Name _____

THE NEOLITHIC REVOLUTION

The Neolithic Revolution was the change from hunting and gathering to farming. It did not happen in one year: it took thousands of years, and it happened in several places. Scientists still debate why it began. Use The First Farmers and Early Villages readings to explain each cause, the turning point and each result.

◆ CAUSES, OLDEST FIRST ◆

12,500-9500 BC (1)

The Natufians settle down

How did the Natufians get food, and how was their way of life different from earlier bands?

10,900-9700 BC (2)

A cold, dry spell

What do some scientists think this cold spell did, and why might it push people to plant?

about 11,700 years ago (about 9700 BC) (3)

The Ice Age ends

How did the climate change when the Ice Age ended?

after about 9700 BC (4)

Wild grain grows thickly

Where did wild wheat and barley grow thickly? Why did that matter?

as villages grew (5)

More mouths to feed

Why might more people in a village push them to farm?

LED TO

about 9500 BC

TURNING POINT

People in the Fertile Crescent begin to farm

What did the first farmers plant and tame? Name two crops and two animals.

WHICH LED TO

Villages and towns grow. Name one and give one fact about it.

Farmers grow a surplus. What did it make possible?

Name one new problem, and what grew in Mesopotamia much later.

1. **The Neolithic Revolution took thousands of years. Why do historians still call it a "revolution"?**

2. **Was farming better than hunting and gathering? Give one reason for each side, then your opinion.**