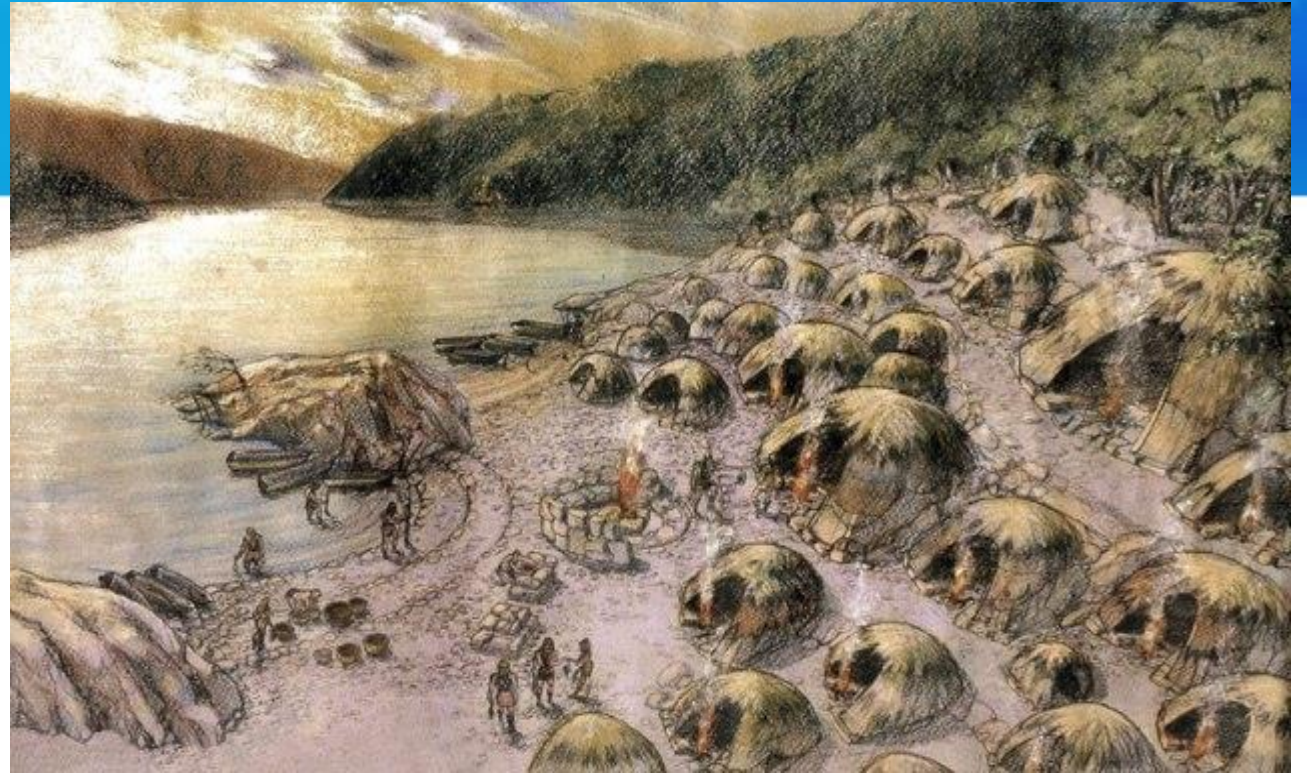
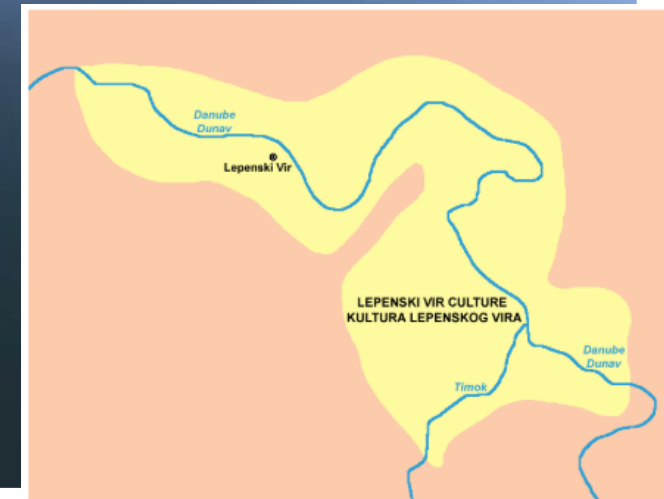
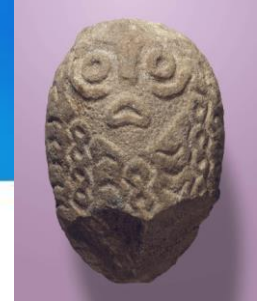


