



## When is Archaeology?

Archaeology is the study of past human cultures, based on the remains of their material culture in its context. So how far back does archaeology go?

- The Earth is approximately 4.6 billion years old.
- Modern humans first appeared approximately 200 000 years ago.
- The “Neolithic Revolution” began approximately 12 000 years ago (10 000 BCE). This signifies the time when humans in Africa, Asia and Europe began to transition from nomadic to sedentary, develop agriculture, animal husbandry, specialisation of industry, increasing social stratification (eventually to a single ruler or king in some cases) and the growth of regional centres, cities and towns.
- There are several archaeological projects in Israel that deal with the Palaeolithic and Neolithic periods. However, **the Archaeology of Ancient Israel is mainly focused on the Bronze Age onwards**, which begins approximately 5000 years ago (c.3300 BCE).

