

The Agricultural Revolution

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Summary

This book is about how we make enough food to feed all of the people and animals in the world.

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Before Reading

Think Ahead

Look at the picture and answer the questions.



1. What is the tractor spraying on the field?
2. What do farmers usually grow in fields?
3. What do crops grow in?
4. What time of year is good for planting crops?

Vocabulary

A Read and match.

1.



•

• a. plow

2.



•

• b. insect

3.



•

• c. nutrition

4.



•

• d. berries

5.



•

• e. hunter

6.



•

• f. wheat

7.



•

• g. poison

8.



•

• h. seasons

B Write the word for each definition.

fertilizer

output

nutrient

reliable

effectively

1. _____ able to be trusted to do or provide what is needed
2. _____ something you put in soil to help plants grow
3. _____ any substance that helps living things grow
4. _____ the amount of something that is produced by a person or thing
5. _____ in a way that uses little effort or resources

C Choose the word that means about the same as the underlined words.

1. Food grown in a natural way is better for us than food grown using GMOs.
 a. organically b. effectively c. nutrient d. variety
2. The earth that plants grow in is full of nutrients.
 a. A chemical b. Climate c. Soil d. Wheat
3. Some farmers spray their fields with chemicals used to kill insects.
 a. poison b. pesticides c. fertilizers d. season
4. Plants grown in large amounts, such as corn or potatoes, are usually plowed using machines.
 a. Crops b. Productive c. Nutrition d. Agriculture

Comprehension

A Match the pictures with the correct sentences.

- a. For thousands of years, humans were hunters and gatherers.
- b. Farmers in the UK changed the countryside by building stone walls to close in their farms.
- c. Excess fertilizers and pesticides can cause diseases in fish and other animals.



1. _____



2. _____



3. _____

B Choose the best answer.

1. Why did rich farmers turn small farms into very large farms?
 - a. To move crops from one field to another
 - b. To grow food more effectively
 - c. To cause food production to go down
 - d. To use GMOs to grow food
2. What helped soften the hunger crisis of the 1970s and 1980s?
 - a. Fertilizers and pesticides
 - b. Hunters and gatherers
 - c. Corn and wheat
 - d. Scientists and farmers
3. What do scientists say GMOs harm?
 - a. Animals
 - b. People
 - c. The environment
 - d. All of the above

C Choose the correct phrase for each picture. One (1) choice will not be used.

- a. A machine plowing a field
- b. Spraying pesticide on a crop
- c. A fertilizer poisonous to people and animals
- d. Organically grown food
- e. Nutritious potatoes in soil



1. _____



2. _____



3. _____



4. _____

D Read each sentence. Write “T” if it is true or “F” if it is false.

1. _____ Hunting and gathering was hard work and dangerous.
2. _____ People ate better and got healthier as societies grew.
3. _____ The Agricultural Revolution couldn't develop in the UK because the climate was bad.
4. _____ Over time, pesticides and fertilizers led to poor quality land.
5. _____ GMO means genetically modified organisms.

E Complete the sentences with the correct words.

1. Hunters and gatherers depended on finding and catching food, and that depended on the _____ and luck.
soil seasons
2. During the Industrial Revolution, machines were made to drop seeds to grow _____.
crops fertilizers
3. Farmers used new ideas for moving crops, which put important _____ back into the soil.
nutrition nutrients
4. New techniques and chemicals allowed farmers to create better crops with a high yield, or _____.
output poison
5. Farm companies develop pesticides to kill _____ to protect crops from damage.
soil insects

F Number the events in order from 1=first to 5=last.

- a. _____ Over time, humans learned how to plant crops and how to keep animals on a farm.
- b. _____ For thousands of years, hunters and gatherers ate what they could find or kill.
- c. _____ During the Agricultural Revolution, farm machines were introduced which allowed farmers to make food more efficiently.
- d. _____ Nowadays, many farmers use GMOs to grow food, while others grow food organically.
- e. _____ The Industrial Revolution brought about the use of machines to plow fields and drop seeds.

Think About It

A Look in the reader to write the answers to the following 5-W questions.

Who?	What?	When?	Where?	Why?
Many _____ argue that GMOs are unhealthy.	Rather than being hunters and gatherers, humans needed a more _____ where there would be food all the time.	In the _____ century, new techniques and chemicals allowed scientists and farmers to work together to create better crops with a high yield.	The Agricultural Revolution developed in the _____ first.	Farmers need to make enough _____ to feed the world's people and all of their animals.

B Complete the sentences below with your own ideas.

From this book, I learned _____

_____.

Before I read this book, I knew _____

_____.

Now I also know _____

_____.