THE NEOLITHIC REVOLUTION: 10,000 BCE

- Roughly **10,000 BCE**
- Paleolithic hunter-foragers began to herd and farm
  - “Major Hearths of Agriculture”

  ![Map showing major hearths of agriculture](image)

- **CAUSES**
  - To increase caloric intake
  - Adaptation to the end of the Ice Age
  - Natural evolution

- Compare/Contrast

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agriculturalists</th>
<th>Pastoralists</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Development near fresh water</td>
<td>• Development in semi-arid regions</td>
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</table>
| • Lived in villages of hundreds to thousands of people | • **Nomadic** societies  
  o Travelled in kinship groups of less than 100 people  
  o Common ancestry were the basis for tribes |
| • Cultivated crops | • Domesticated animals |
| • Animistic  
  o Developed polytheism | • Practiced **animism** and shamanism  
  o Belief in spirits and small deities  
  ▪ Often characterized by rituals and sacrifice |
| • Interaction/trade with pastoralist societies | • Interaction/trade with agrarian societies |
IMPACT

SOCIAL

• More reliable food supply
• Social evolution
  o Development of patriarchy
  o Egalitarian Paleolithic society \(\rightarrow\) simple social stratification (classes)
  o Development of forced labor

ENVIRONMENTAL

• New farming techniques
  o Population growth
• Surplus in food led to population growth
  o Environmental degradation
    ▪ Desalinization due to irrigation
    ▪ Erosion of grasslands due to grazing herds
    ▪ Urban development
• Decreased variation in available crops
  o Due to new farming techniques
  o Due to regional climate zones

POLITICAL

• Technology connected societies
  o Weapons
  o Tools of travel and trade
• Increasingly complex hierarchies
  o Chieftains \(\rightarrow\) Kings

CULTURAL

• Longer work hours
• Production of goods
  o Pottery, woven textiles, etc.

ECONOMIC

• Specialization (merchants, bakers, farmers, tailors)
  o Led to rise of trade
  o Led to urban development

Links!

• [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yocja_N5s1I&list=PLBDA2E52FB1EF80C9&index=1](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yocja_N5s1I&list=PLBDA2E52FB1EF80C9&index=1) (Crash Course World History)
• [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GEm6LWh8D_s](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GEm6LWh8D_s) (“Neolithic part 1” by worldhistoryclass)