

A large, dark, spherical stone object, possibly a prehistoric artifact, sits on a sandy beach. The background shows a cloudy sky and a dark horizon line. The image is partially obscured by a dark blue diagonal overlay on the right side.

HISTORY OF ARCHITECTURE I

PREHISTORIC ARCHITECTURE

Dr. Zeinab Feisal



PREHISTORIC ARCHITECTURE

Stone Age period

Prehistoric Architecture

× **When?**

× **Where?**

× **How did we know about it?**

× **What about social characteristics &
Believes?**

* **Architecture of the civilization.**

A coastal landscape featuring a large, smooth, grey stone sphere resting on a circular concrete pad. The sphere is positioned on the right side of the frame. The background shows a dark, overcast sky with heavy clouds, a calm sea, and a distant island on the horizon. The foreground is a dark, pebbly beach. A dark blue diagonal overlay covers the top right portion of the image, containing text.

PREHISTORIC ARCHITECTURE

Stone Age period

WHEN?

PERIOD

- Occurred before invention of written records
- No written record from the prehistoric period

How did we know about it?

- Information is gathered from scientific studies of prehistoric objects
- Many academic disciplines are interested in studying human civilization- archeology, paleontology, anthropology etc
- The disciplines study prehistoric objects
- They provide information about civilizations based on studies

PERIOD

STONE AGE

→ Early Stone Age (or Paleolithic)

Up to 9000 BC

→ New Stone Age (or Neolithic) Stone Age

9000 BC to 3000 BC



PREHISTORIC ARCHITECTURE

Stone Age period

WHERE?

LOCATION

- Not restricted to any particular geographical region
- Occurred in different locations,
- Usually close to sources of food, near rivers



PREHISTORIC ARCHITECTURE

Stone Age period

WHO?

PEOPLE:

SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS & BELIEFS

- Life style differed between the Early Stone Age period and the New Stone Age Period
- Each of the two periods will be examined independently to understand the people and their society

PEOPLE:

SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS & BELIEFS

Early Stone Age

(Before 9000BC)

- ◉ Nomadic, always on move
- ◉ Move about in search of food, water, and good climate
- ◉ Got their food through food gathering, hunting and fishing
- ◉ Usually move about in small bands of less than 15 persons
- ◉ Not much is known about their beliefs

PEOPLE:

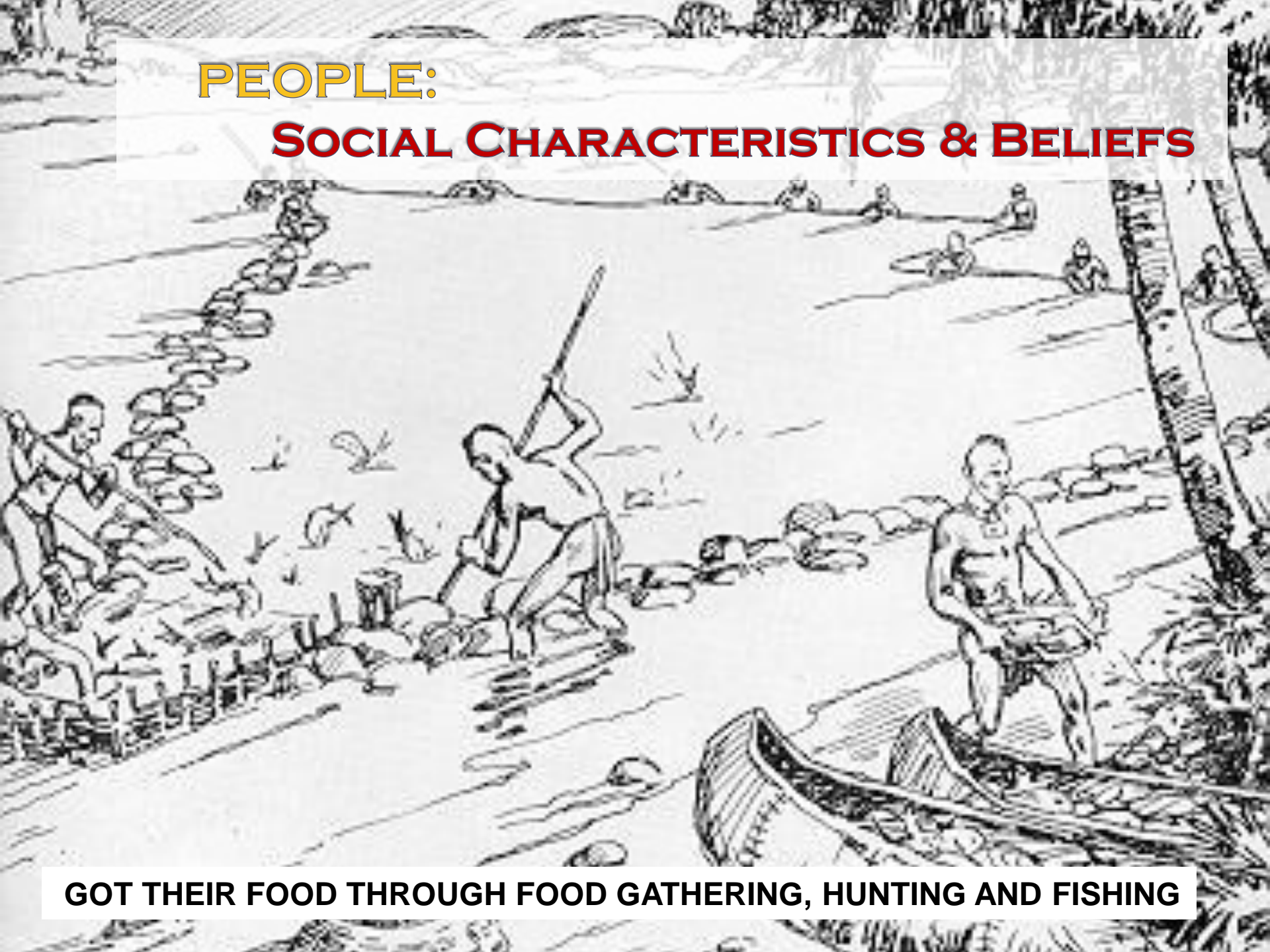
SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS & BELIEFS



