Evolution of Houses – Prehistoric Settlements
Beidha

- 7000 – 6000 BC
- Semi Sub-terranean
- Upto 4m in Diameter
- Grouped in Clusters surrounded by stone wall
Khirokitia – 6000 BC

- Closed village, apart from by the river, by strong wall of stones 2.5 m thick and 3 m at its highest preserved level
- The buildings within this wall consist of round structures clustered close together.
- The lower parts of these buildings are often of stone and attain massive proportions by constant additions of further skins of stones.
Khirokitia – 6000 BC

- Internal diameter is between 1.4 m and 4.80 m.
- Low walls, platforms designated work, rest or storage areas.
- They had hearths used for cooking and heating, benches and windows.
- The huts were like rooms several of which were grouped around an open courtyard and together formed the home.
- The population of the village at any one time is thought not to have exceeded 300 to 600 inhabitants.
Why was it a NEOLITHIC REVOLUTION?

CATAL HOYUK

JERICHO
CATAL HOYUK

• Evidence indicates that this settlement existed from c.7500 BCE to 5700 BCE.

• Located in the Middle-East, in the country of Turkey.

• It is believed that as many as 6,000 people lived in Catal Hoyuk.
CATAL HOYUK: Agriculture

- Located on a high mound by the banks of the Carsamba river.
- Flooded areas created marshland around the town (Spring).
- Sediment from the river made land fertile.
- Grew wheat, barley, lentils, chickpeas, berries, and nuts.
- Raised flocks of sheep and herds of goats. They also kept dogs.
CATAL HOYUK: Shelter

- Rectangular houses made of mud-dried bricks with high walls.
- Entrance to each house was on the roof.
- Entrance into each house was by ladder.
- Houses were joined together to provide protection for the town.
- Movement within the town was done across the roofs.
CATAL HOYUK: Resources and Specialization

- Animals hunted in the local mountains (wild boar, deer, leopards...), and birds hunted in surrounding marshland.
- Fishing done in river.
- Evidence of pottery-making.
- Evidence of beer and wine making.
- Obsidian (a volcanic, glassy rock) from local mountains was used to make tools.
- Traded with other communities.
CATAL HUYUK: Culture

• Evidence of religion:
  - Shrines*
  - Sculptures
  - Murals
  - Animal sacrifice
  - Burial practices

• Types of gods:
  - Fertility goddess
  - Animal gods (Bull, Vultures...)

* A building or place of worship.
JERICHO

• Evidence indicates that this settlement existed from c.8500 BCE to 6000 BCE.

• Located in the Middle-East, in the Occupied Territories (West Bank).

• It is believed that as many as 3000 people lived in this community.
JERICHO: Agriculture

- The town located near a natural oasis spring, which provided constant water source (1,000 gallons per hour).
- Was also four miles away from the Jordan river.
- Pipes and Canals made to move water to farmland.
- Wheat, barley, peas, and lentils were grown, with sheep and goats raised for their meat and wool.
JERICHO: Shelter

- Was situated on a large mound surrounded by massive stone walls, almost 12 feet in height, with a great, circular watchtower 30 feet tall.
- Inside the walls were circular houses made of mud bricks.
- Houses had as many as three rooms, with main room located underground (storage bins, hearth, baking ovens.)
**JERICHO: Resources and Specialization**

- Gazelles, hares, wild boar, and birds were hunted in surrounding areas.
- Fish taken from river.
- Evidence of pottery making and basket-weaving.
- Jericho located on an important trade route.
- Traded goods found at Jericho:
  - obsidian (a volcanic, glassy rock)
  - cowrie shells
  - semi-precious stones
JERICHO: Culture

- **Evidence of ancestor worship:**
  - Bodies buried beneath houses.
  - Skulls, plastered and painted so as to re-make the ancestor’s face.
  - Skulls kept in the homes on altars.

- **Evidence of religious shrines.**
  - Areas of statues, and circles of skulls facing inwards.