

THE GEOGRAPHY OF AGRICULTURE!





- Development and diffusion of agriculture
- Major agricultural production regions
- Rural land use and settlement patterns
- Modern commercial agriculture

So what is agriculture?



- **The textbooks define it as...**
 - The deliberate modification of Earth's surface through cultivation of plants and rearing of animals to obtain sustenance or economic gain.
 - Intentional planting of crops and raising of domesticated animals

WHY study agriculture?

Use Chapter 8 to help

- Impact on people?
- Impact on other businesses/industry?
- Importance of survival to agrarian societies
 - **AGRARIAN:** Relating to or concerning the land and its cultivation



What is agriculture dependent upon?

- Climate?
- Culture and Traditions?
- Demand?

The Persistence of Agriculture

- The US only has 2 million farmers.
- Mechanization and farm consolidation have forced out many small scale farmers.
- Yet US farm production is at an all time high.
- **IN MOST OF THE WORLD- AGRICULTURE REMAINS THE LEADING EMPLOYMENT SECTOR-40% of the world's population are farmers**



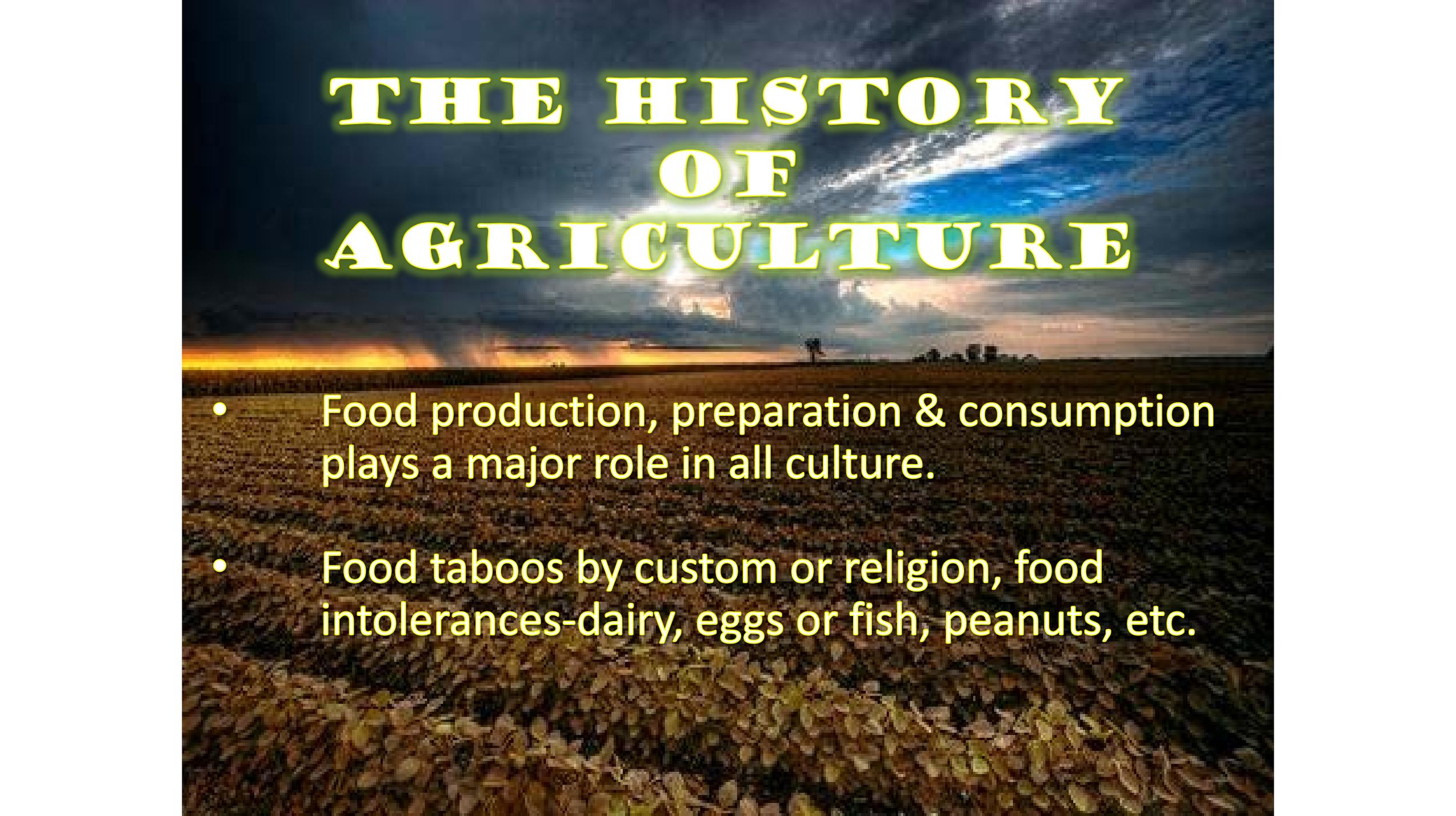


Coming up this unit...

- - Agriculture's Origins and History
- - Classifying Agricultural Regions
- - The Von Thünen Model and Location Analysis
- - The Green Revolution
- - Genetic Modification of Crops



THE HISTORY OF AGRICULTURE

The background of the slide is a photograph of a vast agricultural field, likely corn, under a dramatic sky. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright orange and yellow glow that transitions into a dark blue and grey sky filled with clouds. The field in the foreground is dark, with the individual plants visible. The overall mood is one of natural beauty and the scale of modern agriculture.

- Food production, preparation & consumption plays a major role in all culture.
- Food taboos by custom or religion, food intolerances-dairy, eggs or fish, peanuts, etc.

Hunting & Gathering Societies

- Hunting & Gathering or Fishing was the only way to acquire food for most of our existence.
 - San of southern Africa
 - Aboriginals of Australia
 - Native Americans of Brazil
- Settlements are NOT PERMANENT
- Populations remain small
- Early hunter-gatherers lived in wetter & better environments and had an easier life than those of the modern day.
 - Eastern North America-forests, wildlife & nuts
 - Pacific Coast Americas-salmon fishing
 - Aleuts of tundra caribou herds
 - Interior North America-buffalo herds

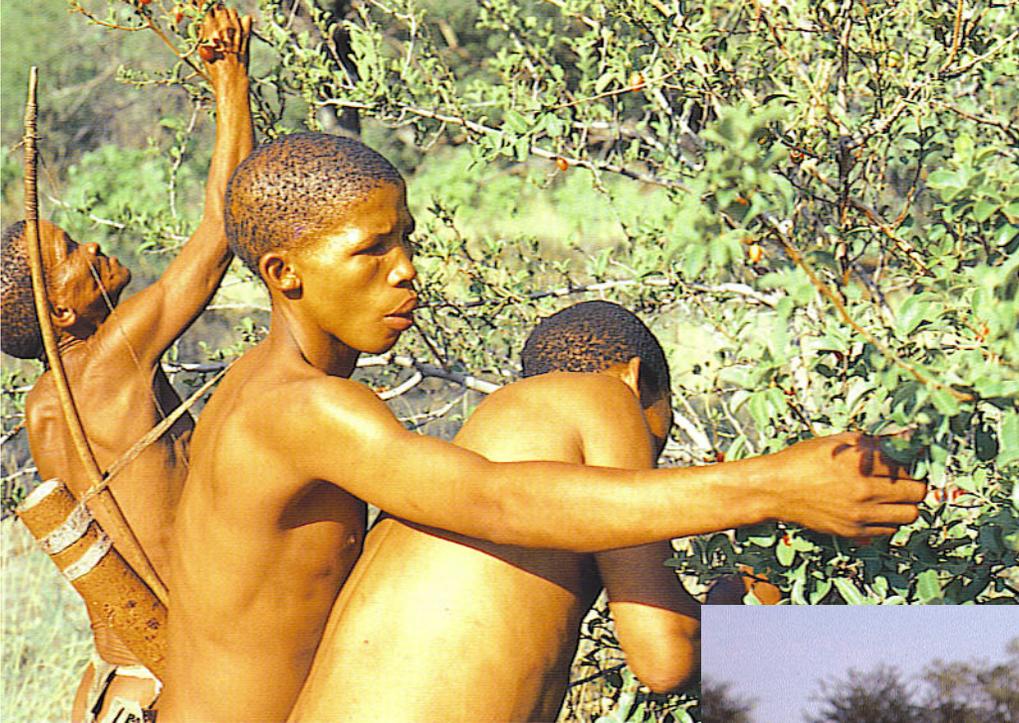


Jakun (tribe an aboriginal tribe)
blow pipe hunter at Tasek Chini
in Malaysia on the mainland
peninsula

