

Earliest Beginnings

The written history of Valledolmo begins in the middle of the 17th century, with the establishment of Castel Normanno in the Valle Dell'Uomo. But we can, and should, have some understanding of the currents and directions of Sicilian history that shaped this area even before its settlement.

The first Greeks established colonies in eastern Sicily about 750 B.C., but they did not find the island uninhabited. Three groups of peoples were already on what was then a heavily wooded island: the Elemi, the Sicani, and the Siculi. Valledolmo lies in what was the land of the Sicani.



Valledolmo is located near the letter "c" in Sicani.

The Sicanians are thought to be the oldest inhabitants of Sicily, but no one is sure of when they arrived or from where, although there is some ancient speculation that they may have arrived from the Iberian peninsula.¹ Evidence of human habitation on Sicily exists at the end of the Pleistocene era, about 10,000 B.C. However, the earliest traces of a distinct Sicanian culture date from about 1600 BC.²

No Valledolmo yet, but we now have a pretty good idea of how Sicily got its name.

NEXT: GREEKS AND CARTHAGINIANS

¹ Mendola, Louis & Alio, Jacqueline, *The Peoples of Sicily: A Multicultural Legacy*, (Trinacria Editions, New York and Palermo), 43.

² Salerno, Vincenzo, "Sicilian People: The Sicanians," *Best of Sicily Magazine*, accessed at <bestofsicily.com>, in July 2015.