

A prehistoric painting of a horse, likely from the Lascaux cave. The horse is depicted in profile, facing right, with a reddish-brown body and a dark brown mane and tail. The legs are outlined in black. The background is a light-colored, textured rock surface with some vertical lines and other faint markings.

Introduction to Prehistoric Art

The Dawn of Time

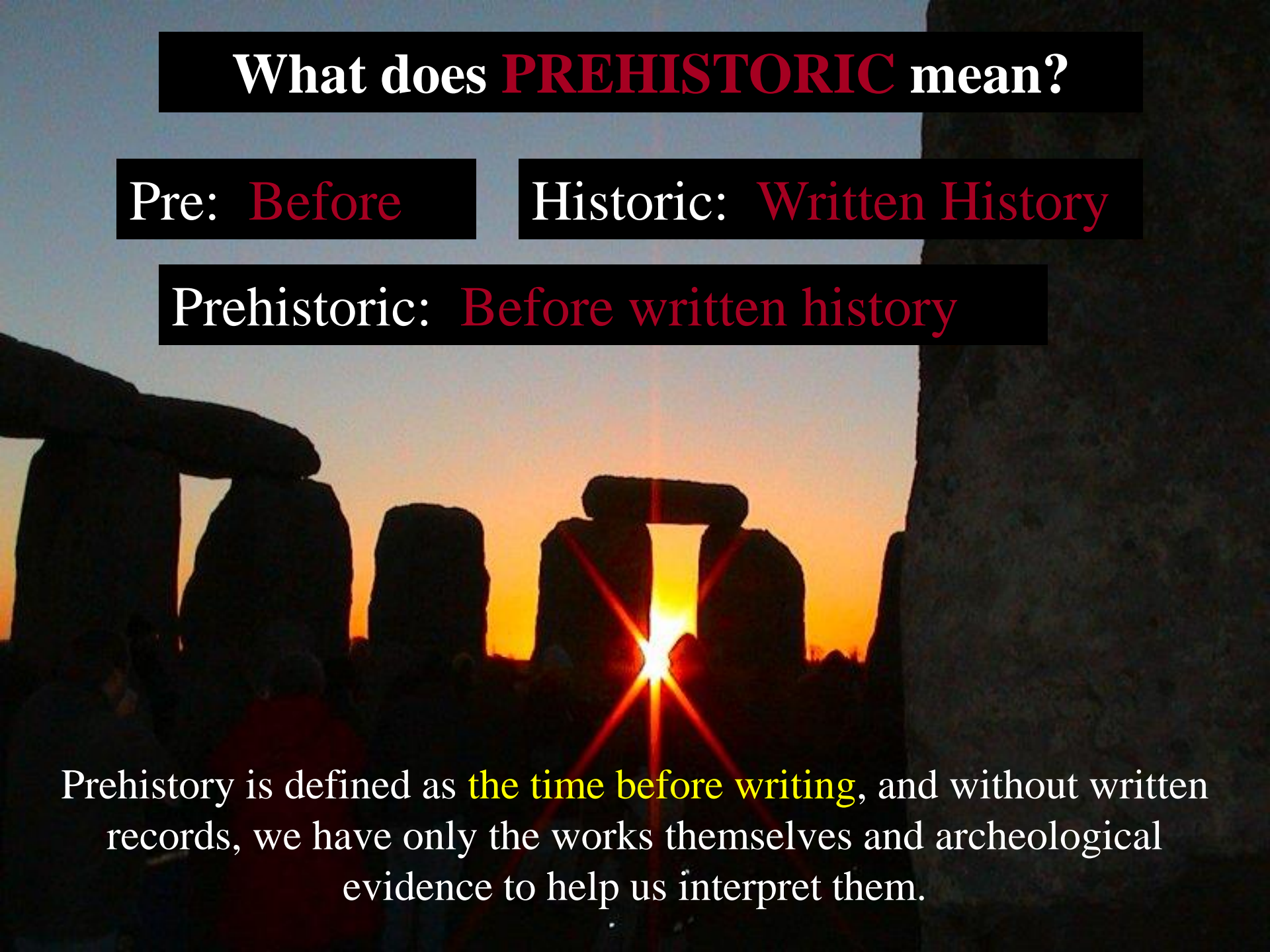
- The Earth was formed 4 Billion years ago.
- Life (in the form of small blue algae) appeared 200 billion years ago.
- Dinosaurs walked the Earth 200 million years ago.
- The most distant ancestors of modern man, *Homo Sapiens*, appeared 200,000 years ago in Africa.
- *Homo Sapiens* arrived in France only 35,000 years ago. This was *Cro-Magnon* man, responsible for the cave paintings at Lascaux 17,000-18,000 years ago.

What does **PREHISTORIC** mean?

