

Domestication and Agriculture

Domestication

- Subsistence changes in the Holocene

Climate Change and Culture

- 121 ya warming trend (Holocene epoch)
 - o animal and plant species started disappearing
- Need for readily available foods leads to domestication
- Agricultural Transition
 - o Climate supports environment growth
 - o More rapid horticulture changes

New foods, New Adaptations

- Sustenance patterns
 - o Hunter-gatherers to agriculturalists
 - Farming for food and producing food
- Slow incorporation (trial and error)
- Organization of society
- Among the most important adaptive shifts in our evolution
 - o Biologically and culturally made us who we are today

Definitions of Agriculture

- Settlement (community)
 - o Development of permanent villages
- Technology
 - o Tools for daily tasks
- Domestication
 - o Relationship between humans, plants, and animals

Early Theory of Agriculture

- Lewis Henry Morgan
 - o Progress (cultural evolution)
 - o “savagery” to “barbarianism”
 - removal of humans from nature
 - value judgment
 - motives?

Current Theory

- David Rhindos
 - o Co-evolutionary process between plants, animals, and people
 - o Biological theory

Adopting Agriculture

- Major centers of development
 - o Middle East
 - o North and South China

- o Africa
- o The Andes
- o Central Mexico
- Diffusion in the other areas

Domestication

- The change for the wild form
- Artificial selection by humans
- Domesticated Animals
 - o Dogs
 - 15,000 ya
 - self domestication?
 - o 7,000-8,000 ya
 - cats
 - self domestication?
 - Goats, sheep, cattle, pigs
 - Meat, milk, wool, tools
- Change in Diet
 - o 12,000 ya less varied diet
 - o Super foods
 - Wheat, corn, barley, and rice
 - Today