

Neolithic Revolution DBQ

Document Based Question

This question is based on the accompanying documents. The question is designed to test your ability to work with historical documents. Some of these documents have been edited for the purpose of this question. As you analyze the documents, take into account the source of each document and any point of view that may be presented in the document.

Historical Context: One of the most important turning points in human history was the change that occurred during the *Neolithic Revolution*. This shift from the Paleolithic Era to the Neolithic Era changed the course of the human race.

Task: Using the information from the documents and your knowledge of global history, answer the questions that follow each document. Your answers to the questions will help you write the essay in which you will be asked to

- Describe the change experienced from the Paleolithic era to the Neolithic era.
- Discuss how this change influenced the development of civilizations.

In developing your answers to Part II, be sure to keep these general definitions in mind:

- a) explain means “to make plain or understandable; to give reasons for or causes of; to show the logical development or relationships of”
- b) discuss means “to make observations about something using facts, reasoning, and argument; to present in some detail”

Document 1

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

- 1 According to the authors of this passage, what is *one* significant change that occurred between the Paleolithic Age and the Neolithic Age? [1]

Score

WHY HUNT?
WHY GATHER?
JOIN THE NEOLITHIC REVOLUTION!

How goes the **hunt**?

Not so great. How's **gathering**?

So-so.



Look! A **village**!

I wonder what they **do** over there ...?



Excuse me.

I couldn't help but **overhear**. Let me tell you about living the **Neolithic Way!**



First off – we don't just **look around** for our food ... we actually **grow** some of it ourselves, **where we live!**

Gasp!




Plant and animal **domestication** is the **key**. We grow **edible plants** ourselves, right out of the **ground**, time after time!

Yum!



Animals, too! We **control** their reproduction to select **desirable characteristics** and eliminate bad ones.

Wow! How can we live the **Neolithic way**?



You can start by **joining us** in the village! **Leave your troubles behind!***

*Some hunting and gathering may be necessary to maintain dietary variety and avoid famine.



Your KEYS to a BETTER LIFE!

Harness Plant Power!

- Learn how the seeds you drop can become next fall's crop!
- Use seed selection to make future plants more productive and easier to harvest!
- Preserve and store surpluses for hard times!
- Invent new ways of preparing and cooking plant foods!

Put Animals To Work For You!

- Learn which species are slow and submissive!
- Use food and fences to keep them around!
- Influence their choice of mates!
- Breed the best and eat the rest!



Special offer! Free booklets!

The Pleasures of Porridge

Earn Your Animals' Respect

How to Tell a Weed

Source: Mysteries of Çatalhöyük!, Science Museum of Minnesota, www.smm.org/catal (adapted)