Pre: **Before**

Historic: **Written History**

Prehistoric: **Before written history**

The background of the slide is a photograph of Stonehenge at sunset. The sun is a bright, glowing orb positioned directly behind one of the stone arches, creating a starburst effect with rays of light. The sky is a gradient of orange and yellow, transitioning to a darker blue at the top. The silhouettes of the large, dark stone structures of Stonehenge are prominent against the bright sky. In the foreground, the dark silhouettes of several people can be seen, looking towards the monument.

Prehistory is defined as **the time before writing**, and without written records, we have only the works themselves and archeological evidence to help us interpret them.

EUROPE

Prehistoric artifacts have been found widely spread throughout Europe, Russia, Africa and China



Scale 1: 19,500,000
Lambert Conformal Conic Projection,
standard parallels 40°N and 56°N
0 20 300 Kilometers
0 20 300 Miles

Prehistoric art is divided into two periods-

1. Paleolithic

2. Neolithic

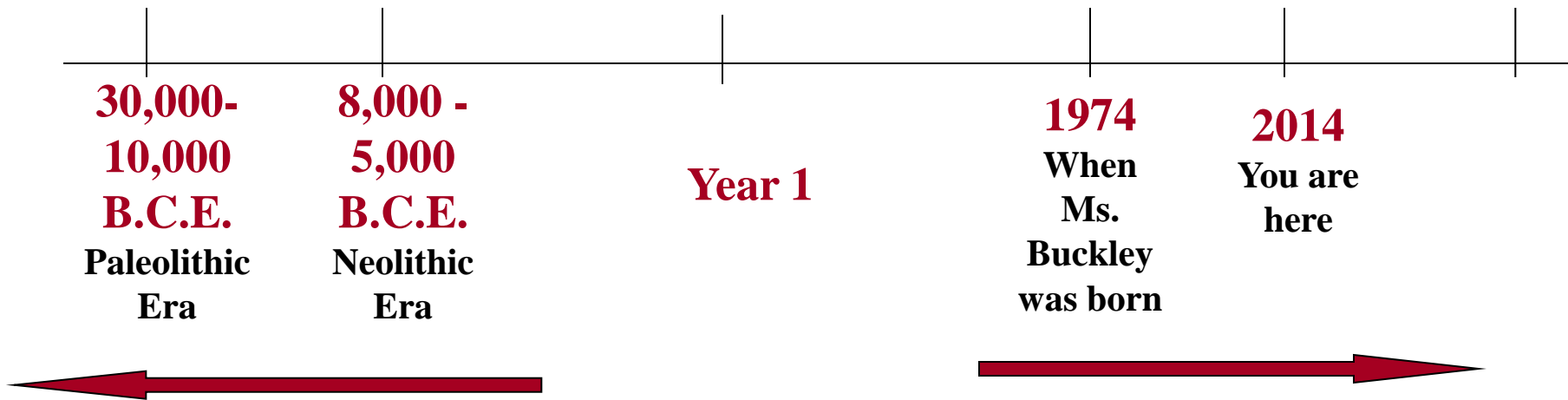
The first period is called the **PALEOLITHIC** period, otherwise known as the **OLD STONE AGE**.

The Paleolithic period was from 30,000 - 10,000 B.C..

The second period is called the **NEOLITHIC** period, otherwise known as the **NEW STONE AGE**.

The Neolithic period was from 8,000 - 5,000 B.C..

History Timeline



*These are in order of sequence, not incrementally placed.

Arrange the dates in order from earliest to most recent on a timeline :

1988

10,000 B.C.E.

500

500 B.C.E.

2006 B.C.E.

2007

A horizontal timeline with seven vertical tick marks. Below the timeline, seven white rectangular boxes with red text are positioned. The boxes contain the following text from left to right: '10,000 B.C.E.', '2006 B.C.E.', '500 B.C.E.', '1', '500', '1988', and '2007'. The boxes are slightly offset from the tick marks, with the first three aligned under the first three ticks, and the last four aligned under the last four ticks.