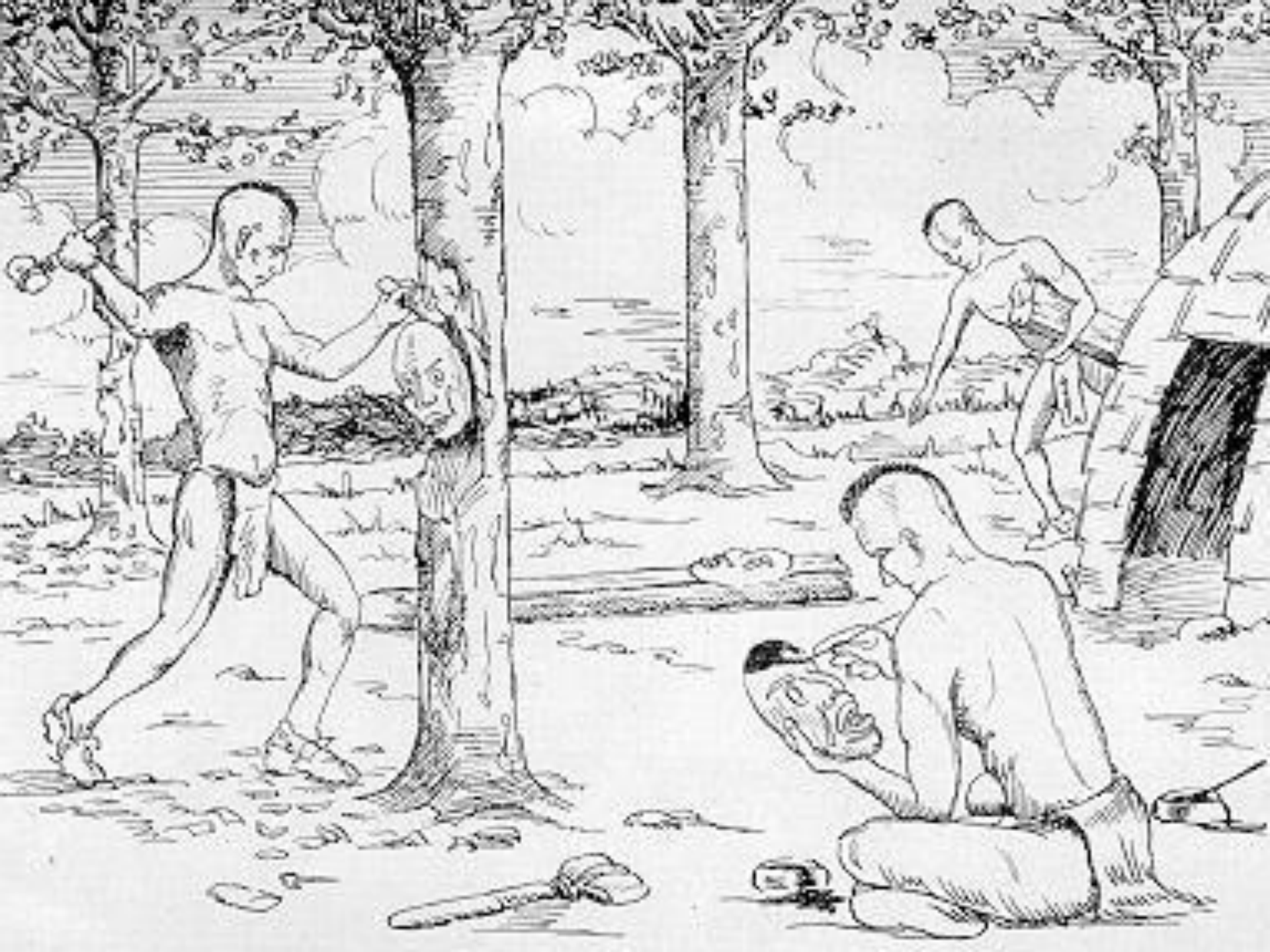
GOT THEIR FOOD THROUGH FOOD GATHERING, HUNTING AND FISHING

PEOPLE:

SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS & BELIEFS



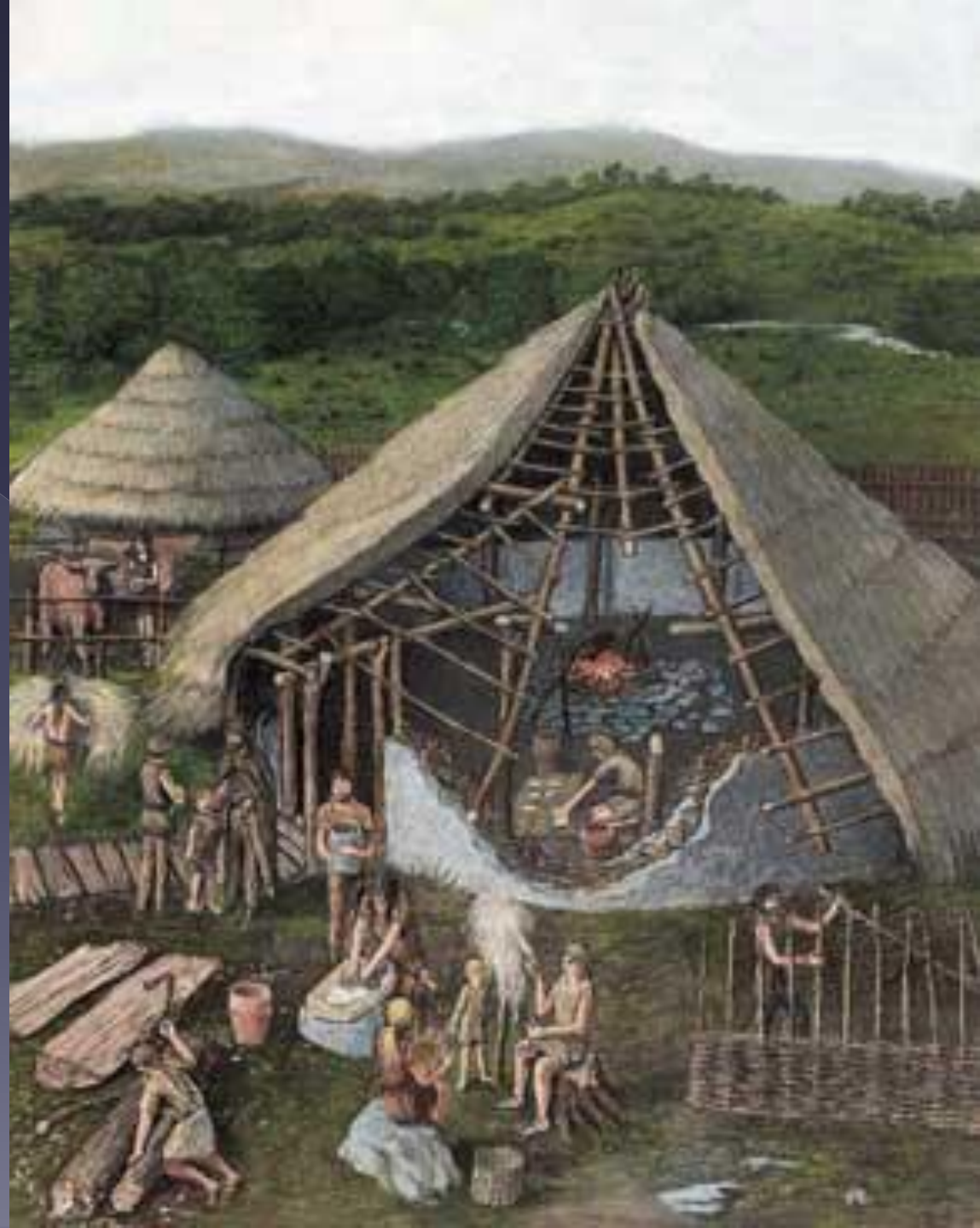
GOT THEIR FOOD THROUGH FOOD GATHERING, HUNTING AND FISHING



New Stone Age

(9000- 3000BC)