Lepenski vir

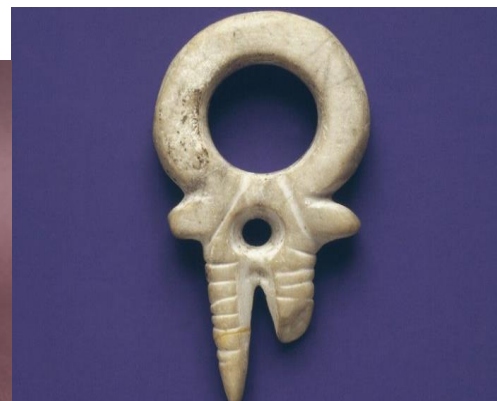
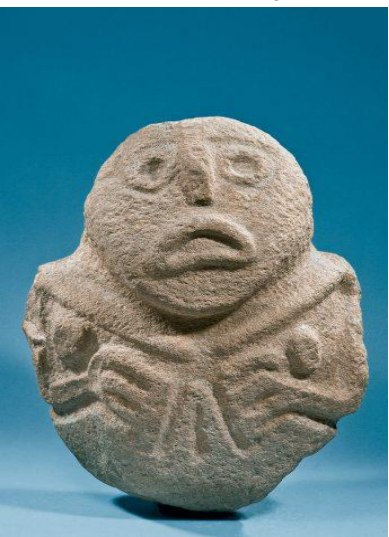


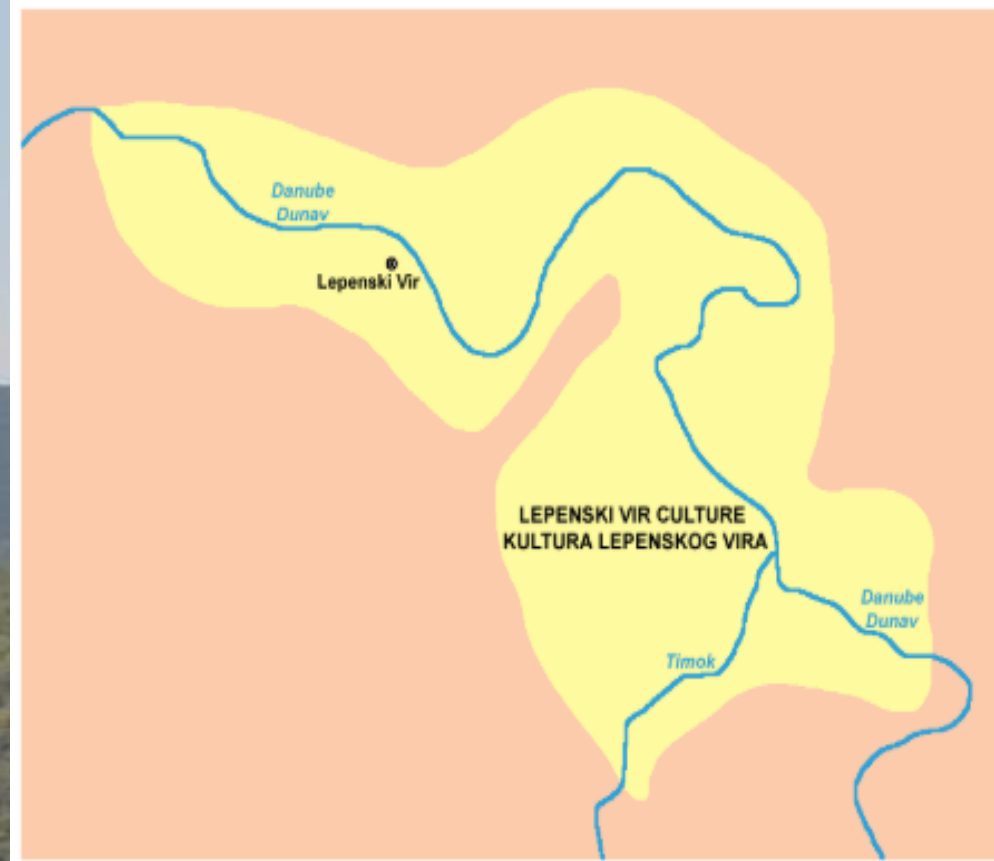
- Lepenski Vir is one of the largest and most significant Mesolithic (Middle Stone Age) and Neolithic (New Stone Age) archaeological sites, located on the right bank of the Danube in the Đerdap gorge, in Serbia, in the central part of the Balkan peninsula.
- It is named after a Danube whirlpool
- The main site encompasses several archaeological phases starting from Proto-Lepenski Vir, then Lepenski Vir Ia to Ie, Lepenski Vir II and Lepenski Vir III, whose occupation spanned 1,500 to 2,000 years, from the Mesolithic to the Neolithic, when it was succeeded by the Neolithic Vinča culture and Starčevo culture, both upstream on the Danube, 135 km (84 mi) and 139 km (86 mi) from Lepenski Vir, respectively. Several satellite villages belonging to the same culture and time period have been discovered in the surrounding area. These additional sites are Hajdučka Vodenica, Padina, Vlasac, Ikaona, Kladovska Skela etc.
- The main leader of the research of this site was Professor Dr. Dragoslav Srejović, archaeologist, academician and professor at the University of Belgrade.





