

Name: _____

Impact of the Neolithic Revolution

A job recruiter helps companies find candidates for a specific job. A candidate is another word for someone who is applying for a job. For example, a job recruiter might help a technology company find candidates to create apps! Job recruiters ask candidates questions to see if they are qualified for the job. For example, a job recruiter might ask candidates to explain their prior experience creating apps and to describe what computer languages they know.



While the term “job recruiter” is a modern-day word, people have been helping others find work for thousands of years. Today, you will imagine you are a job recruiter who lived thousands of years ago during the Neolithic Revolution. Follow the steps below.

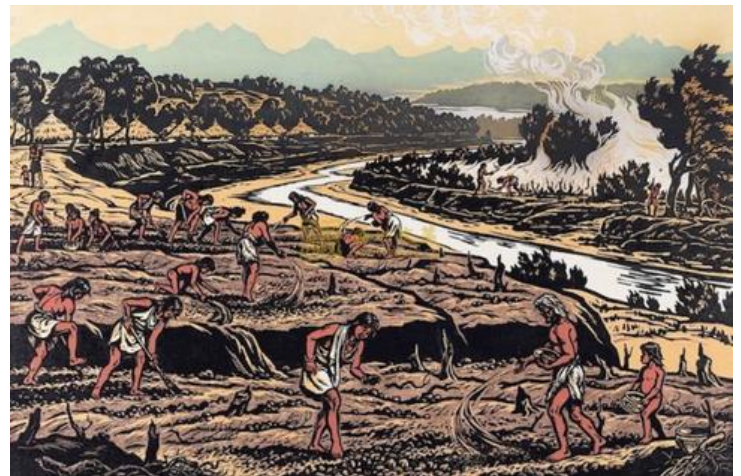
Step 1: Learn about Neolithic Revolution

Read about the Neolithic Revolution. Then, answer the questions.

For millions of years, humans lived a nomadic lifestyle. This means they did not have permanent homes and instead moved from place to place to find food. However, around 10000 BCE, people began establishing permanent farming communities. They no longer needed to move to find food because they grew crops and raised livestock. This period of change from living a nomadic lifestyle to establishing permanent settlements is known as the Neolithic Revolution, or the First Agricultural Revolution. The transition from a nomadic to a permanent lifestyle did not occur overnight. It was a slow process that led to many changes in society. Read about some of these changes below. Then, answer the questions.

Surplus of Food and Specialization of Labor

During the Neolithic Revolution, people developed tools, like axes, to remove trees and clear fields. They also used a technique called “slash-and-burn” farming. “Slash-and-burn” farming refers to a technique where people cut down trees and burned any remaining vegetation. This method provided people with land that was rich in nutrients and fertilizer for crops to grow. In addition to growing crops, people raised livestock. They used the livestock for food and clothing, like wool. Over time, a surplus of food emerged. The word “surplus” means that there is more of something than is needed. By having a surplus, people had extra food that they could store for later.



This image depicts the slash-and-burn technique during Neolithic times. Credit: Science China Press

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Because of the food surplus, not everyone needed to constantly look for food. As a result, people could spend time learning other skills. For example, people made clay pots or grass baskets to hold different kinds of crops. The term “specialization of labor” describes the process in which people perform a certain set of skills or tasks. For example, a farmer only plants and harvests crops. A potter would only make objects from clay. A merchant would buy and sell goods. As a result of specialization, new jobs were created, and people also became more efficient at their jobs. People also traded goods, which helped a local economy grow.

Development of Social Classes and Leadership

During the Neolithic Revolution, social classes also emerged. Social classes are made up of people who work in similar professions. They are also based on how much wealth, power, and influence a group held. For example, farmers, craftspeople, religious leaders, and government leaders belonged to different social classes. For societies to succeed, there also needed to be order. People who were in positions of power were responsible for maintaining order in society. They punished people who committed crimes and created and enforced rules.

Disease

Diseases also spread during this time period. Because humans raised livestock, they sometimes got diseases from animals. For example, rabies were transmitted from animals to humans. In addition, disease spread because large groups of people were living the same area. This made it easier for germs to spread among people.

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Answer the questions using complete sentences.

1. What is a surplus of food? How did having a surplus of food impact people who lived during the Neolithic Revolution?

2. What was one result of specialization of labor?

3. In your opinion, do you think all societies need social classes and a hierarchy of power? Explain your reasoning.

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Step 2: Being a Job Recruiter

Fill in the information below to create a job ad. Imagine that you lived during the Neolithic Revolution. You will create a job ad that describes the skills and responsibilities for a job needed in your community. Fill out the job ad on the next page. Your job ad must include the following information:

- Title for the job
- Description of the job (at least two sentences that describes what the person would be doing on a day-to-day basis)
- List of three traits that are needed (e.g., dedicated, passionate, hard-working)
- Knowledge of specific skills (e.g., "slash-and-burn" farming)
- Your contact information so people will know how to reach you If they want to apply for the job

Want to see what a real job ad looks like? Click here to see examples:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1SBq9f6JQldfSNosmtFTdqb07gl0CBal1?usp=sharing>

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Job Advertisement:

Job Title: _____

Job Description:

Desired Traits:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Knowledge Required:

Contract Information: