

History of Horticulture: Lecture 2

Lecture 2

Early Humans and the Prehistoric Record: Human-Plant Interaction

Dating the Past

Human Fossils & Tools

Hominid fossils and tools date to 1.8 million years ago.

There is some evidence of tools in Europe as early as 1.2 million years ago.

An explosion of hominid remains appears in Europe about 500,000 years ago.

Source: A. Gibbons, Science 291:1722 (March 2, 2001)

Africa: The Source of Human Evolution

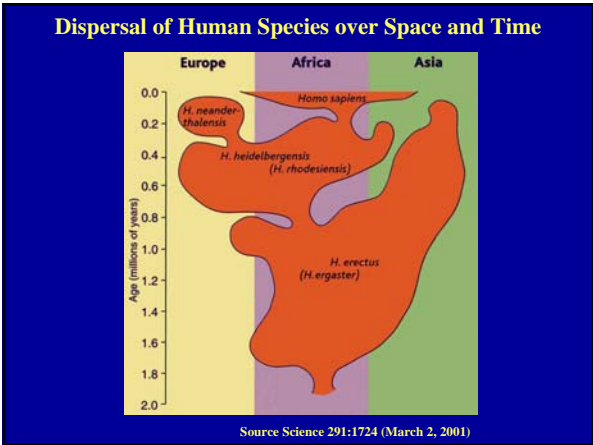
The dates above are the generally accepted dates but recent evidence indicates initiation considerably earlier.

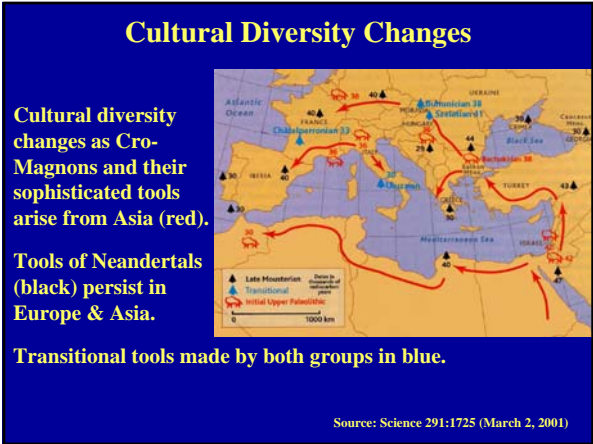
Source: Time Magazine, Feb. 13, 1995

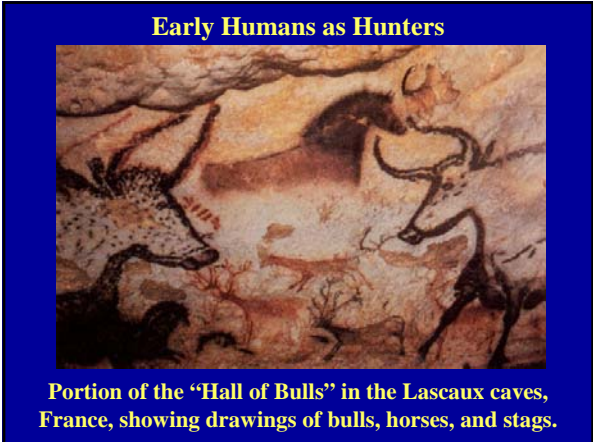
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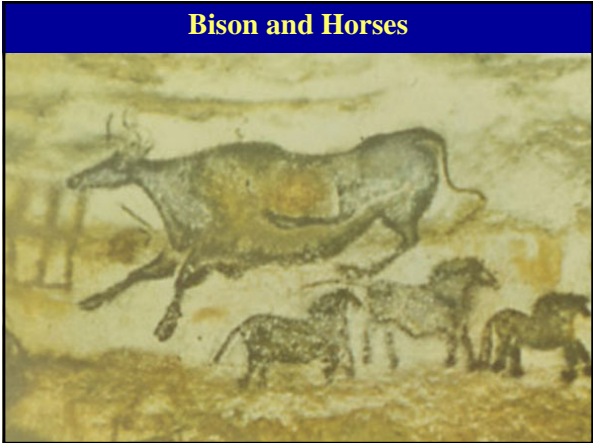
Paleolithic Humans

