Agriculture, or growing plants and raising animals for food, changed human society forever. Agriculture was more reliable than hunting and gathering.

- People began to herd or keep wild animals in pens. They also planted seeds from wild grasses, using hoes and digging sticks. They had become farmers.
- Farmers could get their food in one place, so their settlements became permanent. Farming communities became villages.
- As farmers grew more food than they needed, some people became free to specialize. They worked at other jobs, such as making pots or tools.

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Isn't that wild?
Wild dogs probably followed people to get food scraps. Early people trained these dogs to guard their camps and to help them hunt or herd other animals. The dog is the earliest known domestic animal, living with people or under their care.

Spread of Agriculture

- Agriculture Begins
- 9000 to 8000 B.C.
- 8000 to 6000 B.C.
- 6000 to 3000 B.C.
- Hunting and gathering
- Uninhabited
- Early city
- Early use of irrigation

Earliest Domestic Plants and Animals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PLANTS</th>
<th>ANIMALS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Middle East</td>
<td>barley, lentils, peas, wheat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>millet, rice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South and Southeast Asia</td>
<td>cotton, millet, rice, soybeans, sweet potatoes, taro</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>barley, millet, sorghum, wheat, yams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>barley, rye, wheat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Americas</td>
<td>beans, peppers, potatoes, squash</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

About 1,000 people lived in Jericho, one of the world's oldest cities. What clues does this illustration give you about their society?

Jericho
- Tower
- Grain storage
- Gate
- Spring
- City wall
- Grain field

Other buildings are houses.

Hunters often returned empty-handed from a day of hunting. Herding animals, however, guaranteed a supply of meat, skins, and milk.

Agriculture started with resources found in the environment. What were the most common domestic plants and animals?