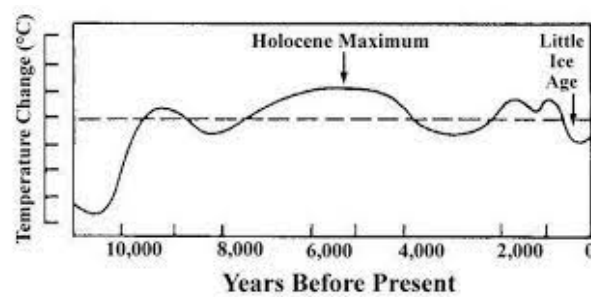


The First Agricultural Societies (of the Near East) (and Complex Hunter-Gatherer-Fishers)

1

The Middle Archaic Period The “Shell Mound” Archaic of the Mid-Holocene Climatic Optimum

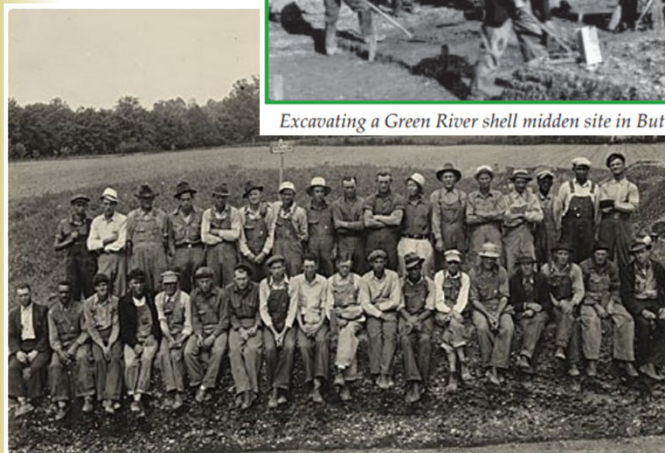


2

Shell mounds Mid-Archaic, Interior SE US rivers



Excavating a Green River shell midden site in Butler County during the Depression.



Out of work laborers,
put to work by the
WPA program during
the Great Depression
of the 1930s

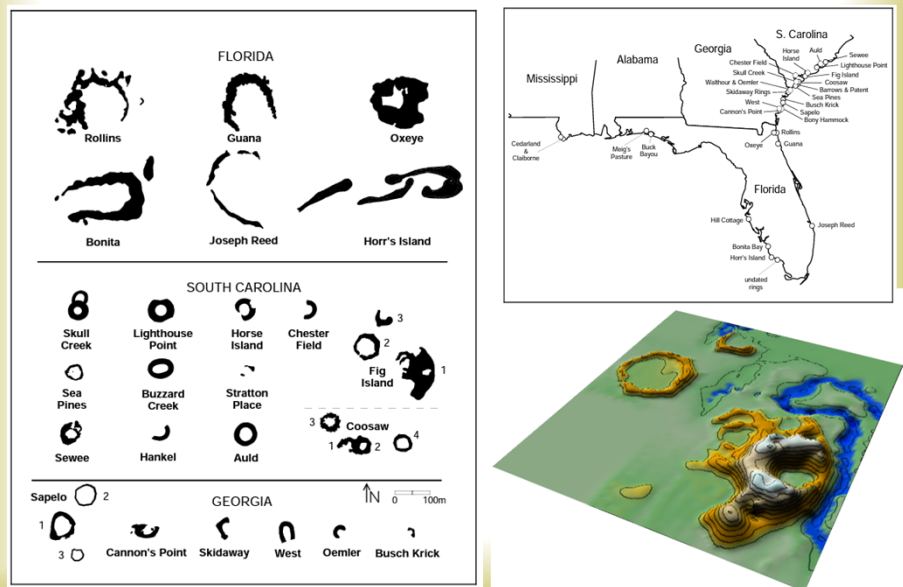
3



Geoarchaeologist, Dr. Julie Stein,
studying stratigraphy of a Green River
Shell midden-mound

