

Pigs in History
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35-40 million years old

sus scrofa - Europe

sus vittatus - East India

8000 to 3000 BC domestication

8000 BC pigs in Turkey reason for settlement (Science V264, 1994)

4900 BC written records show pigs domesticated in China (Gillespie)

spread

4000 BC Chinese people ordered to raise and breed hogs by royal decree from the
Emperor of China

2000 BC appears in bible

1500 BC raised in Europe

800 BC in Britain

1493 brought to Haiti by Columbus (8 pigs)

1539 brought to Florida by Hernando de Soto (13 pigs), 500 pigs by 1541 (400 lost in
fire), 700 killed for meat in 1542 (Yorkshire Journal, 1993)

400 CE brought to Hawaii by Polynesians

1778 brought to Niihau by Captain Cook

Roles of pigs

food storage and distribution

cultural and religious

Egypt - sacred pigs, sacrificed on feast days

Greece - companion of goddess Demeter

Twrch Trwyth and Henwen - Celtic (Mabinogion)

trial of the Dunmow fitch, 12th C

San Shya boar festival to celebrate birthday of Taiwanese god Tsu Shy Ye

Kamapua'a

status

Polynesian chiefdoms

crest of Lord Bacon (1561-1626)

profit

mortgage lifter