

Dolmens are known in Europe as well as in the Near East, but their exact nature and function are still debated. At its simplest, a dolmen is simply a huge table formed of three gigantic stones, such as this one found near Gamla in the Golan Heights. Other dolmens are constructed of several of these tables lined up in an arc. Thousands of dolmens are known in the eastern Transjordan area, including the Golan Heights, and also in eastern Galilee. Archaeologists sometimes find burials beneath them, and sometimes one must remove a huge cairn of stones to investigate the interior. They usually date to Early Bronze IV or Middle Bronze I periods (2350-2000 B.C.E.).