



The deeper history of English and the role of Ukraine

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The Storytelling of English

The Trad Story:

- You **can** tell the old story: Anglo-Saxons, Vikings, Normans, Chaucer, Shakespeare, Renaissance loan words...(cf. books by David Crystal)

The Deeper Story:

- where did Anglo-Saxon come from? Where did Germanic languages come from? Where did Indo-European languages come from? Who spoke these ancient languages, and where? What happened to those people?

The Word Stories:

- Cognates, etymologies, borrowings, calques, endangered languages...



Deeper Stories: speaking Hittite in 2500 BC

Imagine a Hittite woman sitting by a river in Anatolia around 4500 years ago. She's sitting with her kids, trying to teach them basic numbers so they can count.

She sits and counts '1 - 2 - 3'.

But of course she doesn't speak English - she speaks Hittite.

And so she counts like this:

as, dan, teries....



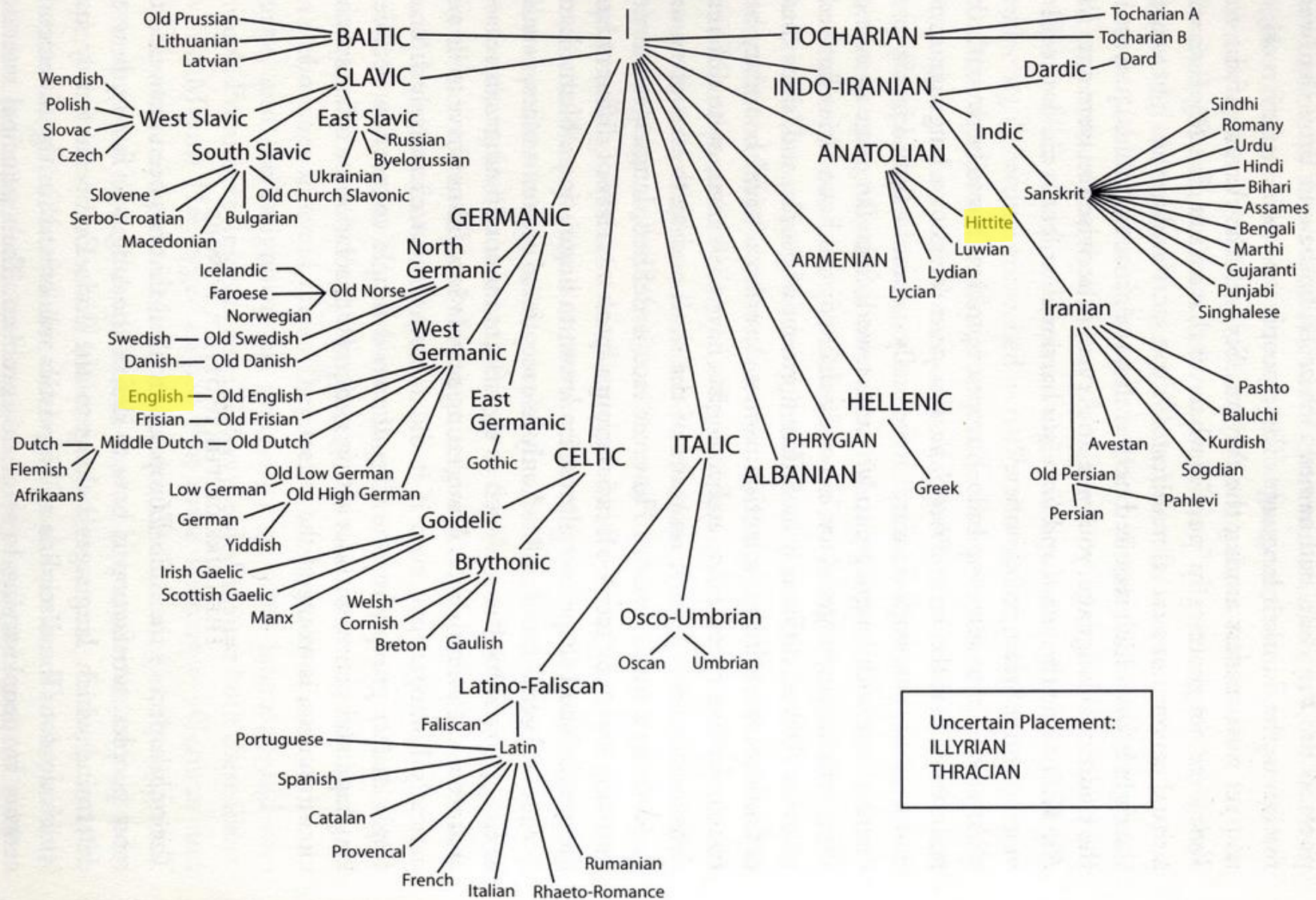
She asks the kids questions as she teaches:

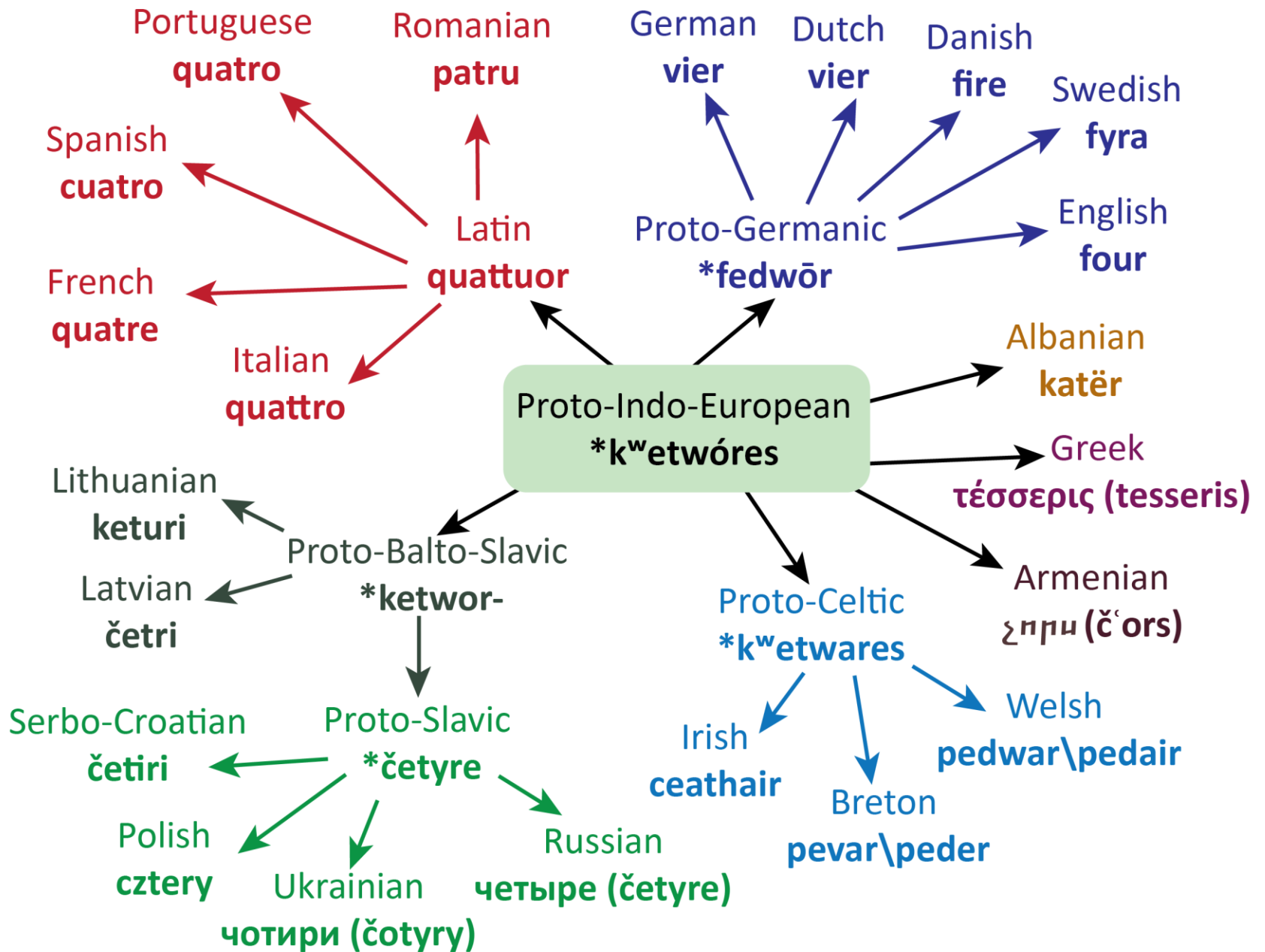
- KUIS? – 'who is that?'
- KUIT? – 'what is that?'
- WATAR – 'this is water'

She indicates their group, sitting by the river:

- WES KA – 'we (are) here'

