

## Lesson 2: Early Farmers

**DIRECTIONS:** Review the vocabulary terms in the box. Then read the summary to reveal how communities began to develop during the Stone Age. As you read, underline important details in each section that relate to that section's title. Think about what you already know, what you want to know, and what you have learned after reading the summary.

### Vocabulary

**technology:** the way in which humans produce the items they use  
**domesticate:** to tame wild animals or cultivate plants for human use  
**harvest:** to gather crops  
**excavation site:** where archaeologists dig up artifacts  
**agriculture:** the raising of plants and animals for human use  
**surplus:** an extra supply  
**nomad:** a person who travels from place to place  
**social division:** the different roles that people have in a society  
**climate:** average weather conditions in an area over a long period of time  
**carbon dating:** a method of judging the age of things that lived long ago

#### The Stone Age (p. 19)

Archaeologists group together artifacts and other information about events to better understand life long ago. The Stone Age was a prehistoric time when people used mostly stone tools. The Stone Age is divided into two periods: the Old Stone Age and the New Stone Age. The Old Stone Age lasted a long time. Little progress was made in **technology** during the Old Stone Age. Technology is the way humans produce the items they use. People used mostly stone tools, but they also used wood, horn, antler, and bone tools. During the New Stone Age, humans greatly improved their technology in a shorter period of time. People began using polished rock as a tool which marked the beginning of the New Stone Age. Humans also began to farm once glaciers retreated. They started to **domesticate**, or tame, wild animals too. Eventually the discovery of metals and the developing of metalworking marked the end of the Stone Age.

#### Early Farming (p. 20)

Grains were among the first plants humans farmed. Artifacts found in **excavation sites** tell archaeologists about the crops that were **harvested**, or gathered. Domestication of plants did not stop after the Stone Age ended. Today, dozens of plants are being considered for domestication

#### Domestic Animals (p. 21)

People began domesticating wild animals about 10,000 years ago. Some animals were used for food, clothing, and shelter. Stronger animals, such as cattle, were used for plowing fields. In this way, domesticated cattle helped **agriculture** develop. Agriculture is the raising of plants and animals for human use.

Families were now able to raise more crops than they needed. They could sell the **surplus**, or the extra supply.

#### More Useful Creatures (p. 22)

**Nomads** were people who migrated from place to place. Humans realized that animals could be useful, so they began domesticating other animals such as horses, donkeys, and camels. These animals helped them travel great distances and were used to move people and goods.

#### Village Life (p. 22)

Skara Brae was a typical Stone Age village. Some people in the village were farmers and herders. Others were toolmakers. Still others harvested fish and shellfish. Because of the food surplus, the village was able to divide up the work. This formed **social divisions**, or different roles given to different people in a society. As a result, their lifestyle changed from hunting and gathering to farming.

#### The Iceman (p. 23)

Archaeologists also study how early people lived in different **climates**. In 1991 people found the frozen body of a man in Europe. Archaeologists studied the Iceman's copper ax and stone knife. They believe he lived during or after the New Stone Age. Archaeologists knew that copper was used during the New Stone Age. They also used a method called **carbon dating** to help them judge how old the man was. He lived about 5,300 years ago.

_____ %
---------

# Lesson 2: Early Farmers

**DIRECTIONS:** ALL of the statements below are false. Rewrite each statement to make it true by replacing the circled word(s). You will use your textbook and/or summary (other side) to find your answers.

p. 19 1. Meteorologists piece together artifacts and other information about prehistoric times to better understand life long ago.

Archaeologists piece together artifacts and other information about prehistoric times to better understand life long ago.

p. 19 2. The two parts of the Stone Age are the Old Stone Age and the Prehistoric Stone Age.

p. 19 3. A great deal of progress was made during the Old Stone Age.

p. 19 4. The discovery of metals and the development of metalworking mark the beginning of the New Stone Age.

p. 19 5. Humans had to wait for glaciers to spread before they could begin growing crops.

p. 20 6. The first plants to be domesticated were grasses.

p. 20 7. Domestication of plants lasted only during the Stone Age.

p. 22 8. Humans realized that animals couldn't be useful and began to release them.

p. 22 9. Sports changed the lifestyles of ancient peoples from hunting/gathering to farming.