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**Unit 5 Agriculture / Vocabulary and Definitions**

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| **Term** | **Definitions** | **Examples** |
| Agrarian | People or societies that are farmers therefore promote agricultural interest |  |
| Agriculture | The deliberate effort to modify a portion of Earth’s surface through the cultivation of crops and the raising of livestock for subsistence or economic gain |  |
| Agribusiness | Commercial agriculture characterized by integration of different steps in the food-processing industry, usually through ownership by large corporations |  |
| First Agriculture Revolutions | dating back 10,000 years, it achieved plant domestication and animal domestication |  |
| Second Agriculture Revolution | tools and equipment were modified, methods of soil preparation, fertilization, crop care, and harvesting improved the general organization of agriculture made more efficient |  |
| Third Agricultural Revolution | currently in progress, it has as its principal orientation the development of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO's) |  |
| Animal domestication | altering the behaviors, size and genetics of animals to benefit humans |  |
| Aquaculture | The cultivation of aquatic organisms especially for food |  |
| Aquifer depletion | commercial farming activities require considerably more water than intensive subsistence farming. As a result there are instances where water depletion has become a major concern. |  |
| Bioclimatic Zones | Regions of the planet that share a common climate and biological makeup of plants and animals. Certain agricultural products and/or practices are associated with specific bioclimatic zones such as "Mediterranean agricultural region |  |
| Biotechnology | Using living organisms in a useful way to produce commercial products like pest resistant crops |  |
| cadastral system | patterns of settlement and land use that delineates property lines |  |
| Cereal grains | corn, wheat, rice, and other grasses |  |
| Chemical farming | farming techniques that use high quantities of fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides to accommodate genetically modified seeds or less fertile soil. Chemical farming is associated with the green revolution. |  |
| Collective Farms | Regards a system of agricultural organization whereas farm laborer’s are not compensated via wages, rather the workers receive a share of he farms net productivity. Typical in communist countries like China and USSR |  |
| Columbian Exchange | where products were carried both ways across the Atlantic and Pacific oceans during colonization |  |
| Commercial agriculture | **(intensive, extensive)**: Agriculture undertaken primarily to generate products for sale off the farm |  |
| Crop rotation | The practice of rotating use of different fields from crop to crop each year, to avoid exhausting the soil |  |
| dairying | branch of agriculture that deals with the breeding, raising, and utilization of dairy animals and the selling of their products |  |
| Debt to Nature swap | developing countries have some of their foreign in exchange for enacting conservation measures |  |
| Deforestation | cutting down trees in order to clear land for agricultural use. Can have negative environmental affects |  |
| Desertification | degradation of land because of human actions like excessive crop planting, animal grazing, and tree cutting |  |
| dispersed rural settlement | buildings are spread out and and are often found in hilly mountainous terrain |  |
| Domestication | the process of changing plants or animals to make them more useful to humans |  |
| double cropping | Harvesting twice a year from the same field. |  |
| erosion | the natural process by which material is worn away from the earth's surface; usually by wind, water, or ice |  |
| Extensive farming | yields a large amount of output per acre through less intensive farming (uses a large amount of land) |  |
| extensive subsistence agriculture | consists of any agricultural economy in which the crops and/or animals are used nearly exclusively for local or family consumption on large areas of land and minimal labor input per acre |  |
| Fair trade | labeling products fair trade tells the consumer that by purchasing that product producers get a fair price for their goods. |  |
| farm crisis | During war, higher demand farmers bought land. Then demand goes down, overproduction, no money to pay off loans. Dust Bowl. |  |
| Feed lot | a plot of land on which livestock are fattened for market |  |
| Fertile crescent | an area of fertile land in the Middle East, extending around the Rivers Tigris and Euphrates in a semicircle from Israel to the Persian Gulf, where the Sumerian, Babylonian, Assyrian, Phoenician, and Hebrew civilizations flourished. |  |
| Fertilizers | Chemicals that are used to increase the speed, tolerance, and overall yield of a crop. One of the main tools of the Green Revolution that increase crop yields. Has negative environmental effects. |  |
| food chain | A series of organisms interrelated in their feeding habits, the smallest being fed upon by a larger one, which in turn feeds a still larger one, etc |  |
| Food Deserts | limited access to fresh nutritious foods - low income neighborhoods where consumers have little access to medium and large grocery stores. |  |
| GMOs (genetically modified organisms) | crops that carry new traits that have been inserted through advanced genetic engineering methods |  |