2 Based on this comic, state *two* effects of the Neolithic Revolution. [2]

(1) _____

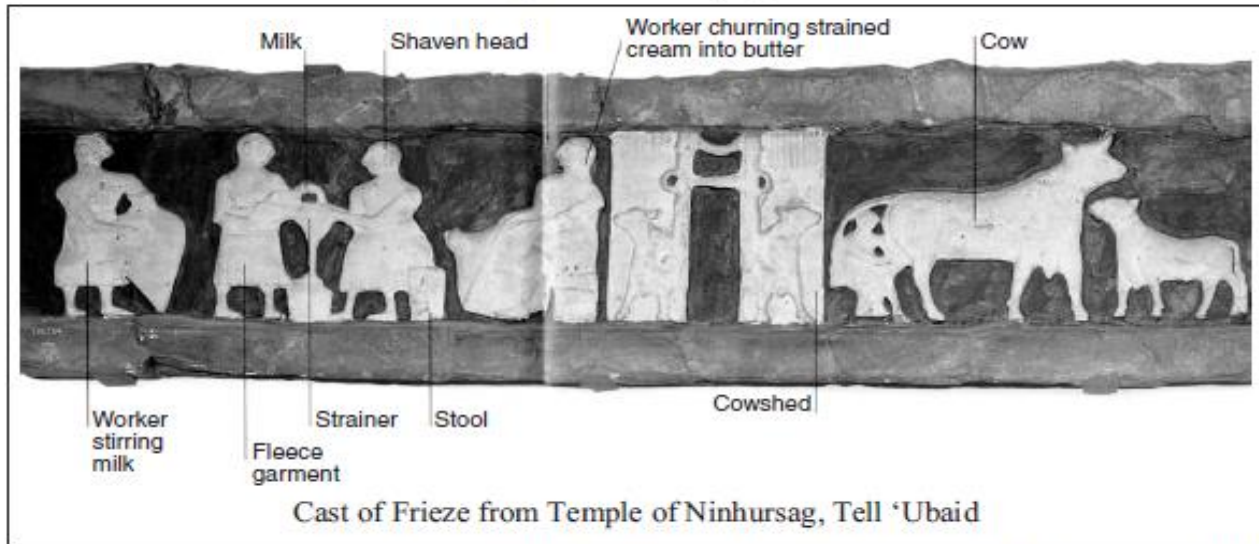
Score

(2) _____

Score

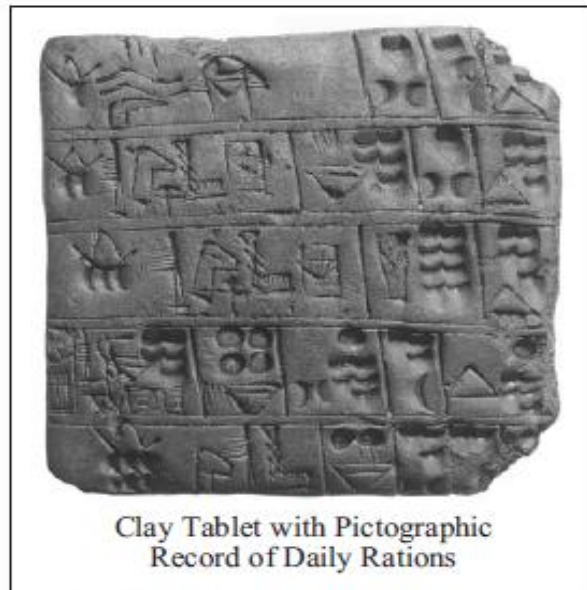
Document 3a

Mesopotamia: Everyday Life



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

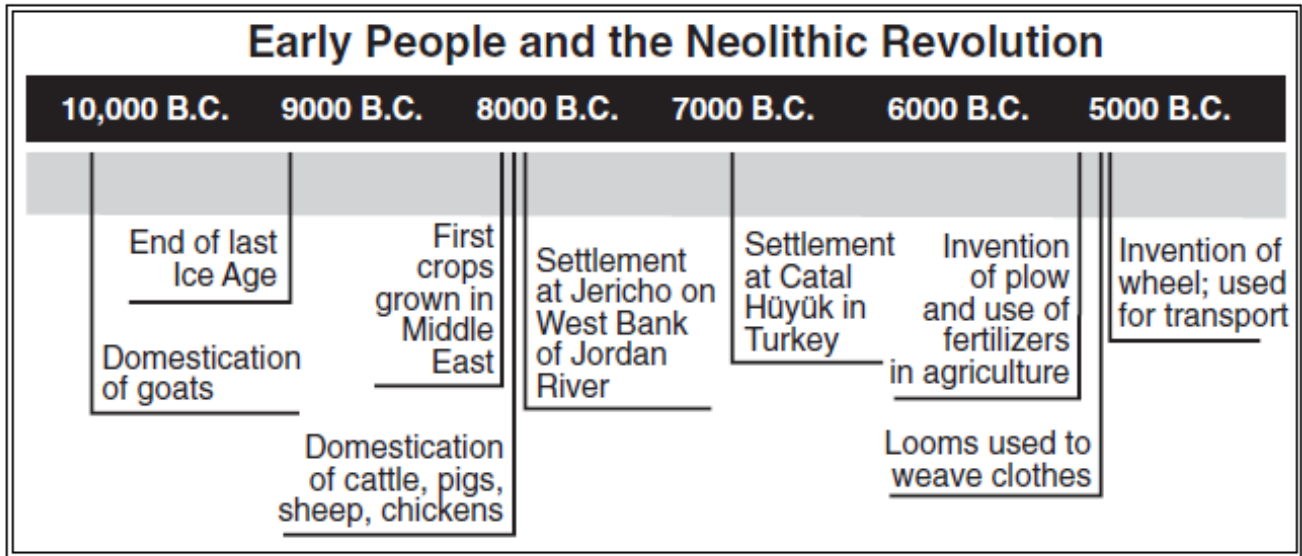
Document 3b



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

3 Based on these images, state **one** advance that occurred as the Mesopotamian culture developed a stable food supply. [1]

Document 4



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

Based on this time line, identify *two* ways that people's lives changed during the Neolithic Revolution. [

(1) _____

Score

(2) _____

Score

Document 5

My name is Ogg, and I am a hunter. I usually walk a great distance each day to find my food. . . .