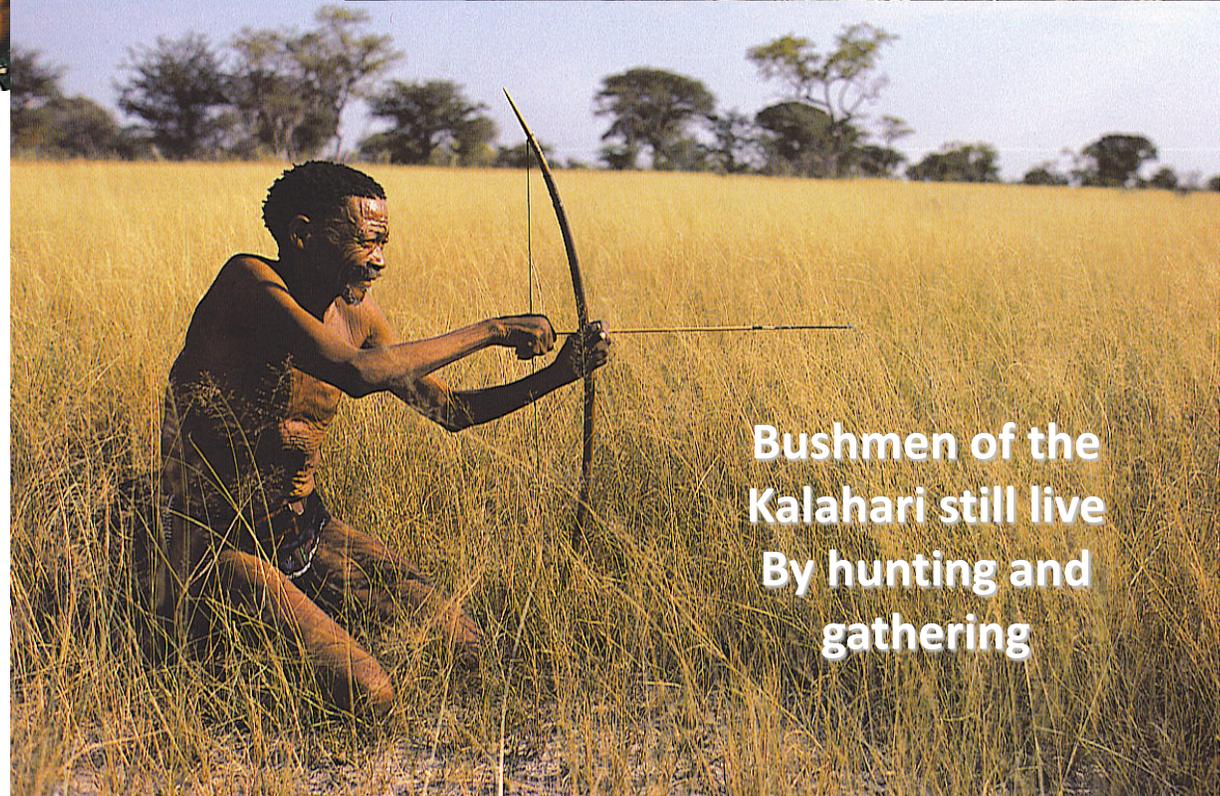
Hunting & Gathering Societies

- Technology improved slowly
- Bone & stone tools & weapons
- Learned to control fire-protection-cooking
- Metallurgy evolved with copper, bronze, gold and later iron for arrowheads, knives, axes and other utensils.
- Even pre-agricultural societies had complex tools, utensils & weapons





- Today perhaps a quarter-million people, or less than **0.005 percent** of the world's population, still survive by hunting and gathering.
- Contemporary hunting and gathering societies are isolated groups living on the periphery of world settlement, but they provide insight into human customs that prevailed in prehistoric times, before the invention of agriculture.



