

Wheat and Agriculture

Pre – Watching

• Learn new words. Match the words with their definitions

- 1) **meticulous** – a) the supply of water to land or crops to help growth
- 2) **irrigation** – b) plant seeds by scattering them on or in the earth
- 3) **sow** – c) (cattle, sheep) eat grass in a field
- 4) **fallow** – d) a small amount of something that remains after the main part has gone
- 5) **mow** – e) make soil or land more productive by adding suitable substances
- 6) **husbandry** – f) a person or machine that harvests a crop
- 7) **sheaves** – g) very careful and precise
- 8) **manure** – h) land left for a period without being sown in order to restore its fertility
- 9) **fertilize** – i) the care, cultivation, and breeding of crops and animals
- 10) **graze** – j) animal dung used for fertilizing land
- 11) **residue** – k) a bundle of grain stalks laid and tied together after reaping
- 12) **reaper** – l) cut down grass or a cereal crop

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|---------|---------|----------|
| 1. | 5. | 9. |
| 2. | 6. | 10. |
| 3. | 7. | 11. |
| 4. | 8. | 12. |

• Label the pictures

hoe plow shovel sickle mill



- a) b) c) d) e)

• Match

1.	artificial	A.	harvest
2.	lie	B.	floor
3.	moist	C.	process
4.	bountiful	D.	area
5.	plants'	E.	kernels

6.	threshing	F.	window
7.	grain	G.	stalks
8.	narrow	H.	irrigation
9.	winnowing	I.	grain
10.	pounded	J.	earth
11.	storage	K.	year
12.	lean	L.	fallow

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• **Fill in the gaps using the phrases above**

- Due to dry summers, was impossible so farmers had to rely on rainfall to water their crops.
- This gave them a very for sowing and harvesting.
- The other half of the field would to avoid exhausting of the soil.
- A final time to plow land was in the winter to plant the seeds in the
- The farmers prayed Demeter and her daughter Persephone for
- The reapers cut the and left the sheaves behind.
- Once the harvest was moved, the sheaves were brought to the
- The animals stomping forced the out of their casing.
- The helped separate the heavier grain seeds from the chaff.
- The of barley was then ground into flour using either a hand mill or a hopper mill.
- Grain needed to be dark, dry, cool, contained, and well-ventilated to prevent the grain from spoiling.
- Any surplus was either stored for a, or sold to markets for profit.



While - Watching

• **True or False**

- Field watering mostly depended on artificial irrigation.
True False
- According to Hesiod, farmers planted in autumn and harvested in spring.
True False
- Spring was the right time to plant millet.
True False
- Plowing was done by two horses.
True False
- Farmers prayed to the goddess Persephone and her daughter Demeter for good harvest.
True False
- A sickle was a curved knife for harvesting.
True False
- Moved sheaves were delivered to the threshing floor.
True False
- The diet of animals was very poor, just grass in pastures.
True False
- Farmers of Arkadia worshipped the god Pan and that's why they kept more cattle.



- True False
10. For producing farming tools, people used iron and wood.
True False
11. Animals helped farmers extract the grain.
True False
12. Winnowing was the process of grinding the grains.
True False
13. Liknon was used for removing chaff from the grain.
True False
14. Farmers often sold surplus of grain to markets to get money.
True False



• **Multiple choice**

- Why did Homer call the Greeks "mortal eaters of bread"?
 - they baked the best bread
 - grain was their main food
 - they ate only bread
- Why did farmers plant only a half of a big field?
 - to let another half rest
 - they had no time to plant it
 - the soil was too dry
- In the spring plowing was done ...
 - plant seeds
 - remove weeds
 - aerate the soil
- In the summer plowing was done ...
 - plant seeds
 - remove weeds
 - aerate the soil
- In the winter plowing was done ...
 - plant seeds
 - remove weeds
 - aerate the soil
- Which animals that Greek farmers did NOT keep?
 - goats
 - donkeys
 - rabbits
- What purposes did livestock NOT have?
 - to water the fields
 - to fertilize the fields
 - to remove weeds
- The plow was the most complicated tool as it consisted of ... parts.
 - two
 - three
 - four
- Tilling, weeding, digging were
 - tools
 - operations
 - plants
- Why was barley different from other types of grain?
 - it needed soaking in water
 - it needed roasting in a phrygetron
 - it was not suitable for getting flour
- How did farmers cheer themselves up while grinding grain?
 - with a song



- b) with a dance
 - c) with a game
12. Pithos originated from the myth about ...
- a) Augean stables
 - b) Pandora's box
 - c) the apple of discord

After – Watching

- **Answer the questions**

1. Why was grain farming a meticulous process?
2. Who/what irrigate the crops?
3. What was a reason for planting only one half of the field?
4. Which seasons were suitable for sowing and harvesting?
5. Why was the land plowed three times before it would be planted?
6. Who was the goddess of agriculture?
7. What tools did the Greeks use to cultivate the land?
8. Why was animal husbandry an important part of the Greek agriculture?
9. What have you learned about Arkadia?
10. What was the process of turning grains into flour?