**10,000
B.C.E.**

**2006
B.C.E.**

**500
B.C.E.**

1

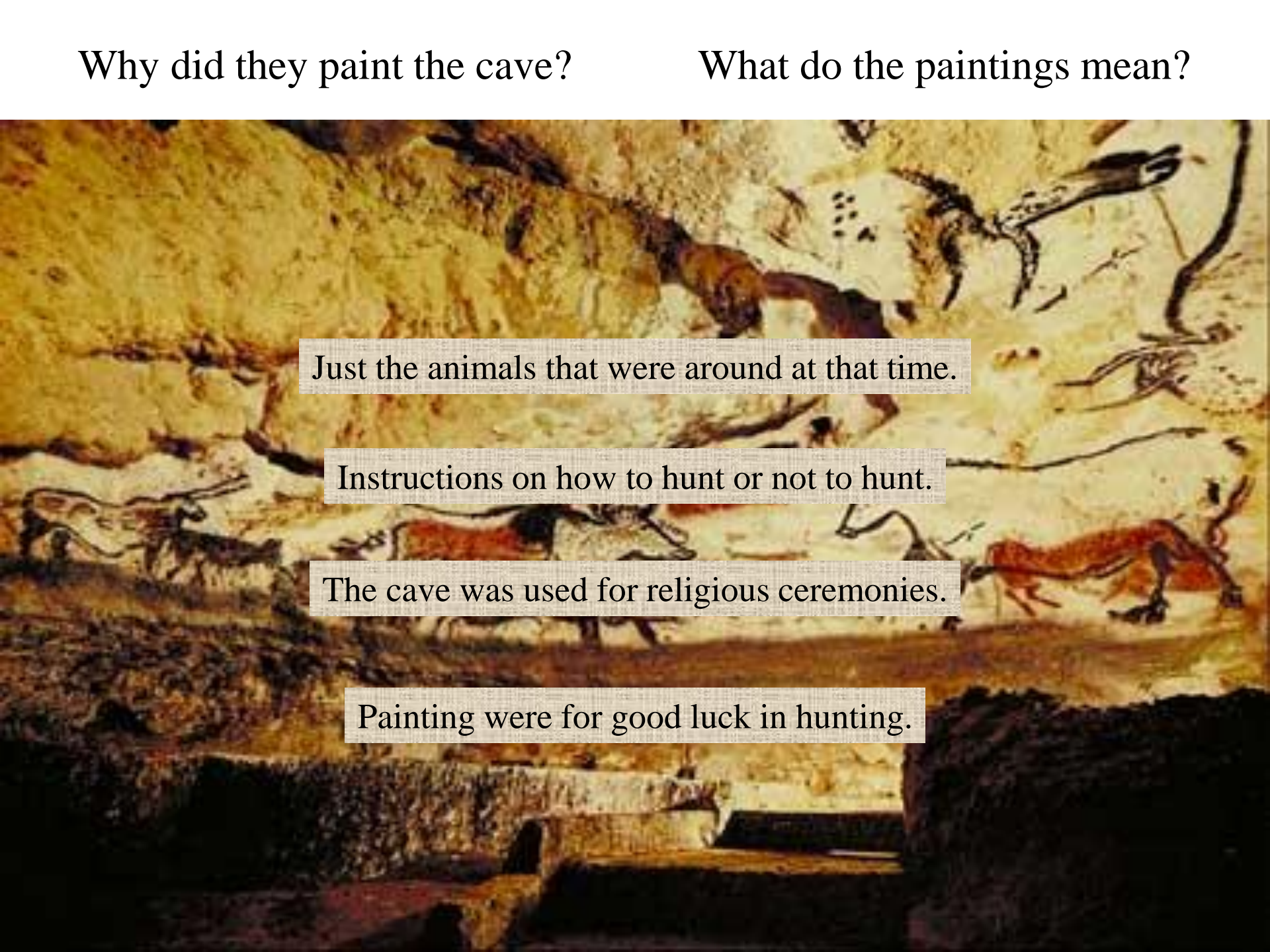
500

1988

2007

Why did they paint the cave?

What do the paintings mean?



Just the animals that were around at that time.

Instructions on how to hunt or not to hunt.

The cave was used for religious ceremonies.

Painting were for good luck in hunting.

