

Uluburun shipwreck - Context

Near Southern Turkey, c.14th century BCE.

Bronze Age shipwreck, provides insight into maritime and terrestrial trade in Mediterranean.

Site revealed copper ingots arranged in rows.

Computer modeling has allowed reconstructions of what the ship looked like and how its cargo was arranged - the wooden hull had deteriorated and the ship is placed on a slope off which some artifacts tumbled over the years.

(Pulak, 2012)

Uluburun shipwreck - Cargo

10 tons of copper ingots, 1 ton of tin ingots (note that copper and tin together make bronze, kinda important in the Bronze Age), pottery storage jars, 24 stone anchors.

Much of the perishable cargo would have disappeared because of the aquatic environment.

Elite/royal cargo?

- Faience beads, inlaid seashell rings, ostrich eggshell vases...
- Gold and silver jewelry.

The **copper ingots** - Pure Cypriot copper (origin deduced from lead-isotope analysis).
- Ingots very carefully loaded into rows to minimise slippage.

The **tin ingots** - Most lost due to corrosion, but chemical analysis reveals very pure tin.
- Tin = quite rare in Bronze Age Mediterranean.
- Lead-isotope analysis suggests origins in Taurus Mountains and a source near Afghanistan.

The **Cypriot pottery** - Included oil lamps, milk bowls...
- Cypriot wares found in very high concentration at Uluburun.

(Pulak, 2012)

Uluburun shipwreck - Copper Ingots



Uluburun and what it tells us about trade

Illustrates Bronze Age trade routes which connect Egypt, Cyprus and the Aegean.

Royal gift exchange conducted directly by palatial institutions?

Long-distance trade = high risk endeavour which requires many preparations

Some private merchants engaging in domestic trade, but most of long-distance = controlled by some form of elite group.

(Pulak, 2012)

The Uluburun Mouse

Dispersal of the house mouse is agreed to be linked to stowaway transport in grain and foodstuff cargo.

Before Uluburun, evidence resided in zooarchaeological evidence, without direct archaeological evidence.

Uluburun produced small mouse mandible.

Mouse also provides information about the route of the ship before its sinking.

Phenotypic analysis of the mandible suggests it most likely originated from Syria.

(Cucchi, 2008)

Amarna - Overview

New Kingdom (1550-1069 BCE).

Amarna = new capital city during the reign of Amenhotep IV (also known as **Akhenaten**).

Attempt to replace tradition with new religion.

Range of social status within city.

(Scarre, 2018)

References for your humble perusal

Cucchi, T. (2008) 'Uluburun shipwreck stowaway house mouse: molar shape analysis and indirect clues about the vessel's last journey', *Journal of Archaeological Science*, 35(11), pp. 2953-2959.

Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jas.2008.06.016>.

Scarre, C. (2018) 'The Human Past: World Prehistory and the Development of Human Societies', 4th edn. London: Thames and Hudson.

Pulak, C. (2012) 'Uluburun Shipwreck', in E.M. Cline (ed.) *The Oxford Handbook of the Bronze Age Aegean*. Oxford University Press, p. 862-876. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780199873609.0-13.0064>.



By Anais (Anais_Pe)
cheatography.com/anais-pe/

Not published yet.
Last updated 24th May, 2025.
Page 1 of 1.

Sponsored by **ApolloPad.com**
Everyone has a novel in them. Finish Yours!
<https://apollopadd.com>