

Unit 1.1.4

Hunter-Gatherer Versus Early Agricultural Food Systems

Key Knowledge and Key Skills

Key Knowledge 1.1.4

Hunter-gatherer food systems and how they differ from and are similar to early agricultural food systems, including the types of foods available, the potential advantages for communities, and the challenges in terms of feeding human populations.

Key Skills 1.1.3

Examine attributes and challenges of hunter-gatherer and agricultural food systems.

Key Skills 1.1.4

Research and explain key historical factors and developments in global food production systems.

Key Skills 1.1.5

Identify foods that can be traced back to early cultures and through practical activities demonstrate, observe and critique their uses and adaptations in contemporary recipes.

Key Skills 1.1.6

Undertake practical activities to analyse the origins and cultural roles of food.

VCE Food Studies Study Design p. 13 and 14

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Key Terms and Definitions

A **hunter-gatherer** is a nomad who moves around from place to place to find food.

Nomadic people have no permanent place to live. They move from one place to another.

Prehistoric man is a human who lived around 2.5 million years ago to 1200 BCE.

Hunter-Gatherer Versus Early Agricultural Food Systems

The World's First Hunter-Gatherers

The hunter-gatherer way of life existed until agriculture began around 11,000–12,000 years ago. The first hunter-gatherers lived during prehistoric times. At this time, people were focused on their need for food and shelter to survive. Many early hunter-gatherers required access to vast amounts of land to find food.

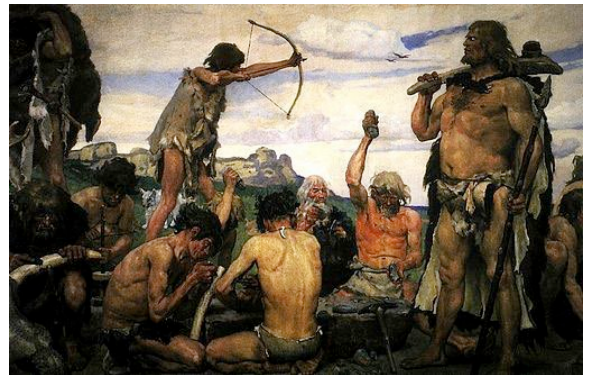
Hunter-gatherers were primarily nomadic. They moved around from one location to another rather than permanently inhabiting one place. The primary reason for this was that they relied on plants and animals as a source of food. When their food supply diminished, they had to move to another location to find more food. But food availability was not the only factor that impacted their decisions about where to live. They also needed to find adequate shelter for protection from bad weather and predators, as well as safe drinking water.

The hunter-gatherer period, often referred to as the Stone Age, has been divided into three periods:

1. Palaeolithic (Old Stone Age);
2. Mesolithic (Middle Stone Age); and
3. Neolithic (New Stone Age).

Palaeolithic or Old Stone Age Period

In the Palaeolithic period (roughly 2.5 million years ago to 10,000 BCE), humans lived in caves or basic huts. They used stone tools for hunting birds and wild animals. They cooked these small animals and birds over a fire along with deer and bison. They also gathered berries, fruit, and nuts. Their existence was basic and generally revolved around satisfying their need for food and shelter.



<https://picryl.com/media/kamennyj-vek-1-36f67d>

Mesolithic or Middle Stone Age Period

In the Mesolithic or Middle Stone Age, hunter-gatherers became more innovative and effective at hunting and gathering than those in the Palaeolithic period. At this time, they began to adapt to more diverse environments. They made specialised hunting tools and developed methods for foraging for a variety of food sources.

Neolithic or New Stone Age Period

Over time, hunter-gatherers began refining their skills and became even more efficient at hunting and gathering. This final stage of the Stone Age became known as the Neolithic or New Stone Age. Researchers have found skeletons from this period of time that indicate that the human brain had become considerably bigger. Neolithic humans required more protein in their diet due to having a larger brain. Consequently, these hunter-gatherers developed more innovative ways to source more meat.

Neolithic humans invented and designed more sophisticated tools, equipment, techniques, and strategies to hunt larger animals such as woolly mammoths. Their ability to hunt larger animals made it easier to feed the increased protein needs of the hunter-gatherer group, which could be up to 30 people.

