

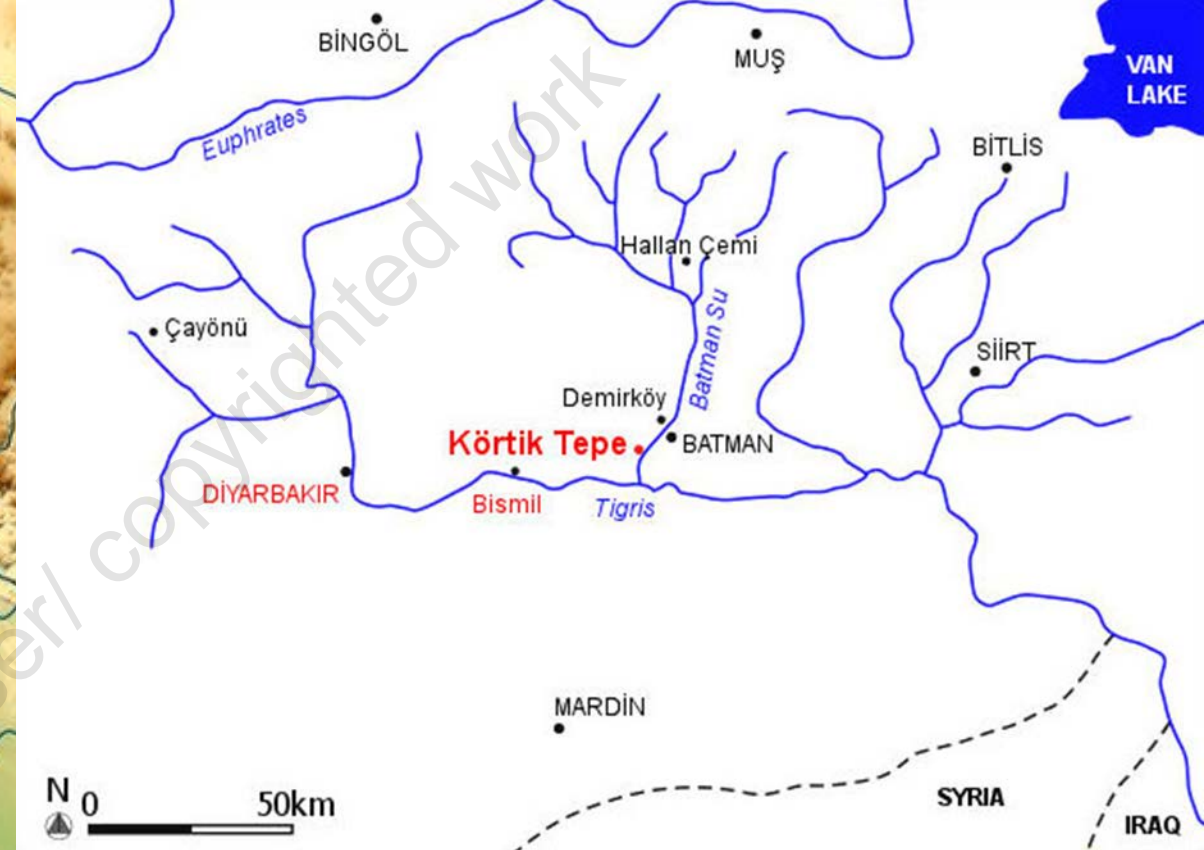
Körtik Tepe

Doç.Dr. Derya Yılmaz
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Körtik Tepe

- Kortik Tepe is located in the Aşağı Sazlık hamlet of Diyarbakır province, Bismil district.
- The mound was first detected in surveys carried out in 1989 and evaluated as a late site. Archaeological excavations that began in 2000 continued 18 years.
- Together with Hallan Çemi, Körtik Tepe is one of the earliest sites in which the transition from hunter-gatherer communities following a nomadic way of life to settled village life is represented.