PROTO-INDO-EUROPEAN

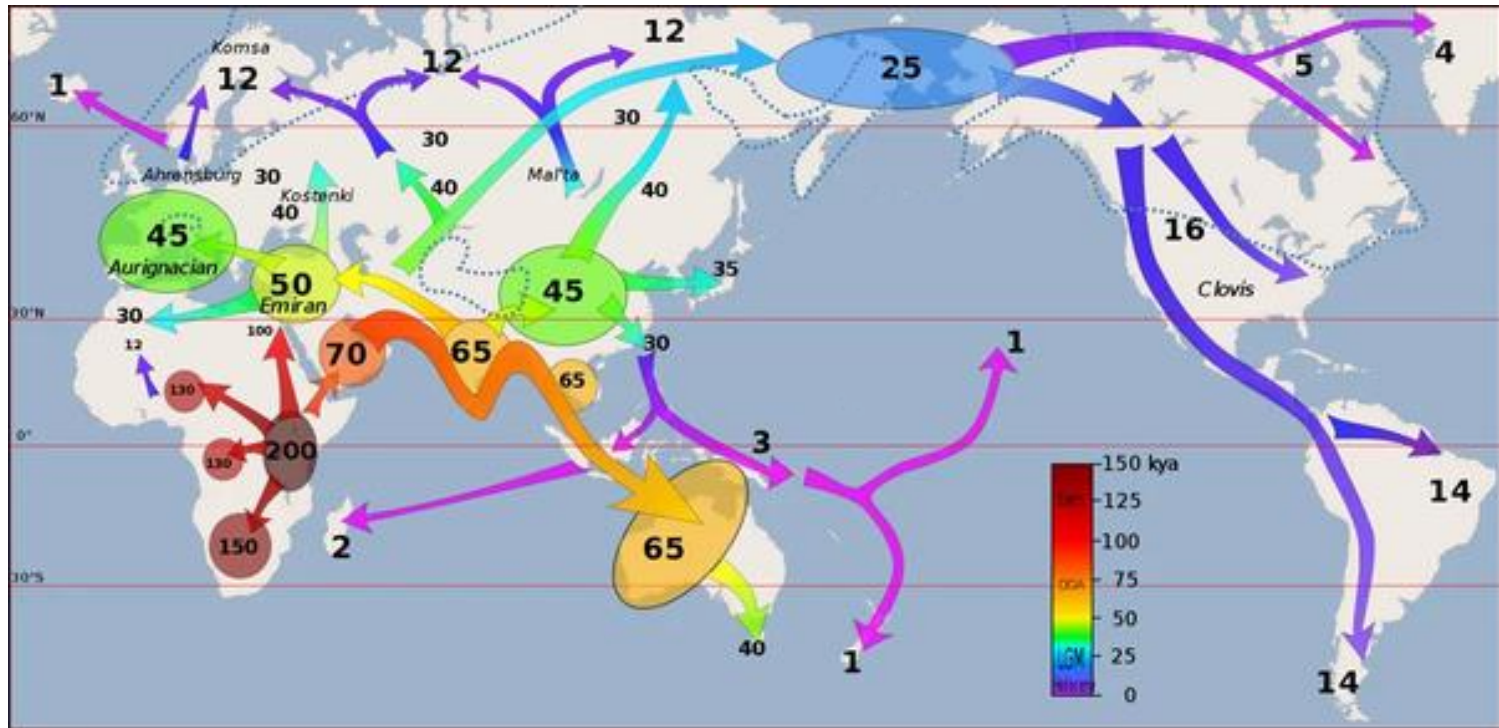




PIE to Germanic to Old English to now

Proto-Indo-European	Germanic (Gothic)	Old English	Modern English
ca. 3000 BC	ca. 100 BC	600 AD	2023
*phter	fadar	faeder	father
*dughter	dauhtar	dohtor	daughter
*ghostis	gasts	giest	guest
*tu	thu	thu	thou, you
*oinos	ains	an	one
*dont	tunthus	toth	tooth
*kerd	hairto	heorte	heart
*regs	reiks	rice	regal (Latin: rex) king (OGe: *kuningaz)

Deeper stories - out of Africa



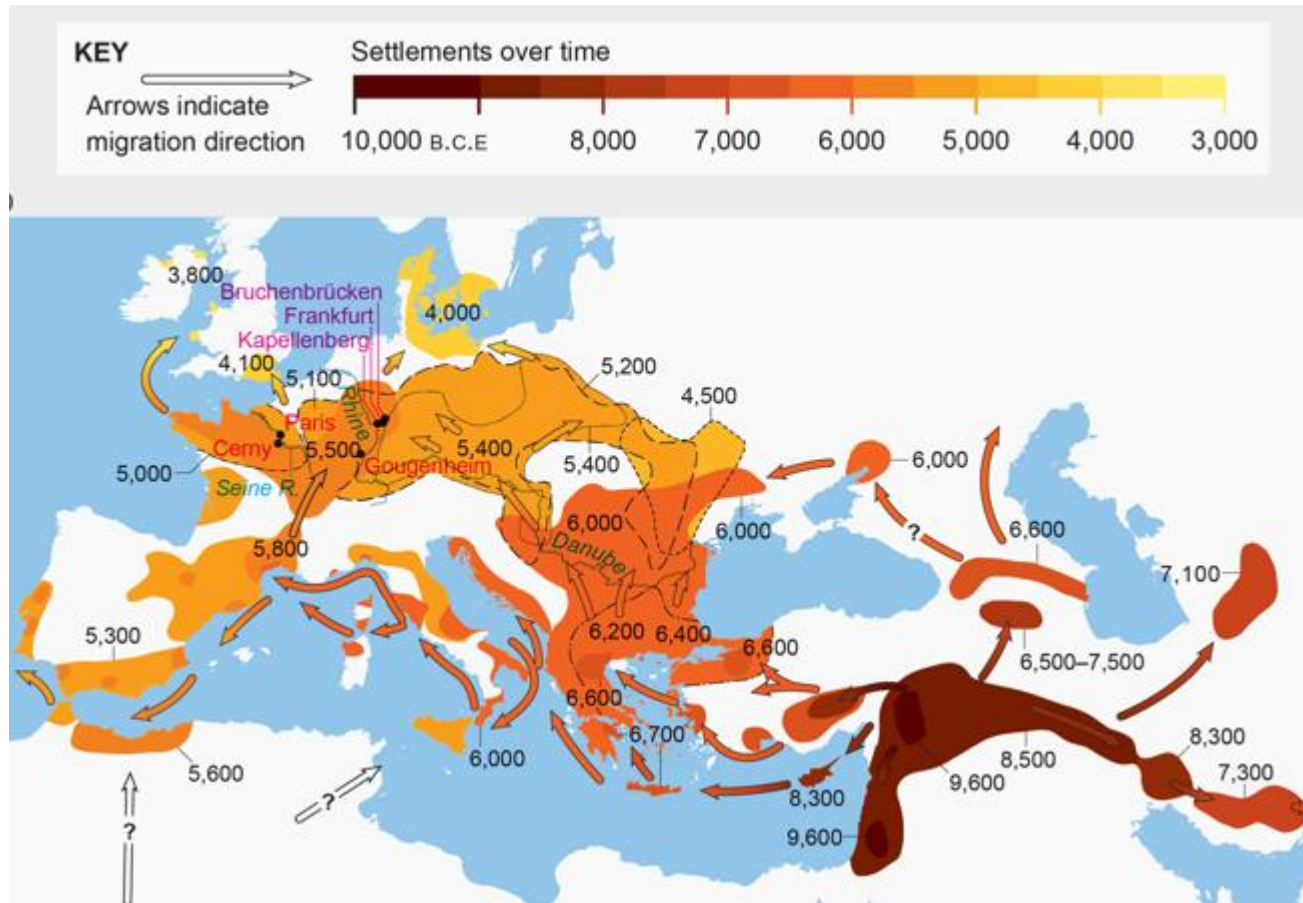
Homo Sapiens humans left north-east Africa around 50,000-60,000 years ago.

