

## **Vignette A**

Gisela and Aki live on a farm. On their farm they raise animals, corn, and hay. Their farm is located in the middle of Minnesota. Most of the milk that their cows produce is sent to the cooperative for processing into cream, butter, and cheese.

The three hundred cows live in a large enclosed space and are taken to the milking shed twice a day. There the cows are attached to automatic milking machines that measure the weight of milk produced by each cow. The milk is collected in a 5,000 gallon refrigerated container.

A computer on the farm records the output of each cow. The corn and hay raised on the farm provides some of the feed for the cattle during the winter.

## **Vignette B**

Jano's day begins before dawn. He walks his village's herd of sixty cattle to the pasture several miles away. There the animals graze on the short grasses that cover the rolling hillside.

He makes sure that the cattle are not stolen or attacked by wild animals. At night, he and the herd return to the village. He drives the cattle into an enclosure made of thorn bush brush.

Even though Jano is only fourteen his job is very important to the survival of his village.

The cattle have more than food significance. Cattle may be used as a bride price in the arrangement of marriages for the females of the village.

### **Vignette C**

Perspiration poured from Ivan as he tried to repair the leaking cylinder. The combine had been running twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week for the last two weeks.

As he looked across the endless horizon and saw the bending grain stalks waiting to be cut, he imagined it was winter. He longed to feel the icy cold relentless wind, but knew realistically that winter was only a few months away.

He turned back to his repairs and wondered if the sale of his grain at the mill would bring enough money for the down payment on a new blade for the combine. He really needed a new one, but that would be beyond his reach for many years to come.

### **Vignette D**

Carlos proudly sat on the bluff overlooking the wide expanse of open rangeland. His holdings spread far beyond the horizon and had been in his family's hands for many generations.

He loved the cool breezes of October and watching the cows tend to their newborns. They would have the whole summer to graze and grow before the colder days in June began. He could hear his sheep off in the distant hills to the west, but cattle were still his favorites.

This year the sheep would actually bring more money than cattle in the open market since wool prices had skyrocketed.

Luckily, Carlos had experimented with several new agricultural techniques developed by the local university. He had also been insightful enough to inoculate his sheep against the parasite that had nearly wiped out the Australian flocks.

## Vignette E

The large white home adorned with archways and orange tiled roof sat in the middle of dry rolling hills dotted with fruit trees and vineyards. The heat of the August day was like an oven, but the grapes were rapidly changing color and becoming sweeter with each new day.

The harvest would be good this year. The Giovanni family had bottled wine for centuries and 1997 was going to be a very good year. Their new zinfandel wine was a huge success last year and they could hardly keep up with demand. Orders were already arriving from the United States and Australia. The new production line that was opening in June should speed up the bottling process and lower costs for the Giovannis.

## Vignette F

The phone had not stopped ringing since early June. It seemed everyone wanted his or her lawns done at once. Don's landscaping business on the cape had jumped from two part-time employees to ten full-time employees in just three short years.

His nursery had expanded and now not only includes shrubs and trees but also an array of goldfish. People were requesting small backyard ponds and fountains. This became too lucrative for him to pass up.

His income had increased greatly since the pay for mowing lawns had gone from fifty to two hundred and fifty dollars per acre. He could now afford to spend the winter in Florida in luxury.

## **Vignette G**

Mingo had worked hard all morning planting taro. The hot sun beat down relentlessly on his brown glistening body. This would be the last crop planted here for many years. Mingo knew the soil would not produce another crop and had already selected a new site for next year's planting. His sixth child would soon be born. Hopefully this would be his long-awaited son. There would be a feast to celebrate. There would be fish, mangoes, bananas, coconuts, and best of all roasted dog.

He picked up his heavy iron tools and began the long five-mile walk back to his village daydreaming about the feast to come.

## **Vignette H**

The entire Matsuma family had worked long hours preparing the *sawah* for the flooding monsoon rains. Hichew Matsuma had used his oxen driven plow a month earlier to ready the fields for planting. Once the rains come the backbreaking labor of planting the rice seedlings into the flooded *sawah* will be done by Akemi Matsuma and other women from the family.

