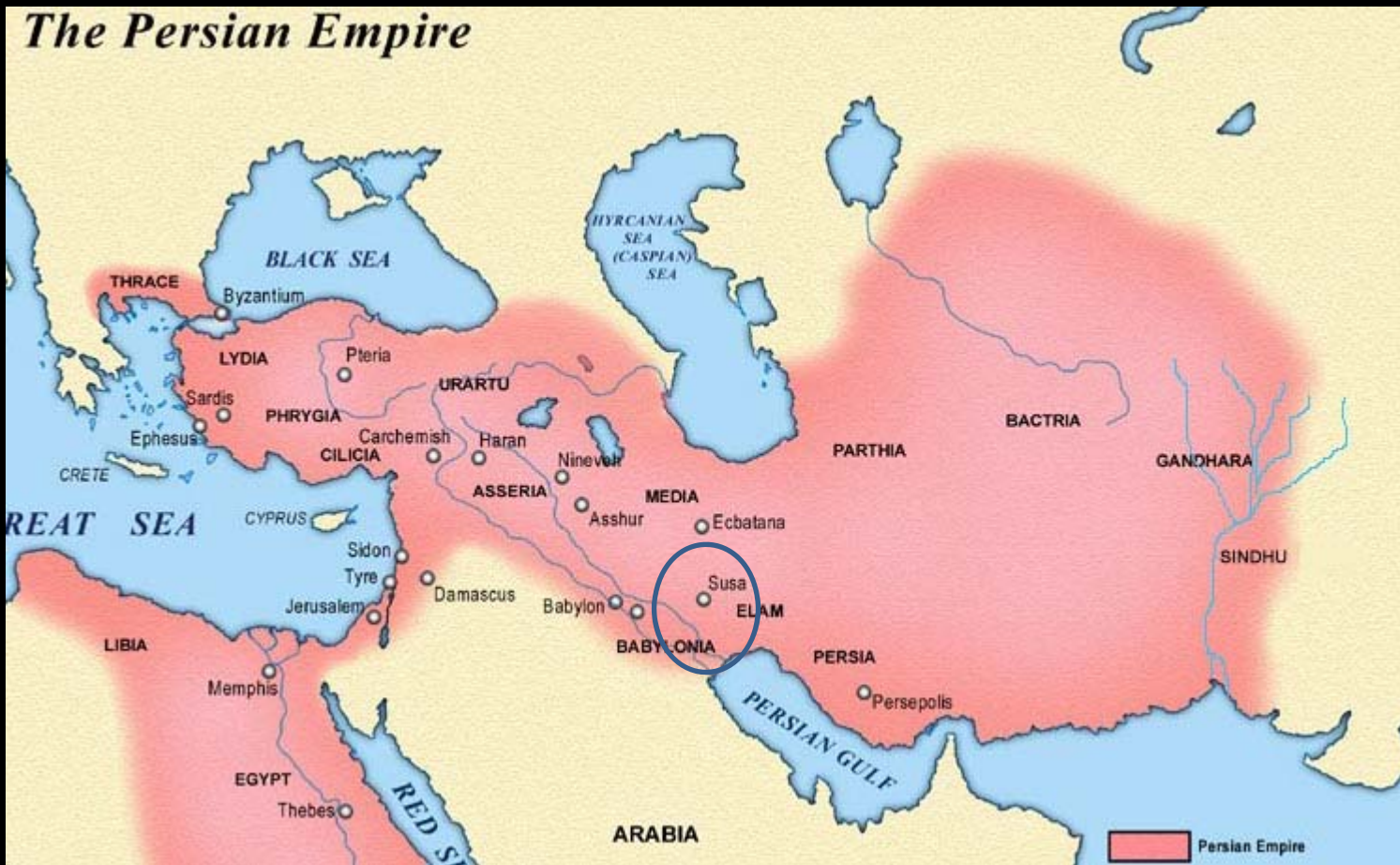
You know the Middle East is in Asia, right?

## 5. Beaker with ibex motifs

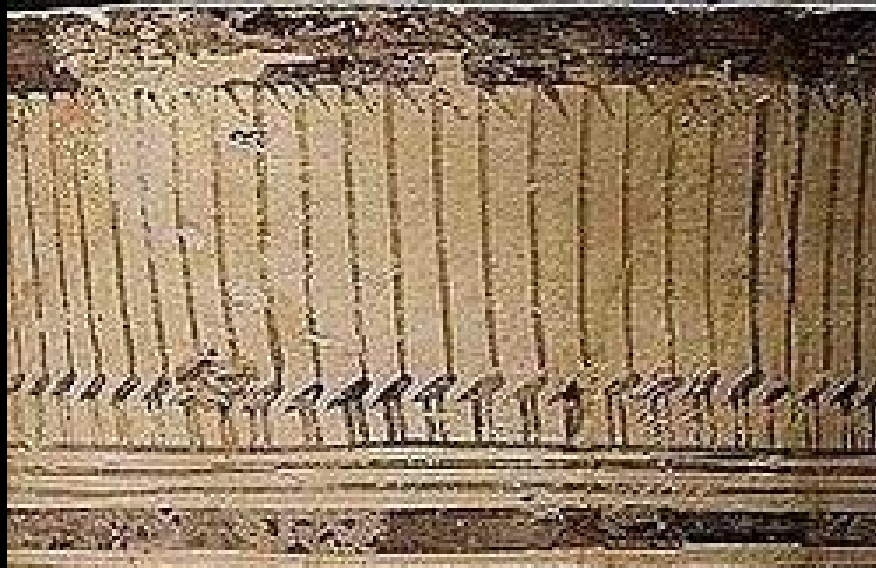
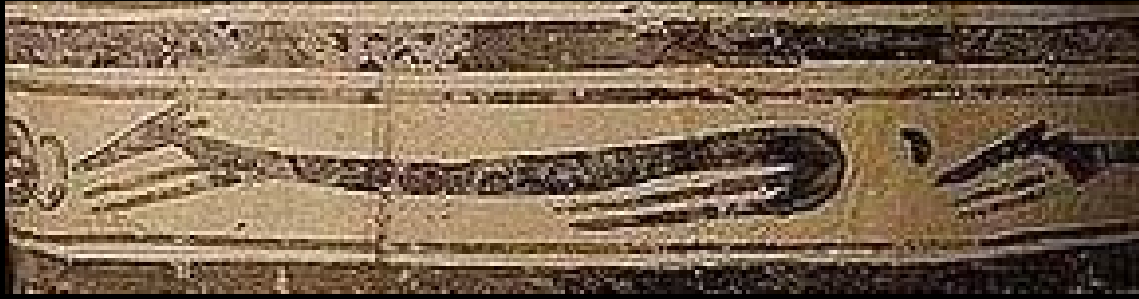


Susa, Iran  
4,200-3,500 B.C.E  
Painted terra cotta  
11.5" x 6.5"





Theme: Animals in Art  
Ceramics



## 6. Anthropomorphic stele



Arabian Peninsula  
Fourth millennium B.C.E  
Sandstone  
8ft tall





Theme: Anthropomorphic Images

# 7. Jade cong



Liangzhu, China  
3,300-2,200 B.C.E  
Carved Jade  
5 cm high  
9 cm diameter



Theme: Geometrics in Art