What language(s) did they speak in 50,000 BCE?

The Ice Age ended 12,000 years ago; people survived in Iberia & Ukraine, then re-populated Europe. ***What languages did they speak in 10,000 BCE?***

Nostratic? Eurasiatic?

Deeper stories - the farmers



- Farming developed in Levant/Middle East ca. 9500-8000 BCE
- Spread into Anatolia & Ukrainian Steppe ca. 6000 BCE
- Migrated into Europe ca. 6000-4000 BCE
- ***What languages did they speak in 6000 BCE?***

The role of Ukraine

Linguistics:

- The Indo-European language homeland

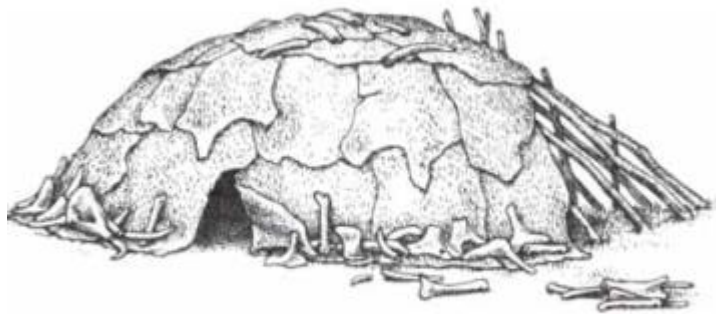
Archaeology:

- The ice age refuge: 20,000 – 10,000 years ago
- Innovation: Kurgan burial mounds
- The Yamnaya: metalwork, horses and wagons

DNA:

- The Indo-European people's homeland
- The influence of R1b in Y-DNA

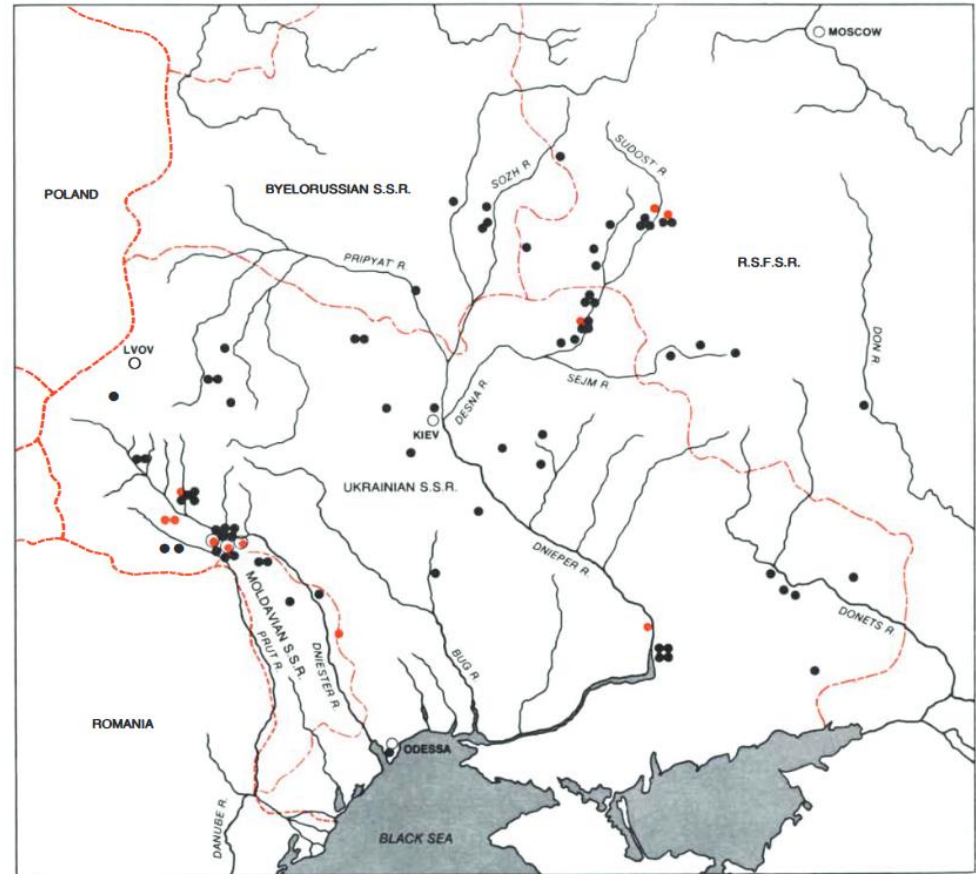
The role of Ukraine - repopulating



Ice Age shelter ca 10,000 years ago

DNA group **R1a1**, with an inferred age of ~15,000 years, is considered to come from this glacial refuge.

This gene is found at high frequency in Poland, Russia, Ukraine, the Czech and Slovak Republics.



- UPPER PALEOLITHIC
- MOUSTERIAN
- BOTH CULTURES

MAJOR PALEOLITHIC SITES in the Ukraine and vicinity lie in river valleys such as that of the Dniester, the Dnieper-Desna region and the Don or near lesser streams and tributaries such as the Prut, the Bug, the Pripyat', the Sejm, the Sozh and the Sudost'. Because many of the sites lie close together their positioning on this map is not exact. Eight of them (color) contain Mousterian artifacts only; 72 (black) contain only artifacts of the Upper Paleolithic period. At Molodova I and V and at one other site both cultures are found.

Hunter-gatherers in Caucasus 6000 BC

- The Yamnaya came from a mixture of earlier cultural groups such as Sredni Stog (Zaporizhia) and Repin (Don) cultures
- genetically a mix of **Caucasus Hunter-Gatherers** and **Eastern Hunter-Gatherers**



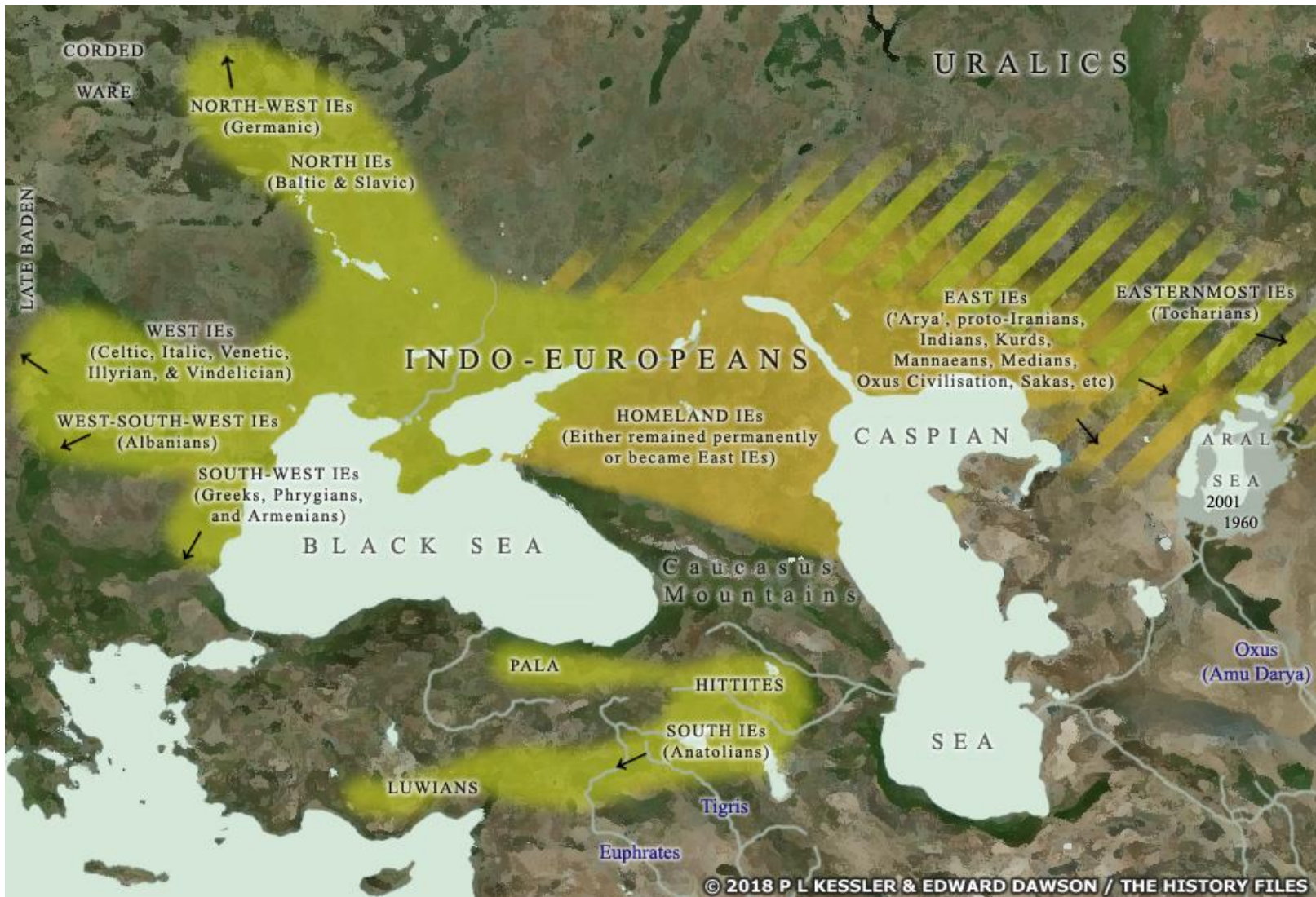
- They were livestock herders (not farmers) – the remains of the world's first domesticated horses were found in the village of Deriivka on the right bank of the Dnipro.
- Had mostly brown eyes, light to intermediate skin, and brown hair colour - some with DNA for blonde hair.
- Brought the lactose tolerance gene to Europe – so adults could drink milk.

