

Neolithic, Iron and Bronze Ages

Mr. D

Studio Art Week 2

Paleolithic

- Last week we looked at Paleolithic, or “early stone-age” artists who decorated the caves of Lascaux in France and Altamira in Spain.
- Before moving on to the Neolithic, or “new stone-age” let’s examine one more prehistoric object
 - Prehistoric means before history i.e. before the written word

Venus of Willendorf



Venus of Willendorf

- About 25,000 years old
- One of many Venus figures (named after the Roman goddess of love)
- Only female figures or figurines from that time period
- In all likelihood some kind of fertility figure

<https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/prehistoric-art/paleolithic-art/v/nude-woman-venus-of-willendorf-c-28-000-25-000-b-c-e>

Agriculture Began 10,000 Years Ago



The Greeks called this area Mesopotamia, which means "between the rivers."

- Very little rain falls there, but water and nutrients from the river soak into the land, creating an environment filled with plants and the animals that feed on the vegetation.

The Nile flood plain in Egypt was similarly fertile

How Agriculture Spread from 10,000 to 5,000 Years Ago



Why Agriculture Mattered

- As mankind evolved from hunters/gatherers to agricultural societies, larger groups of people began to live together giving rise to...
 - Cities
 - Stratified societies with assigned roles
 - leaders and workers
 - Organized Religion

STONEHENGE!

England



- Neolithic era's greatest monument
- Begun about 5,000 years ago (3,000 BC)
- Construction continued for about 1,500 years
- Largest stones are 30 feet tall and weigh 25 tons
- Some stones transported over 100 miles

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ulpQqzO2EFA>

From Stone to Copper, Bronze and Iron

- Metal Ages began around 6,000 years ago
 - Copper: 4,300 - 3,200 BC
 - Bronze: 3,300 - 1,300 BC
 - Iron: 1,300 – 900 BC
- Man's ability to harness fire allowed him to melt (or smelt) metals
- The hotter the fire, the stronger, sharper and more durable the weapon or implement

Copper Age Art



Bronze Age Art



Iron Age Art