Many researchers believe that the hunter-gatherer's bodies changed due to eating more protein. They could walk further than ever before and were not confined to smaller areas. It is believed that different tribes of hunter-gatherers in Africa began to spread around Africa, to Asia, and eventually to Europe and beyond.

Watch this video that provides details about how early humans spread from East Africa to all around the world:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CJdT6QcSbQ0&t=82s>

Food of the Hunter-Gatherer

Hunter-gatherers sourced and ate foods as a means of survival. Hunter-gatherers had little control over their food supply. Sometimes they had an abundance of food, while at other times food was scarce. When food was available, they ate as much of it as possible. When there was little food, they moved on to other places where they could find food. As they moved, the hunter-gatherers took all of their possessions with them. This meant they could

not accumulate many belongings. Each item they possessed had an important function to perform in their camp. Hunter-gatherers would move whenever the area they were occupying became depleted of food. They would often return after a long absence, hoping that the area's supply of plants and animals had replenished and if possessions were left behind, that they would still be there.

Hunter-gatherers initially hunted small animals like birds and fed off the remains of animals that were already dead. As they progressed through the Stone Age, they began developing their skills and knowledge. Eventually, they could successfully hunt much larger animals. The animals they caught in the wild were leaner than the animals we raise for meat nowadays. Initially, they consumed food raw as soon as it was caught or found. However, as time progressed, they learned how to cook meat to make it tender. The meat was often roasted over a fire or boiled in a large vessel.

Evidence suggests that an animal's bone marrow was a vital food source for hunter-gatherers. The bone marrow helped produce red blood cells, contributing to a healthy immune system. It was also high in fat, giving hunter-gatherers energy for daily activities and the endurance they required when hunting or travelling from one camp to another.

Hunter-gatherers foraged for plants like grasses, tubers, fruits, seeds, and nuts. Research suggests that vegetables were much smaller, and there was much less variety available than we have today. Tomatoes and potatoes were no bigger than a 20 cent coin, and carrots were thin and stringy. Corn grew as a wild grass and its kernels were tough. Cucumbers and lettuces were prickly and had a tart taste. Peas had to be roasted and peeled before consumption. Some people had access to sea kale, a hardy plant that often grew along the coast. Some of the vegetables they consumed required careful preparation to remove toxins. For example, beans and cassava contained cyanide that the hunter-gatherers learned from trial and error to remove before consuming.

Fruit looked very similar to what it is like today. However, it was much smaller and the flavour was intense and sour. Fruits and nuts were often peeled and eaten raw.

This video describes the foods hunter-gatherers ate during the Stone Age and beyond:

<https://youtu.be/9kafuTmY-YA>

The video below shows the Akie tribe butchering an animal they just killed. They must work quickly to deter predators from claiming the carcass and consuming the bone marrow: <https://youtu.be/zjiOeGA4D8M>

Note: This video is graphic and may be disturbing to some viewers.

Hunter-Gatherer Tools

Use of Tools

The early hunter-gatherers used simple tools, such as sharpened stones for cutting. Hand axes were developed around 1.6 million years later. Over time, they produced wooden and stone-tipped spears. They then discovered how to make tools from animal bones and more complex stone tools. Eventually, they developed the fishhook, the bow and arrow, the harpoon, and needles. These more specialised tools allowed hunter-gatherers to catch different food types, widen their diet, and make better clothing and shelter. Once these tools were made, hunter-gatherers could track larger prey to feed their whole group. They also learned how to find smaller shellfish and catch larger fish species and other food sources from the lakes, rivers, and oceans.



*Prehistoric tools: Sémhur, CC BY-SA 4.0
<<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0>>, via Wikimedia Commons*

Watch this video about the types of tools used by hunter-gatherers: <https://youtu.be/7FwR97NBUC0>

Watch this video about the tools and plants eaten by hunter-gatherers: <https://youtu.be/FFI50iSPWel>

Use of Fire

The exact date that humans discovered fire is a well-debated topic. It is likely that humans initially used fire they found in their immediate environment from things such as lightning strikes. Then, over time, they developed the knowledge and skills to start their own fires. The exact date humans harnessed the ability to use and start fires is unknown. What we know is that the ability to make and use fire significantly influenced the life of the hunter-gatherers. Having access to fire enabled them to stay warm in colder temperatures and cook their food. However, it also helped them find food and scare wild animals that might otherwise attack their camps or take their food.