4

Late Archaic South Atlantic Coast (US) Shell Rings



5

THE ARCHAEO-ETHNOLOGY OF HUNTER-GATHERERS OR THE TYRANNY OF THE ETHNOGRAPHIC RECORD IN ARCHAEOLOGY

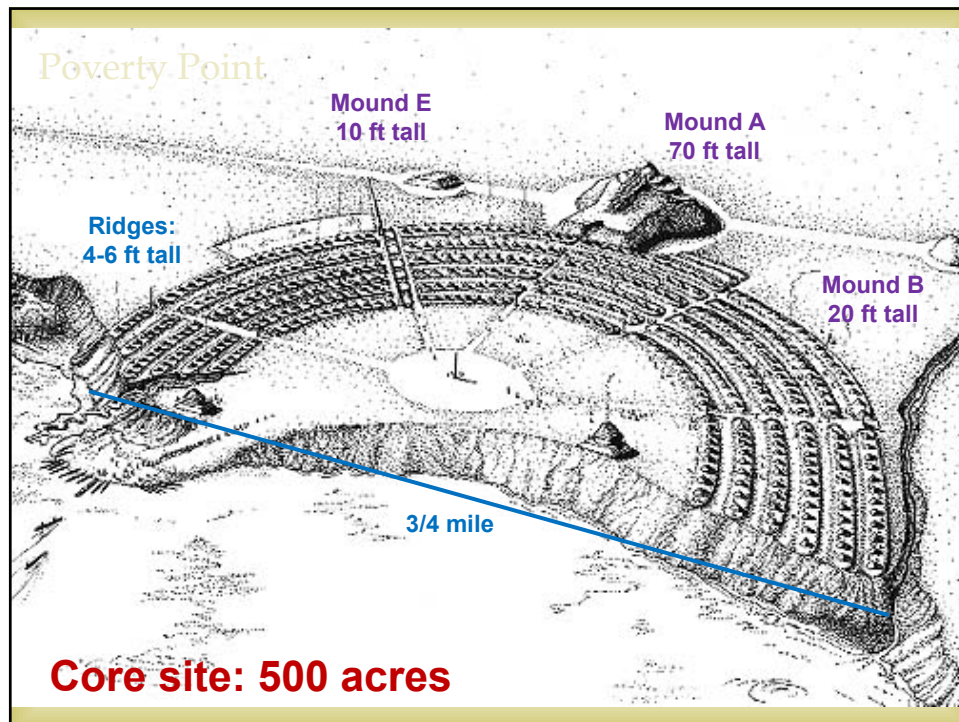
H. MARTIN WOBST

The "Tyranny" of the Ethnographic Record What are we not seeing amongst recent H-Gs?



