

The Neolithic Revolution Notes

Palaeolithic People

- Palaeolithic people were hunters
- Lived in Eastern Africa
- Palaeolithic hunted small groups and followed the food
 - Woolly mammoth= Wal-Mart
- Nomadic (Nomads): move around and hunt

Neolithic People

- Neolithic people were sedentary
 - **Sedentary**: stay in one place and farm
 - Neolithic people started living in permanent houses around 8000 BCE (Before Common Era)
 - Humans engage in agriculture (farming) on fertile land (land that is good for planting)
 - Humans started planting things and breeding animals

Change From Nomadic to Sedentary

Hypothesis: means educated guess

First Hypothesis For How Humans Started Farming

- Neolithic people saw seeds fall and create new plants
- Farming happened first, then they stayed in one place (Sedentarization).

Second Hypothesis For How Humans Started Farming

- Glaciers melted and water was every where.
- The water helped plants and animals grow.
- Humans move to where the food is and settle.
- They noticed that new plants grew where seeds were left.

The First Villages

- Nomadic and Sedentary people lived at the same time
- Mallaha (10,000 BCE-8000 BCE)
 - Located in the Jordan Valley near Israel
 - Permanent stone houses
 - Didn't eat a lot of grains
 - Hunted boar, gazelle, and deer
 - Axes, stone grinders, rubbing stones, flints and fireplaces.
- Mureybet (8000 BCE)
 - Located in Syria in the Euphrates Valley
 - Many generations of people lived in the village
 - People lived in round houses then rectangular houses
 - They start farming (agriculture)

New Tools Used

- Hoe: used to turn the soil so that it's ready for farming
- Sickle: used to cut wheat.
- Grinder: place to put the grain to grind
- Rubbing stone: used to crush grain to make bread
- Basketry: baskets made to store and transport grain.

How Land Was Organized

- Neolithic people had high walls made of stone
- Catal Huyuk was larger
 - Lived near their fields

- Located in Turkey
- Population of about 7000 people
- Lived in square or rectangular houses
- Painted the walls with animals and hunting scenes
- Statue of Mother Goddess to show fertility and reproduction.

Division of Labor

- Food surplus = extra food, so the population grew.
- Less farming, but new jobs
- Men and women do different jobs
- Basket, weave, make tools out of metal, pottery, and war.
- Not just farmers, people have new jobs

Trade

- Extra food leads to people trading that food for goods.
- Trade grain for tools or trade milk for containers
- Trade happens within villages or between villages

Political Power

- In hunter gatherers group, the best hunter makes the decisions.
- Neolithic farmers had to clear land, prepare the soil, irrigate the land (bring in water), and harvest.
- Two ways that villages organized
 - Single boss who makes the decisions, but is advised
 - Village community: is where the village meets to make decisions
- **Social Hierarchy:** order of society from most to least important
 - Skilled workers, trades people, soldiers, and peasants was the hierarchy of the Neolithic period.