

QUESTION: _____

NEOLITHIC REVOLUTION

NEOLITHIC REVOLUTION: THE BASICS

- _____ **Revolution**: Transition of human populations from nomadic hunting and gathering to sedentary (_____) agriculture starting around 8,300 BCE
- Agriculture was made possible through the process of _____ = selective breeding of plants and animals to make them more useful for humans
- It did not happen overnight, it did not happen to all people at one time, and it probably did not happen by choice. Over thousands of years, agriculture spread to different human populations.

WHY DID IT HAPPEN?

- _____ often teach that farming started when some people one day figured out that plants grow when you plant seeds, and then suddenly people decided to farm
- This is a _____ view that insults the intelligence of early humans, as they knew the environment well and knew how plants grew. So _____ did they wait to start farming?

PALEOLITHIC AGE

- During the Paleolithic Age (Old Stone Age), humans lived in small bands as _____, traveling from place to place to follow herds of wild animals and collect wild plants
- During this period, the world experienced several glacial cycles as part of the _____, with glacial ice sheets at times extending from the poles over the northern regions of North America and Eurasia
- This limited human habitation and made weather _____

THE NATUFIANS

- At the end of the last Ice Age, around _____ BCE, the world began to _____, glaciers shrank, and Southwest Asia (Middle East) became warmer and _____
- The Natufians, hunter-gatherers in the _____, on the Mediterranean coast, lived near
 - grasslands full of gazelles and wild edible _____ grasses (grains)
 - oak and pistachio forests
 - the Mediterranean Sea full of fish
- Resources were so _____ that they stopped being nomadic and became _____ (settled in one place) simply because they could, but they were still hunting and gathering
- Reliable food source and sedentary life allowed massive _____ growth for Natufians

YOUNGER DRYAS EVENT

- BUT THEN, around _____ BCE (at least according to one theory) all the way in Canada, melting glaciers caused an _____ of fresh water into the Atlantic, disrupting the ocean _____ that brought warm water toward Europe
- This caused the warming of Earth’s climate to _____ (Younger _____ Event), with the planet cooling down again for about 1000 years, bringing ice back to Europe, and creating dry conditions in _____ Asia
- Forests shrank, less grass grew, and animals were fewer in number. It was becoming more difficult for anything to survive.

NEOLITHIC AGE OF DOMESTICATION

- While some people returned to nomadic life, many of the _____ chose instead to stay sedentary and try to survive by “lending nature a _____”
- The climate started to improve again around 10,000 BCE, and by 8300 BCE, they had begun taking care of wild _____, watering, fertilizing, and eventually planting to get more to grow
- By 7500 BCE communities in Western _____ began to do the same with animals like goats and sheep, caring for _____, helping them get water and food, helping them breed
- Picked the plants/animals with best qualities to _____, like obedient goats and stronger wheat that would not drop its seeds naturally
- This process is called **Domestication** = _____ of plants and animals to make them more useful for humans
- Examples
 - Teosinte grass was domesticated by selecting for large kernels until it became corn (maize)
 - Dogs were domesticated by selecting the friendliest and most obedient wolves to breed

GLOBAL REVOLUTION

- Agriculture developed independently in many places around the world, and continued to spread

Area	Domesticated Plants	Domesticated Animals
Middle East		sheep, goats, cattle, pigs
Mesoamerica	maize, beans, squash	dog
South America		llama, alpaca, guinea pig
North America	amaranth	dog
China	millet, rice	cattle, pigs
Africa	sorghum	

- Early farmers were STILL Hunter-Gatherers, and they used farming first as a supplement
- However, the need to remain near _____ and _____ lead to settled communities that would evolve into the first cities and civilizations