

Seeds to Cities

Trace how farming and metalworking changed early communities.

SS.6.W.2.2 "Describe how the developments of agriculture and metallurgy related to settlement, population growth, and the emergence of civilization."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each development in farming or metalworking. Draw an arrow from each underlined development to a result it helped cause, such as a lasting settlement, more people, or an early civilization.

From Fields to Civilizations

- ① Long ago, people in river valleys and other productive places began to farm crops such as wheat, barley, rice, and millet. Near the Nile, Tigris and Euphrates, Indus, and Yellow Rivers, farmers used river water and rich soil to grow more food than hunting groups could collect. In Mesoamerica and the Andes, farmers also settled near land that could be planted. Farming encouraged families to stay through seasons. Instead of moving often to follow animals and wild plants, they built lasting homes. Small farming villages formed.
- ② As harvests became larger and more dependable, villages could support more people. A food surplus, meaning extra food after farmers fed their own families, could be stored or traded. Some people then spent less time growing food and more time at other work. Metalworkers shaped copper, bronze, and later iron into tools. Stronger axes, plows, and sickles helped clear land, prepare fields, and harvest crops. Metal tools did not replace farming. They made some farm work faster, which could help a settlement produce more food.
- ③ Growing settlements needed ways to organize work and resources. Leaders directed irrigation projects, and workers dug canals that carried water to fields. Storehouses protected grain for dry times, while trade brought materials that a village did not have nearby. As populations grew, jobs became more specialized. Farmers, metalworkers, builders, traders, and leaders depended on one another. Cities developed from some large settlements. These organized communities, with shared rules, public projects, trade, and different kinds of work, were early civilizations. Agriculture and metallurgy helped create the conditions for this change.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did farming change where families lived?

2 Explain how a food surplus could lead to specialized jobs.

3 What did metal tools help farmers do, and how could this affect the food supply?

4 How did specialized jobs and organized work help a large settlement become an early civilization? Give two details from the passage.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Imagine a river village learns to grow extra grain and make bronze tools. Write 3 or 4 sentences that trace how these changes could lead to a larger settlement and one feature of civilization. Use because or so to show at least two cause-and-effect links.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each development in farming or metalworking. Draw an arrow from each underlined development to a result it helped cause, such as a lasting settlement, more people, or an early civilization. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did farming change where families lived?	Farming encouraged families to stay near their fields through the seasons and build lasting homes. Villages formed near land that could be planted and watered.
2	Explain how a food surplus could lead to specialized jobs.	Extra food could be stored or traded after farmers fed their families. Because fewer people needed to spend all their time growing food, some could become metalworkers, builders, traders, or leaders.
3	What did metal tools help farmers do, and how could this affect the food supply?	Metal axes, plows, and sickles helped clear land, prepare fields, and harvest crops. Faster farm work could help a settlement produce more food.
4	How did specialized jobs and organized work help a large settlement become an early civilization? Give two details from the passage.	Specialized workers depended on one another, and leaders organized shared work. Examples include building canals for irrigation, protecting grain in storehouses, trade, shared rules, and public projects.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Extra grain lets the village feed more families, so homes are built near the fields. Bronze plows help farmers prepare additional land, which increases the harvest. Because not everyone must farm, some people become traders and builders, and leaders organize a canal.

Accept answers that accurately connect agriculture and metalworking to settlement, food surplus, population growth, specialized work, or organized civilization. For the open response, students should include at least two logical cause-and-effect links and a feature such as leadership, trade, public projects, shared rules, or specialized jobs.