Holocene era (Late Archaic) Poverty Point site, Louisiana, USA

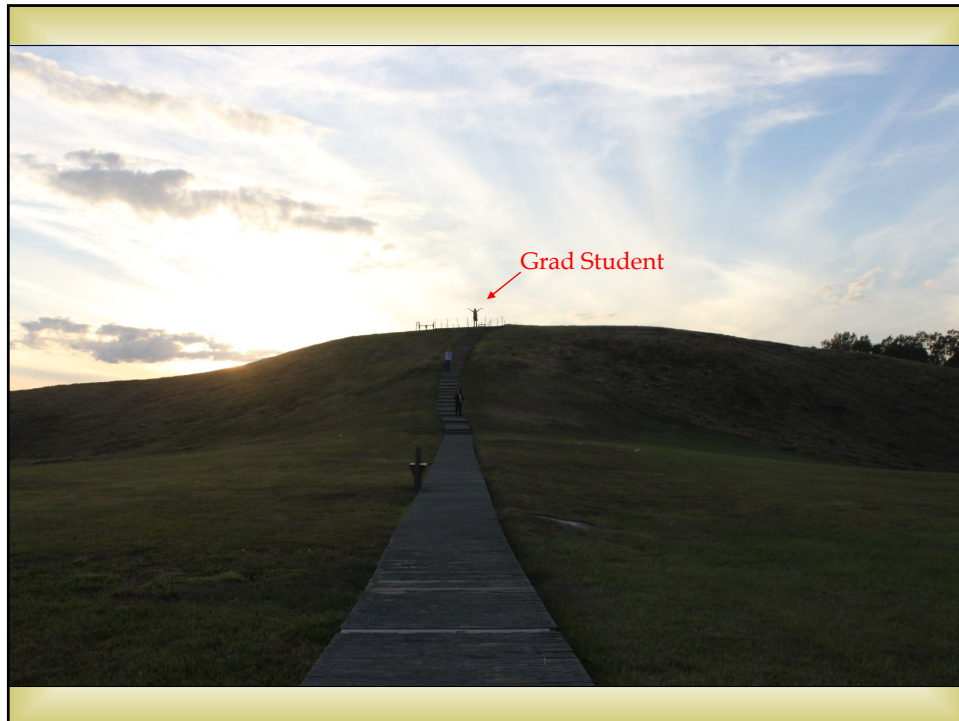
6



7



8

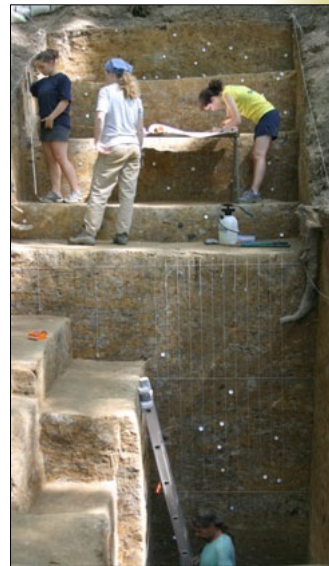


9

Mound A, Poverty Point



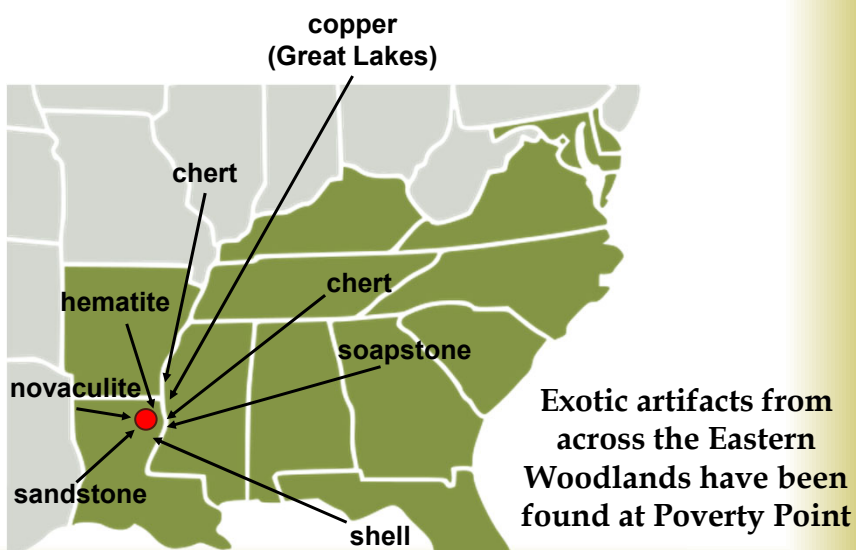
Evidence suggests that the final mound was built in a single season of one year



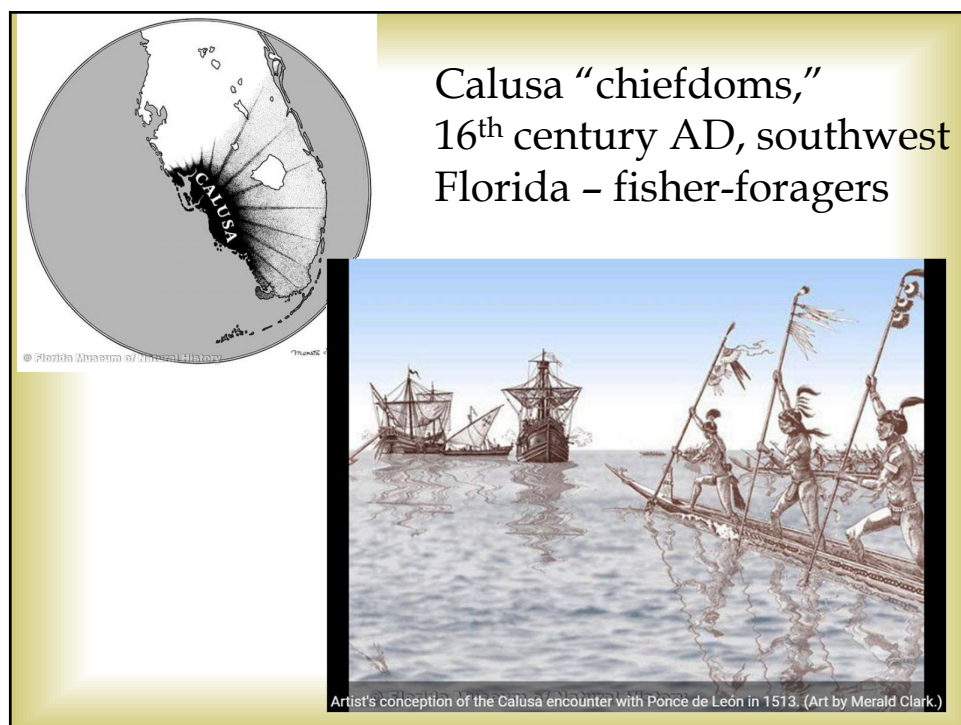
Anthropological Archaeologists from Washington University-St. Louis