Bushmen of the
Kalahari still live
By hunting and
gathering

THE INVENTION OF AGRICULTURE



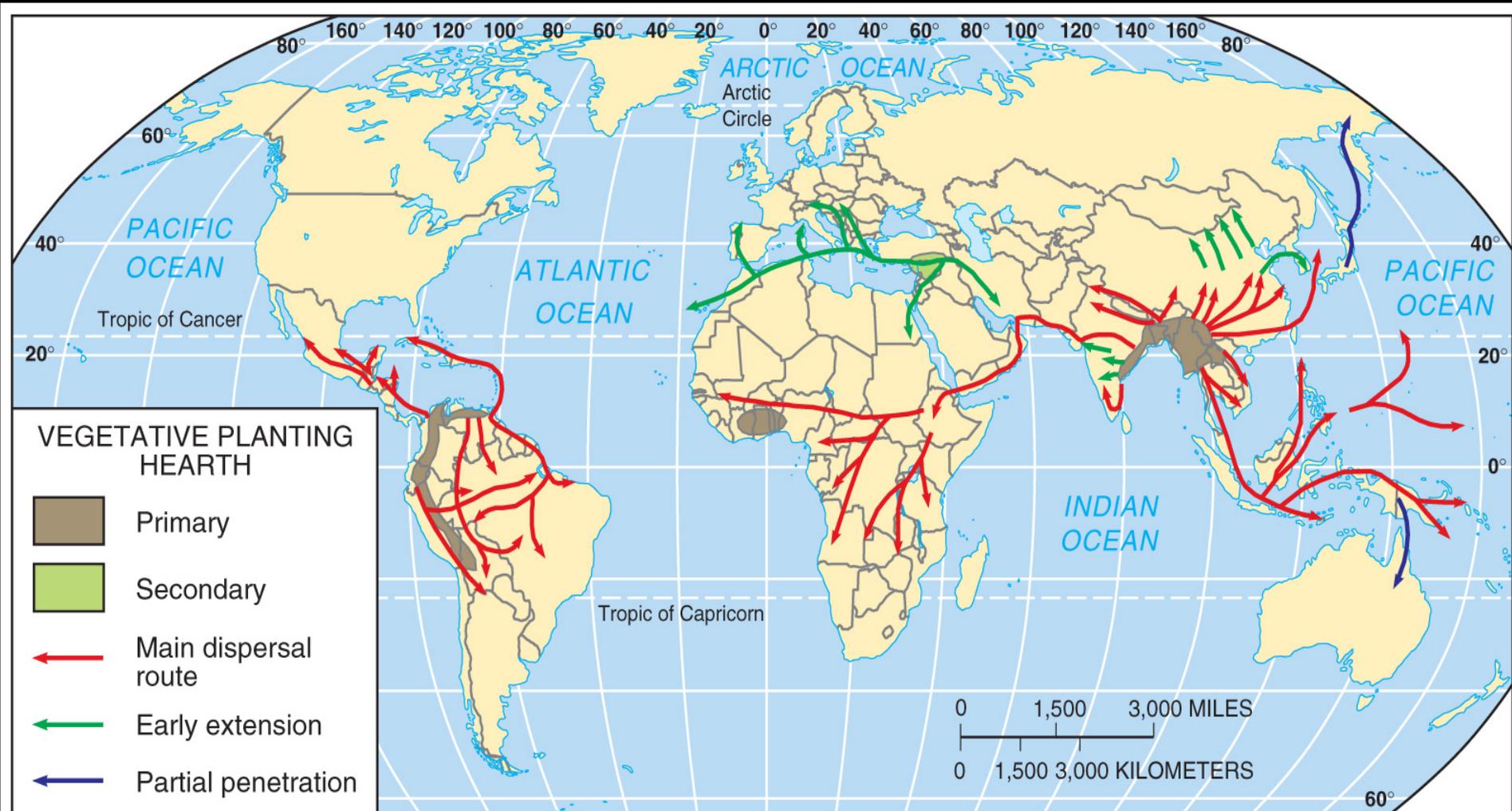
- Agriculture evolved into two types of cultivation.
 - Vegetative Planting
 - Seed Agriculture

TWO TYPES OF CULTIVATION

- Over thousands of years, plant cultivation apparently evolved from a combination of accidental and deliberate experiment.
- The earliest form of plant cultivation, according to Carl Sauer, was **vegetative planting**, direct cloning from existing plants, such as cutting stems and dividing roots.
- Coming later, according to Sauer, was **seed agriculture**. Seed agriculture is practiced by most farmers today.