**Bison at Altamira
(Santander, Spain),
c. 12,000-11,000 BCE**

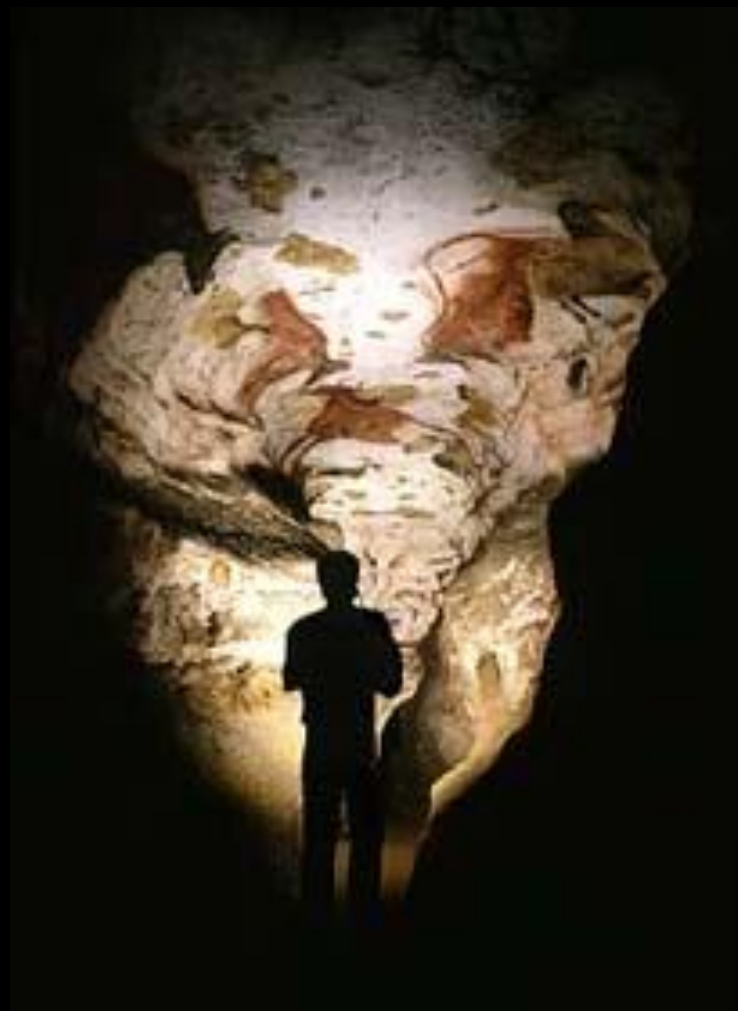




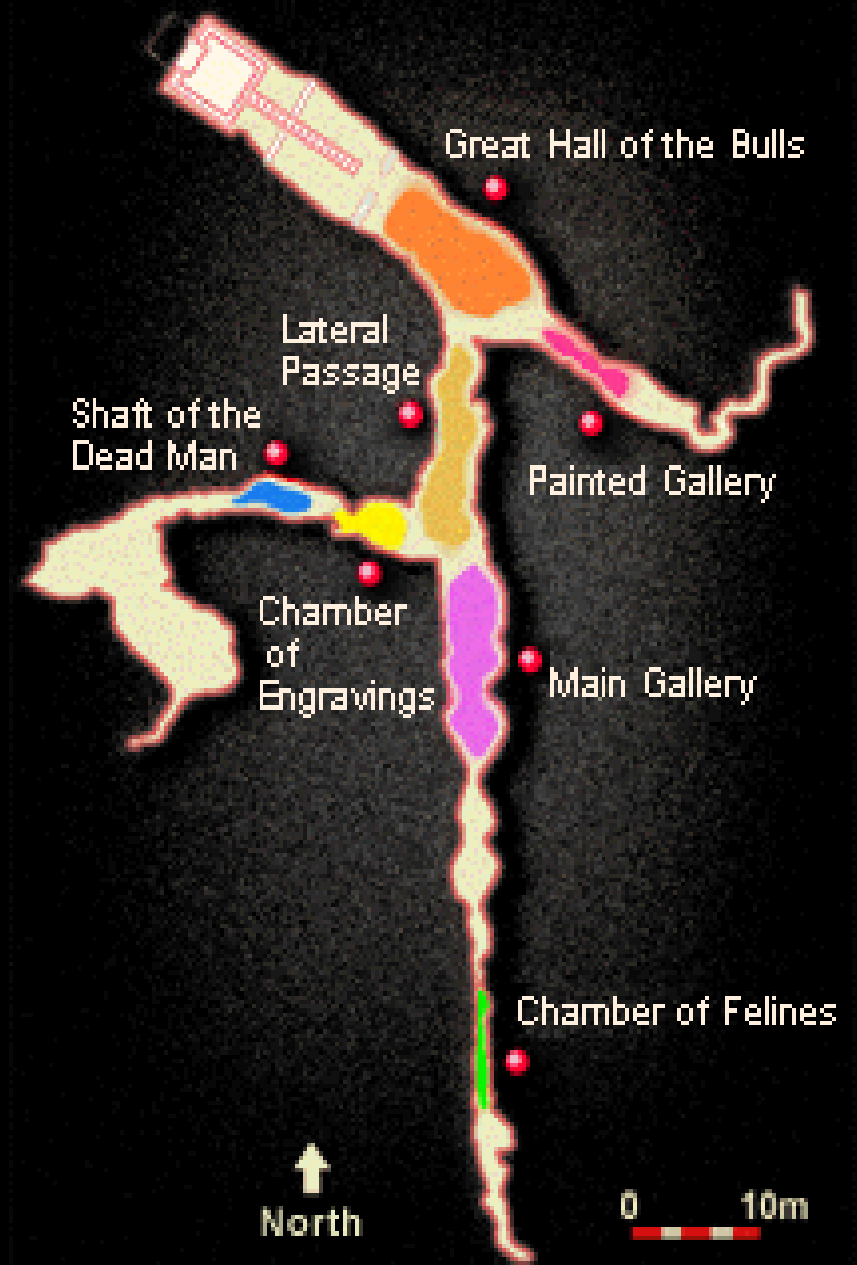
Around 15,000 B.C.,
ancient hunters drew
and painted important
life events on cave
walls.

