

Comparison Chart: Paleolithic Humans vs. Neolithic Humans

Vocabulary:

Paleolithic: **Paleo** = old; **Lithic** = stone. The Paleolithic era is also called the Old Stone Age.

Neolithic: **Neo** = new; **Lithic** = stone. The Neolithic era is also call the New Stone Age.

Characteristics	Paleolithic	Neolithic
Where did they live?	Mouths of caves, huts, tents made of animal skins	Built shelters of mud bricks supported by timber
Lifestyle	Nomadic. They moved from place to place in groups up to 50; lived in tribes, and were hunters and gatherers	Sedentary. They stayed in one place and farmed in permanent settlements. They raised/herded animals; agriculture was discovered and became a major source of food; separate families evolved.
Tools	Chipped stone, wooden weapons light stone tools, not sharpened	Polished stone tools made sharper by grinding
Clothing	Animal skins	Animal skins and woven clothes
Government	Tribal society made up of clan groups. Clans controlled by elders or the powerful (according to age)	Military and religious leaders had authority. Monarchy emerged.
Economy	There was no concept of private property.	The concept of private property and ownership emerged for land, livestock and tools.
Health	Paleolithic people were taller and lived longer than Neolithic people	Neolithic people were shorter and had lower life expectancy. Tooth cavities and diseases like typhoid emerged. Since settlement was permanent, women had more children.
Art	Cave paintings	Wall paintings
Sculpture	Stone, mammoth ivory, reindeer horn	Stone, baked clay
Main discovery	Fire; Rough stone tools	Agriculture and tools with polished stones
Food	Hunted and gathered for their food supply.	They grew crops such as corn, wheat, beans, etc domesticated animals