

Prehistoric navigators of the Ice Age

Summary

Recent research has proven that man was navigating the oceans during the Ice Age between 10,000 and 900,000 years ago. The sea provided food and a means of transporting materials, plants, animals and people. Equipped with simple tools and great technical skill, prehistoric human beings built seaworthy vessels for various purposes. At a very early date they sharpened their senses for the perception of maritime phenomena. They developed methods of finding orientation on the high seas and reaching their desired coastal destinations. They navigated according to land-, sea- and sky-marks. Comparisons with the seafaring peoples of Oceania and details found on cave paintings in Europe provide insight into the methods and technical aids presumably employed for navigation.