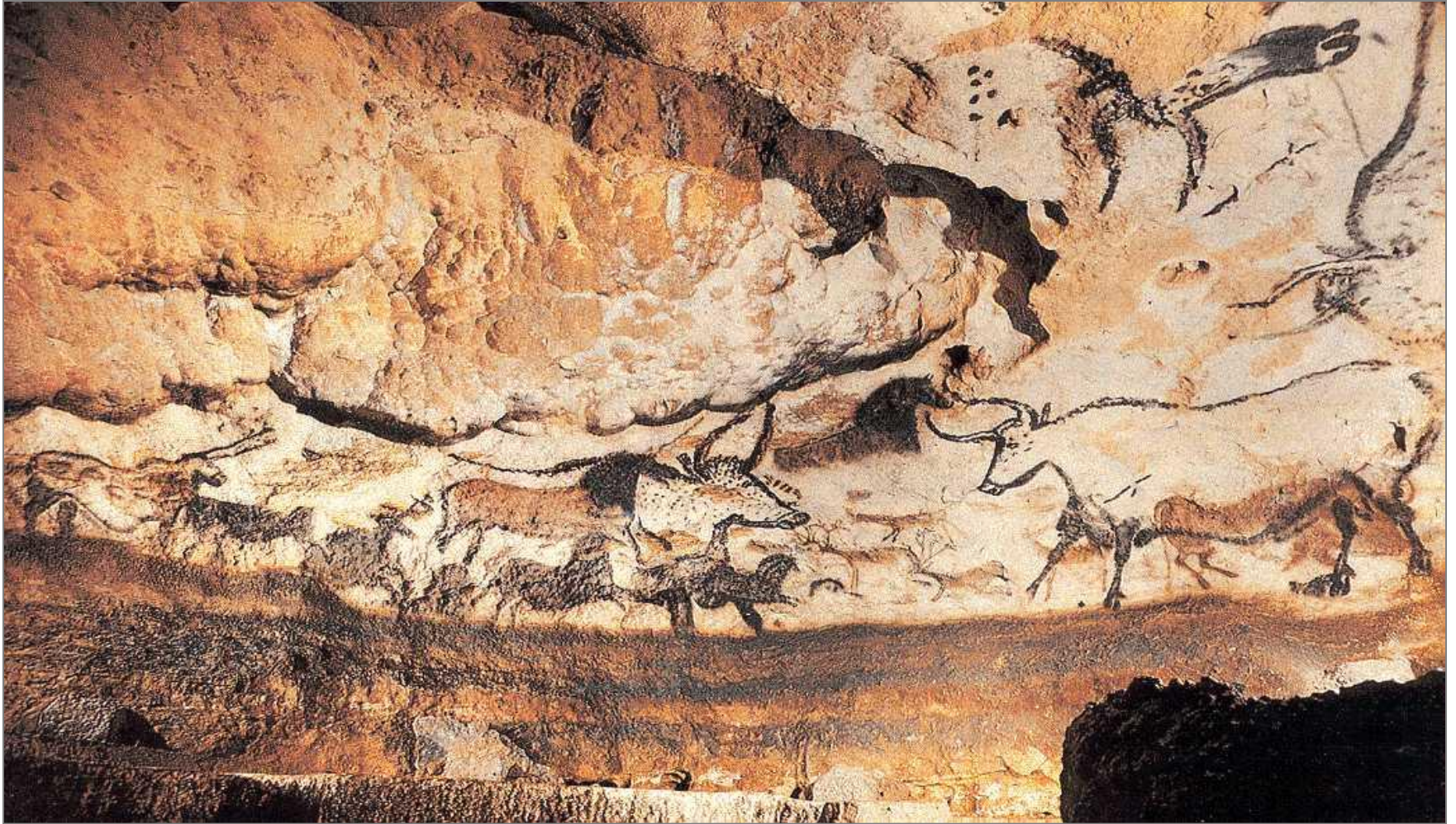
These are now called the
Lascaux Cave Paintings
and are found in France.

In 1940, a group of young boys discovered the caves
by accident. They had been untouched until then.
The pictures in the caves tell us a lot about the
lives of our Prehistoric ancestors.



Lascaux Caves, France
15,000-13,000 B.C.E.





