

# Summary: The Earliest Communities

## People on the Move

Prehistoric people lived in small groups. They traveled from place to place to find food. As herds of animals moved, prehistoric hunters followed them. They gathered plants, seeds, and berries to eat. They slept in caves or made simple shelters.

Over thousands of years the Earth's climate changed. It became warmer. Grains like wheat and barley grew. People began to eat these grains. Then, about ten thousand years ago, people learned to plant seeds to grow food. They built shelters near the food. This was the beginning of agriculture.

## Farming and Village Life

In some places, farming became the way of life. People changed the land to make it better for farming. They cleared land for planting and dug ditches to bring water to their crops. They invented tools, such as the plow, to help them dig into the soil. They trained animals to live with them. They raised dogs, pigs, goats, and sheep.

People now grew some of their food. They stayed in one place to take care of crops and animals. Since they were able to stay in one place, people began to build communities. One of these towns, Catal Huyuk, existed about 9,000 years ago in Turkey.

People learned new skills. They made cloth and turned clay into pots. They made tools and jewelry.



### Before You Read

Find and underline each vocabulary word.

**prehistoric** *adjective*,  
the time before  
people began to  
write

**agriculture** *noun*,  
farming



### After You Read

**REVIEW** What grains did early people start to plant for food?

Circle the names of two grains with seeds that people ate and learned to plant.

**REVIEW** In what ways did farming change life for early people? Highlight the sentence that tells how the earliest people found food. Then underline the sentence that tells what people did once they learned to plant seeds and grow food.