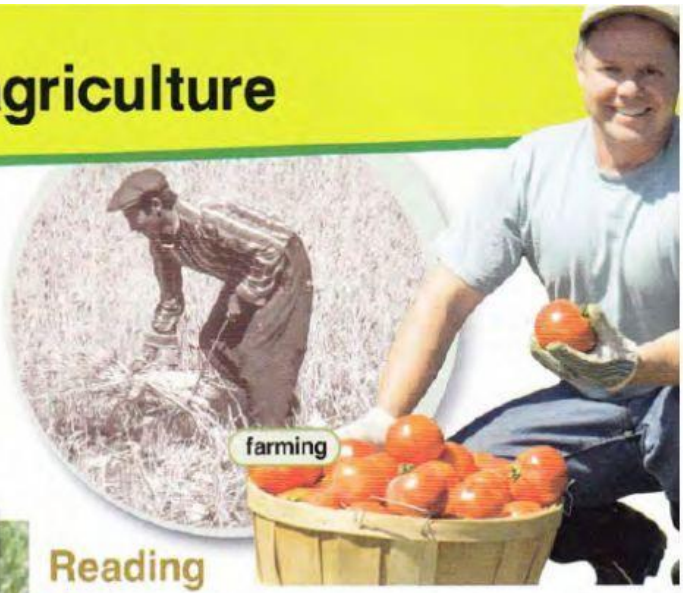
1 The history of agriculture



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
2 __ crop
3 __ cultivate
4 __ produce
5 __ domesticate
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.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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 _____

_____

LIVEWORKSHEETS