**Chapter 10 Learning Guide – Agriculture**

**Key Issue 1 – *Where Did Agriculture Originate?***

Pgs. 306 - 314

**Origins of Agriculture**

1. Define *agriculture:*
2. Define *crop:*
3. What are the characteristics of a *hunter-gatherer society?*
4. How many hunter-gatherers are there today?
5. Where do they live?
6. Indicate the crop hearths and animal hearths on the map below.



**Subsistence and Commercial Agriculture**

1. Define *subsistence agriculture:*
2. Define *commercial agriculture:*
3. Who prepared the most widely used map of world agricultural regions? When? What does it do?
4. What are the 5 principal features that separate commercial agriculture from subsistence agriculture?
5. Read pgs. 311-314 and complete the chart below with important information. The text will generally explain commercial agriculture, and you will need to deduce the situation of subsistence agriculture on your own.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Subsistence Agriculture (Mostly in LDCs)** | **Commercial Agriculture (Mostly in MDCs)** |
| Purpose of Farming |  |  |
| % of Farmers in Labor Force |  |  |
| Use of Machinery |  |  |
| Farm Size |  |  |
| Relationship of farming to other businesses |  |  |

**Chapter 10 Learning Guide – Agriculture**

**Key Issue 2 – *Where Are Agricultural Regions in Less Developed Countries?***

Pgs. 314 – 322

**Shifting Cultivation**

1. In what climate does shifting cultivation predominate? And, what are its two characteristics?
2. Identify the two hallmarks of the technique of shifting cultivation.
3. What is a *swidden*?
4. What is *potash*?
5. How long are swiddens used?
6. **Case Study:** A Kayapo swidden field in Brazil’s Amazon region. Make notes and draw and diagram to illustrate the description given in the text.
7. How is land owned in a typical village that practices shifting cultivation?
8. What percentage of the world’s land area is devoted to shifting cultivation?
9. What percentage of the world’s people work it?
10. Describe the PROS and CONS of shifting cultivation, or the arguments made for it and criticisms leveled against it in the space below.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Pros (Arguments against replacing shifting cultivation)** | **Cons (How is shifting cultivation being replaced?)** |
|  |  |

**Pastoral Nomadism**

1. What is *pastoral nomadism?*
2. In what type of climate is it usually found?
3. What regions of the world are currently occupied by this practice?
4. How do pastoral nomads obtain grain (several ways)?
5. What animals are chosen, and where?
6. Describe territoriality among pastoral nomads.
7. What is *transhumance?*
8. In what way do modern governments currently threaten pastoral nomadism?

**Intensive Subsistence Farming**

1. What is meant by “intensive”?
2. Where is intensive subsistence agriculture practiced? Why there?
3. What is “wet rice”?
4. What is “sawah”? What is a “paddy”?
5. What is double-cropping?
6. Where is double-cropping possible? Where is it not?
7. In areas of intensive subsistence agriculture where wet rice is not dominant, what is the major crop?
8. How are multiple harvests made possible in these less mild regions? Explain.
9. Make some important notes about intensive subsistence farming in communist China.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Agriculture in Communist China** | |
| Agriculture following the communist revolution, communes. | Agriculture in communist China today, post-commune. |
|  |  |

**Plantation Farming**

1. Define and describe plantation farming by filling out the chart below.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Plantation** | | | |
| **Regions:** | | | |
| **Situated In:** | **Operated By:** | | **Workers:** |
| **Types of Crops:** | | **Definition:** | |

**Chapter 10 Learning Guide – Agriculture**

**Key Issue 3 – *Where Are Agricultural Regions in More Developed Countries?***

Pgs. 322 – 329

**Mixed Crop and Livestock Farming**

1. Where is mixed crop and livestock farming common?
2. Describe the irony between the amount of land devoted to crops vs. animals and the income generated by each in this region.
3. How does this type of agriculture allow farmers to more evenly “distribute their workload”?
4. In what different ways is the corn used?
5. Where is the U.S. Corn Belt, and what crops are grown there?
6. Define *fallow* and describe how it relates to crop rotation.
7. Define *cereal grains* and describe how it relates to crop rotation.
8. Define *rest crop* and describe how it relates to crop rotation.

**Dairy Farming**

1. What is a *milkshed*?
2. Why do some regions specialize in “milk products” like cheese and butter rather than fluid milk? Identify some of these important regions.
3. What country is the world’s largest producer of dairy products?
4. What problems do dairy farmers currently face?

