



## The Trypillians

### Who Were the Trypillians?

The Trypillian culture emerged in the Neolithic Age around 5400 BC and continued for nearly 3,000 years. They are believed to have arisen from indigenous foraging cultures which adopted over time a new economy based on farming, the raising of domesticated animals, and specialized crafts. The Trypillians also built the largest settlements in the world during their era.

The first Trypillian settlements appeared in the forest-steppe zone east of the Carpathian Mountains around 5400 – 5100 BC. Later they expanded eastward, eventually reaching the left bank of the Dnipro River, but avoided the open grasslands to the south, occupied by pastoral groups. They became acquainted with copper metallurgy sometime before 4000 BC, acquiring it from the Carpathian region to the west.

### Vikenty Khvoika: The Man Who Found the Trypillians

An educated, curious and socially engaged man, Khvoika co-founded the Kyiv City Museum of Antiquities and Art, becoming its curator in 1904. From 1893 to 1903 he excavated many sites in Kyiv and its vicinity, uncovering settlements and “burial fields” attributed today to the Bronze and Iron Ages. In 1896, near the town of Trypillia, Khvoika discovered traces of burned houses, previously unknown pottery types, and numerous clay figurines. From the large scale of the finds he concluded that he had discovered a new prehistoric culture; he named it after Trypillia.