

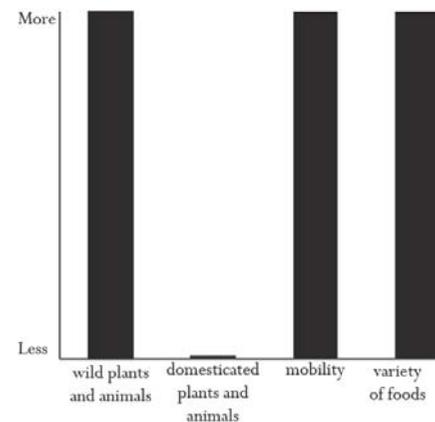
## Living on the Land: People and Archaeology

### Introduction

Archaeology is a science that investigates how people lived in the past – sometimes the past of thousands of years ago or sometimes the more recent past. Archaeologists investigate the objects and food remains people left behind and the places where they lived. Archaeologists have learned about people who lived as **foragers**, **horticulturalists**, and **pastoralists**. They have also learned about the people who adapted to modern **agriculture**.

### Foragers

Archaeologists call people who collect wild foods **foragers**. These people live a mobile or moveable way of life, hunting and gathering food in areas where they know it is available. As the seasons change, they move in small family groups following herds of wild animals or to areas where plants were ready to harvest. Moving often requires that people take only what they can carry, so they do not store large quantities of food. They do not spend time and effort building permanent shelters. Instead, they move to where the food is, taking their shelters with them or building new temporary shelters. A forager has to know how to do everything in order to survive. This means that everyone has to know what plants to eat, how to make clothing, and how to hunt and fish.



A graph showing features of foraging societies

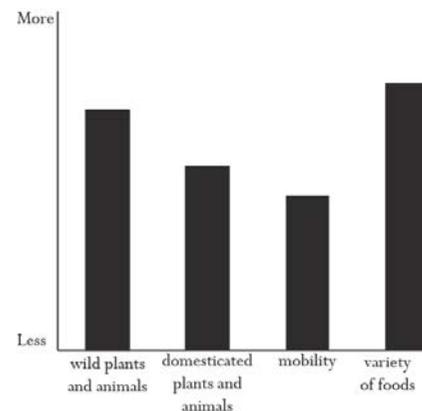
### Questions for Discussion

Imagine yourself living as a forager.

- What do you think it would have been like?
- What would you have enjoyed?
- What would you have found difficult?

### Horticulturalists

People who plant and grow a few domesticated plants, but add to them with wild plants and animals, are called **horticulturalists**. Horticulture crops include many kinds of roots, corn, beans, and grains. People plant their crops using hand tools and rain is the source of moisture. A garden plot of two and a half acres can support a family of five to eight people for an entire year. Horticulturalists are less mobile than foragers because people need to tend to their crops. Less mobility means shelters that are more permanent than foraging societies. Horticulture allows



A graph showing features of horticulture societies



people to grow food to store for times of the year when plants are not available.

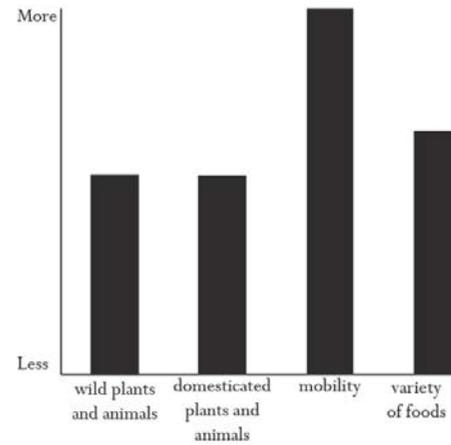
### Questions for Discussion

Imagine yourself living as a horticulturalist.

- What do you think it would have been like?
- What would you have enjoyed?
- What would you have found difficult?

## Pastoralism

Archaeologists use the term pastoralist to describe people who have domesticated animal herds for their meat and milk. These domesticated animals make up half or more of their diet. The other half of their diet consists of wild plants, fish, and wild animals. **Pastoralists** often rely on trade with other groups for other food items like grain. Animals are moved from pasture to pasture to make sure the animals have enough food and water. Some pastoral groups follow a continuous path throughout the year and others have a few seasonal pastures they use at particular times of year. People live in temporary shelters like tents because of their mobile lifestyle.



A graph showing features of pastoral societies

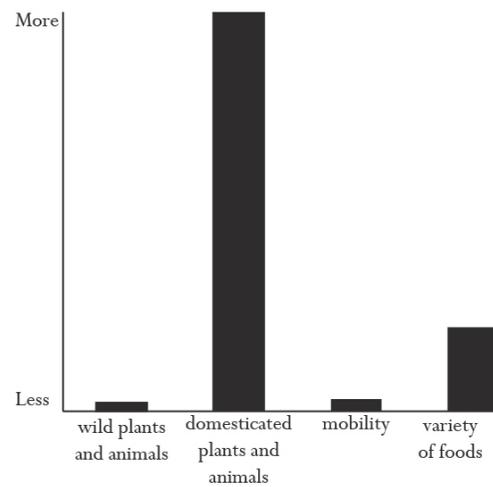
### Questions for Discussion

Imagine yourself living as a pastoralist.

- What do you think it would have been like?
- What would you have enjoyed?
- What would you have found difficult?

## Modern Agriculture

Modern **agriculture** focuses on a set area of land. Modern agriculture relies on big machines, transportation, and fertilizer for large-scale crop and meat production. People live in permanent houses and the large crop yields support larger populations. The crops are not just for feeding the families planting them, but the larger society and world. It is because of these large farms that people who do not farm can focus more time on other professions and buy their food. People are hired to help grow, maintain, and process crops.



A graph showing features of agricultural societies

### Questions for Discussion

Most North Americans live within the modern farming society.

- How are our lives different from foragers, pastoralists, and horticulturalists?





### People and Food Chart

Need	Foraging	Horticulture	Pastoralism	Modern Agriculture
Example	wild plants	corn		
Food				
Mobility/ Movement				
Shelter				