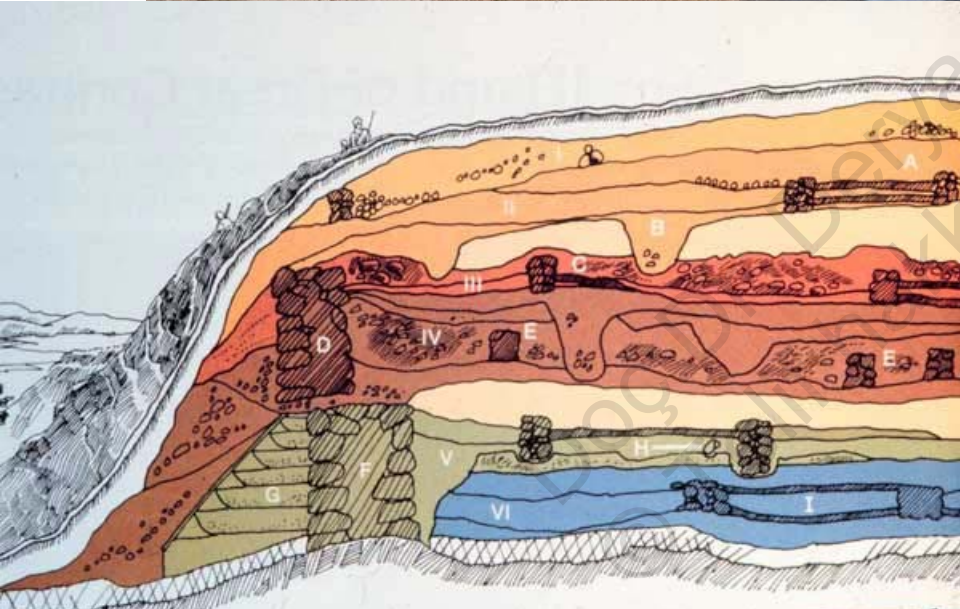
Two main cultural phases (stratigraphy) have been found. The upper phase is medieval, aspects of which are evident in the present day. The lower phase has been identified as Pre-Pottery Neolithic, represented through the body of the mound by structures, tombs and grave goods. The date is confirmed by burial rites, the style of stone and bone objects and 14C analyses which indicate that the mound was first settled in the tenth millennium BC

What is tell/ mound or Höyük ? How a tell formed?

In archaeology a tell or tel (mound or small hill) borrowed into English from Arabic is an artificial topographical feature, a species of mound consisting of the accumulated and stratified debris.



