

Gobbet

This article discusses the domestication of animals, and how they were used for trade and resources. This article is designed to be read by someone looking to further their understanding of the Neolithic trade routes and animal domestication of the same period; as well as aiming to provide points to further backup the agenda.

One way in which the text displays a strength, is through the referencing and usage of exterior sources to increase the validity of points made in the article itself. This is shown exceptionally, when the author writes “ “With each new line of evidence, it became increasingly clear... these were not wild sheep – they were domestic animals,” says Taylor.”. The author is directly quoting a relevant source to reinforce the claim that the ancestor of the modern-day sheep (which was first domesticated) was very dissimilar to sheep of today. This highlights the awareness the author has of the situation, as well as contributing to the aims of the article as the information provided, challenges current theories thought to be true and provides the reader with a new direction of thought.

Another way in which the text displays an adept understanding (linking in with the previous point) is referencing various professionals regarding a visit to “rockshelter Obishir V, tucked into a mountain precipice along Kyrgyzstan’s southern border with Uzbekistan”. This visit proved successful, as the scientists uncovered various artefacts (axes) and bones which were subsequently carbon-dated; to discover their origin. The author recognises these professionals and understands the importance of their involvement, with the evolution of knowledge regarding domestication of animals. This also supports the agenda the article by providing the reader with a more in-depth view on how the neolithic timeline is constructed.

On the other hand, the article does deliver successfully, an idea of how these sites became points of interest for artefacts and items of historical importance. Usually; scientists will determine areas of potential sites by studying historical maps and ‘overlapping’ them with current maps to find the location of historical settlements. These settlements can then be viewed by satellite imaging (before actually visiting the site in person) to determine if they hold any probable cause to examine.

The article achieves its main goal (to provide a more thorough understanding of the domestication of Sheep in Central Asia during the Neolithic era) effectively, as it provides the knowledge of ‘How’, ‘Why’ and ‘Who’ simultaneously.

The article states that the “domestication of sheep, goat, and cattle first took place in the Fertile Crescent of Mesopotamia and the nearby mountain zones of western Asia”; setting the foundation for the article to build on.

The article suggests that the sheep (valuable for their wool and meat) were traded, primarily along the “silk road” in exchange for currency, resources and tools.

The key players in uncovering the important dates and events are the groups of various scientists, tasked with locating, discovering and determining their chronological origin in the ever-changing timeline of human history.

In comparison with another article, (New evidence on the earliest domesticated animals and possible small-scale husbandry in Atlantic NW Europe) similarities and differences are clearly displayed.

One similarly, both articles share, is the idea that the first animals to be domesticated were the sheep/goats; discovered through radiocarbon dating. The second states, “Here, radiocarbon dated bones from sheep/goat and possibly also cattle are presented which provide the first hard evidence of an early introduction of domesticated animals”.

A contrast, which does not appear in both articles, is the exact location in which these bones were discovered, and thought to be from. The second article explains how bones from sheep and goat remains were found “80 km north of the agro-pastoral frontier”. Where the main article only touches on a generalised region known as the “Fertile Crescent”, which was known for its vast area, containing many tribes and settlements due to its prime, fertile farming land.

In conclusion, the article is an exquisite source for academic aid as it explains and develops a key baseline for which adjacent areas of study (such as History) can be applied to further understand how animal domestication and development occurred during the Neolithic era.

References:

Main Article: HeritageDaily (2021) Early Dispersal of Neolithic Domesticated Sheep Into The Heart of Central Asia, Available at: <https://www.heritagedaily.com/2021/04/early-dispersal-of-neolithic-domesticated-sheep-into-the-heart-of-central-asia/138556> [16/04/21]

Compared Article: [nature.com](https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-020-77002-4) (2020) New evidence on the earliest domesticated animals and possible small-scale husbandry in Atlantic NW Europe, Available at: <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-020-77002-4> [16/04/21]