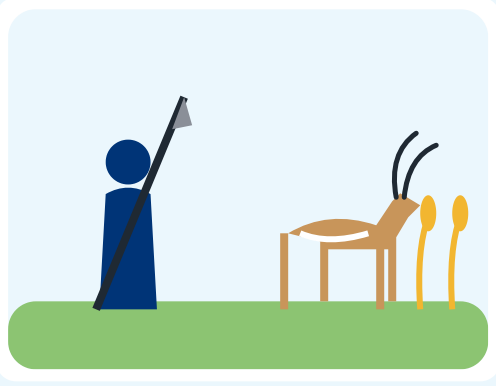


Who Built It, and Why?

谁建造了它？为什么？ · Göbekli Tepe, part 2



The builders



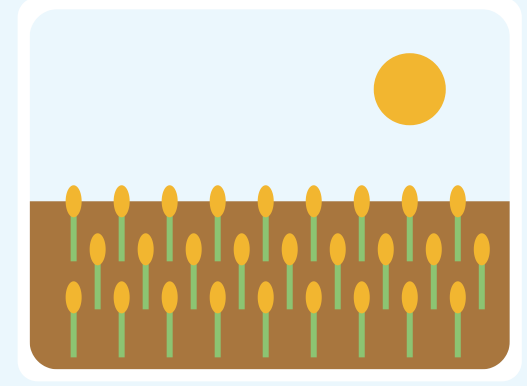
hunter-gatherer 狩猎采集者

A person who gets food by hunting wild animals and gathering wild plants.



Neolithic 新石器时代

The New Stone Age, when people began to farm and live in villages.



farming 农耕

Growing plants and raising animals for food.



Speaker notes

The builders had **no** farms, metal, writing or wheels. Ask: what would be hardest about building something huge without those?



What did they eat?

- **Gazelle**, hunted in big numbers in late summer.
- Wild boar, wild cattle and birds.
- **Wild** wheat, barley, pistachios and almonds.
- They ground grain on stones: archaeologists found more than **7,000** grinding stones.



A wild boar statue from Göbekli Tepe (a museum copy).



Speaker notes

How do we know what they ate? Animal bones in the rubbish, and tiny bits of plants in the soil. That's evidence: more on that soon.



From the quarry

1. The hill is limestone, in natural layers.
2. Workers cut a pillar shape into the rock with **flint** picks.
3. They lifted it out, probably with wooden beams.
4. They moved it a few hundred meters to the building.

One unfinished pillar, about 7 m long, still lies in the quarry.



A pillar lying in the rock on the hilltop near the site.



How many people?

- **Old idea:** hundreds of workers were needed to move one pillar.
- **New tests:** about **7 to 14 people** with ropes could move a pillar.
- So a big family or a small village could have built a building in a few months.



Think-pair-share

How would **you** move a 10-tonne stone, with no machines and no metal?

3:00

Start

Reset

+1 min



Speaker notes

Ideas to listen for: ropes, wooden rollers or sledges, wet ground or fat to make it slide, levers, lots of people pulling together, ramps of earth.



Evidence or guess?

Evidence 证据: what we found

- carved pillars and statues
- flint tools and grinding stones
- gazelle bones and burnt seeds
- channels and tanks for rainwater

A guess: what it might mean

- “It was a temple.”
- “The pillars are gods.”
- “People came only for big feasts.”
- “Nobody lived there.”

Evidence is something we can see and check. A guess is an idea about what the evidence means.



Archaeologists changed their minds

The first idea (1990s)

“The world’s first temple.” People lived far away. They came to the hill only to build, feast and worship.

Newer evidence (2010s)

- remains of **houses**
- **rainwater tanks** holding at least 150,000 liters
- thousands of tools for **cooking and grinding** food

Today: people probably lived there **and** met there for special events. The team no longer calls it a “temple”.



Speaker notes

This is how science works: new evidence changes the best explanation. The project leader, Lee Clare, says “temple” is a problem word: it suggests gods and priests, and there is no evidence of either. UNESCO calls the buildings “monumental communal buildings” used for social events and rituals.



Did it start farming?

- **Old idea:** building Göbekli Tepe pushed people to start farming, to feed all the workers.
- **Evidence:** all the grain and animals at the site were **wild**.
- But the world's first wheat farms grew in this same region, not long after.
- So the link is still an open question.



Not the only one

- Archaeologists have found **more T-pillar sites** in the hills around Şanlıurfa, like Karahan Tepe and Nevalı Çori.
- Together they are called **Taş Tepeler**, Turkish for “Stone Hills”.
- In 2018, Göbekli Tepe became a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**.



Speaker notes

UNESCO's description: "one of the first manifestations of human-made monumental architecture". Göbekli Tepe was part of a network of related communities, not a lonely wonder.



Exit ticket

Which one is **evidence**, not a guess?



Archaeologists found more than 7,000 grinding stones.



Göbekli Tepe was a temple for gods.



The pillars show the builders' kings.

0 votes

Show results

Reset



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