- People stopped wandering and settled down in permanent settlements
- Discovered art of farming and animal husbandry
- Period saw interest in natural cycles such as of the sun and moon



New Stone Age

(9000- 3000BC)

- Learnt to domesticate animals, farm and grow crops, make pottery and weave cloth
- Skills were developed, marking start of civilization
- Villages were established and grew, protected by walls
- Introduction of basic social organization of society



New Stone Age

(9000- 3000BC)

- People learnt to differentiate between spaces and places- Sacred versus everyday places
- Architecture was born
- Having fulfilled his basic need, Neolithic man sought to conquer fear of the unknown
- Needed to understand forces of nature that both nourishes and destroys



A large, smooth, rounded stone rests on a sandy beach. The background shows a calm sea and a cloudy sky. The image is partially obscured by a dark blue diagonal overlay on the right side.

ARCHITECTURE OF THE CIVILIZATION

Early Stone Age

Natural examples

Rock Shelter

Cave dwelling

Manmade

Temporary structures of plant and animal materials

ROCK SHELTER



MAN'S FIRST SHELTER

**ANTHROPOLOGY SHOWS US THAT EARLY HUMANS USED ROCK
SHELTERS AS HABITAT.**

ROCK SHELTER

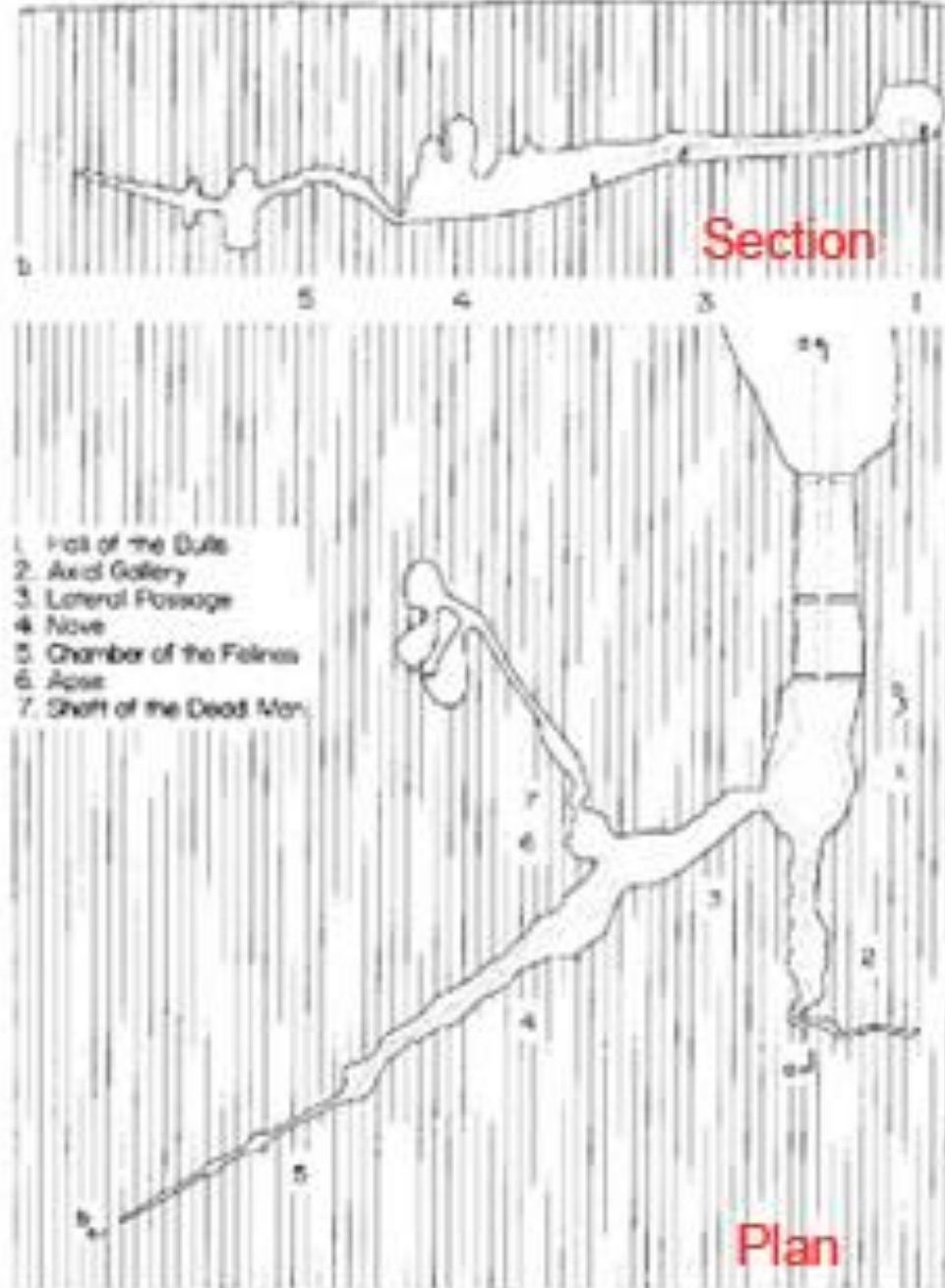


ROCK SHELTER : Provide natural protection



CAVE DWELLING

- Caves were more popular as dwelling
- Caves used by Stone Age people have been found in many regions of the world
- A good example is the cave at Lascaux in France

