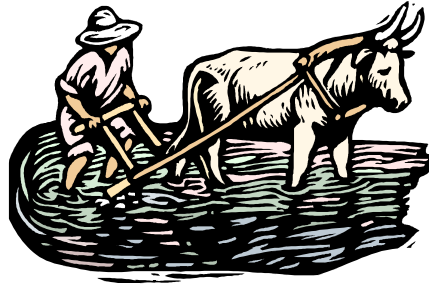


## AGRICULTURAL REVOLUTION



The Agricultural Revolution, which took place from around 10,000 BC onward, brought about immense changes over the hunter-gatherer societies that it replaced.

1. Higher concentrations of animals and plants in one area
2. Greater population density
  - a. because of the greater availability of plant and animal foods
  - b. this drives a relentless expansion of agricultural populations onto new lands
3. Sedentary lifestyle—any land cultivated requires continual maintenance, which forbids a nomadic lifestyle; to nomads, it creates a target-rich environment
4. Labor-intensive, in two ways
  - a. required not necessarily daily work, but work throughout the year—plowing, sowing, maintaining, and harvesting the plants
  - b. unlike hunting, you can force people to do agricultural work
5. Inequality of wealth: Ownership of land determines who is wealthy (and who isn't)
6. Specialization—
  - a. farmers will need tools, which they can't always make themselves. Even their produce might be only one crop, which means they will need to purchase other foods from other farmers.
  - b. Also, large agricultural surpluses and demand for other goods, creates the need for a lot of record-keeping, which provides scribes with power of their own, and provides a stimulus for the introduction of writing, which makes record-keeping much easier.

No other change in society produced such a drastic change in human society from the dawn of human civilization, until the Industrial Revolution in the 1800s.