Natural hills

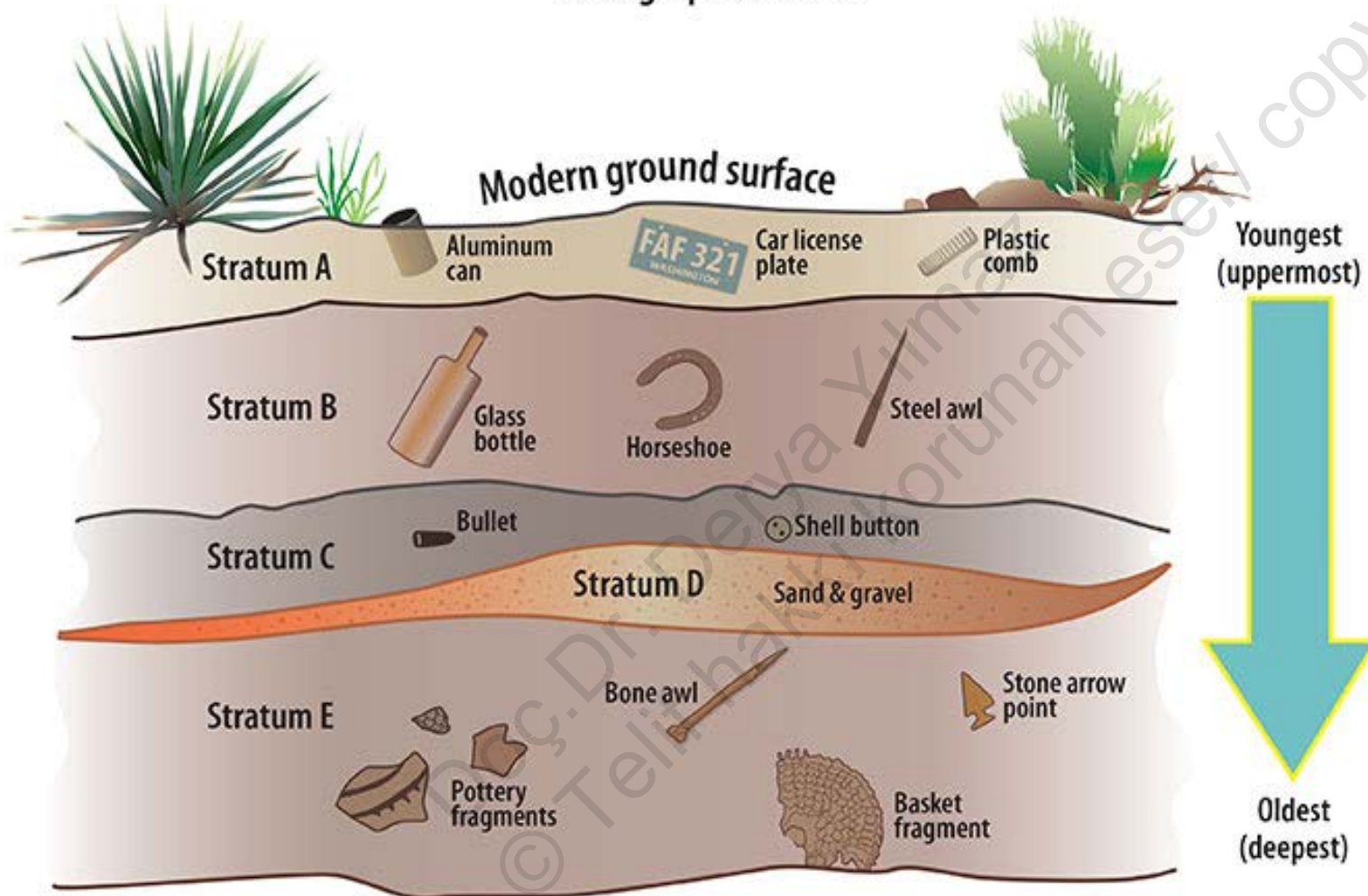


Tells are formed from a variety of remains, including organic and cultural refuse, collapsed mudbricks and other building materials, water-laid sediments, residues of biogenic and geochemical processes, and aeolian sediment. A classic tell looks like a low, truncated cone with sloping sides and a flat, mesa-like top.

What does stratigraphy mean in archaeology?

Principle in the application of stratigraphy to archaeology is the law of superposition—the principle that in any undisturbed deposit the oldest layers are normally located at the lowest level. Accordingly, it is presumed that the remains of each succeeding generation are left on the debris of the last.

