

Pre-Historic Stone Age Hellas

September-12-11
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- Palaeolithic (100,000 - 10,000 BCE)
- Mesolithic (10,000 - 6,000 BCE)
- Neolithic (6,000 - 3,000 BCE)

Lithos = stone

- Called that because they made stone tools and used them to obtain food, shelter, clothing, and hunting.

Flint Knapping Terminology

- Flint or chert (stones used for tools)
 - Flakes, blades
 - Core
 - Re-touching
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- Hard to tell if you have a tool or what was used to make a tool.

Palaeolithic Hellas (40,000 - 10,000 BCE)

- 40,000 BCE is when we have evidence of people in Hellas
- Evidence of tool making people from Turkey. Can tell they came from Turkey based on animals becoming extinct due to hunting in a path from Turkey towards Greece.
- Happened at the end of the last ice age.
- Three periods in the Palaeolithic:
 - 1) Lower (oldest time)
 - 2) Middle
 - 3) Upper (closer to us)
- Climate was cold and dry.
- These people hunted migrating, grazing animals. Had no permanent homes.
- Nomadic hunter-gatherers.
- Beginning of social order and sexual differentiation; males hunted, women gathered.
- Franchthi Cave, Peloponnese (means Island of Pelops, a mythical guy who was cooked by his father and served to the Gods. Most of the Gods figure it out, except Dem, who eats his shoulder, which is later replaced by an ivory one and he is reassembled)
- Upper Palaeolithic... Global Warming. All the ice is melting, causing a climate change. This is called a **change factor**.
- 1) Rising sea levels (causes islands off the coast of Hellas)
 - 2) Warmer, wetter climate
 - 3) Change in flora (plants) and fauna (animals)
 - 4) Change in lifestyle and diet

Mesolithic Hellas

- Hunter-gatherers are hunting forest animals now, gathered different foods, less nomadic (cave dwellers and campsites, still not permanent, just stay longer), different tools made from different kinds of stone.
- Mesolithic volcanic stones... Obsidian (you can tell exactly where it came from using scientific stuff), Lava (saddle quern used to grind grain by rubbing a stone against the quern)
- These stones come to the Franchthi Cave; obsidian comes from Melos and the lava comes from Aegina. There must have been some way to get to the islands. A boat made of reeds. They also find deep water fish bones in the Franchthi cave, so they went fishing in the Aegean Sea somehow.

Neolithic Hellas (6,000 - 3,000 BCE)

- Stone tools are ground and polished... They are sharper.
- Still used to acquire food.
- New food sources... Radical change in lifestyle.

Neolithic "Revolution" (6,000 BCE -c)

- End of hunting and gathering.
- Domestication of animals (sheep, goats, dogs, pigs) and plants; beginning of agriculture
- Prometheus (mythical son of a Titan) credited with introducing the elements of civilization; see introduction.
- Agriculture leads to permanent settlement.
- Domestication of grains required:
 - 1) Processing (querns)
 - 2) Long-term storage/protection from vermin... Beginning of pottery (page 28) made from clay and formed by hand (no potter's wheel). Pottery is an indication of agriculture. Made it possible for grain to be mixed with water, to make a sort of porridge, leads to tooth decay. Porridge could be lead to infants led to babies being weaned earlier and women could get pregnant faster... Population increase.
- Prometheus stole fire from the Gods and gave it to man. (read page 29 for benefits to man) His brother Atlas was the leader of the Titans.
- Neolithic Thessaly is where Prometheus taught men agriculture. Thessaly is the home of Hellen, the ultimate ancestor of the Greeks. Also the home of Jason.
- Evidence of people living in Thessaly based on mounded of building debris called magoules. Homes kept deteriorating, so they would rebuild it, which would eventually lead to magoules.
- Prometheus also taught them housing.
- Houses built on stone foundations. Clay would be used to form bricks to make mud brick walls. The roof is made of wattle (framework of pliable branches) and daub (wet clay used to fill in the holes of the branches). In the middle of the house is a hearth (fire pit) with a smoke hole in the roof. Decoration could have

been applied with paint.

Middle Neolithic Period

Secondary Productions "Revolution:

- New use for domestic products
- Primary products:
 - 1) Meat
 - 2) Hide
 - 3) Milk
- Secondary products (you have to do something to the primary products to get these secondary products):
 - 1) Cheese
 - 2) Textiles
- How do we know they began to weave?
 - 1) Loom Weights (weighs down thread to attach threads together)
 - 2) Spindle Whorls (used to make twisted fibre, yarn)
- New power source for agriculture... Oxen, used to pull a primitive plough. Increased area of cultivation, more food, bigger population.
- Farmers live in a village and the fields are grouped together and the farmers go out the fields.
- Near Thessaly there is a village called Sesklo... Had walls with a stone foundation. Had a large building, more important... Could have been a meeting house, temple, chief's house, or all. Population is about 3,000.
- Pottery in Sesklo are handmade, bi-chrome (two colours), has a matt finish, textile inspire, painted decoration (page 29)
- Steatopygous Figurine (fat butt) (page 28). The figure have fat butts... A sign of fertility. Why are they making these? Religious significance? They might be dolls (like Barbies) or portraits of pregnant women.

Change Factors

- Climate P - M
- Agriculture (M - E.N.)
- Secondary Products (E.N. - M.N.)
- Domestication of 2 new plants JM.N. - L.N.)... This completes the Mediterranean Triad... Grapes, Grain, Olives!!
- How could grapes change the lifestyle? First domesticated in the country of Georgia. Grapes are made into wine, a change in behaviour. What is causing this? A God... Dionysus, worshipping him involved dancing, drinking, and sex. Creates a change in religion and social (a new way to spend time). Leads to special containers for a "special drink"... Fancy goblets! Change in pottery, specialisation. Trade begins! Special area for trade... Markets (Agora). Administration needed. Creation of proto-government (early government).
- Similar situation for olives... New food to diet, new ways of processing and harvesting food (beam press), other uses for olive oil.
- Late Neolithic Thessaly... Dimini. A megaron ("big room"), made of three parts: a porch, vestibule, a back room with a hearth. Biggest structure on the hill at Dimini. Many walls around the Megaron, originally though the walls were fortification, however, the areas found in the walls are buildings used for manufacturing. The houses are outside of the walls. Might have been processional routes to the megaron. But what is the megaron? Is it the chief's house? A meeting hall? Religious? Political? We don't know.
- Pottery is different from middle Neolithic.
 - 1) Shiny Pottery
 - 2) More colours
 - 3) Decoration is more complex with curved lines and spirals
 - 4) Still made by hand. No potter's wheel.

Neolithic Burial Practices

- Inhumation (burying)
- Cremation
- Women and children were inhumed in the floors of the houses, or in the alleyways between houses in a foetal position. Men were buried anywhere.
- Not a lot of grave goods were found.
- Entire field of pots of cremated remains.

Was Neolithic Hellas Civilized?

- No writing system
- Villages not more than 5,000
- No metallurgy
- No big buildings

No Neolithic Hellas was NOT civilized!