

Neolithic Revolution Essay

Read the following documents and answer the questions. After you have read the documents use the information from the documents as well as your knowledge of history from class to write an essay on loose-leaf that addresses the following task:

Task:

- Explain what is meant by the term “Neolithic Revolution”
- Describe the change in the process of acquiring food that occurred as a result of the Neolithic Revolution
- Discuss political, social, ***and/or*** economic effects the Neolithic Revolution had on society or a region

Document 1

Before the Neolithic Revolution

“Evidently the Ice Ages worked a profound change in the way man could live. They forced him to depend less on plants and more on animals. The rigors of hunting on the edge of the ice also changed the strategy of hunting. It became less attractive to stalk single animals, however large. The better alternative was to follow herds and not to lose them — to learn to anticipate and in the end to adopt their habits, including their wandering migrations. This is a peculiar adaptation - the nomadic mode of life on the move. . . . it is a pursuit; the place and the pace are set by the food animal.”

Source: Jacob Bronowski, *The Ascent of Man*, Little, Brown and Company

1 Based on this document, identify **two** characteristics of life before the Neolithic Revolution. [2]

Document 2

From Food Gathering To Food Producing

. . . Paleolithic men could not control their food supply. So long as they relied on foraging, hunting, fishing, and trapping, they were dependent on the natural food supply in a given area to keep from starving. But while Paleolithic men continued their food-gathering pattern of existence in Europe, Africa, and Australia, groups of people in the Near East began to cultivate edible plants and to breed animals. Often described as the “first economic revolution” in the history of man, this momentous change from a food-gathering to a food-producing economy initiated the Neolithic Age. Paleolithic man was a hunter; Neolithic man became a farmer and herdsman. . . .

Source: T. Walter Wallbank, et al., *Civilization: Past and Present*, Scott, Foresman and Company

2. According to the authors of this passage, what is **one** significant change that occurred between the Paleolithic Age and the Neolithic Age? [

Document 3

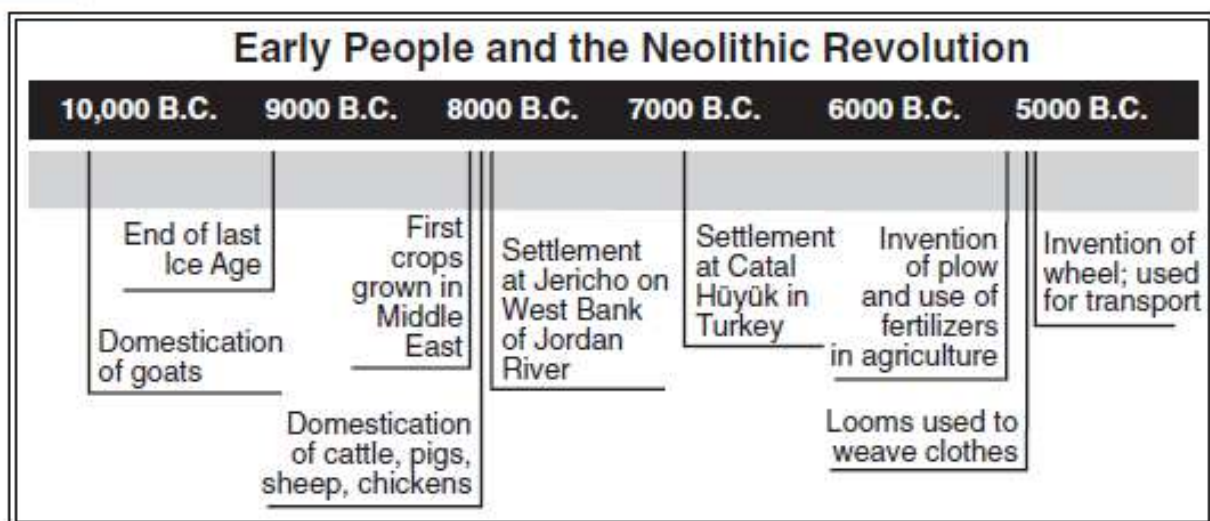
“ . . . The Neolithic Revolution also changed the way people lived. In place of scattered hunting communities, the farmers lived in villages. Near groups of villages, small towns grew up, and later cities too. Thus the Neolithic Revolution made civilization itself possible.

