

Middle East

Epipaleolithic

Years BP: 40000 - 10500

Location: Levant and Mesopotamia.

Description: Semi-nomadic hunter / gatherers living in small, egalitarian communities.

OAT code: 6205

OWC code: M080

Natufian

Years BP: 12000 - 10500

Location: Levant.

Description: Sedentary hunter / gatherers with supplemental agriculture living in small egalitarian communities.

OAT code: 6210

OWC code: M082

Aceramic Neolithic

Years BP: 10500 - 7500

Location: Levant and Mesopotamia.

Description: Settled village agriculturalists, some living in very large villages, some with social differentiation or stratification present. Ends ca. 8000 BP in the Levant.

OAT code: 6215

OWC code: M084

Ceramic Neolithic

Years BP: 8000 - 6100

Location: Levant and Mesopotamia.

Description: Settled village agriculturalists with animal husbandry. Some very large villages with stratified social organization present. Begins ca. 7500 BP in Mesopotamia.

OAT code: 6220

OWC code: M087

Chalcolithic

Years BP: 6100 - 5500

Location: Levant.

Description: Settled village agriculturalists living in complex societies with craft specialists, markets, and social stratification.

OAT code: 6225

OWC code: M090

Early Bronze Age

Years BP: 5500 - 4000

Location: Levant.

Description: Settled agriculturalists living in large villages and cities with chiefdom or simple state forms of political organization.

OAT code: 6230

OWC code: M093

- Middle Bronze Age** *Years BP:* 4000 - 3595
- Location:* Levant.
- Description:* Settled agriculturalists living in large villages and cities with state forms of political organization. Ends in the historic period with the expansion of the New Babylonian empire.
- OAT code:* 6235 *OWC code:* M095
- Halafian** *Years BP:* 7500 - 7000
- Location:* Northern Mesopotamia.
- Description:* Settled village agriculturalists. Some villages are very large. Good evidence of social stratification. Replaced by Ubaid ca. 7000 BP.
- OAT code:* 6245 *OWC code:* M086
- Ubaid** *Years BP:* 7500 - 6000
- Location:* Mesopotamia.
- Description:* Settled agriculturalists living in large villages with temple complexes and social stratification. Moves from south to cover all of Mesopotamia by 7000 BP.
- OAT code:* 6250 *OWC code:* MH55
- Late Chalcolithic Mesopotamia** *Years BP:* 6000 - 5100
- Location:* Mesopotamia.
- Description:* Settled agriculturalists living in city-states. Expands northward during the time period.
- OAT code:* 6255 *OWC code:* MH60
- Jemdet Nasr** *Years BP:* 5100 - 4900
- Location:* Southern Mesopotamia.
- Description:* Continuation of Uruk, but with more unified political organization between the city-states.
- OAT code:* 6260 *OWC code:* MH62
- Early Dynastic Mesopotamia** *Years BP:* 4900 - 4334
- Location:* Mesopotamia.
- Description:* Unification of Mesopotamian city states into the Sumerian empire by the end of the tradition.
- OAT code:* 6265 *OWC code:* MH64
- Akkadian** *Years BP:* 4334 - 4112
- Location:* Mesopotamia.
- Description:* Expanding, militaristic empire. Conquers the Sumerians and expands north and west.
- OAT code:* 6270 *OWC code:* MH66

- Arabian Upper Paleolithic** *Years BP:* 40000 - 11000
Location: Western parts of the Arabian peninsula.
Description: Nomadic hunter / gatherers living in small, egalitarian bands.
OAT code: 6300 *OWC code:* MJ50
- Early Arabian Pastoral** *Years BP:* 11000 - 5750
Location: Arid regions of the Arabian peninsula.
Description: Nomadic pastoralists with supplemental hunting and gathering.
OAT code: 6305 *OWC code:* MJ53
- Middle Arabian Pastoral** *Years BP:* 5750 - 4200
Location: Arid regions of the Arabian peninsula.
Description: Nomadic pastoralists living in small communities.
OAT code: 6310 *OWC code:* MJ55
- Late Arabian Pastoral** *Years BP:* 4200 - 3595
Location: Arid regions of the Arabian peninsula.
Description: Nomadic pastoralists living in small communities. Ends in the historic period with the rise of the New Babylonian empire.
OAT code: 6315 *OWC code:* MJ57
- Early Arabian Littoral** *Years BP:* 11000 - 7000
Location: East coast of the Arabian peninsula.
Description: Semi-sedentary hunter / fisher / gatherers living in small, egalitarian communities.
OAT code: 6320 *OWC code:* MJ63
- Middle Arabian Littoral** *Years BP:* 7000 - 3300
Location: East coast of the Arabian peninsula.
Description: Sedentary agriculturalists with hunting / fishing / gathering remaining important. Some evidence of social differentiation.
OAT code: 6325 *OWC code:* MJ65
- Late Arabian Littoral** *Years BP:* 3300 - 2300
Location: East coast of the Arabian peninsula.
Description: Sedentary agriculturalists living in large villages and cities with a stratified social system. Fishing and marine resources remain important. Ends in the historic period.
OAT code: 6330 *OWC code:* MJ67
- Southern Asia Upper Paleolithic** *Years BP:* 40000 - 12000
Location: Southern and southwestern Asia.
Description: Semi-nomadic hunter / gatherers living in small, egalitarian communities.
OAT code: 6340 *OWC code:* MA35

Iranian Mesolithic**Years BP:** 12000 - 8000*Location:* Iran.*Description:* Semi-sedentary hunter / gatherers living in small, egalitarian communities.*OAT code:* 6350*OWC code:* MA40**Iranian Neolithic****Years BP:** 8000 - 7000*Location:* Iran.*Description:* Sedentary village agriculturalists with some animal husbandry.*OAT code:* 6355*OWC code:* MA44**Iranian Chalcolithic****Years BP:** 7000 - 5000*Location:* Iran.*Description:* Sedentary agriculturalists living in large villages with a chiefdom or simple state form of political organization.*OAT code:* 6360*OWC code:* MA47**Iranian Bronze Age****Years BP:** 5000 - 3500*Location:* Iran.*Description:* Sedentary agriculturalists living in villages and cities, some very large, and with a state form of political organization. Pastoral nomads from the north begin spreading into the region ca. 4000 BP.*OAT code:* 6365*OWC code:* MA50