Hall of the Bulls (Lascaux), c. 15,000-13,000 BCE

[Tour Lascaux](#)



Wounded man
and
disemboweled
bison
(Lascaux),
c.15,000 -
13,000 BCE

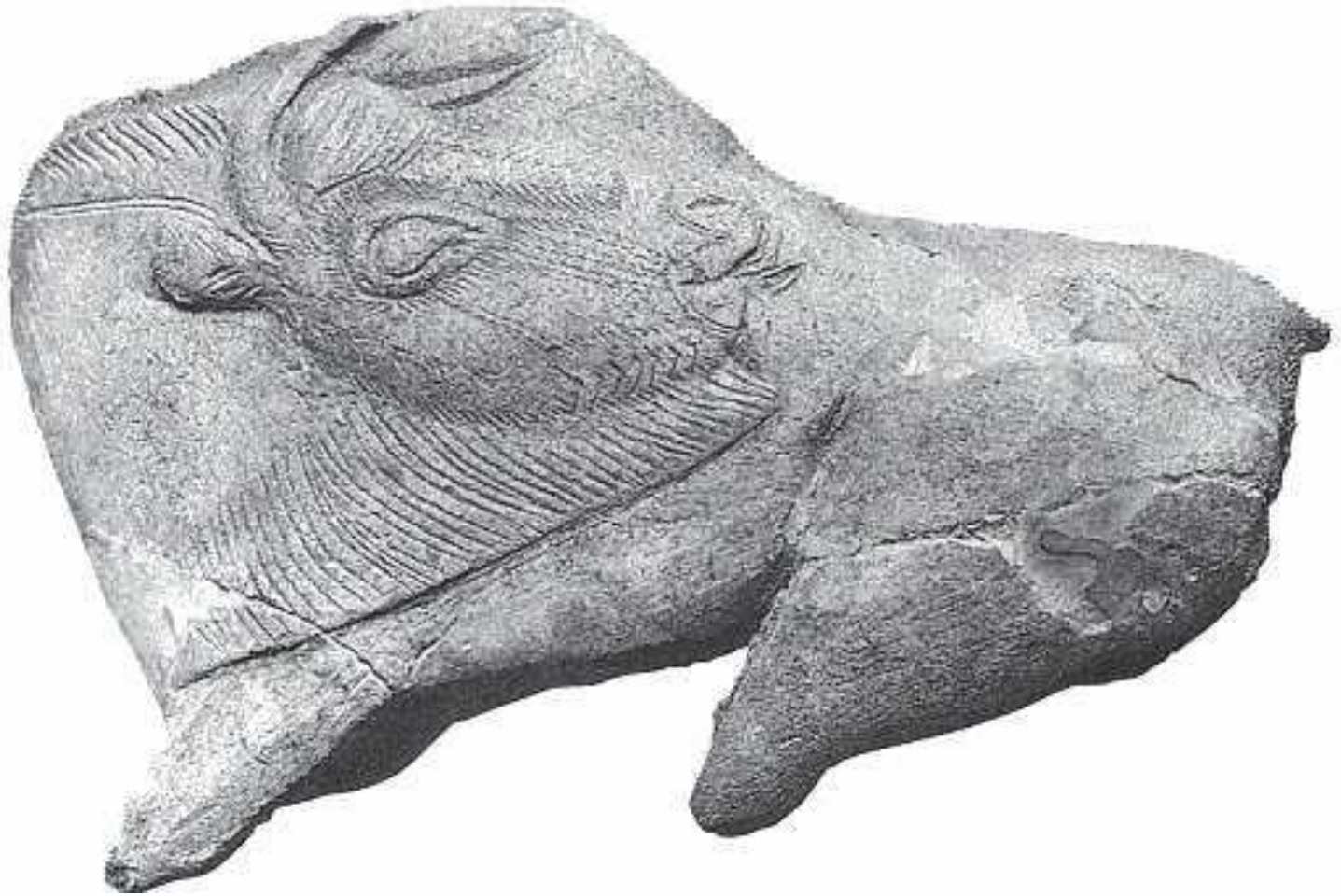
**RELIGIOUS
RITUAL**



HUNTING MAGIC

Materials

- **PRIMITIVE “PAINT” (GROUND MINERALS)**
- **FEATHERS**
- **MOSS**
- **FUR**
- **CHEWED STICKS**
- **FINGER PAINTING**
- **“SPRAY PAINT”**



