

Anticipation Guide: Hunter-Gatherer and Agrarian Societies—Key

Statement	Background Information
<p>1. Agriculture had its beginnings in Europe.</p>	<p>False. Agriculture first emerged in the Near East, gradually moving to the Middle East, southern Europe, and Africa. It developed separately in China and the Americas. The change to agrarian societies was a slow and gradual process. Most of Europe remained hunter-gatherers for several thousand years after the development of agriculture, because there were sufficient animals and plants to sustain them.</p>
<p>2. One of the biggest changes brought about by agriculture was that people started to build more permanent settlements.</p>	<p>True. This describes one of the biggest changes to societies brought about by agriculture—people became less nomadic and more sedentary, as they did not have to follow migrating animals or search for other food sources. They began to build more permanent stone or brick buildings with storage areas for food, and to live in larger communities.</p>
<p>3. Human populations grew more quickly in agrarian societies than in hunter-gatherer societies.</p>	<p>True. Food supplies were more reliable and more varied in agrarian societies; as well, there was agriculture and surplus grains could be stored for the next season. Farmland could sustain larger populations because it added new sources of food to hunting, fishing, and gathering.</p>
<p>4. Agriculture was a major change in human societies because, for the first time, people tried to control the natural environment.</p>	<p>True. Instead of surviving by adapting to the environment and living off the land, people began to actually change the environment (i.e., domesticating animals, planting seeds in the ground, using irrigation, tilling the soil, et cetera).</p>
<p>5. After the beginning of agriculture, hunter-gatherer societies eventually disappeared.</p>	<p>False. Many of the indigenous peoples in Northern Europe, in the Americas, and in sub-Saharan Africa continued for many thousands of years to live as hunter-gatherers. There are still people in remote areas of the world who are sustained by hunting and gathering.</p>