I continue to hunt for a living, even though many of my friends have given up. They have learned to plant crops and keep animals. They live in houses made of brick, stone, and grass.

One day, while returning from the hunt, I happened to pass the field of my friends Ulana and Lute. . . .

“Look how well we live,” Ulana replied. “We have a steady supply of meat, milk, vegetables, and wool. In fact, we have everything we need.” . . .

“We are not afraid, nor are we hungry. We all work together and help one another. Some till the soil. Others care for the animals. Still others make weapons and tools. We trade goods with people in other villages. You should give up the hunt and join us, Ogg. You will have a better life.” . . .

I left Ulana and continued to hunt for my food. But last week I returned from the hunt empty-handed every day. I was cold, tired, and hungry. . . .

Source: Henry Abraham and Irwin Pfeffer, *Enjoying Global History*, AMSCO

Identify *one* way that progress during the Neolithic Revolution helped Ulana and her friends. [1]

Score

Document 6

Then, about 6000 B.C., and somewhere in the Near East (as far as we know), the Neolithic way of life began. It is still called “Neolithic” (New Stone Age, as Mesolithic means Middle, and Paleolithic means Old Stone Age), because the older anthropologists saw everything in the light of stonework, and thought of this “period” as the age of polished stone axes. But it means, rather, a state of culture in which food is planted and bred, not hunted and gathered — in which food is domesticated, not wild. If we had to choose the greatest single change in human history right up to the present, this would be it. I mean, of course, a change by cultural evolution, as distinct from a biological change like standing erect, or gradually becoming able to use culture and language in the first place. And I do not mean that the change was sudden, or dramatic to those who were changing, as though a light were being switched on. It was dramatic, but long after, in its consequences, because everything else we have achieved flowed out of this as a beginning. . . .

— William Howells, *Back of History*, Doubleday & Co.

Based on this document, identify *one* important result of the Neolithic Revolution. [1]

Score

Document 7

Before the Neolithic Revolution

. . . Man survived the fierce test of the Ice Ages because he had the flexibility of mind to recognise inventions and to turn them into community property. 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 rigours 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 trans-humance [nomadic] mode of life on the move. It has some of the earlier qualities of hunting, because it is a pursuit; the place and the pace are set by the food animal. And it has some of the later qualities of herding, because the animal is tended and, as it were, stored as a mobile reservoir of food. . . .

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

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

(1) _____

Score

(2) _____

Score

Document 8

. . . 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. (The Ancient Near East)

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

Based on this document, state *one* impact of the Neolithic Revolution on the way people lived. [1]

Score

Document 9

This extract summarizes the findings of several archaeologists in the 1950s and 1960s.

. . . The first archaeological evidence for the domestication of cereals, and some of the earliest evidence for the domestication of animals, comes from a broad region stretching from Greece and Crete in the west to the foothills of the Hindu Kush south of the Caspian in the east. Here are found the wild plants from which wheat and barley were domesticated, whilst it is only in this zone that the wild progenitors [ancestors] of sheep, goats, cattle and pigs were found together, for the latter two had a much broader distribution than wild sheep and goats. By the tenth millennium B.C. peoples who relied upon hunting and gathering were reaping wild barley and wild wheat with knives, grinding the grain and using storage pits. By the sixth millennium there is evidence of village communities growing wheat and barley, and keeping sheep and goats, in Greece and Crete in the west, in southern Turkey, the Galilean uplands of the eastern littoral [coastal region] of the Mediterranean, in the Zagros mountains of Iran and Iraq, the interior plateaux of Iran, and in the foothills south east of the Caspian. Subsequently the number of domesticated plants grown was increased, including flax, for its oil rather than for fibre, peas, lentils and vetch [plants used for food]. By the fourth millennium the olive, vine and fig, the crops which give traditional Mediterranean agriculture much of its distinctiveness, had been domesticated in the eastern Mediterranean. Cattle and pigs are thought to have been domesticated after sheep and goats. Cattle were used as draught animals, and for meat; not until the late fourth millennium is there evidence of milking in South West Asia. . . .

Source: D. B. Grigg, *The Agricultural Systems of the World*, Cambridge University Press

- 3 Based on this document, state *two* changes in agriculture that occurred during the Neolithic Revolution. [2]

(1) _____

Score

(2) _____

Score