Within the villages, towns and cities, it was possible for people to specialize in the sort of work they could do best. Many stopped producing food at all, making instead tools and other goods that farmers needed, and for which they gave them food in exchange. This process of exchange led to trade and traders, and the growth of trade made it possible for people to specialize even more. . . .”

Source: D. M. Knox, *The Neolithic Revolution*, Greenhaven Press

3. Based on this document, state **two** impacts of the Neolithic Revolution on the way people lived.

Document 4

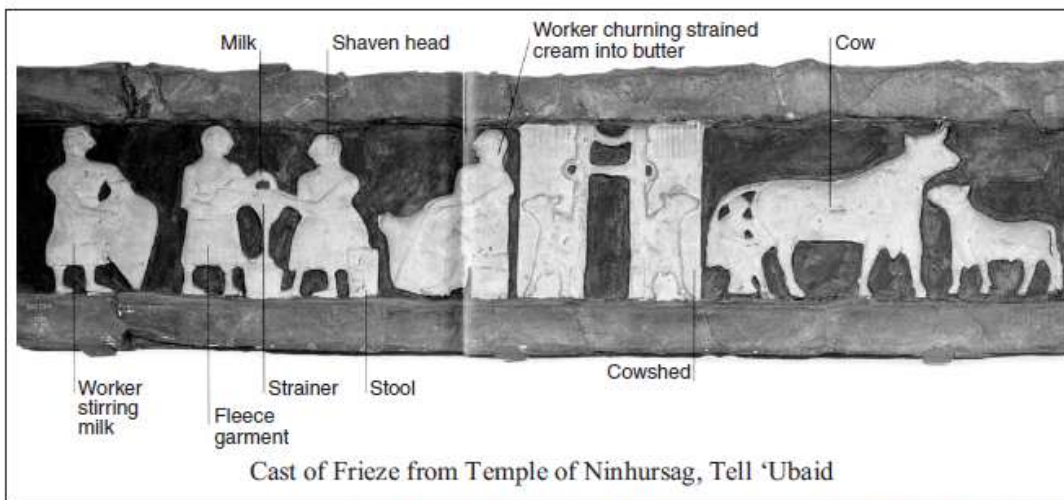


Source: Vivienne Hodges, *New York State Global History Regents Coach*, Educational Design, Inc. (adapted)

4. Based on this timeline identify 2 ways that peoples lives changed as a result of the Neolithic Revolution.

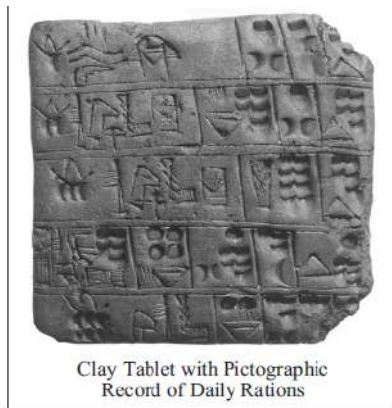
Document 5a

Mesopotamia: Everyday Life



Source: *The Visual Dictionary of Ancient Civilizations*, Dorling Kindersley (adapted)

Document 5b



Source: *The Visual Dictionary of Ancient Civilizations*, Dorling Kindersley (adapted)

5. Based on documents 5a and 5b cite one innovation that occurred as Mesopotamians developed a stable food supply.



Source: Barry K. Beyer et al., *The World Around Us: Eastern Hemisphere*, MacMillan Publishing (adapted)

6. Based on the document, state two changes that occurred in Egyptian society as people learned to produce surplus crops?