The Yamnaya spread - 4000 BC



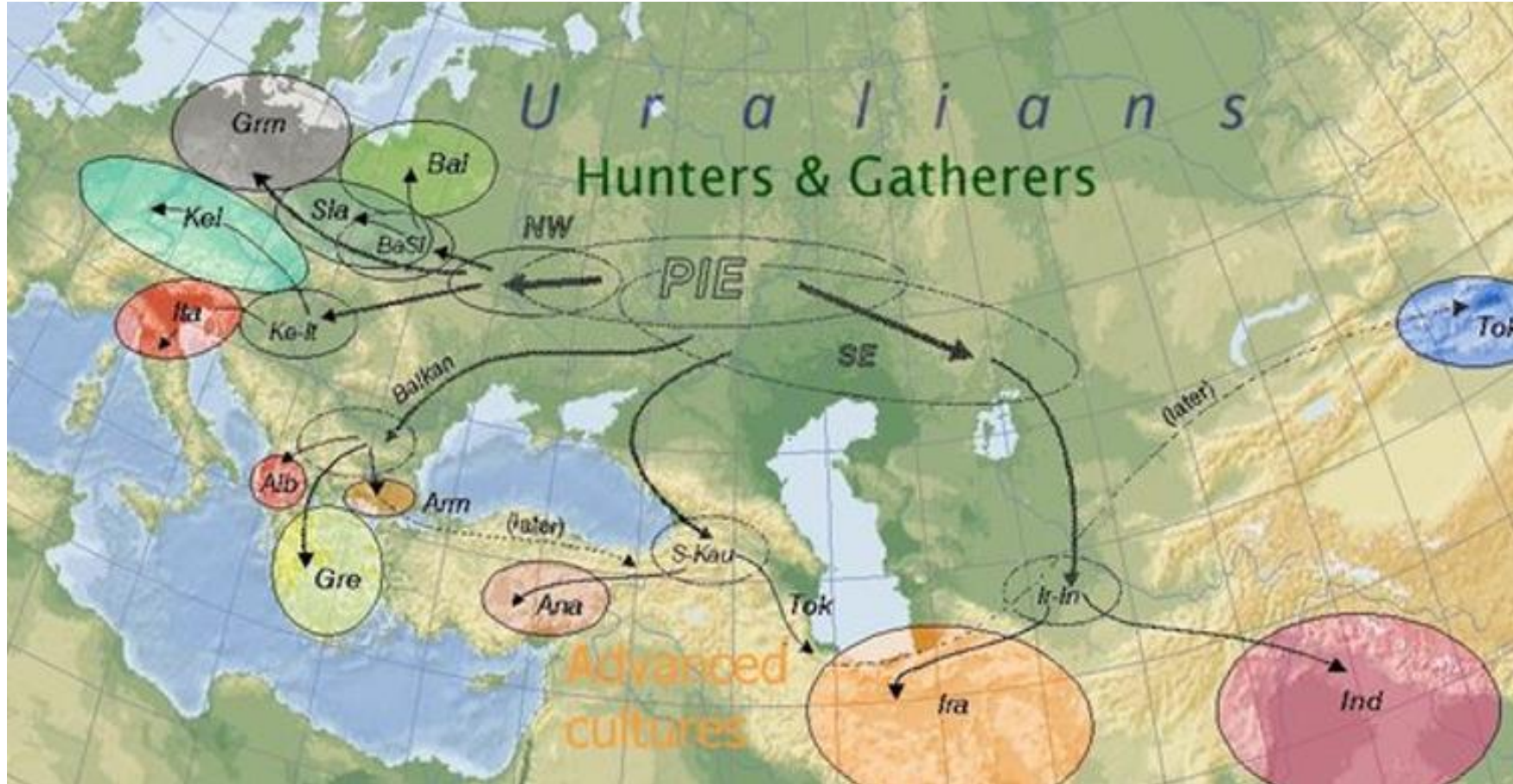
The Yamnaya: pastoralist groups blended from: CHG, EHG, WHG hunter-gatherers
They mainly had **R1b-M269** haplogroup DNA (shared by most northern/western European males today)

The Yamnaya migrate by river – 3000 BC



They migrated through the river systems: *Danube* to C. Europe, *Dniester* to N.C. Europe, *Dnipr/Southern Bug* to N.E. Europe

The Yamnaya: PIE families 2000-1000 BC



- highly mobile pastoralists & horse herders
- built Kurgan burial mounds
- trade connections with other cultures
- skilled metalworkers in bronze
- 14 • spoke Indo-European (PIE)

Genetic evidence suggests that much of the north European population still carry Yamnaya DNA (R1b).