10

Gathering at Poverty Point

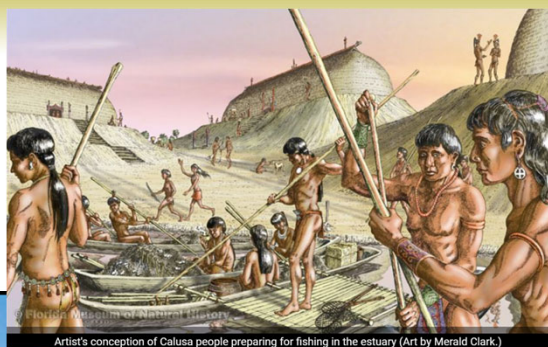


11



12

Calusa "chiefdoms,"
16th century AD,
southwest
Florida –
fisher-foragers



Artist's conception of Calusa people preparing for fishing in the estuary (Art by Merald Clark.)



Artist's conception of the Calusa king's house in 1566 (Art by Merald Clark.)

13

Northwest Pacific
Coast, British
Columbia,
Canada



Watercolor of "Potlatch"
Competitive feasts, by First
Nations member Gordon Miller



1878 photograph of houses, totems,
canoes

14

The Neolithic Transition in the Near East:



From foraging to
domestication and
farming

The "Fertile Crescent"
in the Near East

15

Food resources (main Near Eastern founder crops):

Cereals (annual grasses cultivated for grains)

Emmer Wheat
Triticum turgidum



Einkorn Wheat
Triticum monococcum



16

Food resources (main Near Eastern founder crops):

Cereals (annual grasses cultivated for grains)

Barley
Hordeum vulgare



Rye
Secale cereale



17

Food resources (main Near Eastern founder crops):

Pulses (annual legumes cultivated for seeds)

Pea
Pisum sativum



Lentil
Lens culinaris



Chickpea
Cicer sp.



18

TIMELINE Southwest Asia—From Mobile Foraging to Settled Farming

Years BCE: 20,000, 19,000, 18,000, 17,000, 16,000, 15,000, 14,000, 13,000, 12,000, 11,000, 10,000, 9,000, 8,000, 7,000, 6,000

Periods: Epipaleolithic, Aceramic Neolithic, Ceramic Neolithic

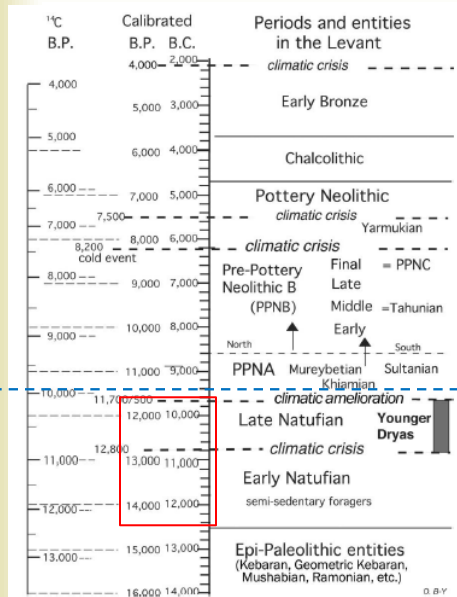
People: Hunter-Gatherers, Natufian, El Wad, Eynan, Jericho, 'Ain Ghazal, Abu Hureyra, Akrotiri-Aetokremmos, Jerf el Ahmar, Cayonu Tepesi, Gubekli Tepe, Catalhöyük

