



Introduction to Agricultural Science

Provisions!

Name _____ Period _____ Date _____

Purpose

The most basic needs of human beings include food, clothing, and shelter. Due to innovations and advances made in providing for basic needs, many people today take these items for granted. However, your predecessors could not. Early hunters and gatherers spent nearly all of their time searching for food, clothing, and shelter for themselves and their family.

As agriculture developed, farmers could produce enough food for storage and to sell to others. Advancements in agricultural production and practices have led to the involvement of fewer people in production agriculture and have allowed more people to explore and develop luxury items, such as cellular phones and cars.

How has the development and advancement of agriculture changed the items you have in your life? As you complete this activity, you will take a walk in the shoes of people throughout time to answer this question.

Part One – Hunting and Gathering

1. When your teacher instructs you to do so, go get one blue note card.
2. Return to your group.
3. Place your cards on the table. These are all of the resources available to you after a long day of survival.
4. Identify the items you have available to you as food, clothing, or shelter in Table 1.

Food	Clothing	Shelter

5. Answer the following questions.
 - Did your group collect sufficient resources for survival, such as food and clothing for four people and shelter? Why or why not?

- What challenges does your group face based on the resources you collected to provide food, clothing, and shelter?

6. In your group, discuss how a hunting and gathering lifestyle might affect population, survival rates, and leisure time. Write down your conclusions.

Part Two – Early Agriculture

1. When your teacher instructs you to do so, go get two yellow note cards.
2. Return to your group.
3. Place your cards on the table and determine if you have sufficient resources. In this round, each card provides a sufficient quantity to feed, clothe, or shelter all members in your group. For example, if you gather a lumber card, you can build a shelter for your entire group. If you gather a rice card, you have enough carbohydrates for the entire group.

- Food – At least one item from each of the following groups

Protein	Carbohydrate	Fruits and Vegetables
Cattle	Wheat	Apples
Sheep	Corn	Oranges
Pigs	Rice	Peas
Chickens	Potato	Beans

- Clothing – Fabric or leather
- Shelter – Lumber, canvas tarps, or brick

4. Select up to two items you may trade with one other group, if desired.
5. Exchange items with another group when instructed by your teacher.
6. Identify the items you have available to you as food, clothing, or shelter in Table 2.

Food	Clothing	Shelter

7. Answer the following questions.

- Did your group collect sufficient resources for survival? Why or why not?

- What challenges does your group face based on the resources you collected to provide food, clothing, and shelter?

- How did trade help your group?

8. In your group, discuss how early agriculture practices affect population, survival rates, and leisure time. Write down your conclusions.

Part Three – Life in the 21st Century

1. When your teacher instructs you to do so, go get three green note cards.
2. Return to your group.
3. Place your cards on the table and determine if you have sufficient resources. In this round, each card provides sufficient quantities of the item on the card for the whole group.
 - Three meals – breakfast, lunch, and dinner
 - Four items of clothing – shirt, pants or shorts, shoes, jacket
 - Shelter – house
4. Select up to four items to trade with other groups, if desired. You may trade with multiple groups in this round.
5. Exchange items with other groups when instructed by your teacher.
6. Place your cards on the table and determine if you have what your group wants.
7. Select up to four items to trade with other groups, if desired.
8. Exchange items with other groups when instructed by your teacher.

9. Identify the items you have available to you as food, clothing, shelter, or luxury items in Table 3.

Table 3 21st Century			
Food	Clothing	Shelter	Luxury

10. Answer the following questions.

- Did your group collect sufficient resources for survival? Why or why not?
- How did trading help your group?
- What differences do you see between food items from Early Agriculture and food today?
- Why are luxury items desirable even though they are not considered a basic need?

Conclusion

1. How has agriculture made life and survival easier for humans?
2. What are three improvements to agriculture that have made life easier for you?
3. Do you live on a farm? From where do you get agricultural products?