

## The Discovery of Farming: An Idea That Changed the World

If you had to name the single most important thing that has happened in the last ten years, it might be pretty hard to do.

But if you were asked to name the most important thing that happened between 10,000 B.C. and 8,000 B.C., it would be easy. The answer is the discovery of farming.

Today the idea of farming seems simple. You put some seeds in the ground, and soon plants you can eat begin to grow. Or you raise some cows, pigs, or chickens that will provide other kinds of food you need. Simple.

But for thousands of years farming was unknown.

No one knows for sure how farming first began. Like many great discoveries, it probably happened by accident. Someone may have dropped some seeds of wild wheat on the ground one fall. The next spring that

person may have found a crop growing in the spot where he or she dropped the seeds.

No matter how it came about, we do know that sometime between 10,000 B.C. and 8,000 B.C. people began to grow crops and raise animals.

Early farmers used sticks with sharp ends to break up the ground for planting. These digging sticks led to the hoe. The first hoe was probably a forked stick. Farmers would pull this forked stick toward them to stir up the ground. And this hoe led to the plow.

As farmers learned more about growing crops, they also learned more about raising animals. At first they caught and tamed only small animals: birds, squirrels, and chickens. Before long they learned to tame larger ones. They also discovered that the larger animals could help them do the work.

“The Discovery of Farming: An Idea That Changed the World” from “*What’s to Eat?*” in the *Agriculture Yearbook*, 1979. Published by the United States Department of Agriculture.

1. What is the main idea of this selection?
- A Farming began long ago.
  - B Farming was a very important discovery.
  - C Farming began when wheat seeds were invented.
  - D Farming was started with cows and horses.
2. What does the title tell the reader about the selection?
- A It is a selection about an important person.
  - B It is a selection that teaches about tractors.
  - C It describes a mysterious event.
  - D It has specific information about farming.
3. How did early farmers break up the ground for planting?
- A They used sharp sticks.
  - B They used heavy shovels.
  - C They used farm animals.
  - D They used their hands.
4. According to this selection, what is the **most likely** way farming began?
- A Someone dropped some seeds on the ground and they grew.
  - B Someone began raising animals on a farm.
  - C Someone began plowing a field.
  - D Someone stuck a hoe in the ground.
5. According to the selection, which animal was one of the first animals to be tamed?
- A cat
  - B chicken
  - C dog
  - D horse

### End of Set

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## EOG Grade 3 Reading Sample Items

<b>Selection Title</b>	<b>Question Number</b>	<b>Correct Answer</b>	<b>Thinking Skill</b>	<b>Objective Number</b>
The Discovery of Farming: An Idea That Changed the World	1	B	Organizing	2.04
The Discovery of Farming: An Idea That Changed the World	2	D	Organizing	2.02
The Discovery of Farming: An Idea That Changed the World	3	A	Analyzing	2.02
The Discovery of Farming: An Idea That Changed the World	4	A	Applying	2.04
The Discovery of Farming: An Idea That Changed the World	5	B	Knowledge	2.04