Classroom Stories for re-telling/writing

- Out of Africa
- People after the Ice Age
- Who were the Yamnaya?
- Where did the Yamnaya come from?
- What was Indo-European language like?
- Which families did it split into?
- Where was Germanic spoken?
- Where is Germanic spoken now?
- Compare words across Indo-European families

Word Stories: Anglo-Saxon words today

Anglo-Saxon words comprise around 20-30% of Modern English words, possibly up to 70% of informal everyday speech:

- **Unchanged:** *and, for, of, in, to, under, on*
- **Minor changes:** *æfter, beforan, behindan, bi, eall, ofer, uppan, æt, socc, scoh, scyrte, hætt, mete, butere, milc, hunig, cese*
- **Key change:** *hwæt* (what), *hwy* (why)
- **Family words:** *faeder, moder, sunu, dohtor, sweoster, brothor*

What have the Vikings done for us?

Anglo-Saxon	Old Norse	Modern English
hie	they	they
shank	leggr	leg
hide	skinn	skin
niman	tacan	take
ey	egg	egg
steorfan	die	die
scyrte	skirt	skirt / shirt
sind	ar	are
hlaf	bread	bread
eagduru	vindauga	window

Why we don't like the Normans...

The class system...

House prices....

And posh vocabulary....



Old English	Today	Norman English
swin	pig, pork	porc
sceap	sheep, mutton	mutun
cu	cow, beef	beof
hus	house, mansion	mansiun
libban	live, reside	resider
deor	deer, venison	veneisun
thincan	think, pensive	penser
cynellic	kingly, royal	real

Word Stories - Borrowing

“We don't just borrow words;
on occasion, English has pursued
other languages down alleyways
to beat them unconscious
and rifle their pockets
for new vocabulary.”

James D. Nicoll

Loan words

Origin:	Modern English:
French	<i>café, garage, cliché, ballet, champagne, déjà vu, clique, résumé, government, person</i>
Italian	<i>piano, alto, soprano, tempo, fresco, studio, zucchini, umbrella, balcony, regatta</i>
Spanish	<i>ranch, stampede, canyon, tornado, alligator, mosquito, patio, breeze, tequila</i>
Arabic	<i>average, lemon, tariff, zero, alcohol</i>
Hindi	<i>bungalow, pyjamas,</i>
Chinese	<i>tea, monsoon, tycoon, ketchup (kê-chiap)</i>

Activity:

Find loan words from English in your language
Find words from your language in English

Etymologies – “magazine”

- Arabic **khazana** = to store up, hence *makhazan* = storehouse, plural **makhazin** = storehouses
- Borrowed by Italian as **magazzino** = storehouse
- Borrowed from Italian by French as **magasin**
- Borrowed from French by English as **magazine** (still as storehouse)
- Edward Cave started a publication in 1731 that was a ‘storehouse’ of contained interesting info & called it: **“The Gentleman’s Magazine”**

Task: Which modern use of the word ‘**magazine**’ keeps the original meaning of ‘storage’?

From: *The Etymologicon* (Forsyth)

Activity types

Tasks:

- Google 'The Yamnaya' & find out what animals they herded
- Find out what the Yamnaya burial places are called

Speaking:	Listening:
Re-tell one of the stories (Anglo-Saxons or Vikings or Hittites...)	Listen to YouTube reconstruction of how old languages sound
Writing:	Reading:
Summarise one period of the language history	Text + Fill in the gap / Cloze Matching 2 halves of sentence Matching words between languages

Activity - Worksheet

**Download
Worksheets on
The Yamnaya &
The Anglo-Saxons:
www.michaelcarrier.com**

Reading – The Yamnaya

The Yamnaya people were a pastoralist culture that lived in the steppes of Eastern Europe from approximately 3600 to 2300 BCE. Archaeological evidence suggests that the Yamnaya people gradually migrated eastward over time, moving from the steppe into the Danube region.

Linguistic and genetic evidence suggest that the Yamnaya were the people who spoke Indo-European and spread the language into Europe, where it broke into different language families.

The legacy of the Yamnaya people can still be seen today in the languages and cultures of their descendants, which include many of the modern-day peoples of Europe, Central Asia, and the Indian subcontinent.

Comprehension

- 1 Where did the Yamnaya live, before they migrated?
- 2 What language did they speak?
- 3 Where do the descendants of the Yamnaya live?
- 4 Where did the Yamnaya move to?

Matching

Match these words with their meaning:

1 gradually	a information that proves something
2 evidence	b geographical area
3 approximately	c slowly
4 region	d way of life for a people
5 culture	e about, circa

Task

Work with a partner. Use Google to find out the answer to these questions:

- 1 What is a pastoralist?
- 2 What does genetic evidence tell us about the Yamnaya?
- 3 What are the modern countries in the Danube region?



