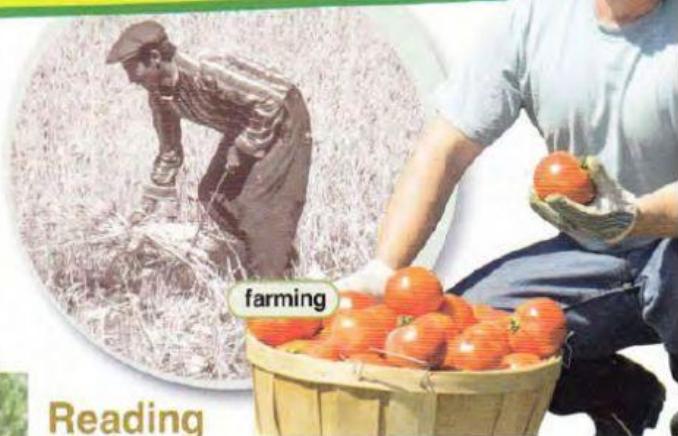


Get ready!

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**
 - The river is the farmer's _____.
 - _____ helps farmers grow crops in areas with little rainfall.
- 2 **harvesting / farming**
 - _____ includes raising animals and crops.
 - 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 _____	