Hichew will return to harvest the rice by hand and once again prepare the fields for a second planting. Hopefully this will feed his family for the year and enough will be left over to sell in the local market.

## **Vignette I**

Assam walked slowly behind his oxen as the wooden plow cut furrows into the dry dusty earth. The wheat and barley crops he was about to plant would mean survival for his family. His oldest son had already left for the city with his new wife because there was no food for them here.

Assam was considering planting hashish to supplement his income. He knew this would bring in much needed cash and perhaps allow him to purchase some fertilizer and some higher yielding seeds.

He had watched his two youngest children die from fevers last year. He knew that if they had been well fed they probably would have survived. At least now they were with Allah.

## **Vignette J**

The large white colonial house was perched in the middle of hundreds of tea plants that carpeted the rolling hillsides. As the occupants of the large white house sipped their morning tea from imported china cups they viewed a stream of women walking in the fields.

Women with burlap bags hanging down their backs moved silently through the narrow paths between the bushes expertly selecting just the newest leaves of each plant. Others quietly waited in line for their payments which would be spent mostly in the company store for yardgoods or other necessities.

## **Vignette K**

A sea of floating red berries covered the land as a giant machine scooped them up, boxed, and stacked them. The boxes would then travel by conveyor belt to the waiting trucks and within a few minutes or hours arrive at the processing plant.

The Indians probably never envisioned this several hundred years ago when they introduced the Pilgrims to those first sour berries. Today we use those berries to adorn our Thanksgiving tables and eat them in breads, relishes, and jellies. The juice from these berries is often blended with that of other fruits and is readily available fruit juice mixes with names such as cranapple, crangrape, and cran raspberry.

## **Vignette L**

K.H. Poultry Farm occupies five acres of land in the central Shenandoah valley. The farm consists of three large poultry houses, each about 120 yards long and 40 feet wide. Each house holds about 33,000 to 35,000 chickens that live out their eight-week life in a totally controlled man-made environment.

The owners of K.H. Poultry farms live in a big house seven miles away from the poultry grow houses. The houses have totally automated feed and watering systems and a large fan mist system that serves as an air conditioner in hot weather.

The owners of the K.H. Poultry Farm have a contract with a poultry company that provides the chicks, feed, and processing facilities. The farmer is paid based on the market price in two major east coast cities as well as the weight of the birds at time of slaughter. The final destination for the processed birds is fast food restaurants across the country.

## **Vignette M**

M. The plane just made its final sweep dumping the remains of the white pesticide over the last half-acre of cotton. Roy Brown's method of integrated pest management had not been as successful this year as it was last year. The boll weevil had reared its ugly head and unless Roy controls this pest, he would lose over half of his crop.

Life had come a long way since the sharecropping days of his parents when all of the work was done by hand. The new irrigation system that he had installed enabled him to bring an additional hundred acres into production.

Roy hoped that his son of eighteen would continue to farm this wide open land and so keep the farm in the family.

## **Vignette N**

The ads directing people to Riverside Gardens had been placed in the paper and written on big signs posted along the major highways. Robert and Jane Jones had marked the rows the night before and this morning had gotten up very early to await the first wave of strawberry pickers.

Migrant workers had already picked and boxed three other fields of strawberries that were being shipped into the nearby major metropolitan area today.

The "pick-your-own" was Jane's idea. She was hoping that the venture would be quite profitable for Riverside Gardens. As a matter of fact, they were thinking about setting up a roadside stand to sell other fruits and vegetables produced on their farm.

## Interpreting Agricultural Regions

Directions: Read the vignette (short story) about agriculture. Complete the table, to the best of your ability, using information from each vignette, an atlas, and/or what you already have learned and know about agriculture.

Vignette	Type of Agriculture	Probable Climate Zone	Possible Location	Vignette	Type of Agriculture	Probable Climate Zone	Possible Location
<b>A</b>				<b>H</b>			
<b>B</b>				<b>I</b>			
<b>C</b>				<b>J</b>			
<b>D</b>				<b>K</b>			
<b>E</b>				<b>L</b>			
<b>F</b>				<b>M</b>			
<b>G</b>				<b>N</b>			