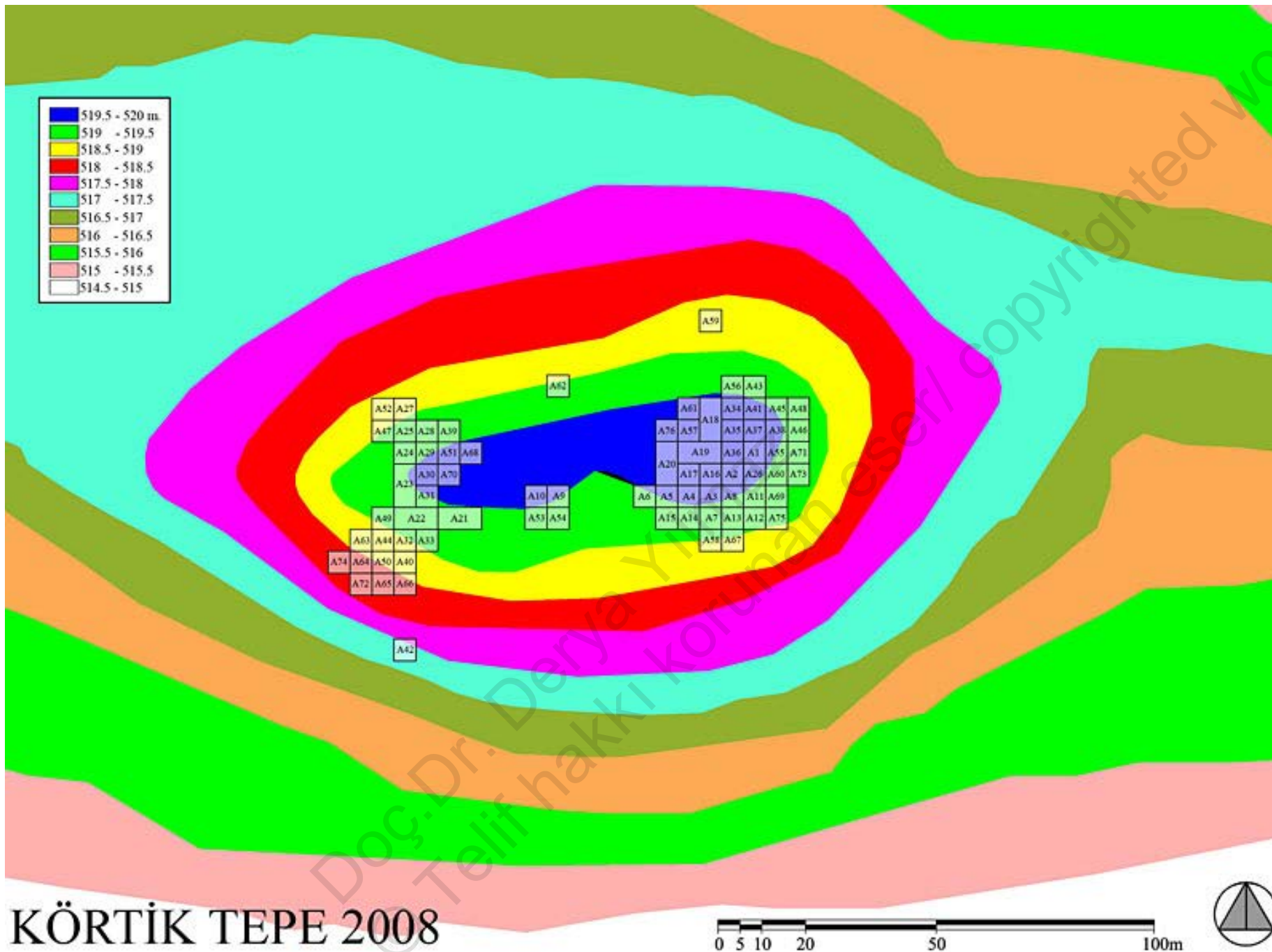
Stratigraphic Profile



Stratigraphy of Körtik Tepe

- Mediaval Age
- Pre pottery Neolithic Period

- Körtik Tepe is a low mound on the Tigris in Southeastern Turkey, dated to the end of the 11th and the 10th millennia BC. The lithic assemblage from the earliest level at Körtik Tepe is late epi-Palaeolithic in character and dates to the Younger Dryas.
- The levels above are dated to the Pre-Pottery Neolithic A [PPNA] period, strata that produced rich lithic industries, hundreds of zoomorphic and anthropomorphic decorated stone vessels, undecorated stone vessels, decorated ritual bone objects, thousands of marine shell beads, and several kinds of stone beads, animal decorated stone plaques, bone tools, bone fishing hooks, perforated stones large and small in size, and many kinds of mortars and pestles.



The data demonstrate that the Upper Tigris Valley was one of the primary regions of the Near East for the establishment of the earliest permanent settlements.

