

AGRICULTURAL REVOLUTION

Agriculture is the process of modifying the environment in order to use it more effectively. This video describes the first agricultural revolution, also called Neolithic revolution, which was a turning point in the history of the world.

1 VIDEO. Watch the video and comment.

Agricultural Revolution

Hi Lola, we are reading about Agricultural Revolution. Can you tell me what was it? Thanks Arjun.



Well, somewhere around 10,000 to 12,000 years ago humans were living all over the globe in small, loosely organized groups of hunter-gatherers. These groups moved around a lot, hunting whatever animals they could find and using available plants for food. Life as a hunter-gatherer was hard: you had to follow flocks where they drifted and pick up and move when the resources of one area were exhausted. Eventually, people in the Middle East Africa and Western Asia began to settle down into agricultural villages.

Agriculture is the process of modifying the environment in order to use it more effectively. These villages formed when people began to domesticate plants and animals. By domestication we mean to make something useful to humans: that can include anything from roping livestock to taming a dog, to selectively breeding vegetables, to make them bigger and more nutritious. So, with their domesticated plants and animals, villagers had a steady source of food. Animals could also be used to work on the land, as well as supply leather, furs and fertilizer. According to the experts, they considered that the very first place where humans contributed in farming was something called the Fertile Crescent. This area of what is now northern Africa and the Middle East had fertile soil, gentle rains and long springs and summers, all of which made it an ideal spot for farming.

The agricultural life wasn't easy at first. People didn't have the stress of moving around constantly, but they became more vulnerable to elements like weather, and their diets suffered from lack of variety. Early villagers could only grow limited types of food. The people tended to be smaller and less healthy than hunter-gatherer populations, then there are the issues of waste and disease: when



large populations start to settle down together, they produce a lot of trash and, when so many people live close together, diseases spread easily. It's true, agriculture doesn't seem like such a grave development at first, but our lives would be really different if our ancestors had never settled down.

Today we can look back on the first Agricultural Revolution, which is also called the Neolithic Revolution, as a turning point in the history of the world.

2 GROUP WORK. Gather some information about Roman agriculture and write a short report.