

Exercise walk-through

5.3

Agricultural Origins and Diffusions

AP Human Geography

Domestication, hearths and diffusion

Domestication involves selecting and breeding plants or animals over generations. Importing a crop or harvesting a wild plant is not necessarily first domestication.

Agricultural hearths include the Fertile Crescent, Indus region, Southeast Asia and Central America. Different species have different histories.

The **First (Neolithic) Agricultural Revolution** developed in multiple places; farming did not make all communities settle simultaneously.

Movement of crops: a historical mechanism

The Columbian Exchange moved crops, animals and other organisms between the Americas and other regions after 1492. Maize and potatoes spread from the Americas.

Trade, migration and cultural preferences can further spread crop cultivation and consumption. Explain a route or connection rather than treating diffusion as automatic.

A crop grown today far from its hearth does not change where it was first domesticated.

Agricultural hearth: actual exam demand

2023 AP Human Geography, Set 1, Q2(A) asks students to describe the concept of an early hearth of domestication.

Possible response: “A place where a plant or animal was first domesticated.”

The official scheme accepts several descriptions. It does not require both origin and subsequent diffusion in every accepted response; avoid inventing a universal command-word checklist.

Second Agricultural Revolution: connections

Improved crop rotation, selective breeding, tools, mechanisation and transport increased production in relevant historical settings.

Greater output could improve diets and support growing urban populations. Labour-saving changes could release workers for industrial employment.

The **Second Agricultural Revolution** was connected to industrialisation; effects varied by place and access to land and technology.

Green Revolution: inputs and uneven outcomes

Change	Mechanism or condition
Higher-yield varieties	Can increase output with suitable water, nutrients and management; not automatically genetically modified.
Irrigation and chemicals	Can support yields but raise costs and environmental pressures.
Access to investment	Credit, water and infrastructure affect who can adopt the package.
Assessment	Separate yield, income, food access and environmental effects.
Green Revolution	: higher output does not guarantee higher net income.

Exercises 2.1·2.2

2.1 Define an agricultural hearth.

[2]

2.2 Define the Columbian Exchange.

[2]

Exercises 2.1·2.2

2.1 Define an agricultural hearth.

[2]

2.1

- a region where agriculture independently originated and from which it spread
-

2.2 Define the Columbian Exchange.

[2]

2.2

- the exchange of crops, animals, and diseases between the Americas and the rest of the world after 1492

Exercise 2.3 (a)

2.3 Wheat farming began in the Fertile Crescent and later appeared across Europe.

(a) Name the process that carried it to Europe.

[1]

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(a) Name the process that carried it to Europe.

[1]

(a)

- diffusion (from the hearth)

Exercise 2.3 (b)

2.3 Wheat farming began in the Fertile Crescent and later appeared across Europe.

(b) State the diffusion type if farmers migrated and brought it.

[1]

Exercise 2.3 (b)

2.3 Wheat farming began in the Fertile Crescent and later appeared across Europe.

(b) State the diffusion type if farmers migrated and brought it. [1]

(b)

- relocation diffusion

Exercises 3.1-3.2

3.1 A region where agriculture was first independently developed is an agricultural [1]

☐

A region

B hearth

C landscape

D boundary

3.2 The movement of potatoes to Europe and horses to the Americas is part of the [1]

☐

A Green Revolution

B Columbian Exchange

C Second Agricultural Revolution

D gravity model

Exercises 3.1-3.2

3.1 A region where agriculture was first independently developed is an agricultural [1]

☐

- A region
- B hearth
- C landscape
- D boundary

3.1 B

- the origin region is an agricultural hearth

3.2 The movement of potatoes to Europe and horses to the Americas is part of the [1]

☐

- A Green Revolution
- B Columbian Exchange
- C Second Agricultural Revolution
- D gravity model

3.2 B

- post-1492 crop/animal transfer = Columbian Exchange

Exercise 3.3 (a)

3.3 Maize, first grown in Mesoamerica, is now farmed worldwide.

(a) What does this show about the crop's hearth?

[1]

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(a) What does this show about the crop's hearth?

[1]

(a)

- it originated (was domesticated) there

Exercise 3.3 (b)

3.3 Maize, first grown in Mesoamerica, is now farmed worldwide.

(b) Explain how diffusion spread it globally.

[1]

Exercise 3.3 (b)

3.3 Maize, first grown in Mesoamerica, is now farmed worldwide.

(b) Explain how diffusion spread it globally.

[1]

(b)

- it spread through trade, migration, and later the Columbian Exchange