

Do Now!

What is a revolution?

Can you think of a revolution happening  
right now in your lifetime.

How is it changing the world and your  
way of life?

## ICE AGE - STONE AGE

- Earliest upright human beings came into existence 4.4 million years ago.
- Homo sapiens ("wise humans") appeared about 200,000 years ago.
- Earliest humans from Africa.
- As the Ice Age glaciers receded, humans spread across Asia, into Europe, and finally to Australia and the Americas

## PRE-HISTORIC PERIODS

- **Paleolithic** - (35,000 - 8,000 BCE) **Old Stone Age** - Paleo = old / Lithic = stone
- **Mesolithic** - (8,000 - 4,000 BCE) **Old Stone Age** - Meso = middle / Lithic = stone
- **Neolithic** - (6,000 - 1500 BCE) **New Stone Age** - Neo = new / Lithic = stone
- **Bronze Age** - (2300 - 1000 BCE) **Bronze** - alloy metal made from tin and copper.
- **Iron Age** - (1000 BCE - ) **Iron** - cutting tools and weapons made from iron or steel

# Terms, People, and Places

- Old Stone Age: The era of prehistory that lasted from 2 million B.C. to about 9000 B.C.
- Paleolithic Period: Same as Old Stone Age
- New Stone Age: Same as Neolithic Period
- Neolithic Period: The final era of prehistory, which began about 9000 B.C., also called the New Stone Age
- Nomad: A person who moves from place to place in search of food
- Animism: The belief that spirits and forces live within animals, objects, or dreams
- Neolithic Revolution: The period of time during which the introduction of agriculture led people to transition from nomadic life to settled life
- Domesticate: To tame animals and adapt crops so they are best suited to use by humans
- Technology:
- Çatalhöyük – an early Neolithic village (around 7000 B.C.) unearthed in modern-day Turkey
- Jericho – walled Neolithic village (around 10,000–9000 B.C.) which exists today as an Israeli-controlled city

# Lesson Objectives:

- Describe the skills and beliefs that early modern humans developed during the Old Stone Age.
- Analyze why the beginning of farming is considered the start of the New Stone Age and the Neolithic Revolution.
- Explain how the Neolithic Revolution dramatically changed the way people lived.

## Section Summary

## TURNING POINT: THE NEOLITHIC REVOLUTION

## READING CHECK

Into what two eras do scholars divide prehistory?

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## VOCABULARY STRATEGY

What does the word *transition* mean in the underlined sentence? What clues can you find in the surrounding words, phrases, or sentences? Circle the word below that is a synonym for *transition*.

1. remain
2. change

## READING SKILL

**Summarize** In your own words, summarize how the Neolithic Revolution changed the way people lived.

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Scholars have divided prehistory into eras called the **Old Stone Age**, or **Paleolithic Period**, and the **New Stone Age**, or **Neolithic Period**. During both, people made stone tools. However, during the New Stone Age, people began to develop new skills and technologies that led to dramatic changes.

Early modern humans lived toward the end of the Paleolithic Period. They were **nomads** who moved around in small groups, hunting and gathering food. These people made simple tools and weapons, built fires for cooking, and used animal skins for clothing. They also developed spoken language, which helped them cooperate during the hunt. Some people also began to bury their dead. This suggests belief in a spiritual world or life after death. Cave paintings around the world depict animals and humans. Many scholars think that our ancestors believed the world was full of spirits and forces that might reside in animals, objects, or dreams. Such beliefs are known as **animism**.

The New Stone Age began about 12,000 years ago (or about 10,000 B.C.), when nomadic people made a great breakthrough—they learned to farm. By producing their own food, people no longer needed to roam in search of it. As a result, early farmers settled the first permanent villages. This transition from nomadic life to settled farming brought about such dramatic changes in way of life that it is often called the **Neolithic Revolution**. No greater change in human history took place until the Industrial Revolution of the late 1700s. These early farmers were the first to **domesticate** plants and animals.

