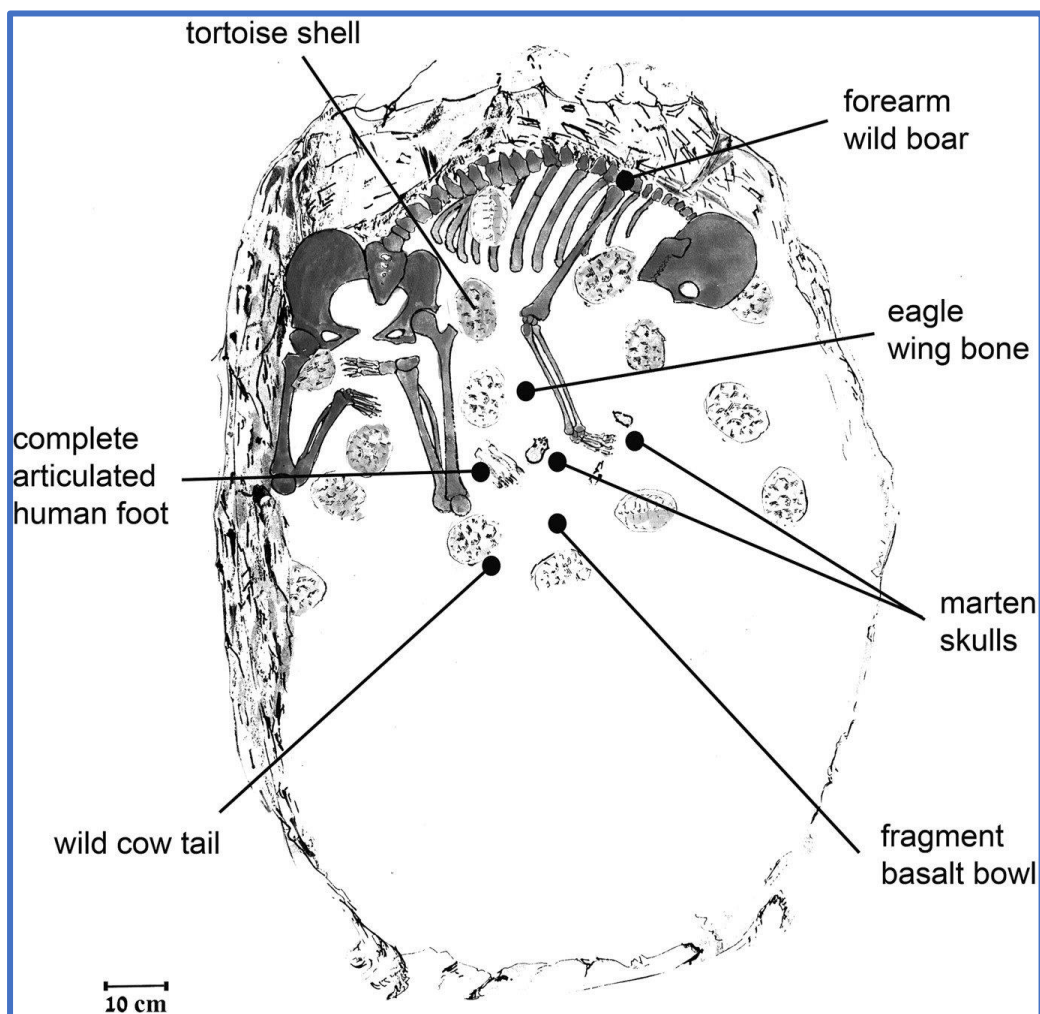


Natufian and Pre-Pottery Neolithic Burials in SW Asia

Natufian

Look at the plan of the burial from Hilazon Tachtit

1. Can you identify the edge of the grave and estimate the size?
2. How is the body laid out?
3. Try staging this – how easy/difficult it was to position the body? What does this tell you about the person buried?
4. What grave goods (if any) are there?
5. What significance might these have had?
6. Compare the plan with the artists impression on the following page. Which image do you find more informative for reconstructing possible funerary rituals?





Neolithic Burials (PPNB)

This is a hands-on exercise to try to better understand why some of the burials from the Neolithic SW Asia were manipulated, skulls removed and plastered.

1. Compare the plastered skulls provided with the facsimile of a skull (visually and handling them).
Think about the emotional response each of these evokes in you. Why do you feel this way?
Are these people or objects?
2. The plastered skulls were frequently used in some way in the settlement over a period of time before being buried in caches (like the example from Tell Aswad illustrated below). Using the plastered skulls provided try staging a similar cache. Does this allow us to understand how and why people might have done this in the past? What emotions do you feel doing this? What about the haptic sensations?
3. What do you think you have learned about Neolithic funerary practices and possibly beliefs by engaging with these objects/persons?