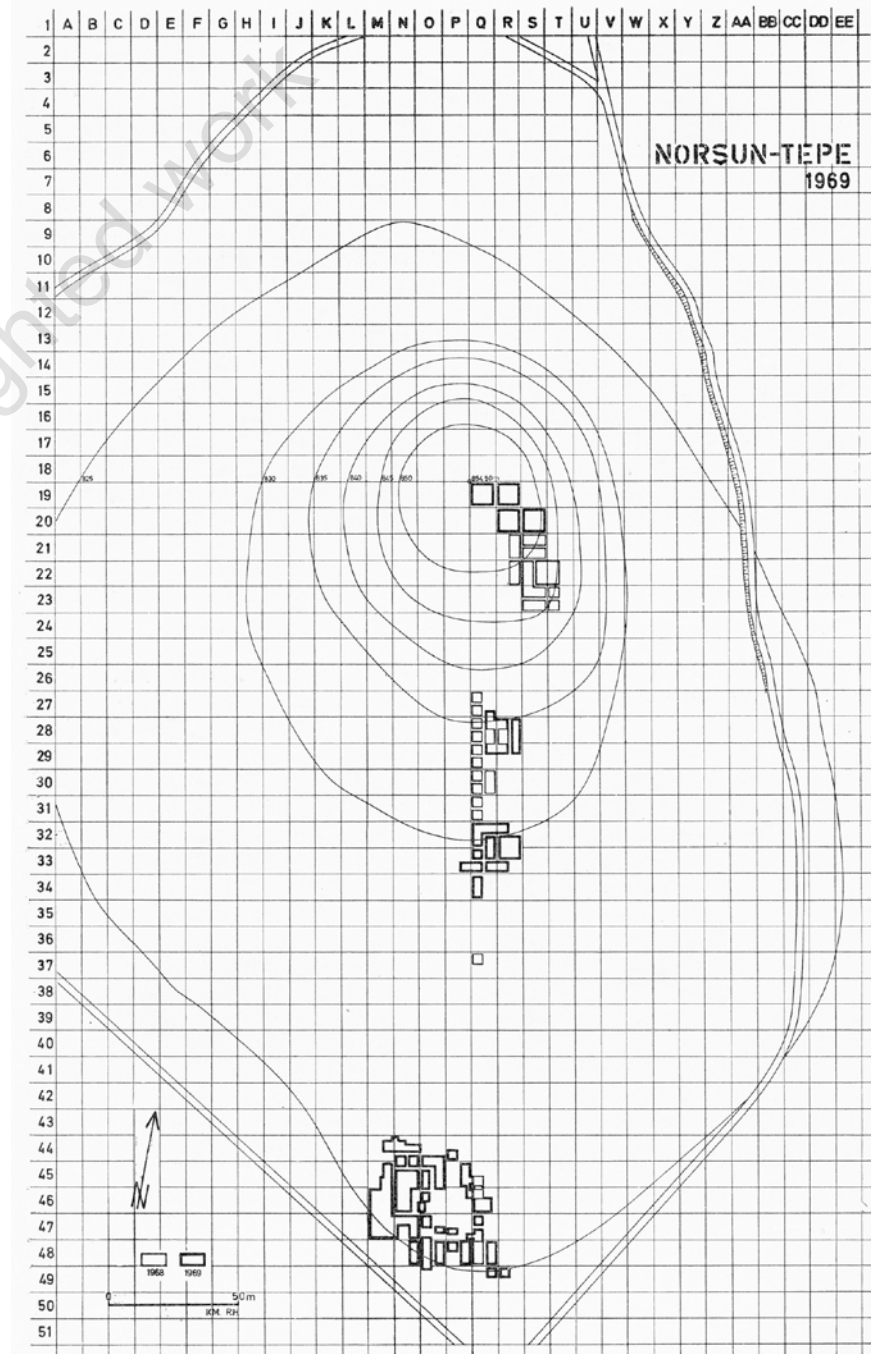
Topographical plan of site.