Archaeologists have unearthed the remains of some early Neolithic villages, including **Çatalhöyük** in modern-day Turkey, and **Jericho**, which exists today in the West Bank. In these settled communities, people accumulated personal property. A council of male elders or elite warriors made the important decisions for all the villagers. To farm successfully, people developed new technologies, such as ways to protect their crops, calendars, and the use of animals for plowing. However, not all technologies were invented everywhere at the same time.

## Review Questions

1. What religious beliefs did early modern humans develop during the Old Stone Age?

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2. What led to the establishment of the first permanent villages?

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# Summary

## “The Neolithic Revolution”

People made tools, learned to build fires, and developed spoken languages during the Paleolithic Period, or Old Stone Age.

During the Neolithic Period, or New Stone Age, people learned to farm, dramatically transforming the way they lived. This change from a nomadic way of life to farming led to the emergence of civilizations.

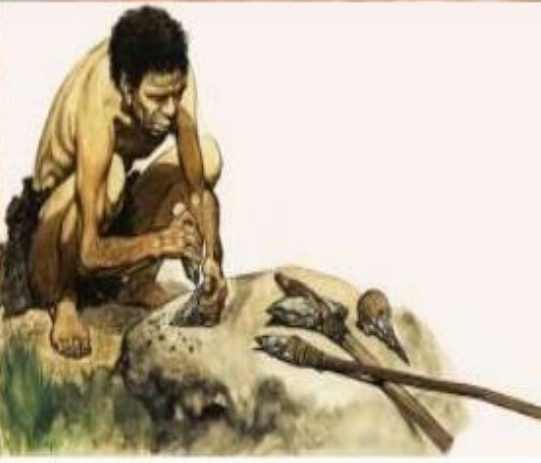
# Aim #3: How was the introduction of agriculture a turning point in prehistory?





# Old Stone (Paleolithic) Age (35000-8000 BCE)

Simple shaped stone tools like cutters, hand axes, primitive spear tips, and sharpened sticks.





## Checkpoint

What skills did Old Stone Age people develop in order to adapt their surroundings to meet their needs?

# New Stone (Neolithic) Age (8000-4000 BCE)

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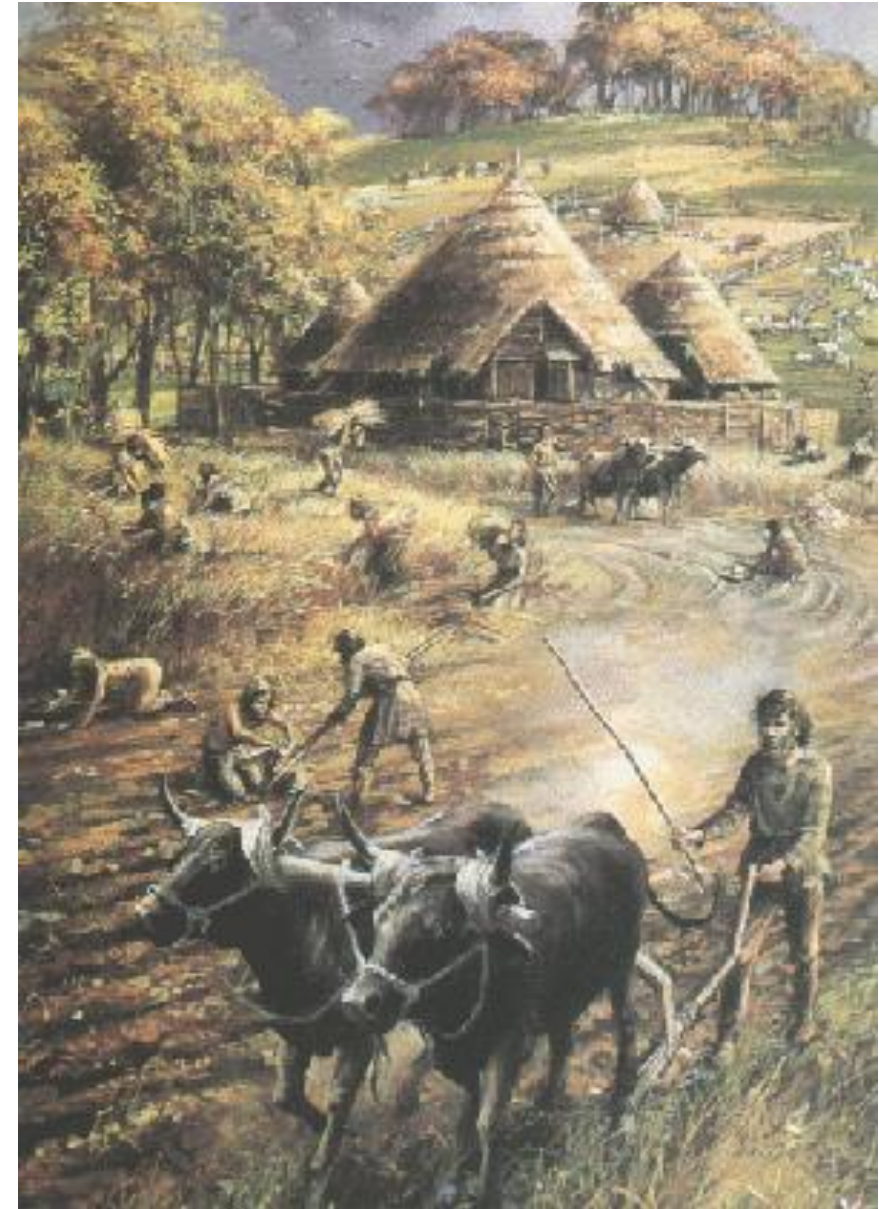
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- **Effects**



