**Burial Practices**

A large number of prehistoric burial sites have been excavated throughout Thailand. These sites provide evidence for the beliefs and customs of prehistoric peoples. Archaeological excavations reveal that grave offerings or grave goods including pottery, tools, and ornaments were buried with the dead during the prehistoric times. These objects were probably intended to be of benefit to the dead in the afterlife.

Moreover, dog remains have been found buried with humans at such sites as Ban Non Wat in Nakhon Ratchasima and Si Thep in Phetchabun. These findings suggest that dogs may have been raised as community animals orhunting companions. Anthropologists studying tribal cultures in Southeast Asia have found that many tribal groups believe that dogs are sacred animals. Similar beliefs were probably common during the prehistoric period. For example, dogs may have been regarded as the ancestor of mankind, symbol of fertility and reproduction, or vehicle carrying the souls of the dead to the underworld. It has been suggested that the prehistoric peoples probably buried dogs with the dead as animal sacrifices to safely lead the souls of the dead to the underworld.

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