Village Life Changes

How farming reshaped homes, work, and daily roles

SS24.7.5b "Describe the settlement patterns, shift in gender roles, and job specialization associated with the development of agrarian societies."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline details about where people lived, circle details about how work differed by gender, and number the specialized jobs you find. Use your marks to explain how farming changed village life.

A Farming Village Takes Shape

1. Picture a small village in Southwest Asia around 7000 BCE. Families grow wheat and barley in fields near their homes and keep goats in nearby pens. Earlier, many communities had moved with the seasons to find wild food, though some had already lived in one place. Crops need planting, tending, and harvesting, so these farmers stay near their fields for much of the year. They build lasting houses close together and store grain for later meals. As families grow, the village may spread around its fields.

2. Staying in one place also changes work. Planting and raising animals add tasks to gathering wild foods, while grain must be ground and meals prepared. In some farming communities, women spent more time processing grain and caring for children, while men often spent more time herding or clearing land. These patterns were not rules for everyone, and roles differed across communities. Bones and tools can reveal kinds of work, but they rarely show exactly who did every task. Farming could make work more divided by gender without making every person's day the same.

3. A good harvest can leave food beyond what a family needs right away. Stored grain helps support people who spend part of their time on other work. One neighbor shapes clay pots for storing food; another makes stone blades for harvesting. A weaver turns plant fibers into baskets or cloth. These workers may trade their goods for grain instead of growing all their own food. Farming does not end shared work: potters and weavers may still help in the fields at harvest time. Village life links food production to kinds of skilled work.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did farming affect where these families lived, compared with communities that moved with the seasons?

2. Describe one way work differed by gender in some farming communities. Why should you not treat that pattern as a rule for everyone?

3. Why could a potter spend part of the day making pots instead of growing all their own food?

4. How could a grain harvest affect both work in families and specialized jobs in the village?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine families starting a farming village beside a river. In five or six sentences, describe where they would build homes, how work might differ by gender without making it a rule for everyone, and one specialized job that a good harvest could support. Explain the reasons for your choices.

ANSWER KEY

Village Life Changes

GRADE 7 · SS24.7.5b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline details about where people lived, circle details about how work differed by gender, and number the specialized jobs you find. Use your marks to explain how farming changed village life. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did farming affect where these families lived, compared with communities that moved with the seasons?	**The farmers stayed near their fields for much of the year and built lasting houses close together, rather than moving with the seasons to find wild food.**
2	Describe one way work differed by gender in some farming communities. Why should you not treat that pattern as a rule for everyone?	**Women spent more time processing grain and caring for children, while men often spent more time herding or clearing land. Roles differed across communities, and the evidence does not show who did every task.**
3	Why could a potter spend part of the day making pots instead of growing all their own food?	**A good harvest provided stored grain. The potter could trade pots for grain and spend part of the day making them.**
4	How could a grain harvest affect both work in families and specialized jobs in the village?	**Grain needed processing, a task women spent more time doing in some communities. Extra grain could also support specialists, such as potters, who traded their goods for food.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The families build homes near their fields so they can tend crops throughout the growing season. They keep stored grain close to the homes for later meals. In this village, some women might spend more time grinding grain, while some men might spend more time tending animals. Other families could divide those tasks differently. A basket maker could spend part of the day making containers for food. After a good harvest, neighbors could trade extra grain for the baskets.

Accept other plausible locations near fields and other specialized jobs if the response explains how a harvest supports the worker. Gender roles must be presented as possible patterns, not fixed rules.