

PALEOLITHIC/NEOLITHIC REVOLUTION

CHARACTERISTICS OF PALEOLITHIC SOCIETY

Control of Fire

- Advantages
 - Light
 - Heat
 - Protection



Society

Kinship Groups

- 20-40 people
- Self-sufficient

Clans

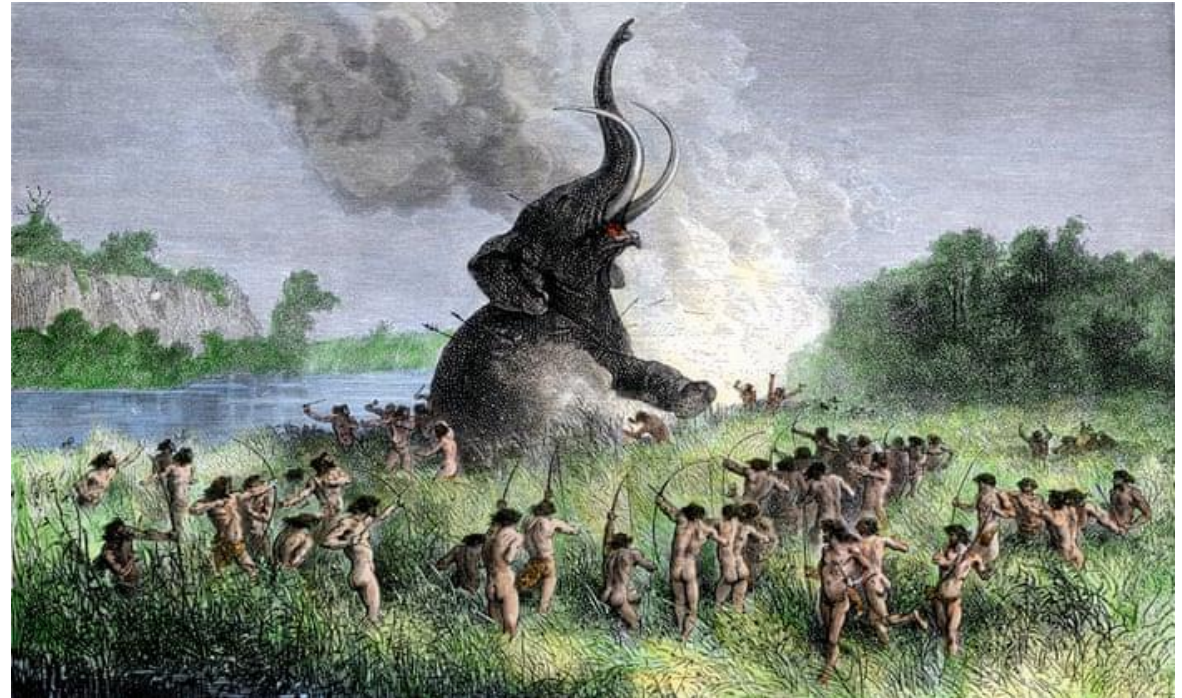
- Multiple kinship groups

Tribes

- Multiple clans
- Group hunting/defense

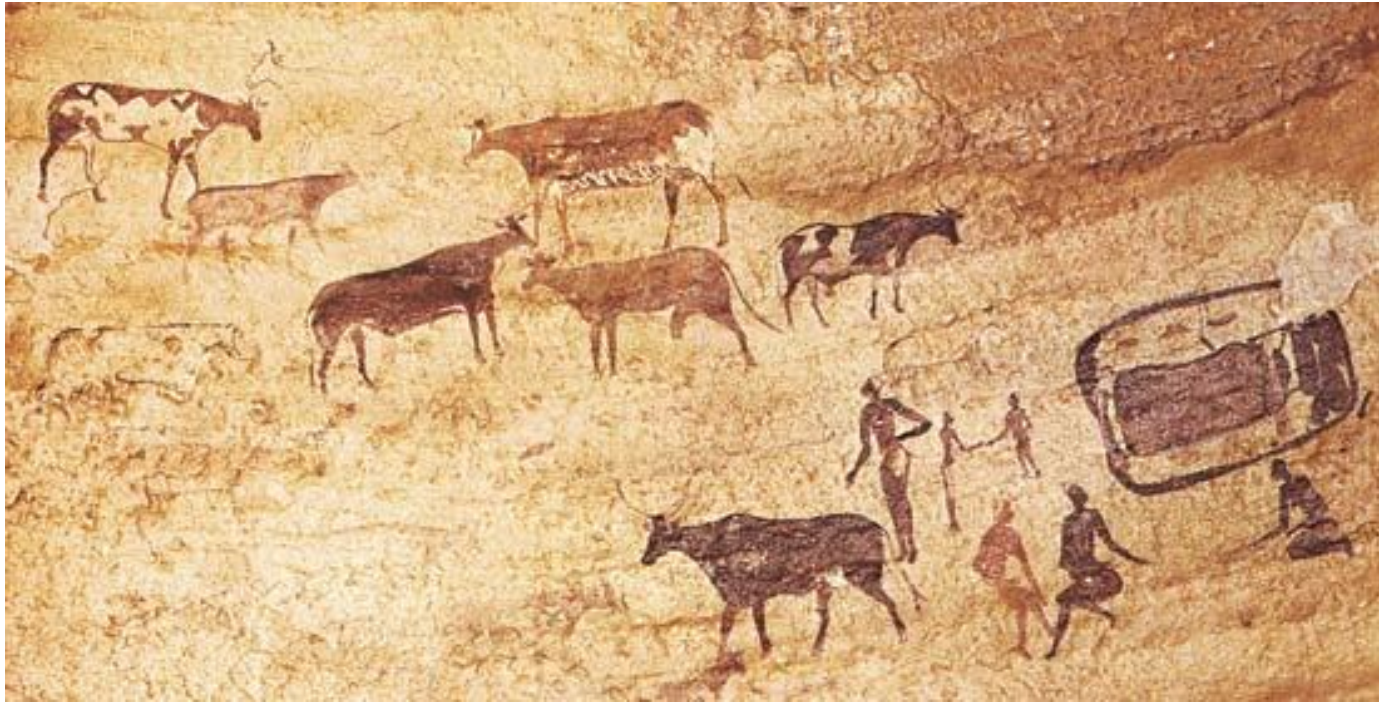
Societal Roles

- Egalitarian but patriarchal
 - men – hunting, warfare, heavy labor
 - Women – gathered and prepared food, raised children



Religion and Art

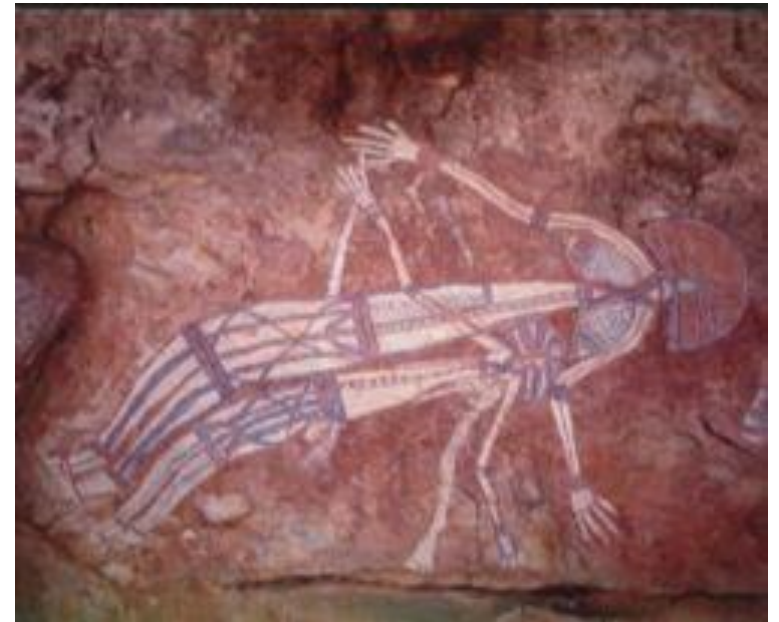
- Animism
 - Polytheistic
 - gods associated with the forces of nature











NEOLITHIC REVOLUTION

Overview

- cultivation of plants, domestication of animals
- Keys:
 - 1. **changing** nature
 - 2. more from less



Origins

- 8000 BCE
- Locations
 - Mesopotamia
 - Nile River Valley
 - Sub-Saharan Africa
 - Indus River Valley
 - Yellow (Huang He) River Valley



Causes

- spread of seeds and desirable plants
 - at first accidental, then deliberate
- need for more diverse food supply
 - due to growing population

Characteristics

- Domestication of Plants
 - in areas with rich soil and abundant water
 - horticulture (hand tools)



- Domestication of Animals

- “beasts of burden”
 - protection
 - food
 - help with hunting