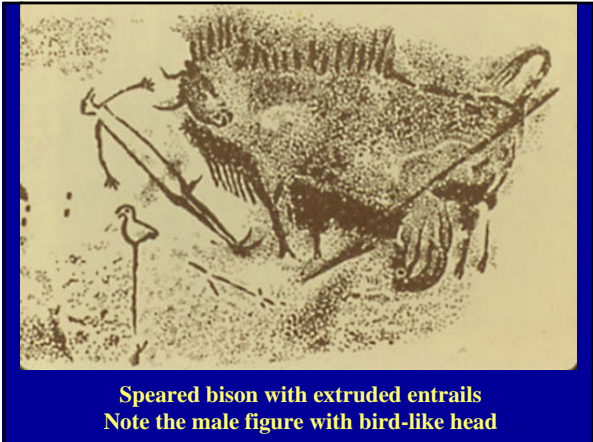
Old Stone Age 750,000–15,000 years ago
 Archaic *Homo sapiens* (*Homo heidelbergensis*) 500,000 years ago
 Neandertals 250,000 years ago
 Developed in Europe
 Brawny, short arms, broad trunk
 Hunting skills, weapons
 Cro-Magnon 200,000 years ago
 Up to 6 ft. tall, large cranial capacity
 Developed in Asia
 Dominated Ice Age Europe 40,000 years ago
 Contact in Europe—200,000 years ago
 Neandertals disappear 25–30,000 years ago












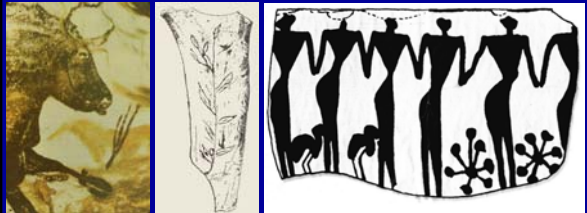
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Hunting of stags with bow and arrow



Source: Singer, 1954
Cueva de los Caballos, Albocacer, Castellon, Spain

Paleolithic and Neolithic Representations of Plants




Lascaux
Paleolithic scratched image on reindeer horn

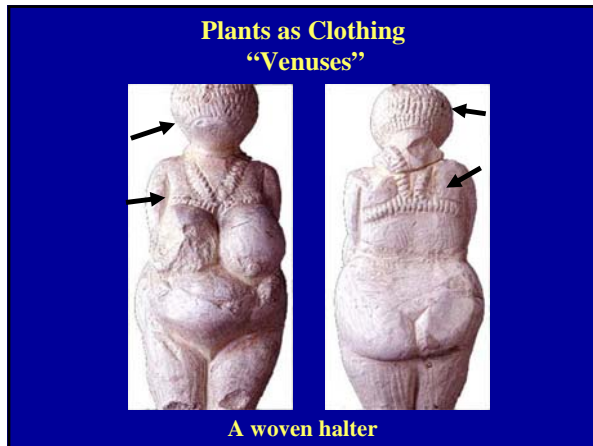
Pottery from Tepe Sialk, Iran, 7,000 years ago

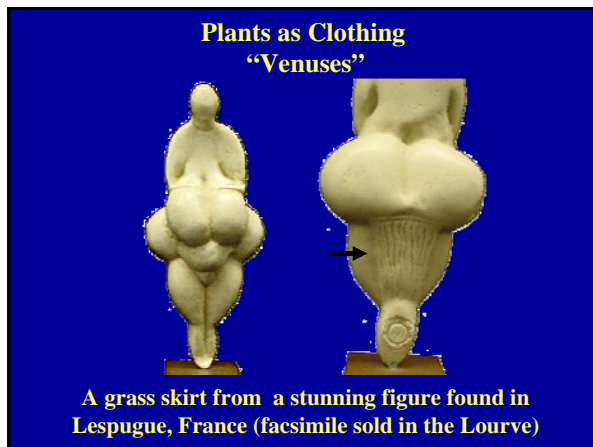
Arcy-sur-Cure, Dep. Yonne, France (Singer 1958, Fig. 66) Source: New York Times

Plants as Clothing
"Venuses"



The Venus of Willendorf, Austria, dated 30,000 years ago showing a snood-like cap







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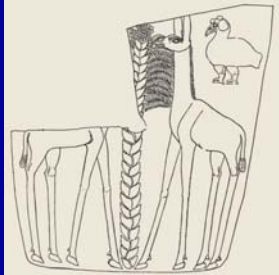
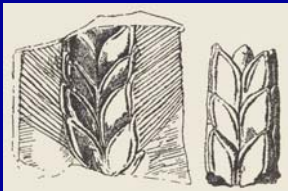
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Gatherers and Herders

		
Paleolithic representation of honey gathering	Domesticated cattle Tassili n'Ajjer	Cave painting of women gathering grain, 5000-6000 years ago. Tassili n'Ajjer, Algeria

(Source: Bruce 1995).

Early Representation of Identifiable Plants

	
Predynastic drawing of palm tree and gazelle, 5000-6000 years ago	Cereal carvings, first dynasty, 5000 years ago

Conclusions

- Increasing Importance of Plants**
 - Food Fuel
 - Weapons Ritual
 - Clothing Medicine
- Shift from gathering to cultivation**
10-12,000 years ago
- Neolithic Revolution**
- Various Locations**
 - Fertile Crescent
 - Indus Valley
 - China
 - Americas

Lecture 2 Readings

2-1. Furs for Evening, but Cloth Was the Stone Age Standby

2-2. Use Of Plants in the European Palaeolithic: A Review of the Evidence
