

## 1

# The history of agriculture

## Get ready!

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

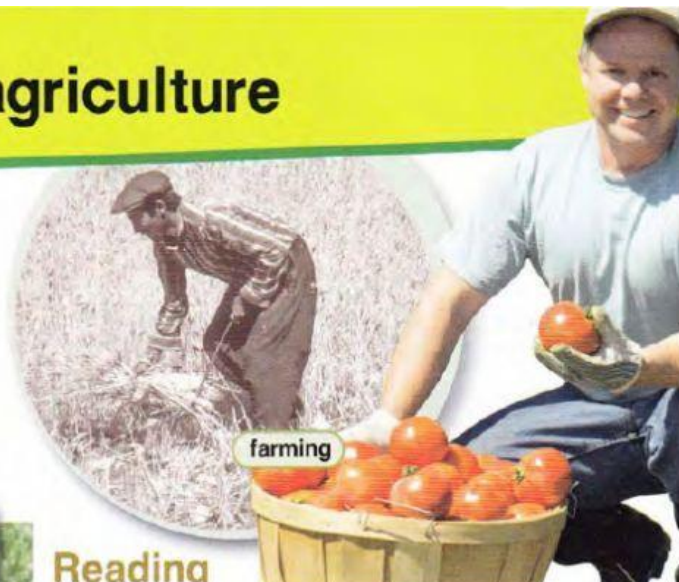
- 1 When did farming first begin in your country?
- 2 What did farmers first grow in your country?

## 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 <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture | 4 <input type="checkbox"/> produce     |
| 2 <input type="checkbox"/> crop        | 5 <input type="checkbox"/> domesticate |
| 3 <input type="checkbox"/> cultivate   | 6 <input type="checkbox"/> 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 \_\_\_\_\_