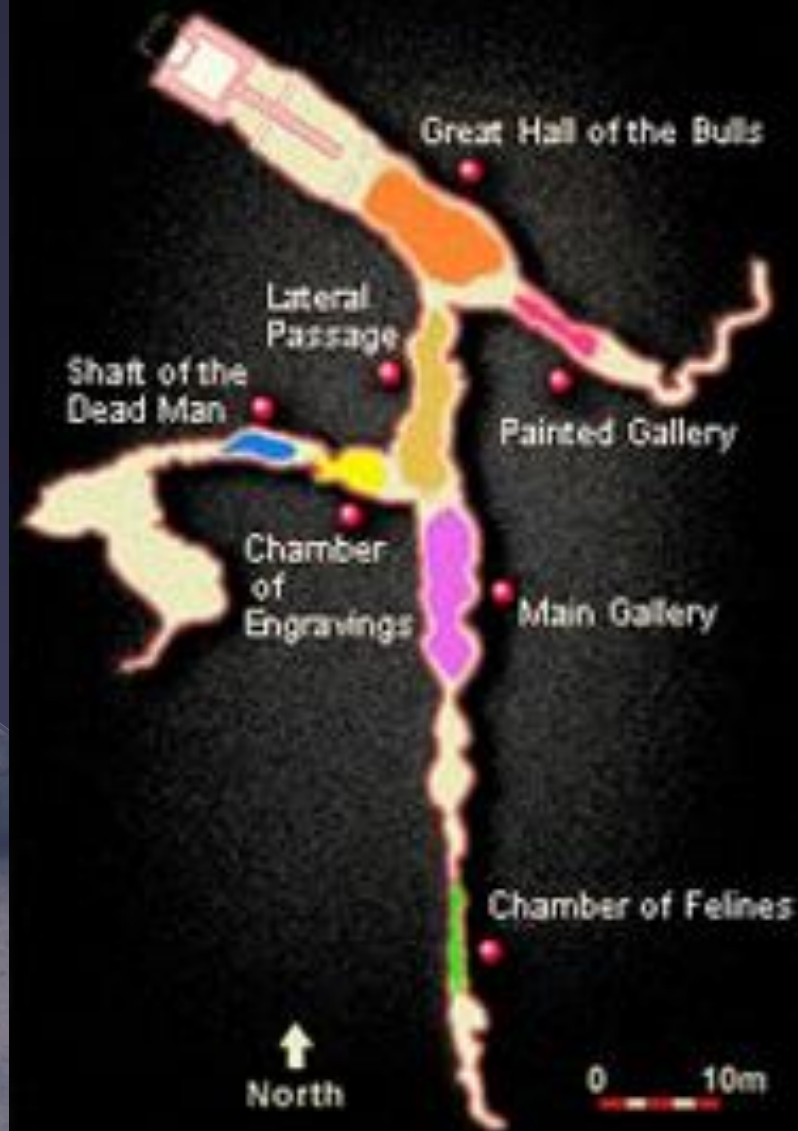


Prehistoric Cave, lascaux - France

Source: Spiro Kostof (1995)

CAVE AT LASCAUX, FRANCE

- Discovered in 1940
- Used by several generation of people
- Entered through one entry to a large hall
- From the hall, cave braches out into other spaces



Cave at Lascaux, France- layout
Source: www.culture.gouv.fr

CAVE AT LASCAUX, FRANCE

- Interior has elaborate paintings of animals and hunting scenes
- The artwork celebrates the hunting life of the early stone age people



CAVE AT LASCAUX, FRANCE



Cave at Lascaux, France - Interior picture
Source: www.culture.gouv.fr



Cave at Lascaux, France - Drawings
Source: www.culture.gouv.fr



Cave at Lascaux, France - Interior
Source: www.culture.gouv.fr

CAVE AT LASCAUX FRANCE



Cave at Lascaux, France
Source: www.culture.gouv.fr



Cave at Lascaux, France - Drawings
Source: www.culture.gouv.fr



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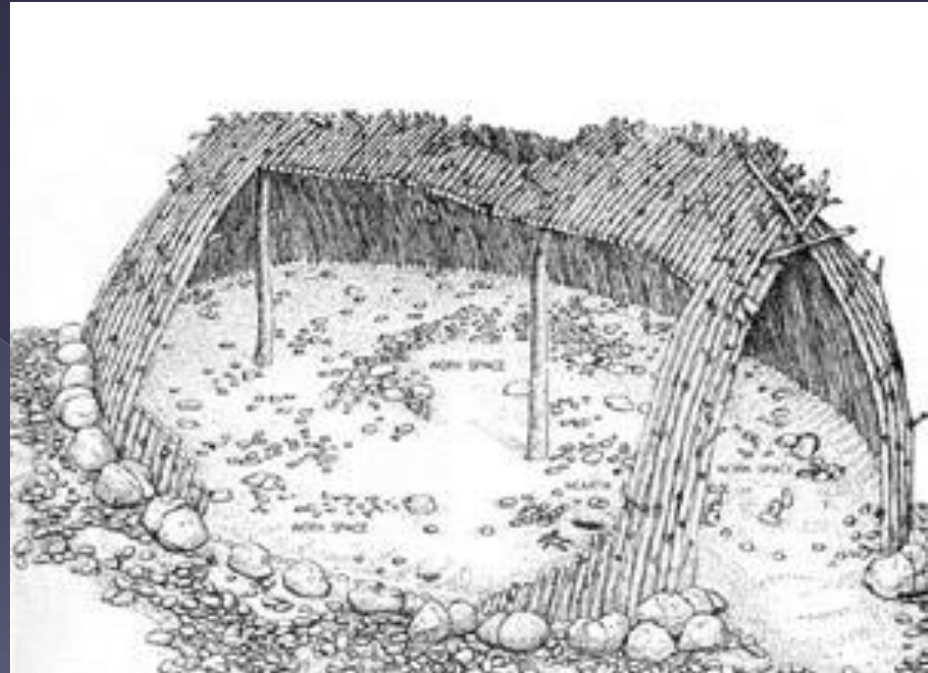


The Hut

TEMPORARY STRUCTURES

The Hut

- Early stone people constructed temporary shelters using available materials
- One of earliest known example discovered in 1966 at Terra Amata in France
- Dates back to 400,000 years
- Oval in shape and constructed of tree branches



