

**Lecture and Reading Notes**  
Chapter 14: From the Earliest Art to the Bronze Age

**Key Images**

**Venus of Willendorf.** c. 25,000 – 20,000 BCE.

**Wall Painting of Animals** from Chauvet Cave, France. c. 28,000 BCE.

**Ziggurat of Ur-Nammu.** c. 2100 BCE.

**The Great Pyramids.** c. 2500 – 2650 BCE.

**King Mycerinus and Queen Khamerernebtj.** 2532 – 2510 BCE.

**King Tut Death Mask.** C. 1340 BCE.

**Key Terms**

Civilization  
Mesopotamia

Neolithic  
Paleolithic

Prehistoric  
Pyramid

Ziggurat

**Questions to Consider**

- Why is there no "better or best" when we compare the art of different societies?
- How often do human figures appear in Paleolithic paintings?
- Does Paleolithic art tend to be more abstract or more realistic?
- In what cave are the oldest known paintings? When were they made?
- What do scholars now believe were the purposes for such Paleolithic cave paintings?
- What possible purposes do you believe Paleolithic peoples may have had for creating such paintings? Why?
- What possible purposes could the so-called "Venus figures" have served to the people who made them?
- What dramatic change in the way people lived separates the Paleolithic and Neolithic ages? How did this change affect the art people made?
- Does Neolithic art tend to be more abstract or more realistic?
- In what four fertile river valleys did the earliest known civilizations arise?
- What similarities and what differences did the ancient Mesopotamian and the ancient Egyptian civilizations share? How did these differences effect their civilizations?
- The Sumerian ziggurats and the Egyptian pyramids are similar in form, but not in intent. For what purposes were these ancient monuments made and how do the intentions of the peoples who made them differ?
- What characterizes Egyptian sculpture? Describe the Egyptian canon in statuary.
- What is hierarchic scale and why did the Egyptians use it?