

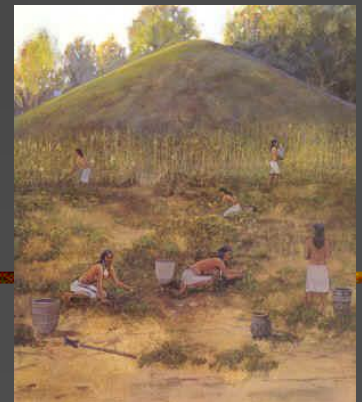
THE FIRST THREE MILLION YEARS

Mrs. Macdonald
AP World History
Foundations Unit

Early Human Civilizations

STONE AGE

- Paleolithic Era
10,000 – 3.5 million years ago
- Mesolithic Era
10,000 – 12,000 years ago
- Neolithic Era
5,000 – 10,000 years ago



Paleolithic Diet

- Hunters & gatherers
 - Veggie foods bulk of diet
 - Tracked & killed large animals
 - 2 people needed 1 sq. mile for survival
 - 3 – 5 hours/day for food
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Paleolithic Lifestyle

- Roam widely for food - nomadic
 - Couldn't support large populations
 - Developed small clans and tribes for protection / efficiency
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Paleolithic Women

- Equality between sexes (egalitarian)
 - Woman worked harder than men by gathering
 - Mothers couldn't carry more than 2 infants so kids were spaced about 4 yrs. apart
 - Women breastfed infants for several yrs to limit fertility
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Paleolithic Culture

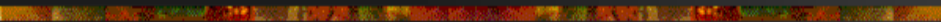
- Cave paintings
 - Religions centered on relationship to nature:
 - Sacred groves, springs, wild animals
 - Multiple deities
 - Hunting scenes/ fertility concerns / education, time measuring
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Cave Paintings

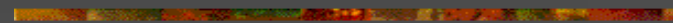


Cave Paintings





Greatest achievement of
Paleolithic people was the
spread of the human
species over much of the
earth.



Mesolithic Era

- Marked by appearance of microlithic (small blade of stone) tools and weapons
 - Changes in nature of settlements – more complex kinship units (lineages)
 - Either matrilineal or patrilineal
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Neolithic Era

- Development of agriculture – Agricultural Revolution
- Making of polished stone implements