Hut at Terra Amata, France



elevation



plan



The Tongus Hut

Temporary Structures

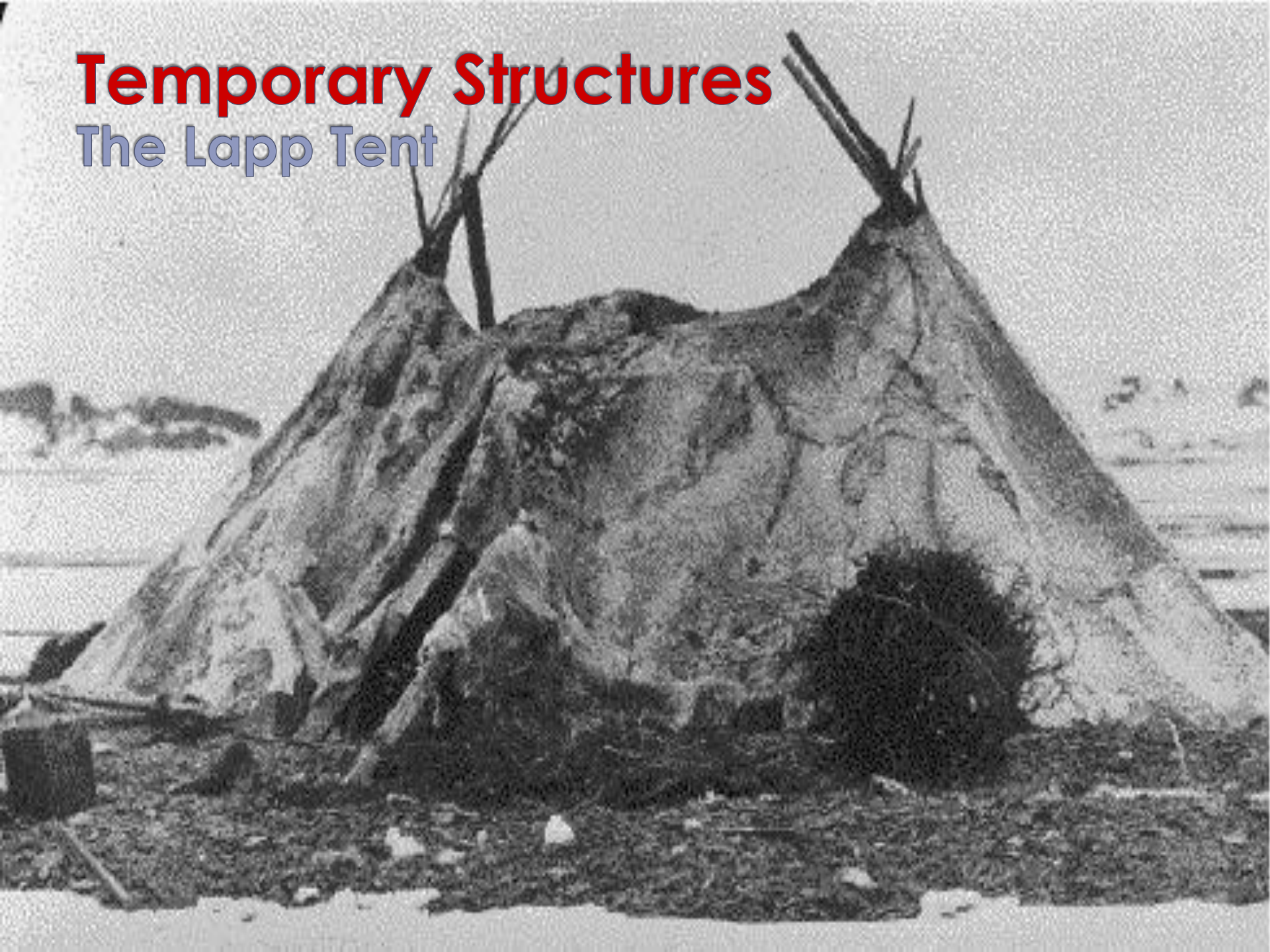
Bambuti Hut



Bambuti Huts

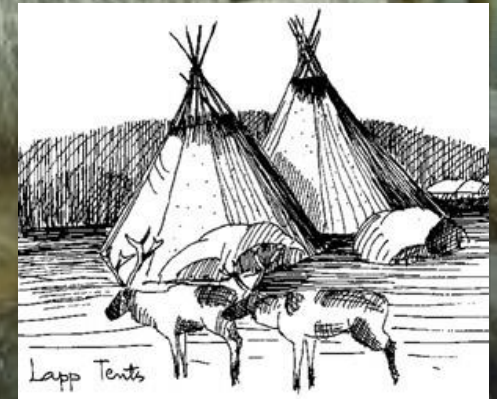
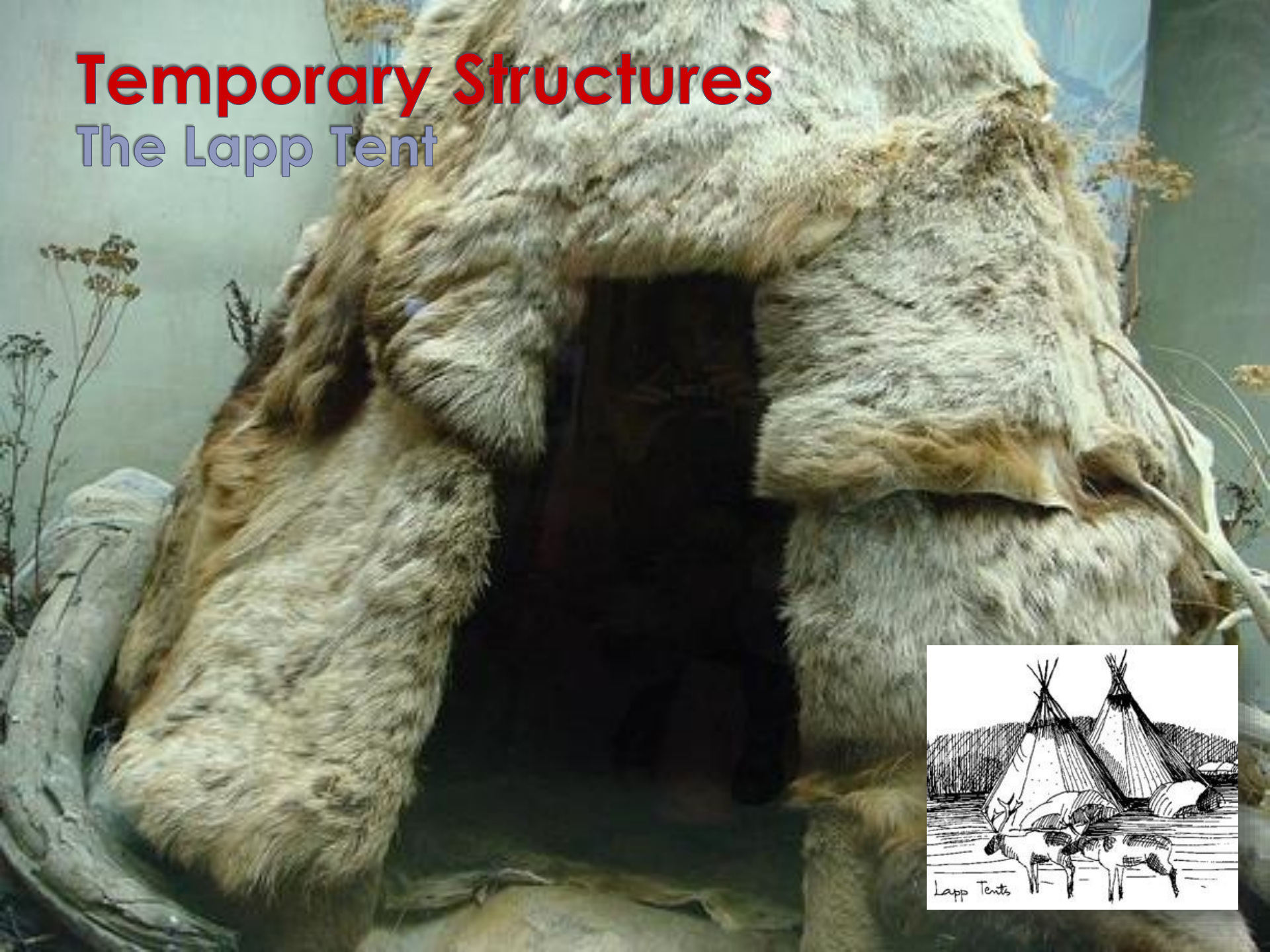
Temporary Structures

The Lapp Tent



Temporary Structures

The Lapp Tent





A large, smooth, dark stone sphere, possibly a megalithic artifact, rests on a sandy beach. The background shows a calm sea and a cloudy sky. The image is partially obscured by a dark blue diagonal overlay on the right side.