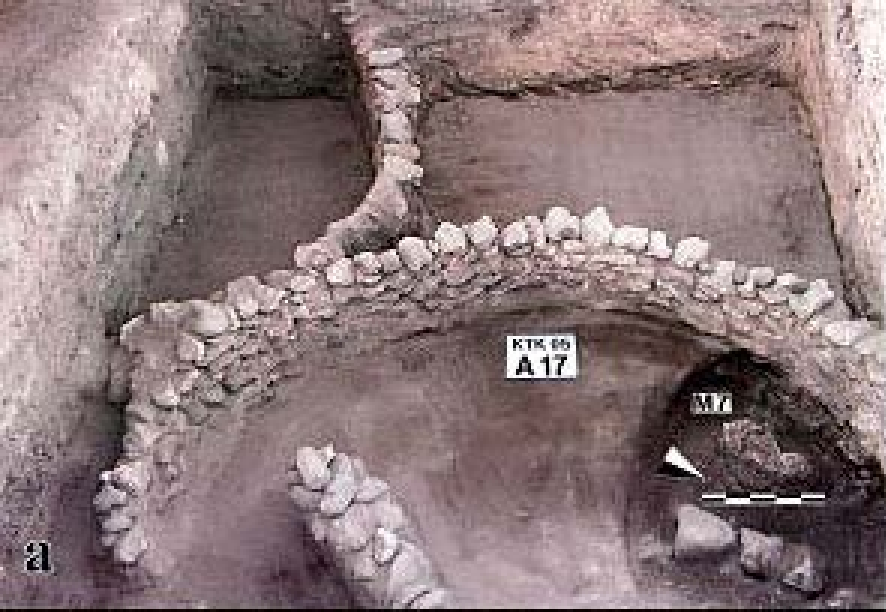
What is an archaeology grid?

Excavation sites are divided into grids so that archaeologists can record the exact location where artifacts are found.

Before excavations begin, archaeologists superimpose a grid (horizontal and vertical lines oriented to the four cardinal points) on top of sites in an effort to organize their work more systematically. Thus, landscapes are appropriated and placed within vertical or horizontal measurable and controlled environments.