Activity - matching

Match the words in the table with the languages they were borrowed from.

Write one of these languages in the right-hand column:

Arabic, Chinese, Czech, French, German, Greek, Hindi, Italian, Latin, Spanish, Welsh

Modern English	"Borrowed" from:
bungalow	
admiral	
robot	
chocolate	
leisure	
agenda	
anonymous	
loot	
penguin	

Thanks!

Summary

- Build a love of language
- Build an understanding of our shared humanity via shared language history
- Build awareness of where words come from
- Build motivation to learn more
- Help students explore and play with words
- Help students see links from English to own language – this can aid lexis retention

Worksheets and Powerpoint:

www.michaelcarrier.com

Comments:

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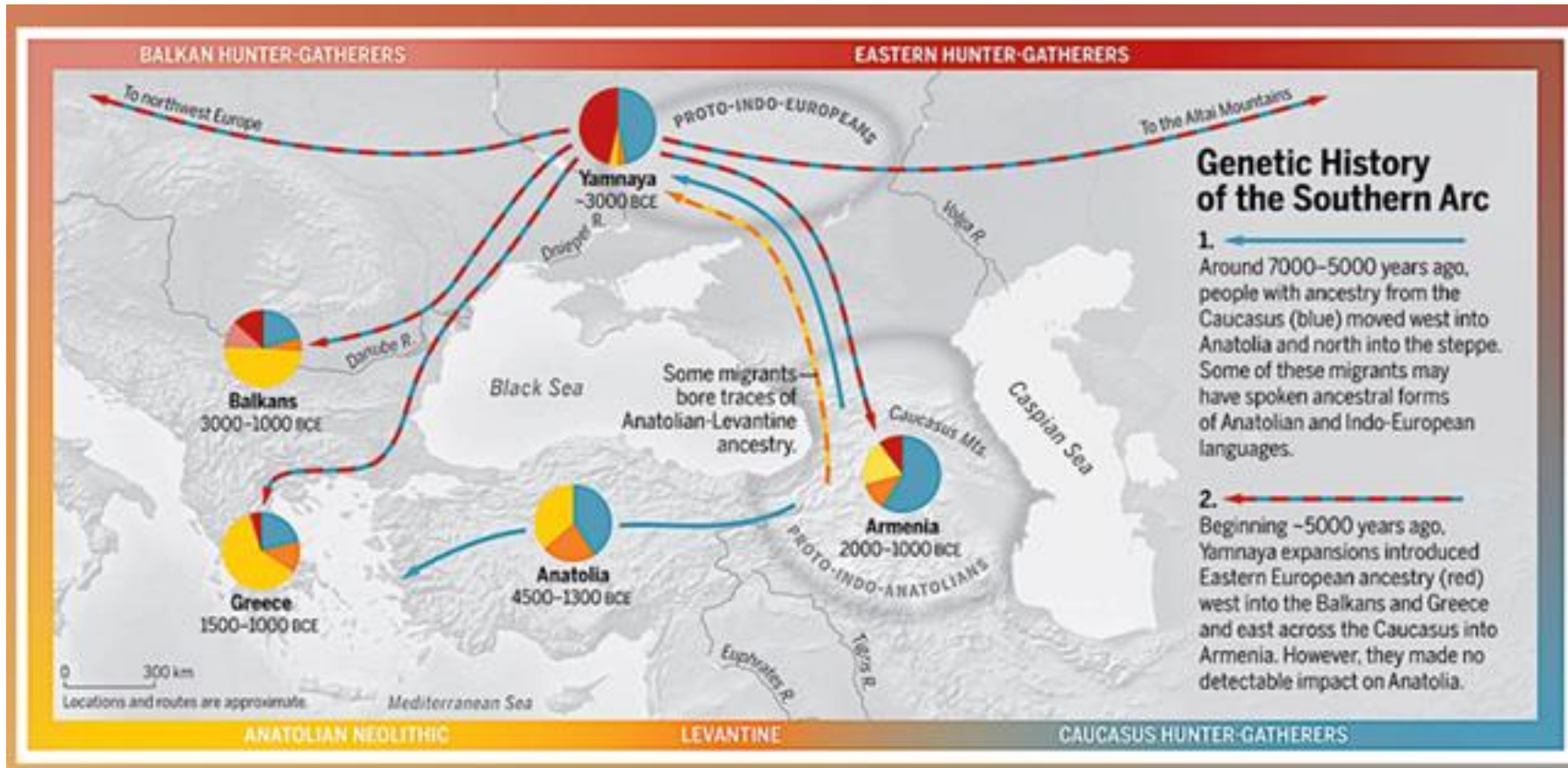
References

Luigi Cavalli-Sforza
Colin Renfrew
David Reich
Stephen Oppenheim
David Anthony

QR link to my website:



DNA migration into Ukraine and westwards



Our DNA groupings:

- Anatolian neolithic
- Levantine
- Caucasus hunter-gatherers
- Eastern hunter-gatherers
- Western/Balkan hunter-gatherers