More advanced stone tools, bow and arrows, refined spear tips, harpoons.



Farming began at roughly the same time in different areas, but different plants & animals were domesticated in each region

### Western Asia

sheep, goats,  
pigs, & cattle

### China

millet & rice

### Southeast Asia

yams

### Middle East

barley,  
chickpeas,  
peas, lentils,  
& wheat

### West Africa

yams

### Central America

squash

### South America

llamas and  
alpacas



## Checkpoint

How did the Neolithic Revolution dramatically change the way people lived?

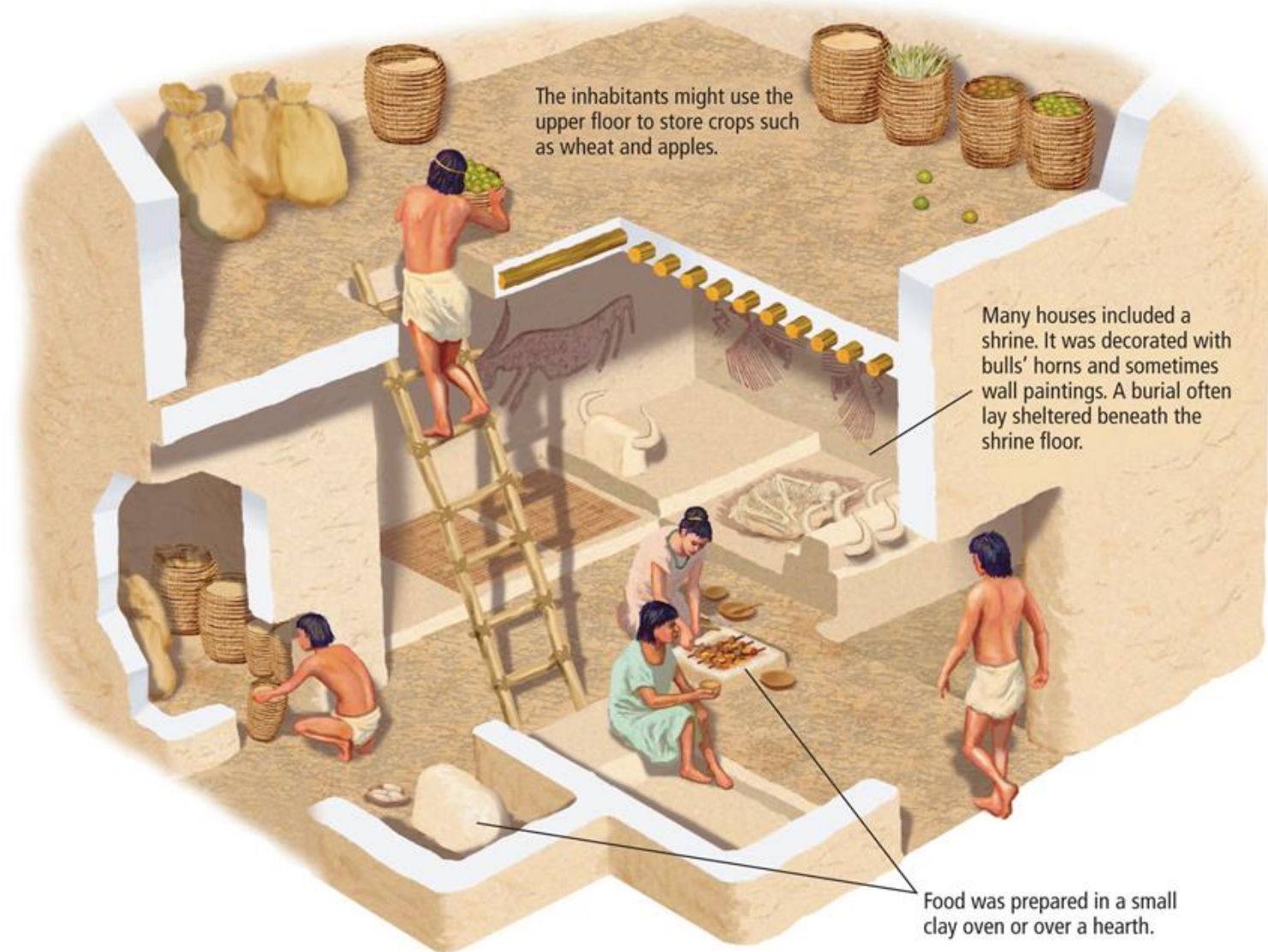
What major lifestyle change did farming allow people to make?

