

# CHAPTER 1: BEFORE HISTORY

## SECTION 3: THE NEOLITHIC ERA AND THE TRANSITION TO AGRICULTURE

**Directions:** Read the entirety of the above section, including any additional text selections such as “Eyewitness” or “Sources from the Past” and examine all maps, charts, images, and diagrams. As you read and learn, complete the questions and tasks below to both demonstrate and preserve what you have learned.

### The Neolithic Era and the Transition To Agriculture

It’s hard to be a hunter-gatherer in today’s world because:

### The Origins of Agriculture

#### ❖ Neolithic Era

- Literal meaning of Neolithic Age:
- Define subsist:
- Date range:
- Define cultivation:
- Not-so-important characteristic:
- Define agriculture:
- Very important characteristic:

#### ❖ Global Climate Change

**BEFORE THE END OF THE LAST ICE AGE**

**AFTER THE END OF THE LAST ICE AGE**

#### ❖ Gender Relations and Agriculture

- Your textbook explains how people taking care of wild plants and animals more and more eventually led to the development of agriculture. Do you think the people who started this were trying to invent agriculture? Think about their probably motivations.

**NOTE:** I really don’t like how your textbook rushes past the most important development in human history, the NEOLITHIC REVOLUTION! We will discuss it further in class, but there is one issue I want to clear up. Your textbook seems to be using the word cultivation for plants and domestication for animals, as if domestication only applies to animals, but this is not correct. **Domestication is the selective breeding of plants AND animals in order to make them more useful to humans.** This is probably the most important vocabulary word in this entire chapter, because it’s what takes us from Paleolithic to Neolithic, and gives us the world we have today (for better or worse).



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_

❖ **Independent inventions of Agriculture**

Complete the chart below using the information from the paragraphs. If unmentioned, leave blank.

Region	Dates	Domesticated Plants	Domesticated Animals
Southwest Asia ( <i>Iraq, Syria, Turkey</i> )			
Southeastern Saharan Africa ( <i>Sudan</i> )			
Sub-Saharan West Africa ( <i>Nigeria</i> )			
East Asia, Yangtze River Valley ( <i>China</i> )			
East Asia, Yellow River Valley ( <i>China</i> )			
Southeast Asia ( <i>Thailand, Indonesia</i> )			
Mesoamerica ( <i>Mexico</i> )			
Andes Mountains ( <i>Peru</i> )			
Amazon River Valley ( <i>Brazil</i> )			

❖ **The Early Spread of Agriculture**

➤ **SLASH-AND-BURN:** Early Agricultural Technique

Method	Advantages	Disadvantages

➤ **Mapping the Spread of Agriculture:** Use the text from this subsection and Map 1.2 on page 18-19 to complete the following. On the blank map below, write the words WHEAT, RICE, and MAIZE to label the regions where each was first domesticated. Then, draw lines with arrows to show the regions to which they spread.



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_

- According to anthropologists, which is more labor-intensive? Circle one: FARMING FORAGING

## Early Agricultural Society

Increase in the food supply (due to expanding agriculture) → Increase in \_\_\_\_\_

### ❖ Emergence of Villages and Towns

- The adoption of an agricultural lifestyle based on cultivation of domesticated plants not only made it possible for people to give up a nomadic life and become **sedentary** (settled) but actually REQUIRED that they do so. Think about why that would be and explain below.
- What is one danger of the sedentary agricultural lifestyle that was faced by early cities like Jericho? How did they respond to that danger?

### ❖ Specialization of Labor

- In an agricultural society, if there is not a surplus of food, then everyone has to
  - Define surplus:
- However, if there is a surplus of food, then some people can
  - Define specialization of labor:
- Draw and label two of the craft goods produced in Çatal Hüyük below.
  - Define textiles:

- ❖ **Pottery**: Why was pottery important to Neolithic peoples in a way it hadn't been to Paleolithic peoples?

- ❖ **Metalworking**: The earliest metal used in metallurgy was \_\_\_\_\_

- ❖ **Textile Production**: Why is it difficult to determine a date for the beginning of textile production?

### ❖ Social Distinctions in Social Inequality

- Why did the private ownership of land carry so much economic power in agricultural societies?
- Accumulated wealth passed down over several generations led to the development of...
- Archeologists assume that a person belonged to a higher social class if the person...

## Neolithic Culture

Because Neolithic life depended on cultivating crops, people began to develop understanding of

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### ❖ Religious Values

Give two examples of how Neolithic religious thought reflected agricultural themes:

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### ❖ Reverberations: The Role of Urbanization in the Creation of Patriarchy

- Define patriarchy:
- Define urbanization:
- What are three theories linking the emergence of patriarchy with early urbanization
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## The Origins of Urban Life

### ❖ Emergence of Cities

- In what ways were cities more complex than villages?
- How did cities influence life in larger regions?

