

Lives in Transition

Compare daily life before and after farming.

9.1a "The Paleolithic Era was characterized by non-sedentary hunting and gathering lifestyles, whereas the Neolithic Era was characterized by a turn to agriculture, herding, and semi-sedentary lifestyles."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline details that describe Paleolithic life once and Neolithic life twice. Circle the words or phrases that show why people moved or stayed near one place.

From Moving Camps to Farming Villages

- ① During the Paleolithic Era, people obtained food by hunting, fishing, and gathering wild plants. Many groups moved between camps as seasons and animal migrations changed food supplies. Cooperation and knowledge of local resources helped them survive. Work included toolmaking, food preparation, and child care, but roles varied among communities. With limited stored surplus, many groups had few people working full-time in specialized occupations.
- ② During the Neolithic Era, some communities began growing crops and herding animals. Fields and stored harvests encouraged longer stays near one settlement, while some herders remained mobile. Successful harvests could create food surpluses, although drought and crop failure remained dangers. Villages developed more permanent houses and storage areas. Surplus food could support specialists in pottery, weaving, toolmaking, and food distribution.
- ③ The change to agriculture reshaped social, economic, and political life, but it did not happen everywhere at the same time or in the same way. Stored grain, animals, and land could become valuable property. Some people gained influence by controlling resources, leading work projects, or settling disputes. Labor roles for men and women could also shift as farming, herding, food processing, and child care were organized around village life. Evidence suggests that these roles varied by community. Farming brought greater stability for some groups, yet it also created new inequalities and made communities dependent on their local environment.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 Why did many Paleolithic groups move between camps instead of living in one place all year?

2 Give two ways Neolithic farming encouraged people to live in villages for much of the year.

3 How could a food surplus change the kinds of work people did?

4 Identify one political or social change that could result from stored food, animals, and land becoming valuable property.

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Compare an imaginary Paleolithic camp with a Neolithic village in four or five sentences. Include differences in food, settlement, and work or social organization, plus one similarity.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline details that describe Paleolithic life once and Neolithic life twice. Circle the words or phrases that show why people moved or stayed near one place. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why did many Paleolithic groups move between camps instead of living in one place all year?	Their food sources changed with the seasons and with animal migrations.
2	Give two ways Neolithic farming encouraged people to live in villages for much of the year.	They needed to tend nearby fields and protect stored harvests; villages also provided more permanent houses and storage.
3	How could a food surplus change the kinds of work people did?	A surplus allowed some people to specialize in tasks such as pottery making, weaving, tool production, or food distribution instead of all finding food.
4	Identify one political or social change that could result from stored food, animals, and land becoming valuable property.	Some people could gain influence by controlling resources, leading work projects, or settling disputes. Accept a supported explanation of new inequalities.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The Riverstone camp hunts deer and gathers berries, so its members move when food becomes scarce. The Hillfield village grows wheat and cares for goats near its houses. Riverstone families use temporary camps, while Hillfield families stay near fields and storage areas for much of the year. Hillfield has people who make pottery and help organize stored grain. Both communities depend on cooperation and knowledge of their environment.

Accept accurate comparisons of mobile foraging with farming, herding, and longer-term settlement. The open response should include the three requested differences and one similarity, recognizing that communities varied.