# Earliest Villages Established

- **Jericho**, which still exists as a city today, was a large, walled village built between 10,000 B.C.E & 9000 B.C.E
- Several thousand people lived in an area only a few soccer fields in size.
- A surrounding wall suggests there was a government or leader able to organize a large construction project.



- **Çatalhöyük**, an early Neolithic village in modern-day Turkey, may have had 6,500 inhabitants living in rectangular mud-brick homes.



## Old Stone Age Technology

- Humans made simple tools and weapons out of **stone**, and later out of **bone, antler, horn or wood**
- Tools were **roughly shaped** with **pitted surfaces** and **uneven cutting edges**
- used **caves and rocky overhangs** for shelter;
- learned to **build fires**
  - for warmth, cooking, light, and ceremonies



## New Stone Age Technology

- Made **great improvements in technology**, including new techniques in stone-working
- Tools were more advanced with **smooth, polished surfaces** and **clean edges**





# The Neolithic Revolution

## Before

- People were nomadic
- People gathered plants
- People hunted animals
- Food shortages
- People lived in small bands
- People were either hunters or gatherers

## After

- People settled down in one place
- People grew vegetables (farmed)
- People domesticated (tamed) animals
- Food surpluses (extra)
- Large populations lived in villages
- People farmed and had many specialized jobs.

# Neolithic Revolution

## PEOPLE BEFORE

Relied on hunting and gathering.

**Nomads** lived in small hunting and food-gathering groups.

Waited for migrating animals to return each year.

## PEOPLE AFTER

Learned to farm and were able to produce their own food.

Settled into permanent villages.

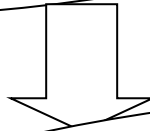
Learned to **domesticate**, or tame, animals.

# Graphic Summary: *The First People*

People of the Old Stone Age and the New Stone Age made many important discoveries.

