

Çatal Hüyük

Çatal Hüyük (now in Anatolia, Turkey) was one of the world's first cities. In fact, many people think it is the oldest city. It was an important and busy place for 2,000 years, from about 7000 BC to 5000 BC. Compared with today's cities, it wasn't big; in 6250 BC there were only about 6,000 people there.

The people were, we believe, kind and peaceful. Many of the people were farmers, but the city was also a centre of trade and ideas. Çatal Hüyük was rich and well organised, but life was very short: an average age of 34 years for men and 29 for women. Women were important in this city: many were in high positions and there were a lot of special goddesses.

There weren't any streets in the city; most of the houses were around a central courtyard. There weren't any doors in the houses. There was an entrance to each house through a hole in the roof and down a ladder. Inside, there were paintings of animals and people on some of the walls.