

1

The history of agriculture

Get ready!

1 Before you read the passage, talk about these questions.

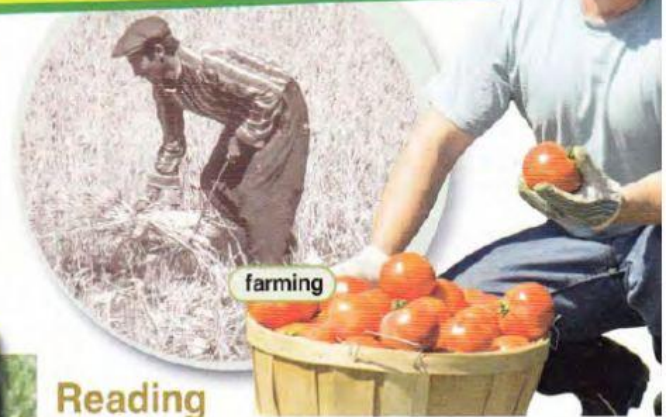
- 1 When did farming first begin in your country?
- 2 What did farmers first grow in your country?

Chapter 1 The Development of Agriculture

Agriculture began in the area known as the Fertile Crescent. The area is a hot, dry desert. But it has two of the requirements for **farming**: good soil and a **water supply**.

Many early farmers used the Nile River as a water supply. The Nile River floods at the same time every year. Farmers **planted crops** before the floods. This helped their plants to survive in the desert. Later, farmers created **irrigation ditches**. They moved water from the Nile River to their fields. They could **cultivate** crops any time of the year and **harvest** extra food.

Producing extra food was important. Later, farmers fed animals with it. These **domesticated** animals became another important part of agriculture.



Reading

2 Read the textbook passage. Then, mark the following statements as true (T) or false (F).

- 1 — Crops cannot grow in deserts.
- 2 — The Nile River floods every year.
- 3 — Farmers raised animals before plants.

Vocabulary

3 Match the words (1-6) with the definitions (A-F).

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1 — agriculture | 4 — produce |
| 2 — crop | 5 — domesticate |
| 3 — cultivate | 6 — plant |

- A a large group of cultivated plants
- B to put seeds in soil
- C growing plants and raising animals
- D to make something
- E to raise a crop from seeding to harvest
- F to tame an animal

4 Read the sentence pair. Choose where the words best fit the blanks.

1 water supply / irrigation

- A The river is the farmer's _____.
- B _____ helps farmers grow crops in areas with little rainfall.

2 harvesting / farming

- A _____ includes raising animals and crops.
- B Farmers wait until crops are mature to start _____.

5 Listen and read the text book passage again. Then, say three things you have learnt from the text.



Listening

- 6 Listen to a conversation between a student and teacher in a history class. Choose the correct answers.

- 1 What is the conversation mainly about?
- A a way to predict floods
 - B an early irrigation method
 - C the number of early farmers
 - D the most common early crops
- 2 How did farmers control water?
- A They put gates in ditches.
 - B They filled ditches with dirt.
 - C They carried water in buckets.
 - D They planted far from the river.

- 7 Listen again and complete the conversation.

- Student: 1 _____ Mrs. Anderson.
I have a question about the first farmers.
- Teacher: Great. What is it?
- Student: Well, they were in a desert. How did they irrigate their 2 _____?
- Teacher: Oh, with 3 _____. They connected their fields and the Nile River.
- Student: Okay. So, 4 _____ moved through the ditches to the fields.
- Teacher: Exactly.
- Student: Then, I have another question. How did they 5 _____ the water?
- Teacher: The ditches had 6 _____. They opened and water flowed through.

Speaking

- 8 With a partner, act out the roles below based on Task 7. Then, switch roles.

USE LANGUAGE SUCH AS:

Excuse me.
How did early farmers ...
They connected ...

Student A: You are a student learning about early agriculture. Ask Student B about:

- water supply
- watering fields
- controlling water

Student B: You are a History teacher. Answer Student A's questions.

Writing

- 9 Use the conversation from Task 8 to fill out the student's notes.

Name:	_____	Date:	_____
Class:	_____		
Subject:	_____		
Farmers got water from _____			

Water came to the fields in _____			

They controlled water by _____			
