

History

The first farmers

Book: Exploring the First Civilisations

Pages 8-13

Students: Fill in the answers and return for assessment

Everything here is based on our Curriculum Visions book Exploring the First Civilisations.

You can open this book online now by clicking on the book cover. It will open in a new window or tab.

In this segment, we are going to more about how farming, writing and technology began in Mesopotamia.

You will need to go to pages 8-9 of the book.

Part 1

Why was the Middle East a good place for farming and raising domesticated animals? What kinds of crops did they plant? What kinds of animals did they domesticate?

Answer ...

There was warm weather for most of the year, and water in the rivers

Wild grasses such as wheat, barley and flax, and also lentils and chickpeas

Cows, pigs and sheep were domesticated

Now turn to pages 10-11 of the book

Part 2

Draw a picture of one of the devices that early farmers in Mesopotamia used to get water to their fields.

Answer ...

Students' own work - they should choose to draw a shadouf or a Persian wheel

Now turn to pages 12-13

Part 3

Try out some cuneiform writing. Think of a sentence or phrase and write it down using cuneiform. What do think it would be like to write cuneiform in wet clay - would it be easier or harder than writing in English with a pen or pencil on paper, like we do today? Why or why not?

Answer ...
Students' own answers.

That is the end of this webcast, and you can now turn to another one. Also, find out if your teacher has left you any other worksheets or special instructions on your school website.

If you are interested in this topic, continue to browse the book and watch our amazing videos. They start right on the book cover.

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Remember, too, you can go to our safe search and type in any word about First Civilisations.