Sites: Ohalo II, Kharanah IV

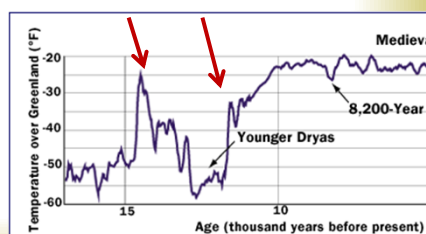
Events: Last Glacial Maximum, Younger Dryas, Burial within the settlement and retrieval of skulls, Harvesting and storing of cereals and pulses begins, Broad-spectrum hunting and fishing begins, Communal buildings, Skull curation and caching, Copper tools

Occasional occurrence: (indicated by vertical dashed lines)

Natufian

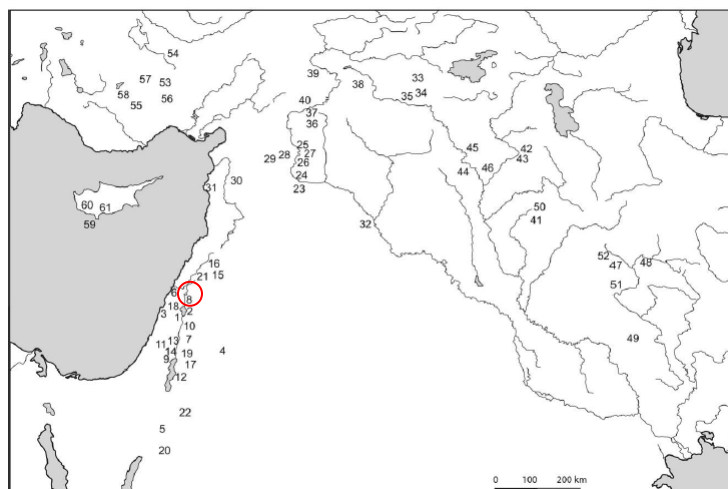


- More & larger (up to 5x) sites
- Population increases, especially during early Natufian prior to Younger Dryas
- Substantial increase in burials
- Increased exploitation of **wild** cereals and storage pits



21

Natufian: Ain Mallaha archaeological site



22

Natufian: Ain Mallaha
One of the earliest villages in the world !



- Round houses, with stone foundations
- Formal hearths
- up to 200-300 residents



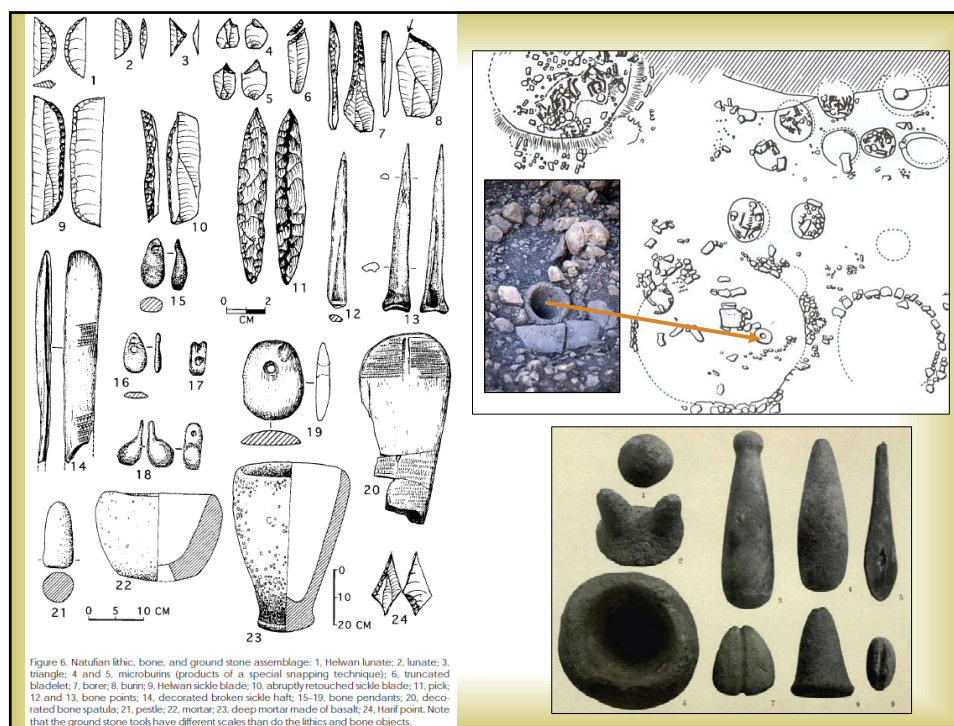
23

Natufian: Ain Mallaha
One of the earliest villages in the world !

