

**Key Terms, Concepts and Characters**

October 12 and 17, 2006: Early village farming communities and their geographic expansion; emerging social stratification and organized community religion

**Terms:**

Neolithic Prepottery Neolithic A

Neolithic Revolution Prepottery Neolithic B

**Sites:**

Abu Hureyra

Beidha

Çayönü Tepesi

Jericho

Çatal Hüyük

Umm Dabaghiyah

**Neolithic Age:** last segment of the Stone Age - "New Stone Age"

1. Characterized by continuation of Mesolithic tool types and technology, esp. microliths, blade technologies. Additions include:
  - pressure flaking as a frequent technique - used to make well made bifacial projectile points.
  - ground stone tool technology as a regular part of tool kit to make axes, hoes, ground stone bowls, in addition to grinding stones, mortars, pestles, manos and metates
2. Addition of food production as a major part of the economic base
3. Addition of pottery as an artifact type.

**Major features of the Neolithic or early farming era in the Middle East**

population increase

sedentism - substantial buildings

increasing social control

elaboration of rituals

increasing social differentiation - wealth accumulation

craft specialization (work shops at Beidha, store rooms at Umm Dabaghiyah)

trade increasingly important (Çatal Hüyük, Jericho)

## Notes on early village farming: its character and expansion

### General features

- expansionistic - extensive, shifting cultivation
- fairly high population growth rates
- limited to areas with adequate rainfall

Rapid expansion over Fertile Crescent - stimulated by

- similarity of environments over large area
- lack of major geographic barriers (mountains, deserts, rivers)
- use of similar crops and animals throughout the area
- exchange networks well established among preexisting inhabitants (complex h and g)
- preexisting semi-sedentary complex h and g - whose economies are not too different.

extensive agriculture (shifting cultivation, swidden, slash and burn)

- principally rainfall based
- long fallow cycle
- minimal fertilization

intensive agriculture

- irrigation
- alternate year fallow cycle
- mono-cropping frequent
- various forms of fertilization more frequent

### **Near Eastern Neolithic Cultural Sequence** - (approximate dates)

Ubaid culture	ca. 6,700 - 5,500 BP (4,700(+) to 3,500 B.C.)
Hassuna, Samarra, Halaf cultures	ca. 8,000 - 6,700 BP (6,000 - 4,700 B.C.)
Umm Dabaghiyah culture	ca. 8,500 BP (mid-seventh millennium B.C.)
Çatal Hüyük culture	8,500 - 7,400 BP
Prepottery Neolithic B (PPNB)	9,000 - 8,500 BP
Prepottery Neolithic A (PPNA)	10,000 - 9,300 BP

(**Mesolithic**, ie. pre-Neolithic)

Natufian	12,500 - 10,500 BP
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