

5 Agriculture and von Thünen – Part 1

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Vocabulary

Write each word three times.

English	Write it 3 times (English)		
First Agricultural Revolution	_____	_____	_____
Second Agricultural Revolution	_____	_____	_____
Green Revolution	_____	_____	_____
Subsistence agriculture	_____	_____	_____
commercial agriculture	_____	_____	_____
Intensive	_____	_____	_____
extensive	_____	_____	_____
shifting cultivation	_____	_____	_____
pastoral nomadism	_____	_____	_____
plantation agriculture	_____	_____	_____
Von Thünen	_____	_____	_____
clustered	_____	_____	_____
dispersed	_____	_____	_____
linear	_____	_____	_____
Agribusiness	_____	_____	_____

English**Write it 3 times** (English)

Monoculture

Food deserts

Recall

You know food is grown somewhere and eaten elsewhere, and that farming looks different in different countries.

This sheet gives you the classifications and the one model you must be able to apply.

New ideas**■ 1 The agricultural revolutions**

The **First Agricultural Revolution**, the Neolithic domestication of plants and animals, made permanent settlement possible.

The **Second Agricultural Revolution** accompanied the Industrial Revolution: improved tools, crop rotation, selective breeding and better transport raised yields and freed labour for the factories.

The **Green Revolution** of the mid-twentieth century introduced high-yield seed varieties, chemical fertiliser, pesticides and irrigation. It raised output enormously, especially in Asia, at the cost of chemical dependence, water depletion, and an advantage to farmers who could afford the inputs.

■ 2 Ways of classifying farming

Subsistence agriculture feeds the farmer's own household; **commercial agriculture** produces for sale.

Intensive uses a great deal of labour or capital on a small area (market gardening, wet rice); **extensive** uses little on a large area (ranching, shifting cultivation).

Named systems worth knowing: **shifting cultivation** with its **slash-and-burn** clearing; **pastoral nomadism** in dry lands; **plantation agriculture**, a commercial monoculture typically established under colonial rule; **Mediterranean agriculture** with its characteristic olives, grapes and citrus.

■ 3 Von Thünen's model

Von Thünen explained the RING pattern of land use around a market. Land closest to the market goes to whatever pays the highest rent, and what pays most is set by transport cost and perishability.

The classic rings, from the centre out: market gardening and dairying (perishable,

must be close); forestry (heavy, costly to move – in his day, for fuel); field crops (durable, cheaper to transport); ranching (lowest value per unit area, so it takes the cheapest land).

The model assumes a flat plain, one market, uniform soil and one transport mode. Modern refrigeration and roads weaken it – which is a valid evaluation point, not a reason to ignore it.

■ 4 The rural landscape

Survey systems shape the map: **metes and bounds** follows natural features; the **township-and-range** grid produces the rectangular fields visible across the American Midwest; **long-lot** gives each holding narrow river frontage.

Settlement patterns are **clustered** , **dispersed** or **linear** , and each reflects how land was allocated and how farming was organised.

■ 5 Modern issues

Agribusiness integrates farming with processing and distribution under corporate control. **Monoculture** raises efficiency and lowers resilience to disease. **Food deserts** are areas with poor access to affordable fresh food. **Sustainable agriculture** aims to maintain yields without depleting soil, water or biodiversity.

Practice

Try these in order. The methods are all above.

5.1 State one benefit and one cost of the Green Revolution. [2]

5.2 Distinguish between intensive and extensive agriculture. [2]

5.3 Explain why market gardening occupies the ring closest to the market in von Thünen's model. [2]

5.4 State one assumption of von Thünen's model that limits its use today. [2]

5.5 Explain one risk of monoculture. [2]
