

Lesson 2 Learning to Farm and Raise Animals

MAIN IDEAS

Science and Technology New technologies supported an agricultural revolution.

Culture Agriculture made a big change in how people lived.

Geography Farming developed independently in many areas of the world.

The Beginnings of Agriculture

ESSENTIAL QUESTION What new farming tools and methods did early farmers invent?

Climate Changes

- Global warming caused Ice Age glaciers to retreat
 - early humans moved into new areas, had longer growing seasons
- Wild grasses were domesticated—humans learned to grow, tend them
 - provided humans, animals with more grain to eat

The Domestication of Animals

- Sheep, goats were domesticated for food, clothing around 9000 B.C.
 - provided reliable food and milk source, skins, tools from bones

The Agricultural Revolution

- By 8000 B.C., humans practiced **agriculture**—planting seeds for crops
- Agricultural revolution—the shift from food gathering to food raising
 - new tools included hoes, digging sticks, harvesting sickles
- **Slash-and-burn** agriculture
 - cut and burn trees, brush to clear land for crops
 - when soil became poor after a few seasons, people moved

REVIEW QUESTION

What was the impact of new tools on early humans?

Settlements Begin

ESSENTIAL QUESTION Why did villages develop?

Farming Villages Develop

- River valleys had fertile soil that brought bigger, better crops
- Good soil attracted farmers who settled in villages, worked in fields
 - villages grew to hold several thousand people
 - people lived in shelters made of mud, logs, bricks, hides
- Food was more plentiful in villages, people were safer from attacks
 - villages also brought risks of fire, disease, flood

REVIEW QUESTION

How did farming change the way people lived?

Farming Develops in Many Places

ESSENTIAL QUESTION Where did farming develop?

River Valleys in Africa and Asia

- Farming developed c. 8000 B.C. in river valleys (Huang He, Nile)
- Nile farmers were among first to use **irrigation**—watering of crops
 - built irrigation systems of dikes, canals

Uplands in the Americas

- Farming in Americas developed later than in rest of world
 - mainly in upland regions (plateaus, high-elevation flat areas)
- Land terracing created flat areas for corn, beans, potatoes, squash

REVIEW QUESTION

What crops did early farmers raise in the Americas?

Lesson Summary

- After the Ice Age, humans learned to domesticate animals and plant crops.
- As people learned to be better farmers, farming villages developed.
- Farming developed independently in many parts of the world.

Why It Matters Now...

The development of farming led to a great increase in human population. Today most people depend on agriculture for their food. In some parts of the world, such as Africa and India, most people are still farmers who live in villages.