- The artifacts found include stone and bone tools, remains of houses and numerous sacral objects, including unique stone sculptures.
- The Lepenski Vir culture is thought to be the descendants of an early European population, the Brno-Predmosti hunter-gatherer culture (Czech Republic) from the end of the last Ice Age. Archaeological evidence of human occupation of the surrounding caves dates back to around 20,000 BC. The first settlement on the low plateau dates back to 9500–7200 BC, when the climate became significantly warmer.
- In later periods, problems of overcrowding in settlements became evident and led to significant sociological changes.
- Archaeological findings in the area indicate temporary settlements, probably built for hunting and gathering food or raw materials. This suggests a complex semi-nomadic economy with managed exploitation of resources in an area not immediately surrounding the village, something extraordinary in terms of the traditional view of Mesolithic Europe. More complexity in the economy leads to occupational specialization, and thus to social differentiation.





● - Lepenski Vir culture (6700-5500 BC) / Kultura Lepenskog Vira (6700-5500. g.p.n.e.)

Directly across the road (Danube) from Lepenski Vir, a geometrically regular trapezoid, the Treskovat hill (679 m (2,228 ft) high), rose as an incredible astronomical landmark for those people.

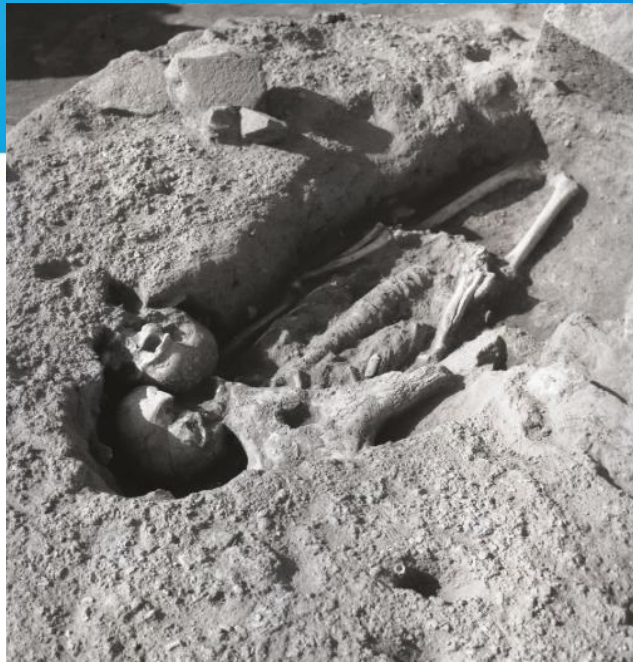
Lepenski vir was located on a narrow headland on the riverbank, bounded by cliffs and the flow of the Danube. Therefore, it offered only limited resources in terms of food, raw materials and living space. This is reflected in the finds from the earliest layer.

The village was well planned. All the houses were built according to a complex geometric pattern. The remains of these houses make up the distinctive architecture of Lepenski Vir. The main layout of the village is clearly visible. That man of Lepenski Vir thoroughly understood the Cosmos in the shape of a three-sided pyramid, holding that the world has a spherical concept, which was only much later in ancient Greece more systematically articulated by Pythagoras.



- They believed in The Cult of The Sun
- The houses were built in spherical shape, with an opening on the top of the dome. Its purpose was to allow the sun's rays to enter the house from different points. The house was, therefore, built for the worship of the deity of the Sun and dead ancestors. As building material, they used natural materials such as wood, sand, chaff, mud, reeds, clay, etc.





- The dead were buried outside the village in a complex cemetery. The only exception was apparently a few important elders who were buried behind the hearthstone (heart) of the house.
- They believed that only the spirits of the dead could give life to children by entering them after conception. Therefore, the people of Lepenski Vir tried to come into contact with the spirits and encourage birth through rituals near the hearth/woman's belly and the altar/navel. The dead were therefore buried with their legs folded in the shape of a triangle (the yogic position) under the hearth.
- On Lepenski Vir, 136 graves were investigated, in which the skeletal remains of 180 individuals were discovered. The deceased were generally buried in a supine position, with their arms next to their bodies or on their stomachs, parallel to the course of the Danube while their heads were oriented downstream.



- Lepenski Vir provides a rare opportunity to observe the gradual transition from the hunter-gatherer lifestyle of early humans to the agricultural economy of the Neolithic.
- The first elements of animal domestication and farming were developed, and above all the collection and planting of seeds and the use of herds of animals began.
- The exact mechanism of this transition remains unclear, but evidence suggests development through evolution rather than invasion from outside.
- The first traces of literacy were also made there. The signs of Lepenski Vir over time formed a letter. A stone altar, 9,000 years old, with graphisms resembling symbols and letters intended for magical rituals, was most likely the base from which the alphabet of later civilizations was created.
- Life on Lepenski Vir died out around 4500 BC, when the inhabitants set out in search of larger arable land.