Lesson B
Industrialization of Agriculture
Farms, Then and Now
Agriculture Timeline

Photo credit: Grave chamber of an Egyptian public official, circa 1250 BCE. Photo public domain.
Earliest evidence of Homo sapiens

For the vast majority of human history, food was acquired through hunting and gathering. Some peoples, such as the San (pictured), still follow a hunter-gatherer lifestyle.

194,000 BCE

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Earliest evidence of agriculture

The shift to agriculture is believed to have occurred independently in several parts of the world, including the Fertile Crescent (pictured), a region in the Middle East that cradled some of the earliest civilizations.

11,000 BCE
6,000 BCE

Most species of farm animals domesticated
5,000 BCE

Agriculture practiced on every major continent except Australia
Widespread adoption of industrial agriculture

Synthetic nitrogen fertilizers (pictured), introduced in the 1900s, have been credited with providing the lion’s share of the world’s food over the 20th century. Pesticides and monocultures are also hallmarks of industrial agriculture.