ARCHITECTURE OF THE CIVILIZATION

New Stone Age

Neolithic Dwelling and Settlement

Catal Huyuk

Megalithic Monuments

Dolmen Tomb, Carnac France

Stonehenge, England

NEW STONE AGE ARCHITECTURE

- Architecture evolved when early Stone Age man became settled
- Once settled, he learned to build permanent structures
- Early dwellings were round beehive huts
- Mud was popular material, though construction system varied by location and availability of construction materials

NEW STONE AGE ARCHITECTURE

- Round huts evolved to rectangular form around 9000 to 7000 BC
- Early villages were simple with no palaces, rich houses or non-residential buildings
- Once settled Neolithic man sought to satisfy his spiritual needs
- This led to the construction of monuments

NEW STONE AGE ARCHITECTURE

Neolithic Dwelling and Settlement

Catal Huyuk

Megalithic Monuments

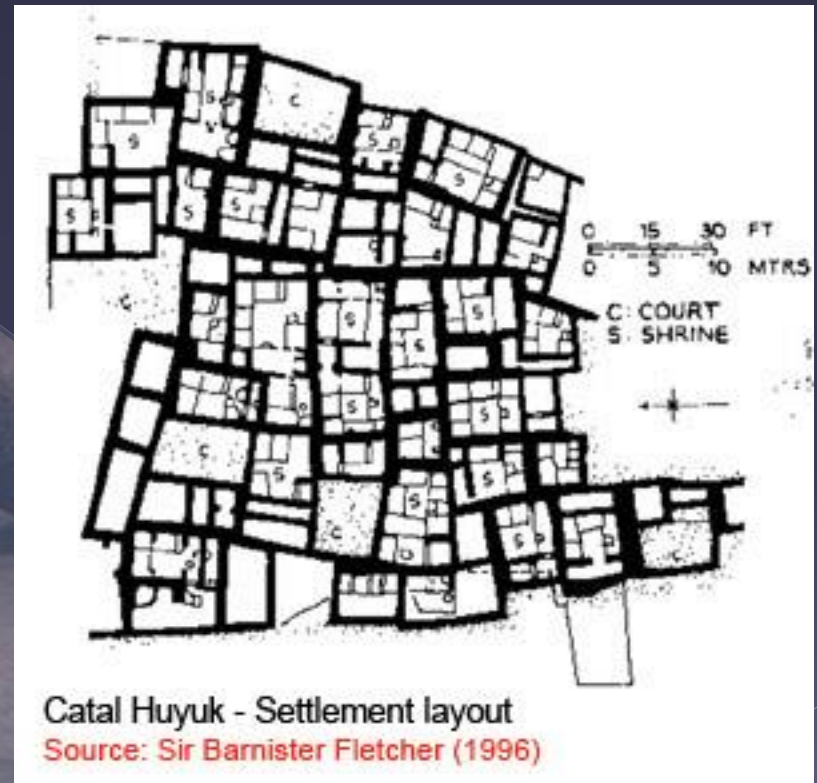
Dolmen Tomb, Carnac France

Stonehenge, England

NEOLITHIC DWELLING & SETTLEMENT

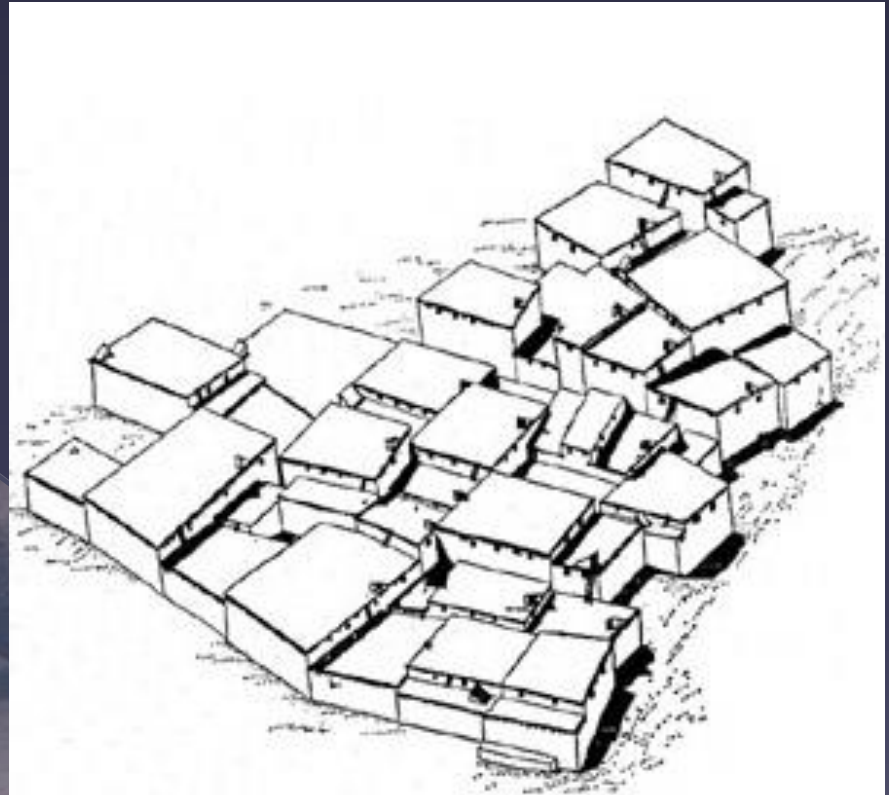
Catal Huyuk

- Neolithic monument in present day Turkey
- Occupied between 6300 BC to 5400 BC
- Supported a population of up to 6000 people
- It was the largest and most cosmopolitan city of its time



