Paleolithic vs. Neolithic
Paleolithic Age: Dates and Descriptions

- “Old Stone Age”
- 2.5 million – 8000 B.C.E (Before Common Era)
- Early humans adapted to their environment
  - Flint Knapping to make stone tools and weapons
  - Clothing from animal skins
  - Developed fire for survival
  - Basic verbal communication
    - No formal language
Paleolithic Age: Food and Shelter

- Nomadic lifestyle
  - No permanent home
  - Temporary shelter
    - Caves
    - Makeshift tents out of sticks and animal hides
- Constant search for food
  - Follow the herds to hunt
  - Gather edible plants, fruits, berries, etc.
- Live in small groups of 50 – 100 people
  - Quickly pack up and move
Paleolithic Age: Specialized Jobs

- Hunters and Gatherers
- All jobs dealt with finding food
  - Men primarily hunted
  - Women gathered fruits, berries, etc.
Paleolithic Age: Religion and Art

- Cave paintings
- Belief in afterlife
  - Prepared bodies at funerals
  - Buried with possessions
  - Tools and weapons
  - Jewelry and musical instruments made from animal bones and antlers
Paleolithic Cave Paintings

What was important in the lives of the people who created this art?
Paleolithic Age: Government/Organization

- Life and survival organized around competition
  - “Survival of the fittest”
- Elderly and sick left behind so they would not slow down group
  - Lost contact with the food source/herd can lead to death of everyone
Neolithic Age: Dates and Descriptions

- “New Stone Age”
- 8000 – 3000 B.C.E.
- Neolithic Revolution or Agricultural Revolution
  - Beginning of farming
  - Population increased
  - Domesticated animals
  - Polished stone tools and pottery

Early Farming
Neolithic Tools and Pottery

How might each of these items be used?
Neolithic Age: Food and Shelter

- People go from being food gatherers to food producers
  - Steady, permanent food supply
  - Grow their own crops
  - Domesticated animals provide meat and milk
  - Still do some hunting
  - Surplus food available

- Live in permanent shelters and settlements
  - Live close to farmable land
  - First villages develop
Neolithic Age: Specialized Jobs

- Village leaders
- Farmers
- Herders
- Weavers and Potters
- Tool Makers
- Builders
- Warriors to protect the resources others want
- Social classes develop based on importance and skill of job
Neolithic Age: Religion and Art

- Pottery
- Wall paintings
- Religious shrines
- Statues of the gods
  - Polytheistic belief in multiple gods

What was important in the lives of the people who created this art?
Neolithic Age: Religion - Animism

- Early civilizations contained elements of animism in their religious practices
  - Belief that non-human entities have a soul
    - Animals
    - Plants
    - Other natural forces
- Spirits played an important role in regulating their daily lives
- Spirits could take the form of the souls of their dead ancestors
Neolithic Religious Art: Goddess Venus
Neolithic Age:
Government/Organization

- Life and survival organized around cooperation (working together) in formal villages
- Traditional Economy
  - Economy based on agriculture and trade
- Subsistence agriculture
  - Grow food for own consumption and survival
- Barter with other villages
  - Early trade of goods
  - Before the introduction of currency (money) in societies