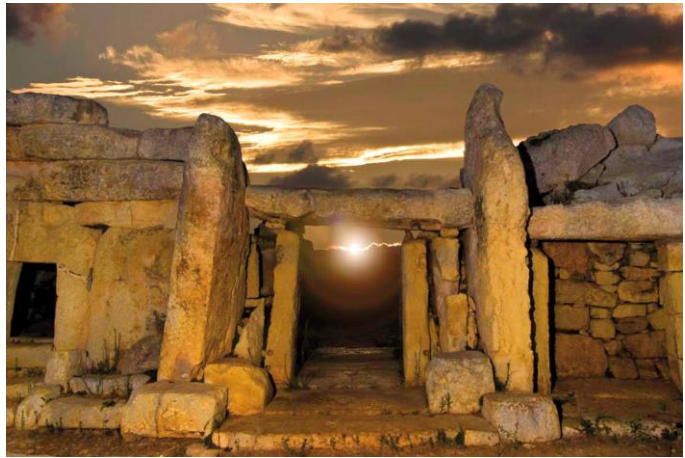
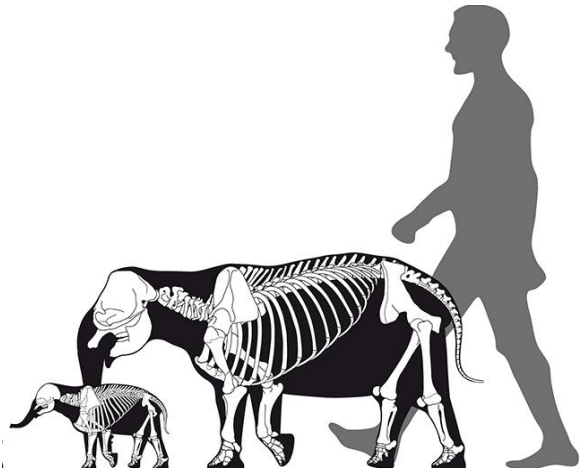


Pygmy Pachyderms and Towering Temples: The early history of Malta

by Elizabeth Clarke



More than a thousand years before the earliest pyramids were built in Egypt, the first Maltese were erecting 'temples' across the Maltese landscape, the first free standing structures built anywhere in the world. Some thirty structures have been identified, both above and below ground, dating from a construction period from between 3500BC to 2500BC.

Of these, six are available for viewing as part of Malta's UNESCO World Heritage Site. Writing had not yet been developed in Malta so we are free to use our imagination in understanding the abundant art found in the temples. Join me in the mysterious world of the Earth Mother Goddess whose images are found in large and small form throughout Malta.



Was this fecund lass indeed a goddess or did the locals simply like a big strong girl ? Visit the mysterious hypogeum of Hal Saflieni with its mind-bending descending stairways, its water cisterns and burial chambers, its psychedelic painted roof chambers. After the abrupt extinction of the temple period, a new cultural influence appears, showing no evidence of Malta's past. Another mystery awaits us.