Catal Huyuk

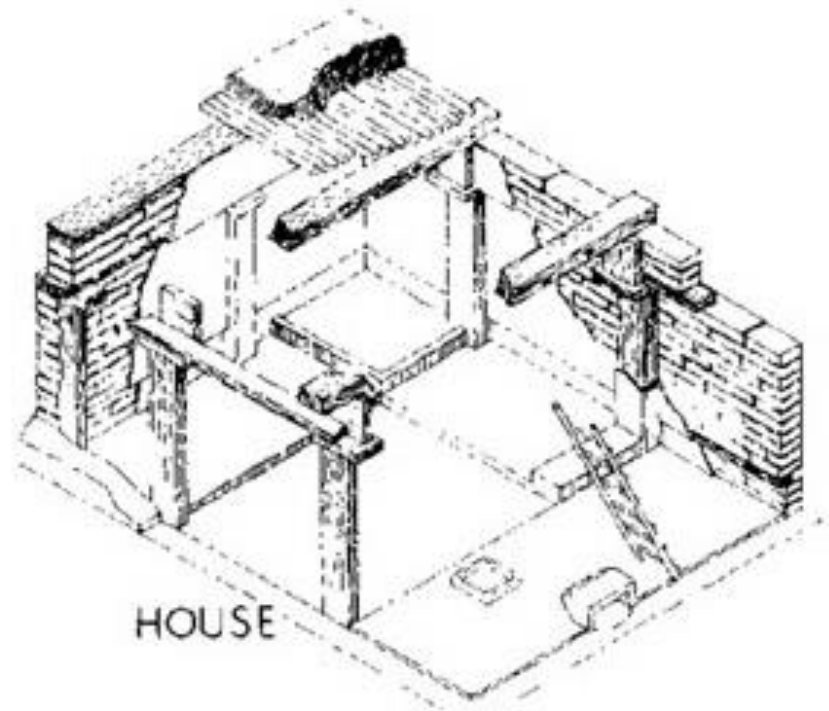
- Houses were of one story mud construction
- No streets in settlement and access to houses was through the roof
- Movement from house to house through the roof



Catal Huyuk - view of settlement
Source: Trachtenberg & Hyman (1986)

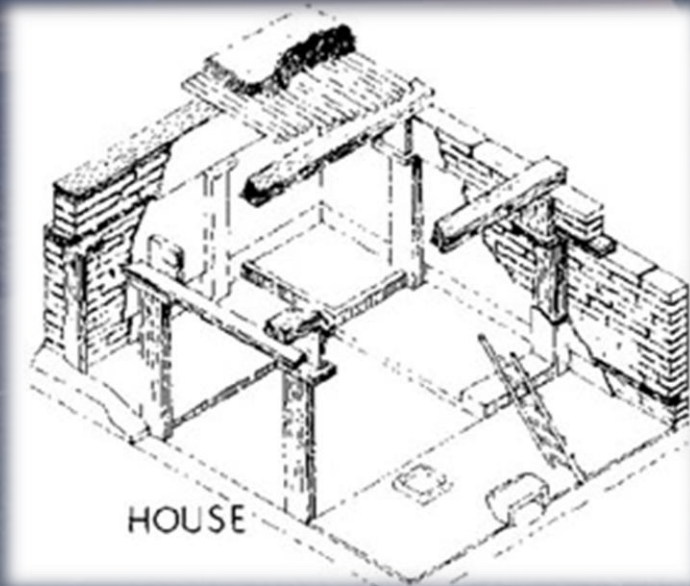
Catal Huyuk

- Houses had main room with in-built clay furniture, fire places and ladder to the roof



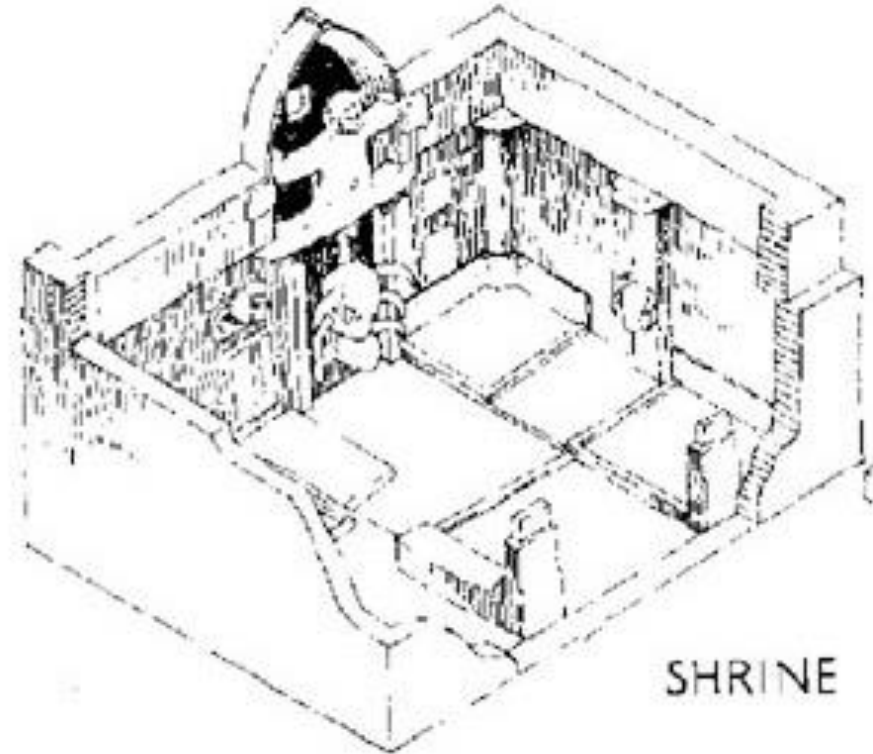
Catal Huyuk

- Houses had main room with:
 - in-built clay furniture
 - fire place
 - ladder to the roof



Catal Huyuk

- Many houses have cult rooms decorated with bull heads



Catal Huyuk - detail of shrine

Source: Sir Barnister Fletcher (1996)

Megalithic Monuments

- Megalithic means large stone
- Categorization of Meg. Monuments
- Tombs – also called Dolmen
- Non funereal structures
 - > Single stones – Menhirs
 - > Stones composed in groups – Henge Monuments

Dolmen Tomb, Carnac France



Dolmen Tomb,

- Dolmen Tomb is a burial structure
- Consist of two upright stones slabs supporting a horizontal cap stone
- All are held together by their weight



Monolith, menhir

- The simplest Megalithic structures were Menhirs.
- A Menhir is a large upright standing stone.
- The word *menhir* was adopted from French by 19th century archaeologists. It is a combination of two words found in the Breton language; *men* (stone), and *hir* (long).