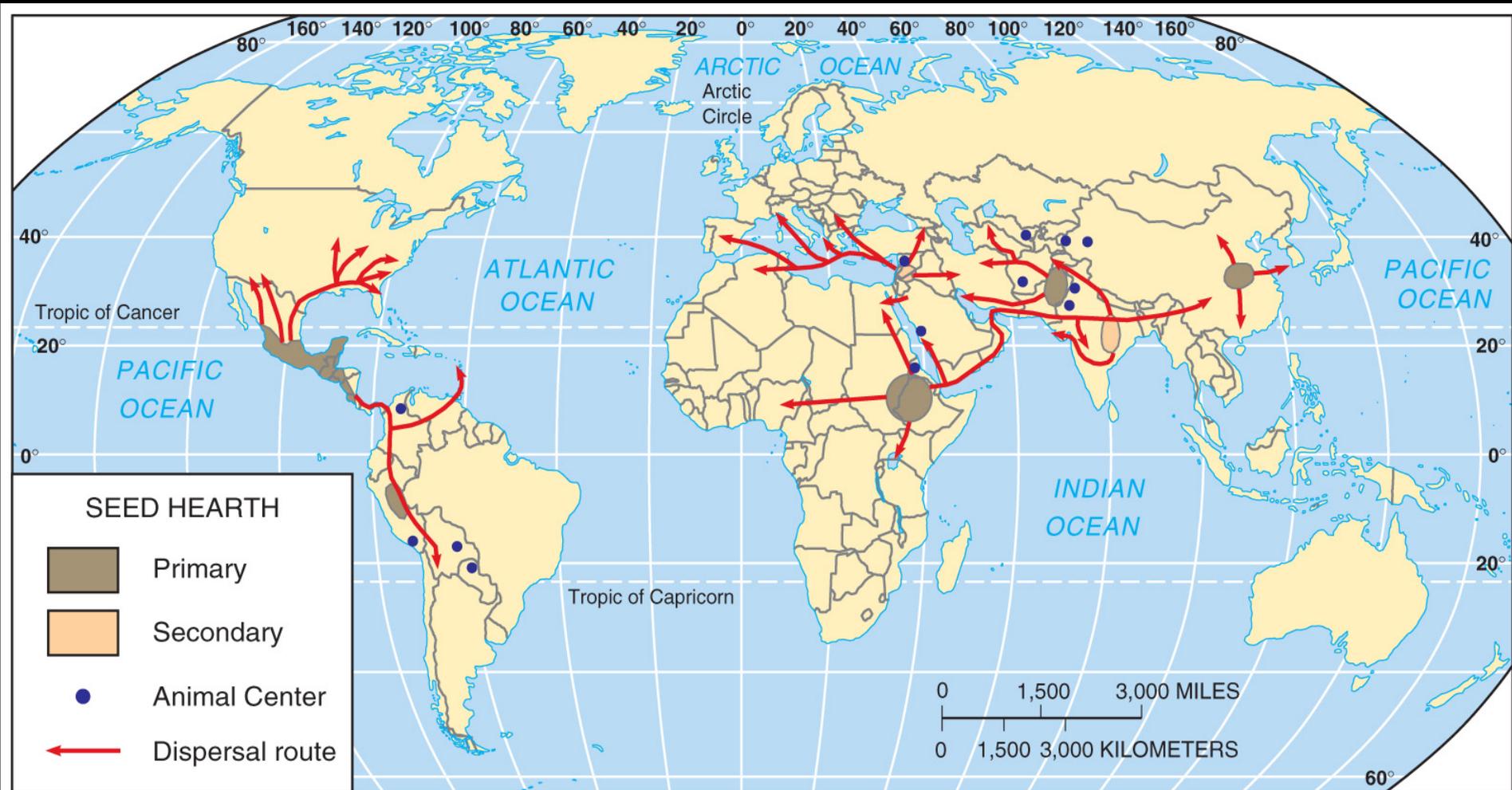
VEGETATIVE PLANTING HEARTHTHS



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- There were several main hearths, or centers of origin, for vegetative crops (roots and tubers, etc.), from which the crops diffused to other areas.