## **Old Stone Age or Paleolithic Period (2,500,000 B.C.)**

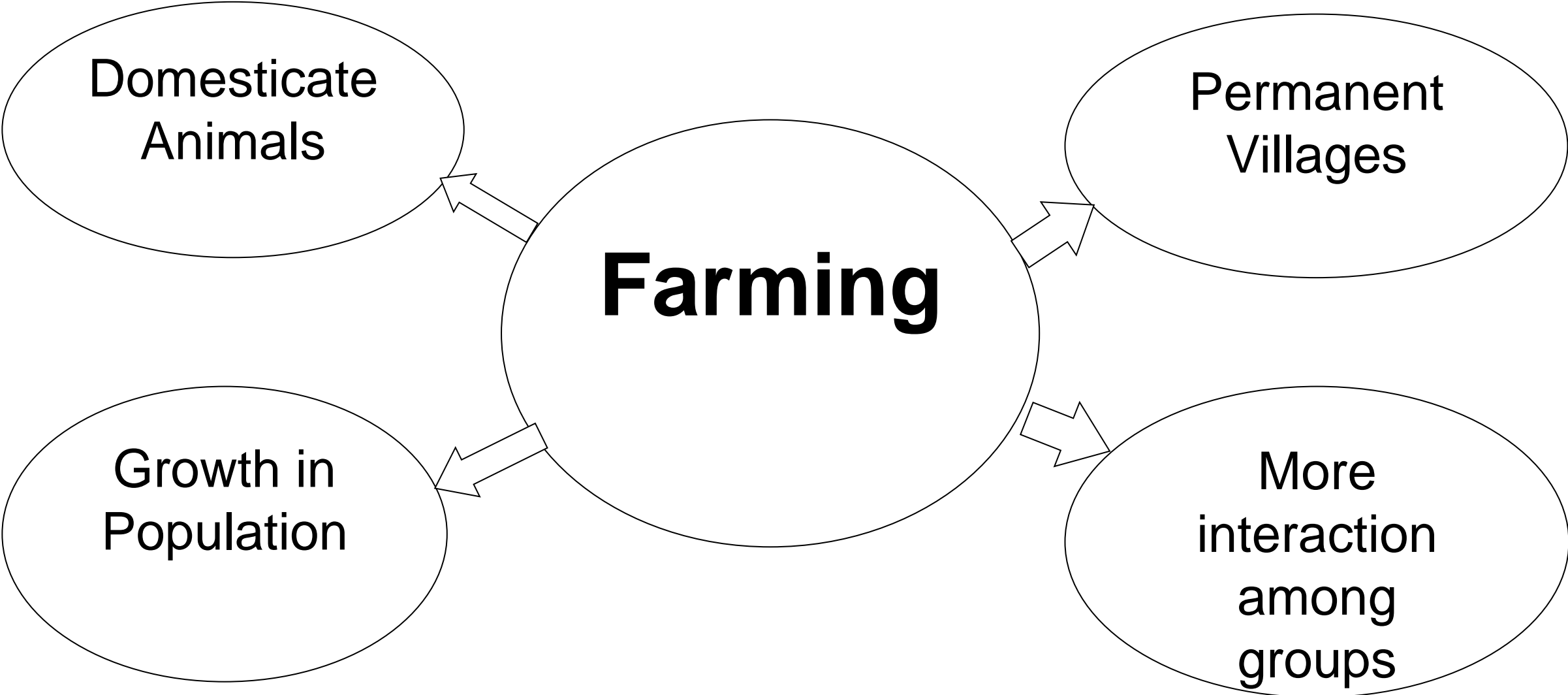
- Very Small population
- Nomads
- Hunters and gatherers
- Simple tools and weapons
- First spoken languages
- Discovery of fire
- Cave paintings
- Belief in afterlife
- Women important



