

**TERMS AND NAMES**

**nomad** Person who wanders from place to place

**hunter-gatherer** Person whose food supply depends on hunting animals and collecting plant foods

**Neolithic Revolution** Agricultural revolution that occurred during the Neolithic period

**slash-and-burn farming** Early farming method that some groups used to clear fields

**domestication** Taming of animals

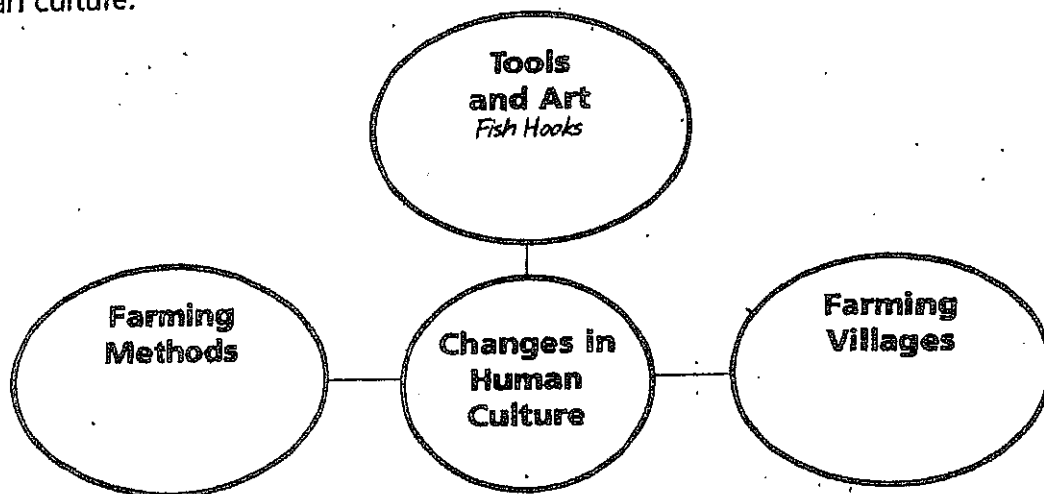
# Humans Try to Control Nature

## BEFORE YOU READ

In the last section, you read about the earliest humans. In this section, you will read about the development of agriculture and a settled way of life.

## AS YOU READ

Use the web below to take notes on changes in human culture.



## Early Advances in Technology and Art (pages 14-15)

### What advances occurred in technology and art?

The first humans had faced a struggle for survival. For thousands and thousands of years, they had two concerns: finding food and protecting themselves. They used fire, built shelters, made clothes, and developed spoken language. These areas of life are all part of culture. Human culture changed over time as new tools replaced old and people tested new ideas. Later some modern humans increased the pace of change.

The people who had lived in the early part of the Old Stone Age were **nomads**. They moved from place to place. They were **hunter-gatherers**.

They found food by hunting and gathering nuts, berries, and roots. The Cro-Magnon people, who came later, made tools to help them in their search.

These early modern humans used many tools—more than 100 different ones. They used stone, bone, and wood. They made knives, hooks, and bone needles.

Cro-Magnon people also created works of art, including paintings. Thousands of years ago, Stone Age artists mixed charcoal, mud, and animal blood to make paint. They used this paint to draw pictures of animals on cave walls and rocks.

1. In what ways did Cro-Magnon people change human culture?

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## What was the Neolithic Revolution?

For centuries, humans lived by hunting and gathering. Humans lived in small groups of 25 to 70 people. They often returned to a certain area in the same season each year because they knew it would be rich in food at that time.

Over the years, some humans realized that they could leave plant seeds in an area one year and find plants growing there the next year. This was the beginning of a new part of human life: farming.

Scientists think that the climate became warmer all around the world at about the same time. Humans' new knowledge about planting seeds combined with this warmer climate to create the **Neolithic Revolution**—the agricultural revolution that occurred during the Neolithic period.

Instead of relying on gathering food, people began to produce food. One early farming method was **slash-and-burn farming**. That meant cutting trees and burning them to clear a field. The ashes were used to fertilize the soil.

Along with growing food, they also began to raise animals. They tamed horses, dogs, goats, and pigs. **Domestication** is the taming of animals.

Archaeologists have studied a site in the north-eastern part of modern Iraq. It is called Jarmo. The people who lived in this region began farming and raising animals about 9,000 years ago.

### 2. How did life change during the Neolithic Revolution?

## How did the growth of farming villages change life?

People began to farm in many spots all over the world. The study of one village in modern-day Turkey shows what early farming communities were like.

The village called Catal Huyuk grew on the good land near a river. Some workers grew wheat, barley, and peas. Others raised sheep and cattle. Because these workers produced enough food for all the people, others could begin developing other kinds of skills. Some made pots out of clay that they baked. Others worked as weavers. Some artists decorated the village. Archaeologists have found wall paintings that show animals and hunting scenes. They have found evidence that the people had a religion, too.

Early farming villagers had problems, too. If the farm crop failed or the lack of rain caused a drought, people starved. Floods and fires caused damage and death. With more people living near each other than before, diseases spread easily. Still, some of these early villages grew into great cities.

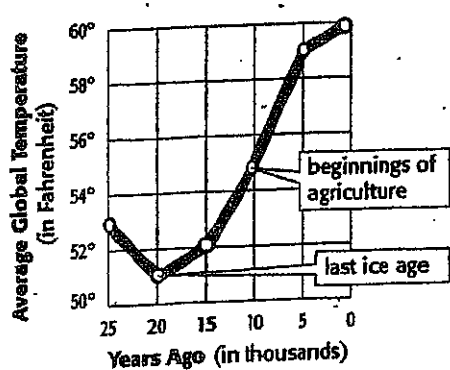
### 3. What problems did early farming villages face?

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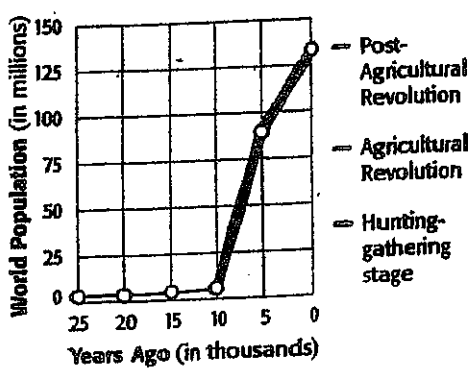
## Agricultural Revolution

### Temperature



Source: *Ice Ages, Solving the Mystery*

### Population



Source: *A Geography of Population: World Patterns*

## Skillbuilder

1. When did the Agricultural Revolution begin?

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2. When was population growth the greatest?

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