Stonehenge, Salisbury, England

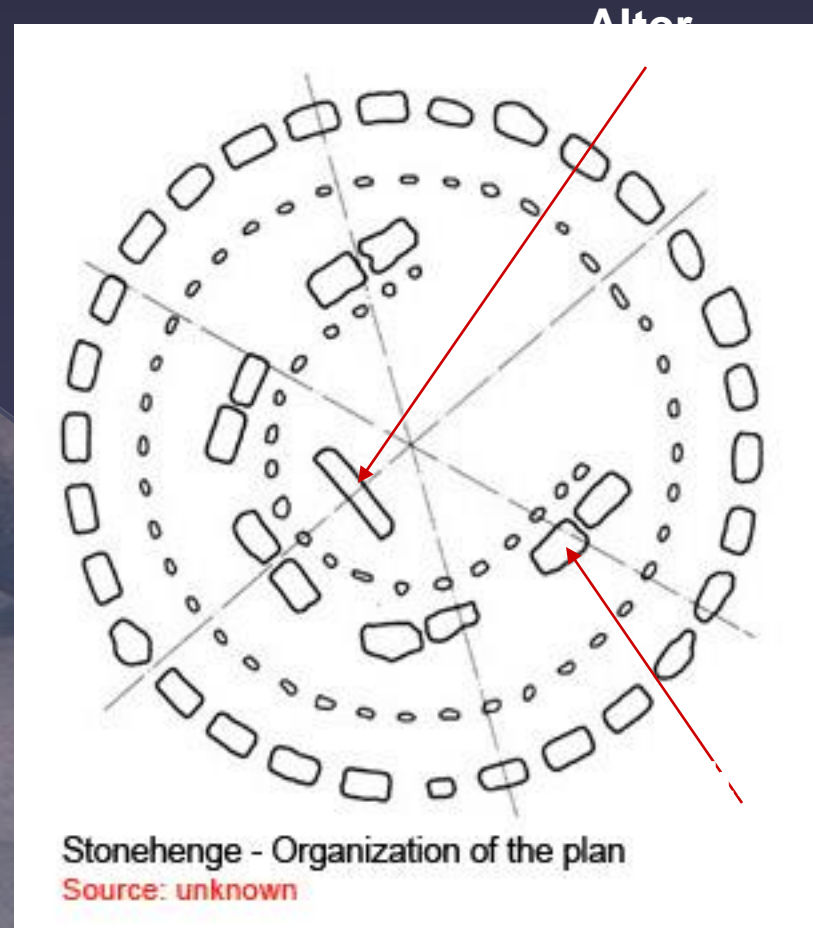
- Neolithic ritual monument located in Salisbury England
- Most celebrated Monument in England
- Most important prehistoric structure in Europe



Stonehenge - view of existing monument
Source: Trachtenberg & Hyman (1986)

Stonehenge, Salisbury, England

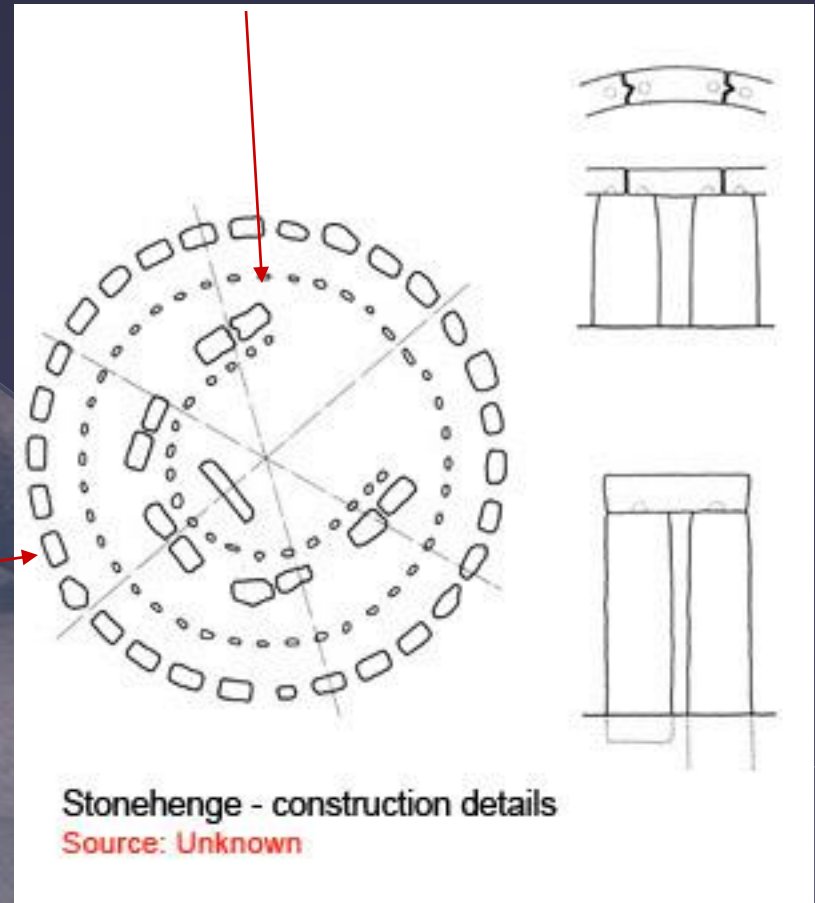
- The plan of Stonehenge is arranged in the form of concentric circles
- At the center is an alter
- Around it five trilithons



Stonehenge, Salisbury, England

- Beyond trilithons a circle of blue stones from Wales, 200km away
- Beyond blue stones, an outer monumental circle of large rectangular blocks capped by continuous lintel

Bluestones



Stonehenge, Salisbury, England

- Beyond the monumental circle are 56 movable marker stones in the Aubrey holes
- The whole monument is isolated from the landscape by a trench
- A long avenue cut through trench to trilithons



Stonehenge - aerial view of monument
Source: Trachtenber & Hyman (1986)



Stonehenge - Organization of the plan
Source: unknown

Stonehenge, Salisbury, England



Stonehenge - view of existing monument
Source: Trachtenberg & Hyman (1986)



Stonehenge, Salisbury England - view
Source: Unknown

Stonehenge, Salisbury, England



Stonehenge, Salisbury England - View

Source: Unknown



Stonehenge - trabeation detail

Source: Trachtenberg & Hyman

Stonehenge - Function

- The Stonehenge appears to be a sacred place
- The actual function of the structure is still not clear



Stonehenge - view of monument

Source: unknown

Stonehenge - Function

- There are two viable theories:
 - > Structure mirrors cosmic eye of lunar goddess and outer circle is an elevated walkway for rituals
 - > An Astronomical computer for the prediction of the eclipse of the sun and moon
- Whatever the case, function is in someway connected with the cosmos

Stonehenge - Uniqueness

- ◉ Why is the Stonehenge a remarkable monument?
- ◉ Three possible reasons:
 - > It was not constructed to meet any practical need of the people
 - > The level of accuracy in its construction
 - > The uniqueness of its geometry and form