Agricultural Revolution

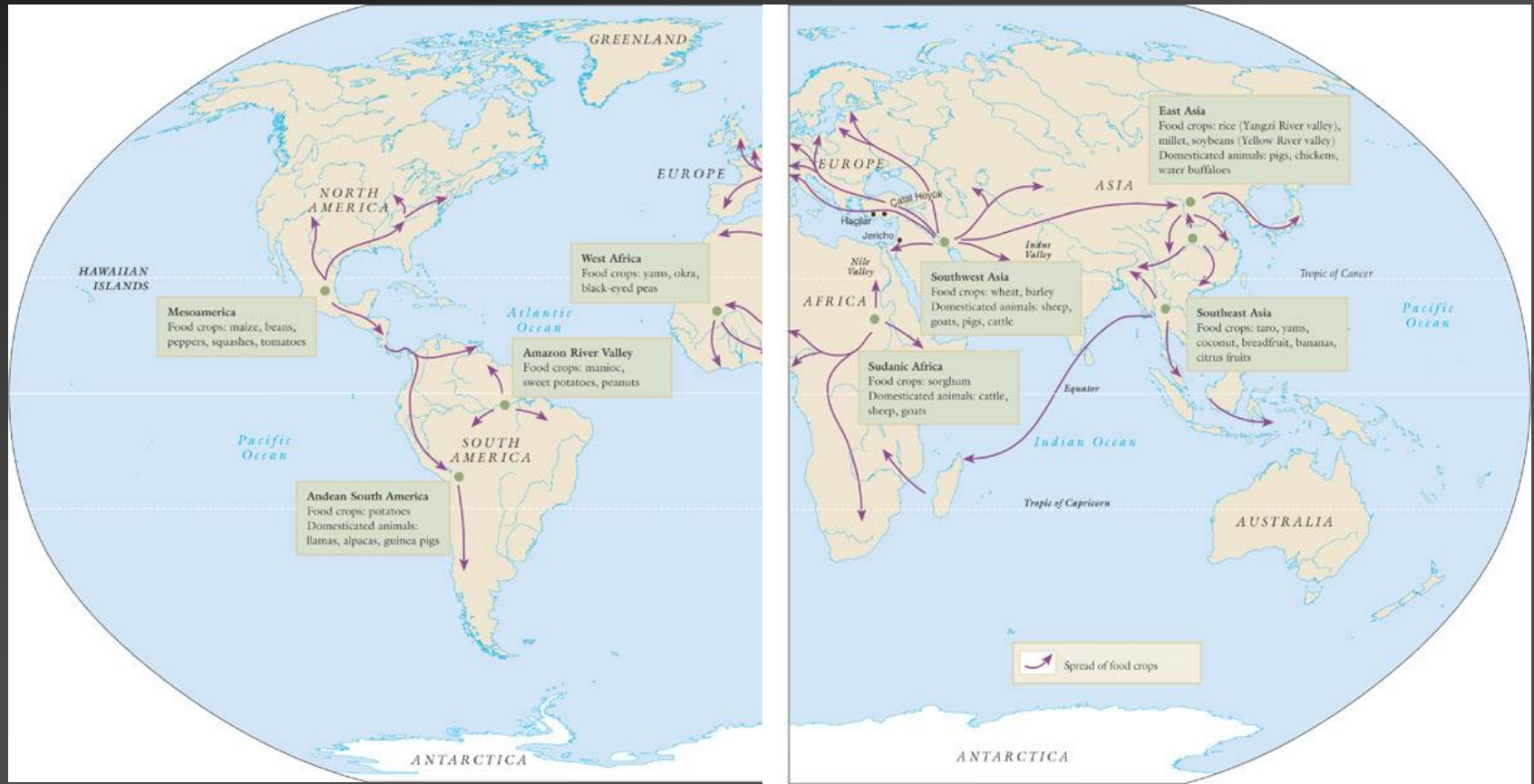
- After 10,000 BCE, most people became food producers rather than gatherers
 - Long process called Agricultural Revolution
 - Included cultivating crops and domesticating animals
 - Spawned civilizations and modern world
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Origins of Ag. Rev.

- First evidence in Middle East 10,000 – 8,000 BCE (fertile crescent)
- Later developed independently around world



Origins and Spread of Agriculture



Ag. Rev. Triggered By:

Theories vary

- Population increase
 - Climate change led to decrease of big game animals
 - Gradual experimentation by gatherers of wild plants
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How Did Agriculture Develop?

- Foragers scattered seeds of desirable plants
 - Selecting only high-yield strains of wild plants
 - Discouraged growth of competing plants by clearing them away
 - Slash and burn cultivation
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Development of Specialized Tools

- Specialized stone tools improved for agriculture
- Fire used for clearing
- Ash for fertilizer



Domestication of Animals

- Wild animals scavenged food scraps of agricultural societies
 - People began to feed them and protect from predators for ready food supply
 - Used for food, labor, fertilizer, clothing, etc.
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Pastoralism

- Kept large herds of animals for food
 - Migrate for new pastures and watering places
 - Probably bartered their meat and skins with nearby farming communities
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Benefits of Agriculture

- Supported larger populations
 - Surplus food supply for short climate changes
 - More settled existence
 - Afford to build houses and villages
 - Large villages could afford some specialized labor
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Disadvantages of Agriculture

- Diet less varied & nutritious
 - More contagious diseases
 - Single crops quickly depleted nutrients in soil
 - Harder work – more manpower to farm than hunt/gather
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Neolithic Culture

- Development of specialized labor
 - Private land ownership = emergence of social classes
 - Religious practices emphasized Sky God and Earth Mother
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Conclusion

Human interaction w/ environment

- First survival and adaptation
 - Neolithic ppl adapted and shaped environment (domestication)
 - Agriculture one of most momentous advancements in human history
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