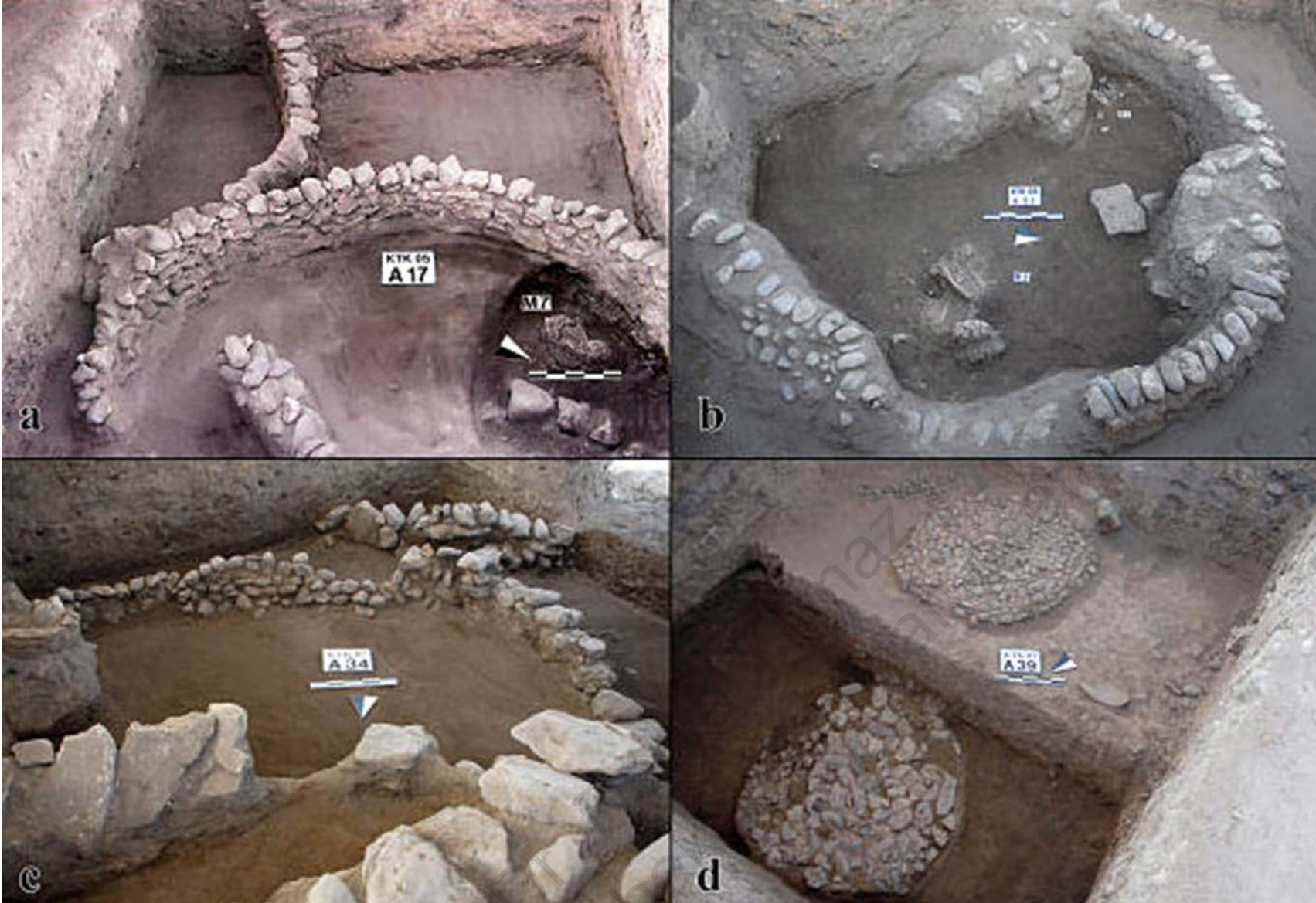


Kazı alanlarını gösteren topografik plan
Topographischer Plan mit den Grabungsflächen



In contrast to the communities leading a nomadic lifestyle, in Körtik Tepe food production technologies were developed and fishing was a common activity. There is also evidence for weaving and architectural units were clearly built for the purpose of storing food.

a-c) PPNA circular structures and intramural tombs; d) storage units.



The houses have earth floors encircled by thin stone walls (Figure 4a-c). Their diameters vary between 2.50-3.50m and may be located in open space or adjacent to each other. Similar structures are known from Hallan Çemi.

a-c) PPNA circular structures and intramural tombs; d) storage units.

Some modern replica of Neolithic houses from England



- Venomous creatures; such as scorpions, snakes, spiders, and centipedes were associated with the world of the dead in the Neolithic of the Fertile Crescent. Unlike other Pre-Pottery Neolithic centers, Körtik Tepe shows some examples during the 11th–10th millennium BC in the Upper Tigris Basin.



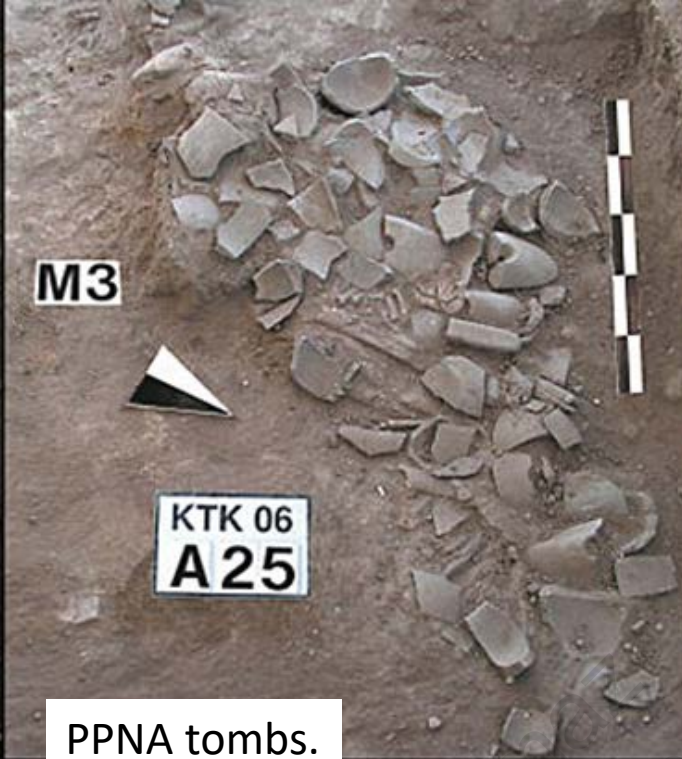
A chlorite vessel used as grave goods at Körtiktepe has its whole body incised with scorpions and snakes (Photo: Körtiktepe archive).