| Green Revolution | Rapid diffusion of new agricultural technology, especially new high-yield seeds and fertilizer. Because of Green Revolution, agricultural productivity at a global scale has increased faster than the population |  |
| Herbicides | chemicals that are used to kill invasive weeds that can steal water from crops and decrease yields. One of the main tools of the Green Revolution that increases crop yields. Has negative environmental effects |  |
| Horticulture | the growing of fruits, vegetables, and flowers for human consumption |  |
| Industrialized Agriculture | Modern farming that refers to the industrialized production of livestock, poultry, fish, and crops. |  |
| Intensive Agriculture | yields a large amount of output per acre through concentrated farming (uses a small amount of land) |  |
| Intensive subsistence farming | A form of subsistence agriculture in which farmers must expend a relatively large amount of effort to produce the maximum feasibly yield from a parcel of land. Popular in East, South, and Southeast Asia, because the ratio between farmers and arable land is so high, most of the work is done by the family by hand or by animal with processes refined over thousands of years. |  |
| Intertillage | Tillage between rows of crops of plants |  |
| Irrigation | (medicine) cleaning a wound or body organ by flushing or washing out with water or a medicated solution |  |
| Large scale commercial agricultural operation (factory farms) | referring to the process of raising livestock in confinement at high stocking density, where a farm operates as a factory |  |
| linear settlement | buildings are built in lines along a road, railroad, or river |  |
| livestock ranching | practiced in commercial farming, manages cattle and various livestock; A form of commercial agriculture in which livestock graze over an extensive area. |  |
| Local-food movements | sales of foods and demand for food at local farmers markets across the USA have increased in recent years. while the food is the main draw there are also less tangible forces at play such as community and the experience of shopping at a local food event. |  |
| Location Theory | a logical attempt to explain the locational pattern of economic activities & the manner in which its producing areas are interrelated |  |
| longlot survey system | system implemented in Quebec, Louisiana, Texas or areas of French influence, that divide the land into narrow parcels stretching back from rivers, roads, or canals |  |
| Market gardening | the growing of vegetables or flowers for market |  |
| Mechanized farming | farming techniques that rely on machines to more efficiently produce crops. Mechanized farming is more common in MDC's |  |
| metes and bounds system | A system of land surveying east of the Appalachian Mountains. It is a system that relies on descriptions of land ownership and natural features such as streams or trees. Because of the imprecise nature of metes and bounds surveying, the U.S. Land Office Survey abandoned the technique in favor of the rectangular survey system. |  |
| Mediterranean agriculture | Farming in the land surrounding the Mediterranean Sea (Southern Europe, North Africa, and Western Asia), also in lands with similar climates (California, central Chile, Southwestern South Africa, and Southwestern Australia). Sea winds provide moisture and moderate winter; land is hilly with mountains frequently plunging directly into sea. Growing fruits, vegetables, flowers, and tree crops are the main crops, while animals are grown under transhumance – kept on coastal plains in winter and moved to hills in the summer. |  |
| Milkshed | The zone around the city's center in which milk can be produced and shipped to the marketplace without spoiling. |  |
| Mineral fuels | Natural resources containing hydrocarbons, which are not derived from animal or plant sources |  |
| mixed livestock with crop production | farmers grow crops and raise livestock on the same land with most of the crops fed to the animals rather than people |  |
| Monoculture | farming strategy in which large fields are planted with a single crop, year after year |  |
| Neolithic | time period when society went from hunters and gathers to farming and domestication of animals, 10,000 BCE |  |
| nonrenewable resources | Energy formed so slowly that for practical purposes it cannot be renewed. The three main fossil fuels (petroleum, natural gas, and coal) plus nuclear energy are the most widely used, mostly because they are more cost efficient |  |
| nucleated settlement | a compact closely packed settlement sharply demarcated from adjoining farmland |  |
| Organic farming | crops that are grown without fertilizers and pesticides |  |
| quaternary economic activity | Service sector industries concerned with the collection, processing, and manipulation of information and capital. Examples include finance, administration, insurance, and legal services |  |
| Overgrazing | overgrazing occurs when plants are exposed to intensive grazing for extended periods of time, or without sufficient recovery periods |  |
| quinary economic activity | service sector industries that require a high level of specialized knowledge skill (scientific research, high-level management) |  |
| Pastoral nomadism | a form of subsistence agriculture based on the herding of domesticated animals (sheep, goats, cows, etc) |  |