- Burials placed in floors of houses
- Appearance of collective burials (growth of corporate social groups? expression of new forms of "community" membership?)

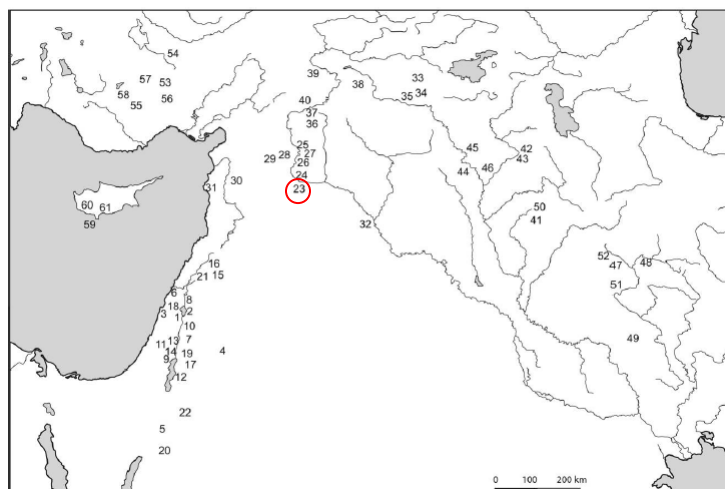


24



25

Natufian→Neolithic: Tell Abu Hureyra archaeological site

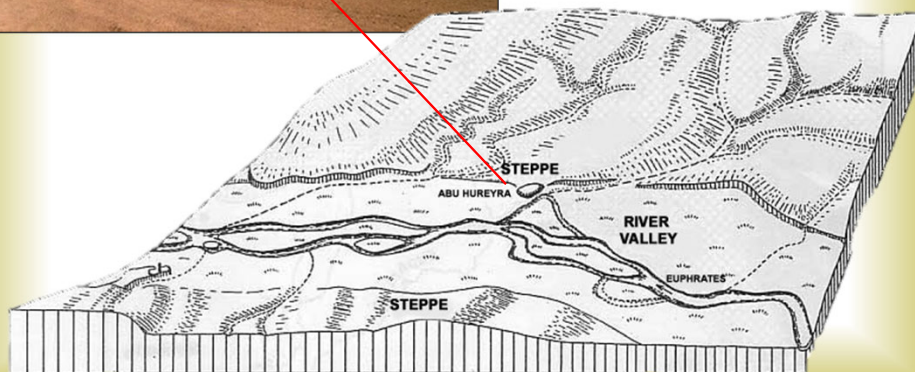


26

Natufian→Neolithic: Tell Abu Hureyra

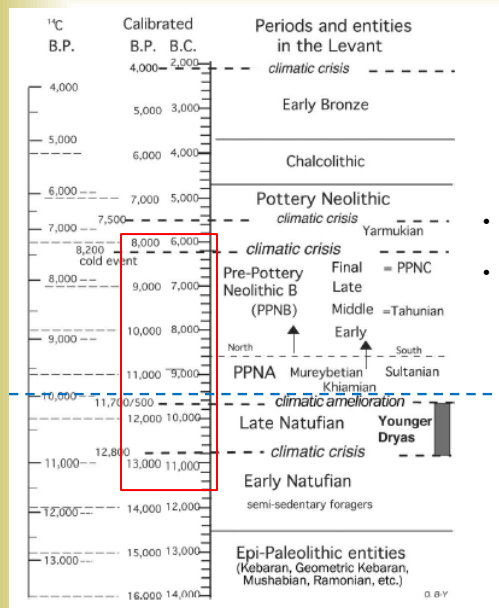


Stratified **tell**: mound composed on mud bricks and refuse, accumulating over generations as buildings are built, demolished, rebuilt, etc., thus mounding up over centuries and millenia