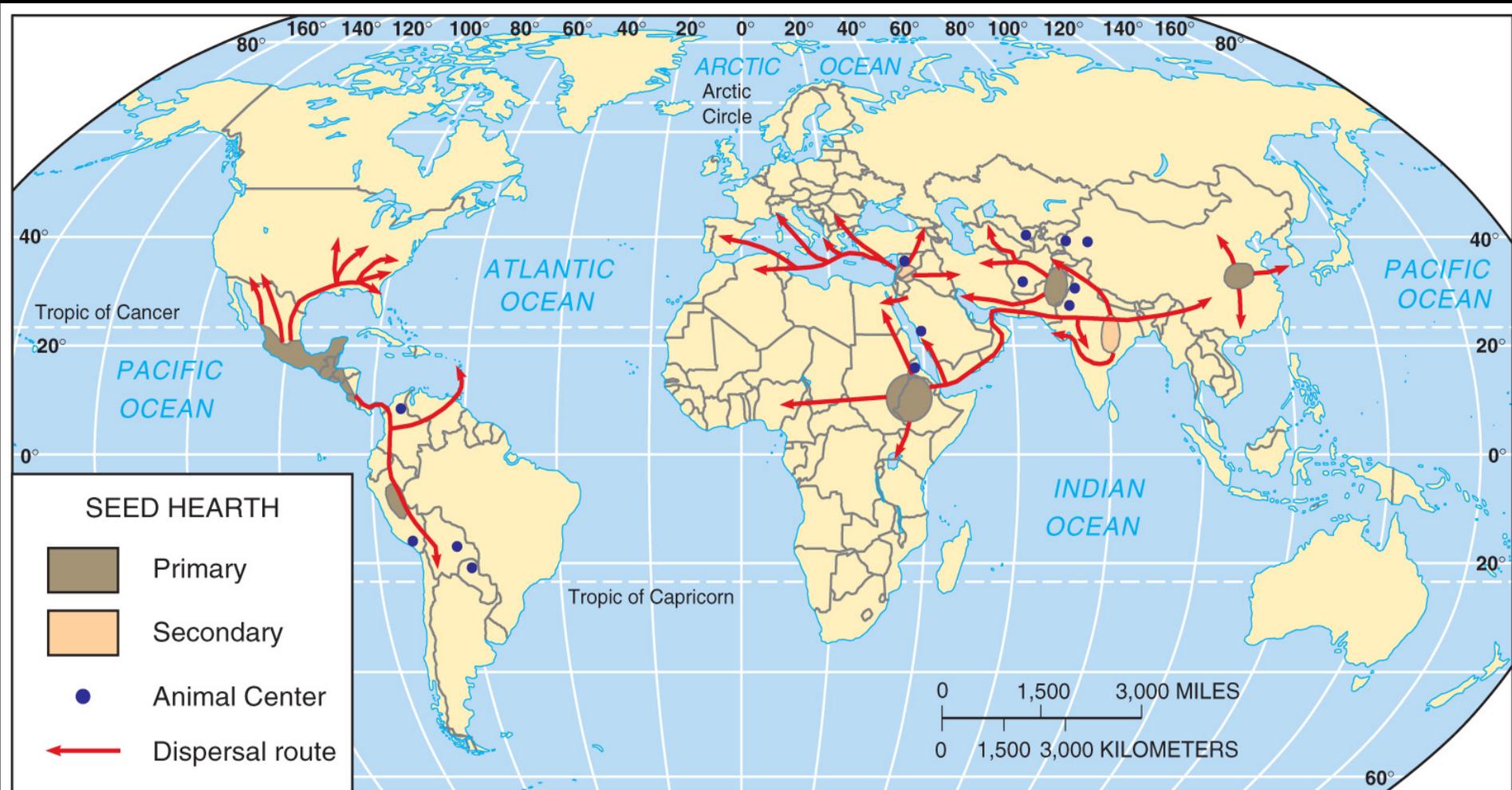
SEED AGRICULTURAL HEARTHS



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- Seed agriculture also originated in several hearths and diffused from those elsewhere.

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AGRICULTURAL REVOLUTIONS



- **First Agricultural Revolution (aka Neolithic Revolution)**
 - Dating back 10,000 – 12,000 years, this achieved plant domestication and animal domestication.
 - Stay in one place, grow populations, and build communities
- **Second Agricultural Revolution**
 - Witnessed improved methods of cultivation, harvesting, and storage of farm produce.
 - 17th & 18th Century Industrial Revolution
 - Individual plots of farmland
- **Third Agricultural Revolution**
 - Currently in progress, its principal orientation is the

The First Agricultural Revolution



- Key area: Tigris and the Euphrates Rivers (Fertile Crescent)
- ~12,000 year ago
- Replaced hunting and gathering
- Involved plant and animal domestication
 - Emergence of seed agriculture (wheat, rice)
 - Use of the plow
 - Use of draft animals
- Modest population increase and outmigration