A chlorite plaquette of Körtiktepe displays a supernatural scorpion relief (Photo: Körtiktepe archive).



An in situ bone plaquette used as burial good displays two scorpions mirroring one another (Photo: Körtiktepe archive).



PPNA tombs.



PPNA decorated bone finds.

Hocker position

Nim-hocker position

Graves

Grave finds or grave goods



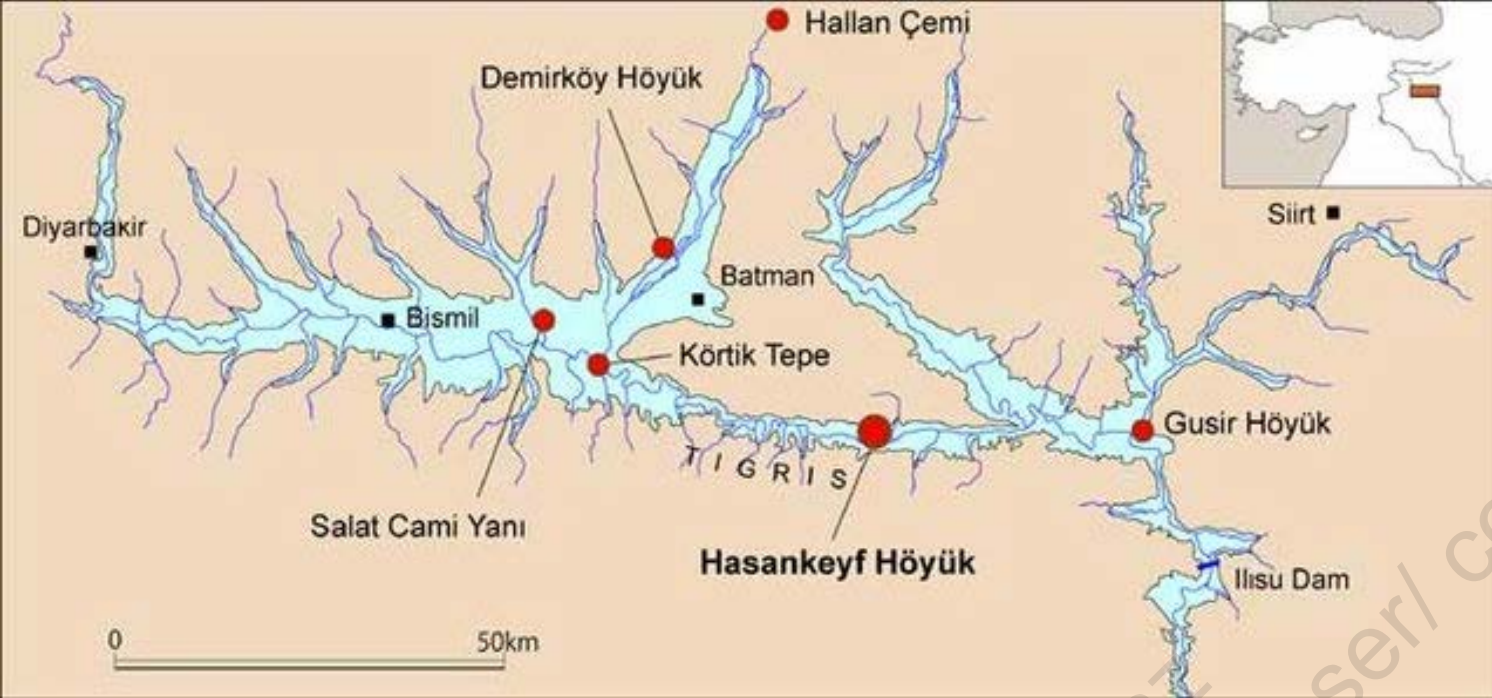
PPNA stone ritual objects having figures.

PPNA tomb contexts.





PPNA stone vessels.



- Today, under the waters of the Ilisu Dam, Körtik Tepe, located in the Bismil district of Diyarbakir and known as the place where humanity first settled, sank into the waters silently.



PPNA general view of
Körtik Tepe finds in 2008.



Selected References

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