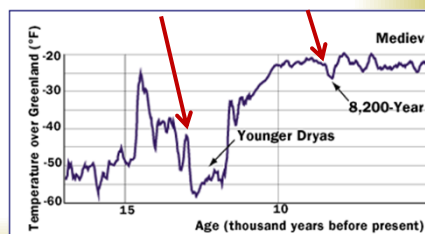


27

Natufian→Neolithic: Abu Hureyra



- Long-occupied site, Natufian → Neolithic
- Picture of changes as groups became farmers



28

Stratified tells, and tell excavations: Note – these pics are not of Abu Hureyra



Tell Nebi Mend, Syria



29

Natufian→Neolithic: Abu Hureyra

Radiocarbon dates

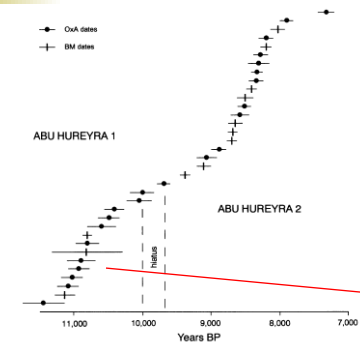


Fig. 2. The Oxford AMS and British Museum conventional ^{14}C dates for Abu Hureyra. Note that the hiatus between Abu Hureyra 1 and 2 was of brief duration. See also Table 1 for a list of the dates.

years BP	periods	economy	the villages
7,000			
7,300	2C	mixed farming cereals, pulses, sheep, goats, pottery	7 ha mudbrick houses, open spaces
	2B	cereal and pulse cultivation, sheep and goat husbandry	15.5 ha clustered mudbrick houses
8,300			
	2A	cereal and pulse cultivation, gazelle hunting	8 ha clustered mudbrick houses
9,700			
10,000	hiatus		
10,400	1C	climate change	timber and reed huts
	1B	plant gathering, gazelle hunting	
11,000			
	1A		pit dwellings
11,500			

Fig. 3. The sequence of occupation at Abu Hureyra and the characteristics of the successive periods

Gathering & possibly cultivation of "wild" plants, hunting of wild animals like gazelle

30

Natufian → Neolithic: Abu Hureyra

Radiocarbon dates

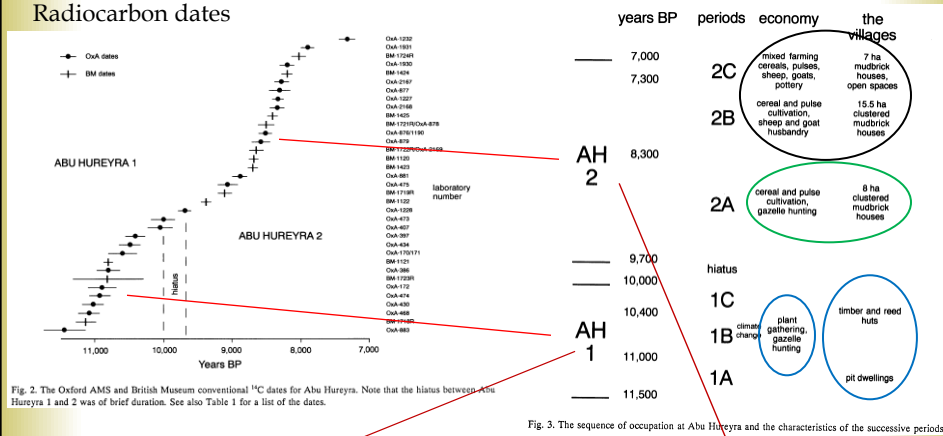


Fig. 3. The sequence of occupation at Abu Hureyra and the characteristics of the successive periods

