

Beginnings of Agriculture

The Big Idea

The development of agriculture brought great changes to human society.

Main Ideas

The first farmers learned to grow plants and raise animals in the Stone Age.

During the Neolithic Era marked a shift from food gathering to food producing. People began to domesticate plants and animals in southwest Asia about 10,000 years ago. The domestication of plants and animals enabled people to settle in areas with water available and turn away from their previous nomadic hunting/gathering lifestyle.

Farming changed societies and the way people lived.

Once people began domesticating plants and animals they could focus on activities other than survival, such as religion.

Objectives

- Know the definitions of all academic vocabulary and key terms.
- Describe the improvements to tools made during the Neolithic Era.
- Recommend an Era in the Stone Age that you think would be best to live in, and support your choice using specific examples.
- Explain how the domestication of plants and animals led to the development of towns/societies.
- Order and compare each Stone Age Era detailing major changes in tools and settlement/societal patterns.



Key Terms

<i>development</i>	<i>creation</i>
Neolithic Era	New Stone Age. People learned how to polish stones, make tools like saws and drills, and make fire.
domestication	changing plants or animals to make them more useful to humans
agriculture	farming
megaliths	huge stone monuments