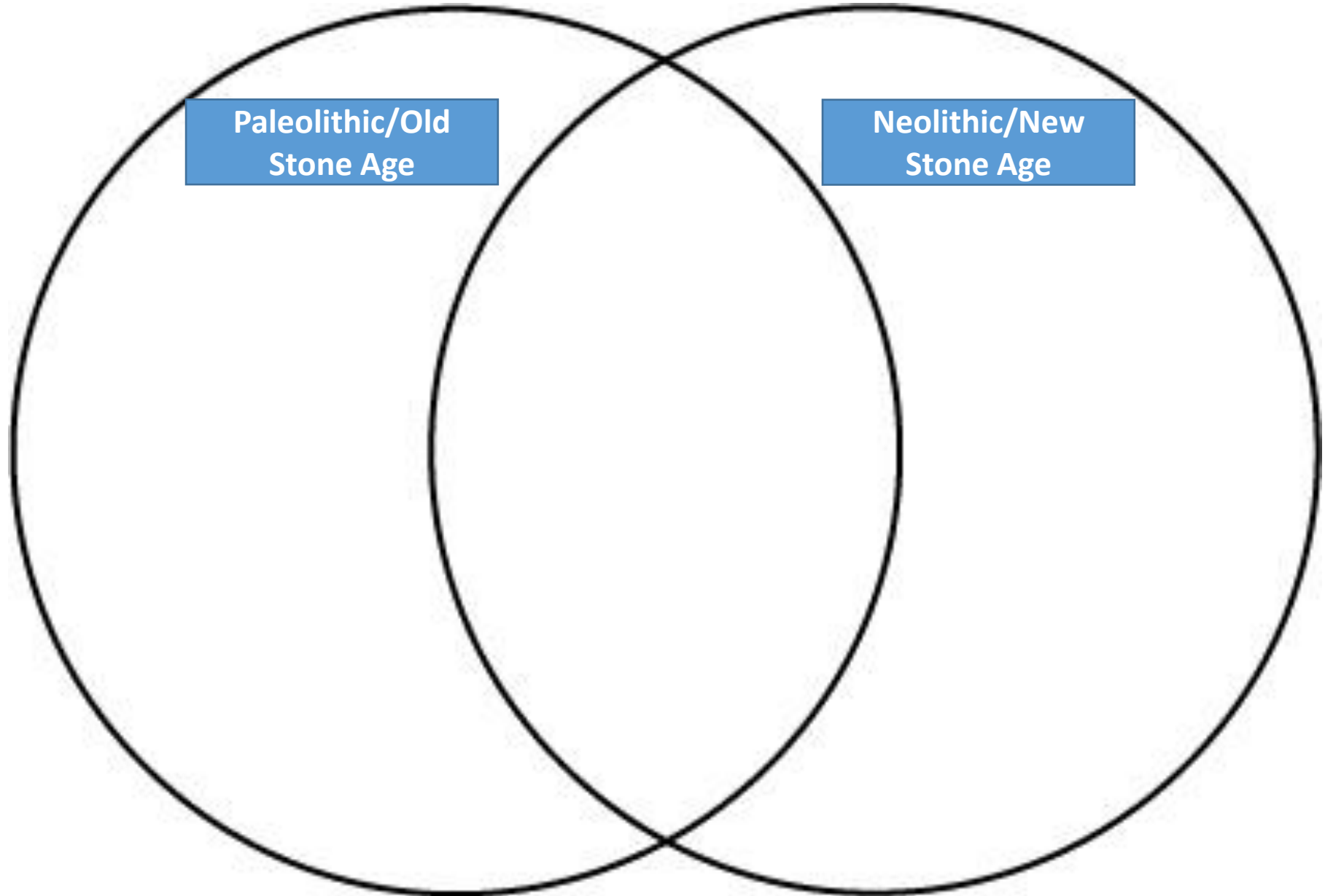
## **New Stone Age or Neolithic Period (10,000 B.C.)**

- Increasing population
- Villages
- Farmers
- Domestic animals
- Calendars and technology
- Personal possessions
- Village headman and council of leaders
- Women less important

# Graphic Summary: *Changes Brought by Farming*



# HW

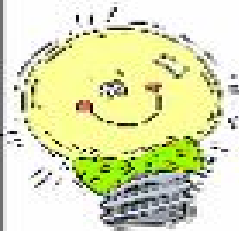


Paleolithic/Old  
Stone Age

Neolithic/New  
Stone Age



I don't get it...



I get it!

EXIT CARD  
Please jot down what you  
have gotten from today's  
lesson and what you still  
have questions on.