

Name _____

Date _____



The Neolithic Revolution

For hundreds of thousands of years, humans were nomads, bouncing around from this place to that place, hunting and gathering food just to survive. Then came agriculture, and everything changed. If you really think about it, this one simple innovation might be the most important in human history, because it made all other innovations possible.

The story of humans begins.

We evolved 300,000 years ago in Africa.

For most of this time we were hunter-gatherers:

Nomadic lifestyle, meaning we did not settle down.

Instead we gathered nuts and berries, hunted animals, followed the herd; we moved around.

We used simple tools, yeah, made of stone.

We could control the use of fire, but when food was scarce we moved on. We left our home.

This the Paleolithic Age,

The old Stone Age,

But here comes a new phase:

The New Stone Age.

Neolithic history turns a new page.

This was 15,000 years ago.

We were coming out the cold,

Ice Age world full of snow,

Using better tools, still of stone,

And we were learning how to grow our own food

Through agriculture and domestication of animals.

You know, what you reap is what you sow, you know.

Before our world could grow,

We had to learn how to grow.

Before, we used to roam.

We were nomads with no home.

Always on the go, we were nomads with no home.

Now we planting seeds, working the land,

Planning our work and working our plan.

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We had to learn how to grow.

Before, we used to roam.

We were nomads with no home.

Always on the go, we were nomads with no home.

Revolution means change, so what did this change?

Neolithic Age changed everything.

We started as hunter-gatherers in Africa.

Moving, traveling in search for the food, we scattered all over the world.

Then, independently, a funny thing happened in different parts of the planet: Neolithic Revolution all over the world.

In river valleys all around the world, some of the earliest civilizations formed,

Like the Indus River, Nile River, Yellow River.

You know why? 'Cause they all farmed.

Places like Mesopotamia,

Where now the domestication of crops and animals

Sustaining us.

We growing grain, animals grazing,

Beginnings of a new way of life.

Oh, more food, now we're growing.

Population exploded

With a surplus of food, meant not everyone had to focus on farming.

We could focus on other things:

Specialization of labor,

Different people experts at different things, making goods, now we're trading.

From simple civilizations

To so many innovations:

Cities with roads, bridges,

Art, architecture,

Even irrigation,

Different forms of government, religion and social classes.

Obviously there's downsides to all this change that have led to many clashes.

For every advancement, there's challenges.

Balance is key moving forward;

Communication, education learning from our past, oh, so important.

For every advancement, there's challenges.

You learn as you go. That's just how it goes.

All these innovations, agriculture made it all possible.