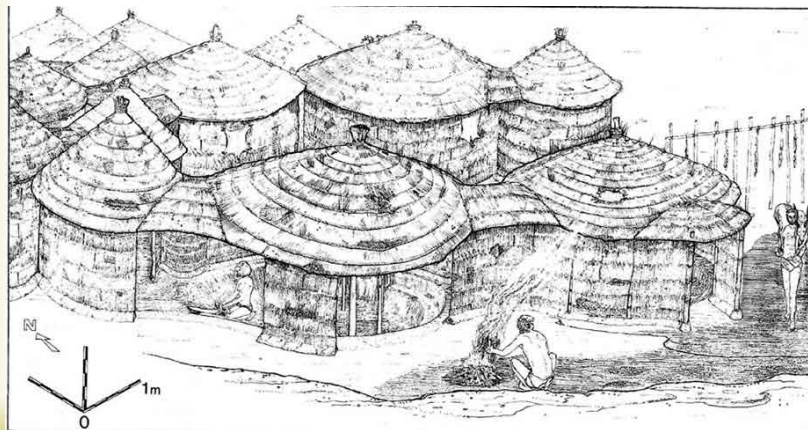
Gathering & possibly cultivation of “wild” plants, hunting of wild animals like gazelle

Farming of domesticated plants, later herding of sheep & goats, then pigs and cattle

31

Abu Hureyra 1 (early - Natufian)

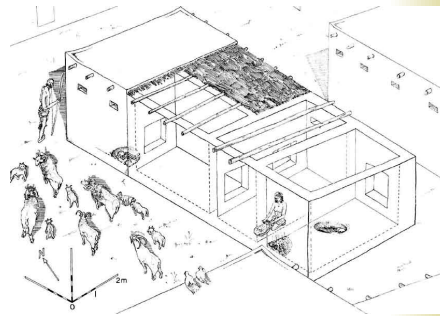
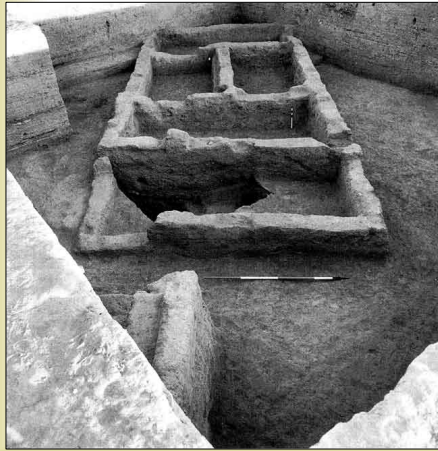
- Circular huts, like Ain Mallaha
- Small village, 100-200 people
- 1,500 year occupation – very long for Natufian village
- Mainly hunting and gathering of **wild** plants & animals



32

Abu Hureyra 2 (late – start of Holocene/Neolithic)

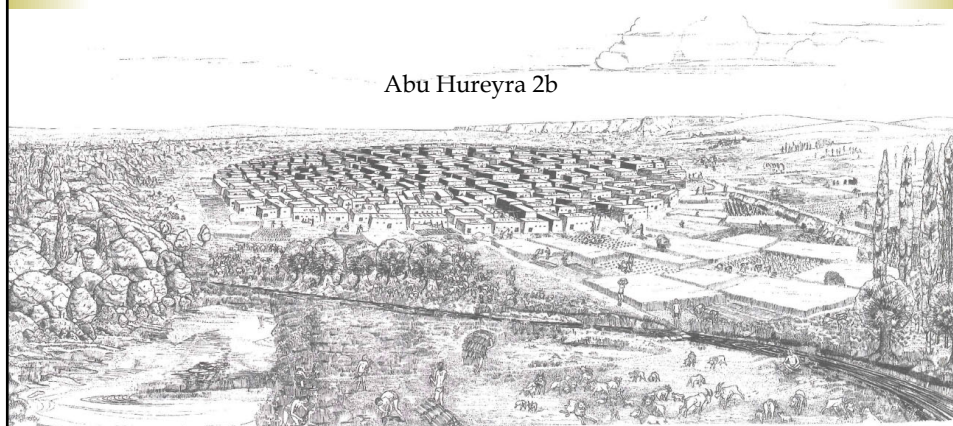
- Shift from circular to rectangular houses (also seen at other contemporary sites) which could be easily expanded and enlarged (curiously, this pattern is usually seen all over the world when farming villages develop)



33

Abu Hureyra 2 (Neolithic)

- Abu Hureyra 2a: 8 hectares
- Abu Hureyra 2b: 15.5 hectares, estimated 4,000-6,000 residents



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