**Grain Farming**

1. What is the principal difference between grains grown in “commercial grain farming” regions and grains grown in “mixed crop and livestock” regions?
2. Complete a bullet list that details the significance of wheat as a crop.
3. Identify the three regions of large-scale grain production in North America.
4. How do farmers and combine companies make use of the fact that the wheat matures at different times in the spring and winter wheat belts?

**Livestock Ranching**

1. Define *ranching*:
2. What type of climate is livestock best adapted to? And, where is ranching practiced?
3. Why did cattle ranching expand in the U.S.?
4. Why did cattle ranching decline?
5. Where does cattle ranching take place today?
6. Define *feed lots:*
7. Make brief notes to describe the following:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Ranching in Argentina** | **Ranching in Australia** |
|  |  |

1. What were the three U.S. and world stages of ranching?

**Mediterranean Agriculture**

1. Describe the conditions of Mediterranean climate and agriculture.
2. Most crops in Mediterranean lands are grown for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ rather   
     
   than for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
3. What is *horticulture?*
4. List the two most important cash crops of Mediterranean regions.
5. Describe the role (and changing role) of **California** in Mediterranean agriculture.
6. What three conditions make the southeast U.S. an ideal location for this type of agriculture?
7. What is “**specialty farming**” and where has it spread in the U.S.? And, give examples of specialty crops.

**Chapter 10 Learning Guide – Agriculture**

**Key Issue 4 – *Why Do Farmers Face Economic Difficulties?***

Pgs. 329 – 338

**Challenges for Commercial Farmers**

Complete the questions 1 – 7 on the von Thunen model from your reading pages 329 – 330 and figure 10-24.

1. Who was von Thunen?
2. According to this model, what two factors does a farmer consider when deciding what to plant?
3. Draw a sketch of agricultural land use according to von Thunen.

|  |
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|  |

1. How does transportation cost influence profitability of growing wheat?
2. How does cost determine what farmers grow?
3. List things that von Thunen did NOT consider in his model but which influence farmers’ choices of crops. (Note, these might be cited as weaknesses or criticisms of his model)
4. How could von Thunen’s model be applied at a global scale?
5. How have efficient agricultural practices, fertilizers and mechanical equipment, etc. created a problem for commercial farmers?
6. Create three bulleted points that highlight current ways in which the U.S. government currently deals with excess agriculture capacity, and explain each.
7. Define *sustainable agriculture:*
8. What are the principal practices that distinguish farmers practicing *sustainable agriculture* from those operating conventionally?
9. List the advantages of ridge tillage.
10. In what ways are animals treated differently in sustainable agriculture? And, how is this a benefit?

**Challenges for Subsistence Farmers**

1. According to the “Boserup Thesis”, in what ways can subsistence farmers increase food supply?
2. Look at the graphic below. What is basically happening?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Forrest Fallow<----------** | --------------------------------- Time | **---------->Multicropping** |

1. What is the **dilemma** that is faced by LDCs as they seek to increase the amount of export crops to sell to MDCs?
2. Some LDCs turn to the production of drug crops for export. The geography of these crops is distinctive. Identify the countries associated with the crops below.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Cocoa Leaf |  |
| Marijuana |  |
| Opium |  |

**Strategies to Increase Food Supply**

1. Four strategies have been proposed to increase the world’s food supply in places where populations are underfed.

* Expand current \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Increase agricultural \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Identify new food \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Increase \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ from other countries.

1. There is little new land actually available for farming. In fact, the current trend is to reduce agricultural land rather than increase it. Identify and briefly describe three reasons why land is currently being removed from agricultural use.
2. What are the two main practices of the **Green Revolution**?
3. Because of the Green Revolution, agricultural productivity at a global scale has   
     
   \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ than \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
4. Describe the characteristics of the **“miracle wheat seed”**.
5. Describe the characteristics of the **“miracle rice seed”**.
6. What specific problems do farmers in LDCs have which might prevent them from taking full advantage of the Green Revolution?
7. List and describe one problem with each of the strategies for increasing the world’s food supply by identifying new food sources.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Strategy** | **Problem** |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |

1. What are the top three export grains in the world?
2. List the largest grain **exporting** countries and what grains they export.
3. Shade and label the largest grain **importing** countries and what grains they import.

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