Bison with turned head (La Madeleine),
c. 12,000 BCE, reindeer horn



Venus of Willendorf
(Austria), c. 28,000-
23,000 BCE, limestone

cult of the fertility
goddess/ lack of
naturalistic rendering



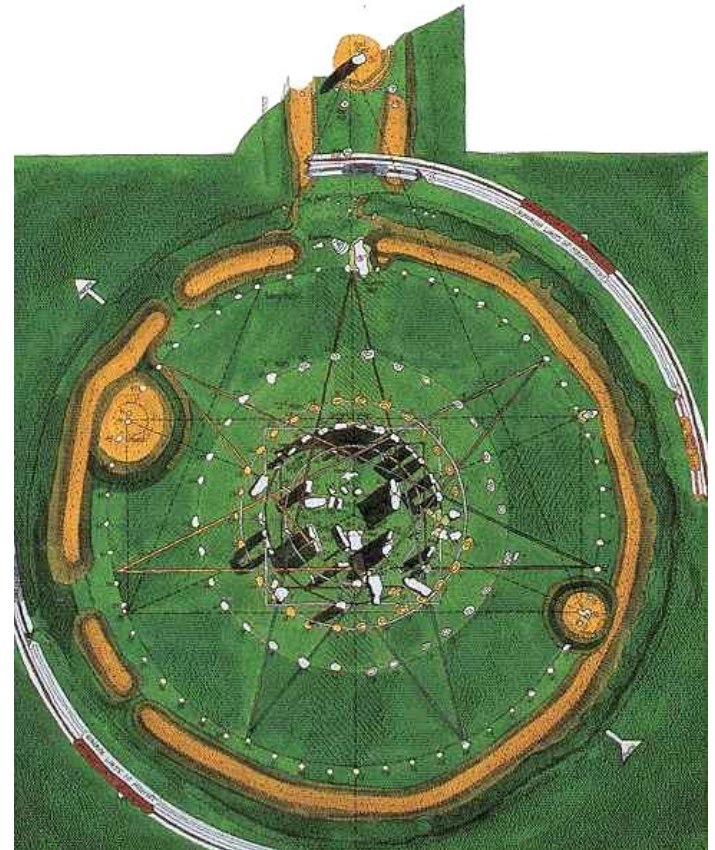
Human skull
from Jericho,
c. 7000-6000 BCE

Oldest continuous
city

spirit trap

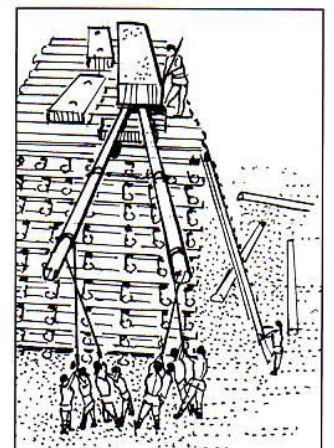
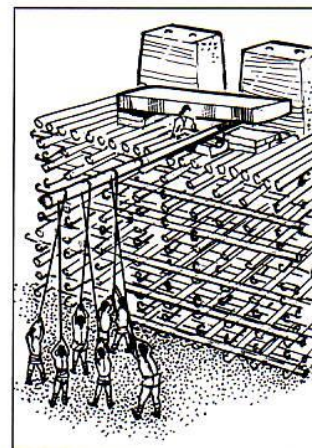
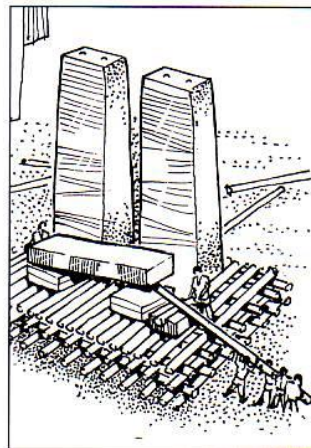
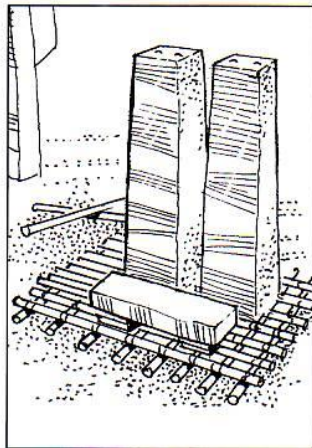
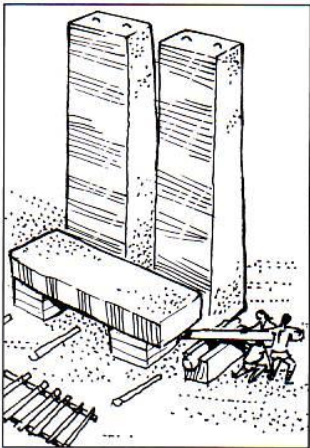
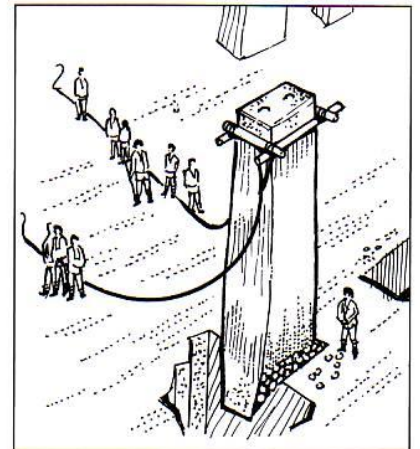
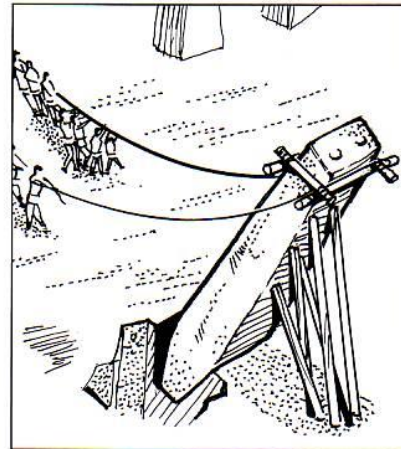
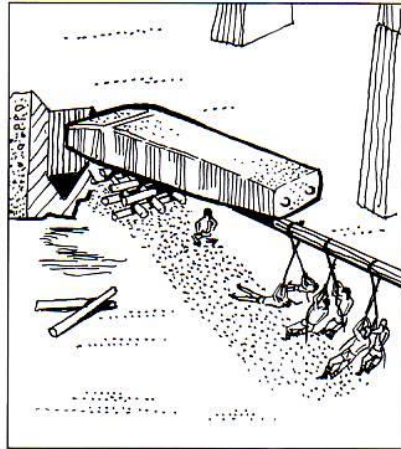
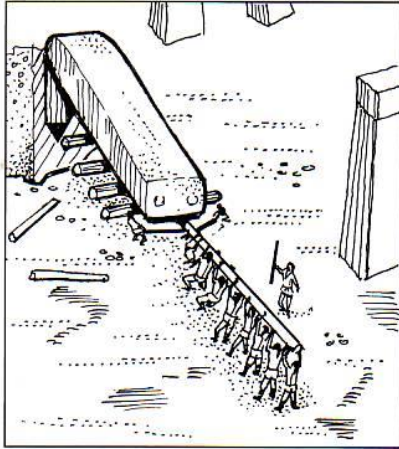


