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# List of Neolithic cultures of China

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This is a list of Neolithic cultures of China that have been unearthed by archaeologists. They are sorted in chronological order from earliest to latest and are followed by a schematic visualization of these cultures.

It would seem that the definition of Neolithic in China is undergoing changes. The discovery in 2012 of pottery about 20,000 years BC indicates that this measure alone can no longer be used to define the period.<sup>[1]</sup> It will fall to the more difficult task of determining when cereal domestication started.

List

Dates (BC)	English name	Chinese name	Modern-day name and location
18000–7000	Xianren Cave culture (Paleolithic)	仙人洞、吊桶环遗址	Wannian County, Shangrao, Jiangxi
8500–7700	Nanzhuangtou culture	南莊頭遗址	Yellow River region in southern Hebei
7500–6100	Pengtoushan culture	彭頭山文化	central Yangtze region in northwestern Hunan
7000–5000	Peiligang culture	裴李崗文化	Yi-Luo river basin valley in Henan
6500–5500	Houli culture	後李文化	Shandong
6200–5400	Xinglongwa culture	興隆洼文化	Inner Mongolia-Liaoning border
6000–5000	Kuahuoqiao culture	跨湖桥文化	Zhejiang
6000–5500	Cishan culture	磁山文化	southern Hebei
5800–5400	Dadiwan culture	大地灣文化	Gansu and western Shaanxi
5500–4800	Xinle culture	新樂文化	lower Liao River on the Liaodong Peninsula
5400–4500	Zhaobaogou culture	趙宝溝文化	Luan River valley in Inner Mongolia and northern Hebei
5300–4100	Beixin culture	北辛文化	Shandong
5000–4500	Hemudu culture	河姆渡文化	Yuyao and Zhoushan, Zhejiang
5000–3000	Daxi culture	大溪文化	Three Gorges region
5000–3000	Majiabang culture	馬家浜文化	Lake Tai area and north of Hangzhou Bay
5000–3000	Yangshao culture	仰韶文化	Henan, Shaanxi, and Shanxi
4700–2900	Hongshan culture	紅山文化	Inner Mongolia, Liaoning, and Hebei
4100–2600	Dawenkou culture	大汶口文化	Shandong, Anhui, Henan, and Jiangsu
3800–3300	Songze culture	崧澤文化	Lake Tai area
3400–2250	Liangzhu culture	良渚文化	Yangtze River Delta
3100–2700	Majiayao culture	馬家窯文化	upper Yellow River region in Gansu and Qinghai
3100–2700	Qujialing culture	屈家嶺文化	middle Yangtze region in Hubei and Hunan
3000–2000	Longshan culture	龍山文化	central and lower Yellow River
2800–2000	Baodun culture	寶墩文化	Chengdu Plain
2500–2000	Shijiahe culture	石家河文化	middle Yangtze region in Hubei
1900–1500	Yueshi culture	岳石文化	lower Yellow River region in Shandong

Schematic outline

These cultures existed for the period from 8500 to 1500 BC. Neolithic cultures remain unmarked and Bronze Age cultures (from 2000 BC) are marked with \*. There are many differences in opinion on the dating for these cultures, so the dates chosen here are tentative:



Map of the Chinese Neolithic

Year (BC)	North-east China (1)	Upper Yellow River (2)	Middle Yellow River (3)	Lower Yellow River (4)	Lower Yangtze (5)	Middle Yangtze (6)	Sichuan (7)	Southeast China (8)	South-west China (9)
8500			Nanzhuangtou 8500–7700						
8000									
7500									
7000						Pengtoushan (including Chengbeixi and Zaoshi)			
6500		Dadiwan	Peiligang	Houli				Zengpiyan	
	Xinglongwa 6200–5400	Laoguantai	Cishan	6500–5500		7000–5800		7000–5500	
6000		Baijia 6500–5000	Jiahu						
			Lijiacun		Kuahuqiao				
			6500–5000		6000–5000				
5500									
				Beixin 5300–4500					
	Xinle								
5000	5300–4800		Yangshao		Hemudu	Daxi		Dapenkeng	
			5000–3000		5000–3400	5000–3300		Fuguodun	
					Majiabang			5000–3000	
4500	Zhaobaogou				5000–4000				
	4500–4000			Dawenkou	Songze				
				4300–2600	4000–3000				
4000									
3500						Qujialing			
	Hongshan (incl. Fuhe)					3500–2600	Yingpanshan		
		Majiayao			Liangzhu		3100-?		

<b>3000</b>	3400–2300	3300–2700			3200–1800			<u>Tanishan</u>	
		Banshan				Shijiahe	Baodun	Shixia	
		2700–2400	<u>Longshan</u>			2500–2000	2800–2000	<u>Nianyuzhuan</u>	
<b>2500</b>		Machang	2800–2000	Longshan		Qinglongquan		Qinglongquan	
		2400–2000		2600–2000				<u>Hedang</u>	Baiyangcun
		*Qijia	*Shimao			Longshan		3000-?	2200–2100
<b>2000</b>	*Xiajiadian	2300–1800	2300-1800			2400–2000			Dalongtan
	2000–300		*Erlitou	*Yueshi					2100–2000
		*Siba	1900–1500	1900–1500	*Maqiao				
<b>1500</b>		1950–1500			1800–1200		*Sanxingdui 1700-1150		

For this schematic outline of its neolithic cultures China has been divided into the following nine parts:

1. Northeast China: Inner Mongolia, Heilongjiang, Jilin and Liaoning.
2. Northwest China (Upper Yellow River): Gansu, Qinghai and western part of Shaanxi.
3. North-central China (Middle Yellow River): Shanxi, Hebei, western part of Henan and eastern part of Shaanxi.
4. Eastern China (lower Yellow River): Shandong, Anhui, northern part of Jiangsu and eastern part Henan.
5. East-south-eastern China (lower Yangtze): Zhejiang and biggest part of Jiangsu.
6. South-central China (middle Yangtze): Hubei and northern part of Hunan.
7. Sichuan and upper Yangtze.
8. Southeast China: Fujian, Jiangxi, Guangdong, Guangxi, southern part of Hunan, lower Red River in the northern part of Vietnam and the island of Taiwan.
9. Southwest China: Yunnan and Guizhou.

## See also

- History of China
- List of Bronze Age sites in China
- List of Palaeolithic sites in China
- List of inventions and discoveries of Neolithic China
- Neolithic signs in China
- Prehistoric Asia
- Prehistoric Beifudi site
- Three Sovereigns and Five Emperors
- Xia dynasty

## References

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[y\\_Pottery\\_at\\_20000\\_Years\\_Ago\\_in\\_Xianrendong\\_Cave\\_China/links/0912f508ec8ac242a1000000/Early-Pottery-at-20-000-Years-Ago-in-Xianrendong-Cave-China.pdf](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Neolithic_cultures_of_China/links/0912f508ec8ac242a1000000/Early-Pottery-at-20-000-Years-Ago-in-Xianrendong-Cave-China.pdf) (PDF) from the original on 26 April 2022. Retrieved 26 April 2022.

## Further reading

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chapter 7, Higham, Charles, 'East Asian Agriculture and Its Impact', p.234-264.

chapter 15, Higham, Charles, 'Complex Societies of East and Southeast Asia', p.552-594

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