The Neolithic Revolution was a turning point in history.

What was the Neolithic Revolution?
Words To Know

Turning point – is a specific, very important moment when something begins to change.

Nomadic lifestyle – moving around a lot, such as hunter-gatherer tribes that followed the animals they hunted, carrying their tents with them.

Neolithic Revolution – the change from a nomadic lifestyle of hunting and gathering to farming and living in a village.

Domestication of Animals – raising animals on a farm for food or for using animals to farm for crops.

Fertile – good soil that helps crops grow.

Silt – fertile soil left behind from floods that helps crops grow.

Let’s Set The Stage...

Changes in weather led to the end of the Old Stone Age or Paleolithic era. Warmer weather allowed plants to grow. Around 10,000 B.C., people made two important discoveries. They learned to plant seeds to grow food and they learned to domesticate animals. These discoveries meant that people no longer had to wander in search for food. They could now live in permanent settlements (villages). This marked the beginning of the Neolithic Period. Historians call these discoveries the Neolithic Revolution or Agricultural Revolution because farming and the domestication of animals changed the way people lived.
The Neolithic Revolution was a turning point in history that changed the way people lived their lives. People went from hunting and gathering for food to agriculture (farming). Instead of living as nomads, people settled down in permanent settlements (villages). The Neolithic Revolution led to the first civilizations.
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Farming occurred first near river valley civilizations. River valley’s contained the main ingredient for crops to grow; water. At times, the river valleys would flood leaving a layer of silt. Silt is fertile soil that help crops grow.

It is important to remember that the Neolithic Revolution happened at different times in different areas of the world.
The Fertile Crescent, an area in the Middle East between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers developed agriculture (farming) around 11,000 B.C.E.

One of the first Neolithic villages in Jericho, (Israel).
Located in what is now Turkey, the Neolithic Village of Catal Huyuk existed around 7000 B.C.
The Neolithic Revolution occurred in the Yangtze and Yellow River valleys in China (9,000 B.C.E).
The Fertile Crescent and the Yangtze and Yellow River valleys were called river valley civilizations.

The regions of the world that went through the Neolithic Revolution might have made contact with the people who started farming first.
Through contact with settled people, the rest of the world learned how to farm.
The process of exchanging goods and ideas (learning how to farm from other people) is called cultural diffusion. The directions that the Neolithic Revolution spread are represented by the blue arrows on the map.

Essential Question Answered

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