| Pesticides | a chemical used to kill pests, especially insects |  |
| Plantation agriculture | a form of commercial agriculture, it is a large farm that specializes in one or two crops |  |
| Plant Domestication | altering the behaviors, size and genetics of plants to benefit humans |  |
| primary sector | The portion of the economy concerned with the direct extraction of materials from Earth's surface, generally through agriculture, although sometimes by mining, fishing, and forestry |  |
| primogeniture | right of the eldest child (to inherit the entire property of one or both parents |  |
| rectangular survey system | Also called the Public Land Survey, the system was used by the US Land Office Survey to parcel land west of the Appalachian Mountains. The system divides land into a series of rectangular parcels. |  |
| renewable resources | Energy replaced continually within a human lifespan, has an essentially unlimited supply and is not depleted when used by people. Solar energy, hydroelectric, geothermal, fusion and wind, are the most widely used |  |
| Ridge-Tilling | System of planting crops on ridge tops, in order to reduce farm production costs and promote greater soil conservation |  |
| root crops | crops that are reproduced by cultivating either the roots or cuttings from the plants |  |
| round or roundling settlement | Housing surrounds corral full of animals and is surrounded by fields of crops |  |
| secondary economic activity | economic activity involving the processing of raw materials and their transformation into finished industrial products -manufacturing sector |  |
| seed crops | the reproduction of plants through annual planting of seeds ; practiced by most farmers |  |
| Shifting agriculture / cultivation | a form of subsistence agriculture in which people shift crop activity from one field to another |  |
| slash-and-burn cultivation | farmers clear land for planting by slashing vegetation and burning the debris |  |
| Soil degradation | the decline in soil quality as a result of improper use. One of the main arguments against chemical farming is that the pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers damage the soil quality. Can lead to desertification or loss of top soil |  |
| Specialty farming (truck farming) | A form of "truck" farming ..., where special fruits and vegetables that people want are farmed |  |
| staple grains | Grains that can be stored and used throughout the year |  |
| Subsidy | ...A government payment that partially covers the cost of production this will decrease the cost of production to affect consumer behavior. |  |
| Subsistence farming | the production of food primarily for consumption by the farmer's family; found in LDC's |  |
| Survey Patterns | lines laid out by surveyors prior to the settlement of an area |  |
| Sustainability | a method of harvesting or using a resource so that the resource is not depleted or permanently damaged |  |
| suitcase farms | Individuals who live in urban areas a great distance from their land and drive to the country to care for their crops and livestock. This practice lends itself well to the growth of wheat. Allows families to continue their long relationships with the ancestral farm, but still enjoy the benefits of waged incomes in urban environments. |  |
| Terrace Farming | usually used in hilly of mountainous landscapes to create flat land areas to store water and allow crops to dig in soil. Very common in Southeast Asia |  |
| tertiary economic activity | The portion of the economy concerned with transportation, communications, and utilities, sometimes extended to the provision of all goods and services to people in exchange for payment. |  |
| Tragedy of the commons" | situation in which people acting individually and in their own interest use up commonly available but limited resources, creating disaster for the entire community |  |
| town-and-range system | A rectangular land division scheme designed by Thomas Jefferson to disperse settlers evenly across farmlands of the U.S. interior |  |
| Transhumance | pastoral practice of seasonal migration of livestock between mountains and lowland pasture areas. |  |
| Truck Farms | farms that produce high consumer demand products and either trucks them to market or to processing plants |  |
| walled settlements | Settlements that are walled in for protections. |  |
| Wetland destruction | clearing water from wetlands and swamps to make land accessible for farming. Can lead to the destruction of an ecosystem if not done properly. |  |
| Value-added specialty crops | "value added" goods have some other product in them or item attached to them to make them unique and able to sell at higher price |  |
| Vegetable Farming | reproduction of plants by direct cloning from existing plants |  |
| Von Thunen’s Model | a German farmer who created a model for rural land use. A model that explains the location of agricultural activities in a commercial, profit-making economy. A process of spatial competition allocates various farming activities into rings around a central market city, with profit-earning capability the determining force in how far a crop locates from the market |  |
| Wet lowland rice | Rice planted on dryland in a nursery and then moved to a deliberately flooded field to promote growth |  |
| Winter Wheat / Spring Wheat | **Winter**- when planted in fall and harvested in summer **Spring**- planted in spring and harvested late summer |  |
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