Changes Over Time

**Early People**
Early people lived in small family groups. They hunted animals and gathered plants, moving from place to place to find enough food. Over time, people began practicing agriculture. They built communities near their fields and learned new skills. Civilizations developed when many people with different skills began living together in cities.

**Changing the Land**
Places changed as civilizations grew. People built new types of homes and other buildings. Ways of life also changed. About 200 years ago, the economy in the United States was based on growing and selling food. Most people lived on farms. Today, most people in the United States buy their food in stores.

**Government**
As civilizations developed, their governments also changed over time. Many early civilizations had one ruler, such as a king. The United States is a democracy. People in the United States choose leaders to make the laws.

**Changes in America Over Time**

| The king of Great Britain ruled America. | Americans fought a war with Great Britain to win their freedom. | Americans started a democracy free of Great Britain's rule. |

**Before You Read**
Find and underline a form of each vocabulary word.
- **agriculture** noun, growing crops and raising animals
- **civilization** noun, people who live together with a shared culture
- **economy** noun, the way people choose to make, buy, sell, and use things
- **government** noun, a group of people who make laws and keep order
- **democracy** noun, a government in which people make the decisions about how they should be ruled

**After You Read**
Why did early people often move? Circle the sentence that tells the answer.

How do most people in the United States today get their food? Highlight the sentence that tells the answer.

**SKILL** Reading Charts
Who ruled America before Americans started a democracy? Circle the answer.