

EXPLORING THE EARLY NEOLITHIC WORLD

The New Stone Age (Neolithic) began between twelve thousand and ten thousand years ago as the glaciers retreated during the last ice age. At this time, humans supported themselves by hunting and gathering as they had for thousands of years. During the Neolithic era the hunter-gatherer way of life changed from a nomadic existence to settlement in villages and supported by farming. This is called the Neolithic Revolution and is considered a major turning point in human history. Participants are invited to explore their world's past.

We will endeavor to get a glimpse of the cultural expressions and character of life for the people of the Neolithic age. Together, we will consider the art, living arrangements, food, cooking methods, and treatment of the dead in this very past world.

Included in the selected sites are:

Gobekli Tepe in southeastern Anatolia (Turkey). Erected 6000 years before Stonehenge and 7000 years before the pyramids of Egypt, this is considered the earliest religious temple ever constructed.

Catalhoyuk in Turkey, a proto-city of an estimated 8000 to 10,000 people founded by the pioneers of urban dwellers living 9000 years ago. It is a unique streetless settlement of houses clustered back-to-back with roof access to buildings.

Skara Brae and the Ness of Brodgar on the Orkney Islands of Scotland. Skara Brae is considered one of the most perfectly preserved Neolithic villages in Europe. The Ness of Brodgar is one of the largest concentrations of Neolithic buildings in Atlantic Europe, many with the interiors intact.

The class will be a blend of lectures with slides and videos and discussion. The instructor will provide supplemental readings.

LEADER: Kay Widmer has taught the courses "The History and Mystery of Paleolithic Art" and "The Forest for the Trees" (on research on tree communications).

FORMAT: Virtual

MAXIMUM: 30

TUESDAYS 10:00 a.m. to noon 6 sessions starting September 27th through November 1st