Stonehenge (Salisbury Plain, Wiltshire, England),
c. 2000 BCE

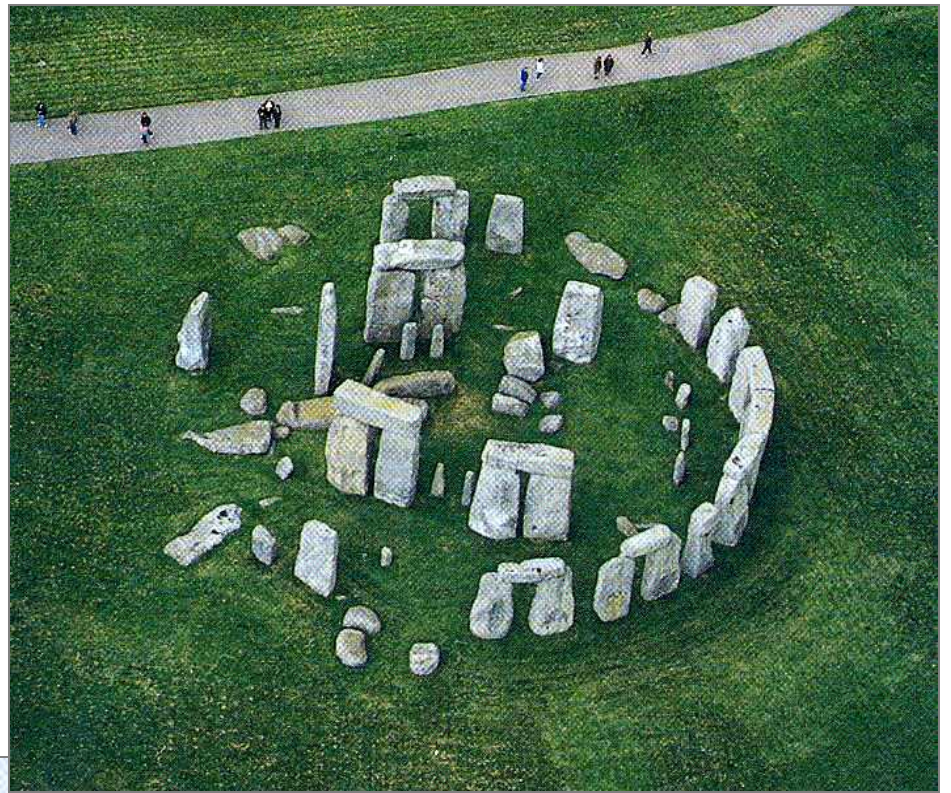




Sarcen
Bluestone



cromlech









[stonehenge video](#)

