

The Evolution of Agriculture

Vocabulary List

Grades
9 – 12

Agriculture	the science or practice of farming, including cultivation of the soil for the growing of crops and the rearing of animals to provide food, wool, and other products
Animal husbandry	branch of agriculture concerned with the production and care of domestic animals, farm animals
Breed	a group of animals descended from common ancestry and possessing certain inherited characteristics which distinguish it from any other group. When mating within the breed are made, these characteristics are transmitted to the offspring in a uniform and predictable manner
Cistern	an artificial reservoir, such as an underground tank, for storing liquids and especially (rain) water
Crop rotation	system of cultivation where different crops are planted in consecutive growing seasons to maintain soil fertility
Cultivate	to prepare and work on (land) in order to raise crops; till
Dent Corn	Dent corn, a variety having kernels that become indented at the top during ripening, is the variety used in food manufacturing as the base ingredient for food products, and is used for livestock feed
Diversified farming	the practice of producing a variety of crops or animals, or both, on one farm, as distinguished from specializing in a single commodity
Erosion	the wearing away of the land surface, usually by running water or wind.
Genetic Engineering	directed modification of the genome of a living organism by such techniques as altering the DNA, substituting genetic material by means of a virus, transplanting whole nuclei, transplanting cell hybrids, etc.
Herbicides	pesticides that kill weeds and other plants that grow where they are not wanted
Hybridization	the process of producing a plant or animal from two different types of plant or animal
Livestock	any domestic animal produced or kept primarily for farm, ranch, or market purposes, including beef and dairy cattle, hogs, sheep, goats, and horses
Nitrogen Cycle	the sequence of transformations undergone by nitrogen in its movement from the free atmosphere into and through soils, into the plants, and eventually back—these biochemical reactions are largely involved in the growth and metabolism of plants and microorganisms
Nutrient	a chemical element or compound that is essential for normal body metabolism, growth and production, Includes: carbohydrates fats, proteins, vitamins, minerals and water