Stone Age - feast, study (1883, Vasnetsov, GTG)

Watch this video about the discovery of fire: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IGH4MK9O2J0>

Watch this video to see how fire and smoke was used: <https://youtu.be/QN8ZwiKTfSo>

Use of Specialised Techniques

As their brains evolved, humans developed a more intricate knowledge of edible plant life, seasons, and cycles. They worked out how to use resources more efficiently to gather plants and hunt for animals.

Watch this video about how tools and specialised techniques were used to find meat, plants, and medicine: <https://youtu.be/Q3IyoKH1rLo>

Hunter-Gatherer Shelters

The shelters that hunter-gatherers occupied were quite basic. Initially, they lived in whatever they could find to protect them from the wind, rain, cold, and heat. Often this was a cave or an overhanging cliff. Around 50,000 years ago, hunter-gatherers began to build simple huts from whatever materials they could find, such as wood, rock, and bone. As they were nomads, they rarely built elaborate shelters.

Gender Roles

It was once thought that gender roles were clearly divided in hunter-gatherer society. It was believed that men hunted and made tools, and women gathered food, made clothes, tended to the fires, and looked after children. However, this notion has recently been challenged. A female skeleton was found in Peru surrounded by tools for hunting and butchering larger game. This, along with some other evidence, has led researchers to believe that gender roles may not have existed in Stone Age hunter-gatherer tribes. Other researchers still believe that men and women in these societies did have different roles. Evidence of specific roles for females and males in many hunter-gatherer tribes still exists today.



Source: <https://picryl.com/media/kamennyj-vek-2-809da6>

There is one significant similarity in both theories. In hunter-gatherer times, all positions were considered equal. One person and their contribution were not considered more important than another. A hunter-gatherer society understood that each person in the tribe had an essential role within the group, and their role was needed to hunt successfully, gather food, and feed the group. Therefore, every role was equally important.

Watch this video about what life was like for the different genders in the Sanema tribe in the rainforest near Venezuela and Brazil: <https://youtu.be/t9ppv6SIsOM>

Family and Community Structure

Hunter-gatherers consisted of relatively small groups, sometimes as small as 20. They were unlikely to live in larger communities because there would be more people to feed, and food supplies may run out quickly. Another reason groups were kept small was that women had to carry young infants when moving to other areas. Having more children made moving challenging. The women in hunter-gatherer groups were likely to breastfeed their offspring for an extended time to reduce their chance of becoming pregnant before their youngest child was old enough to walk.

Social Activities

Along with cooking, the controlled use of fire contributed to the hunter-gatherer social life. Social activities were linked to spending time together around the fire, increasing social interactions among different group members. These interactions led to acquiring knowledge and skills, sharing resources, and connectedness in the group and with other tribal groups in the area. When hunter-gatherers from different tribes shared their experiences, they became more successful at obtaining food and surviving.

Culture

There is some evidence that hunter-gatherers participated in cultural activities such as painting. They mixed water, blood, animal fats, tree saps with minerals, ochres, burnt bone meal, and charcoal to make paint. These paints were used to make etchings of humans, animals, and signs. Small figurines were also carved from stones, clay, bones, and antlers. Other forms of culture within hunter-gatherer communities may have included dance and music.

Migration Around the World

The most popular theory about human migration is that humans evolved in Africa for thousands of years. As their knowledge, survival skills, and stamina increased, they migrated to different parts of the world, searching for food. This resulted in their diets evolving to include a broader range of foods.

Watch this video about the likely path of human migration since the Stone Age: <https://youtu.be/CJdT6QcSbQ0>

Watch this video about an African tribe that migrated to the Indian Ocean around 55,000 years ago: <https://youtu.be/NdvIO6bPG60>

Case Study: The Qesem Cave

Qesem Cave was discovered in the year 2000. It is believed that the cave was occupied around 200,000–420,000 years ago. Archaeologists have found up to 300,000 items in the cave, of which half have been studied in detail. These include blades and blade tools, scrapers, and hand mixers. They also found heavy round balls. They did not know how the stone balls were used as a tool until now. Through this discovery, it has become clear that they were likely used for crushing bones and extracting the bone marrow from bones.

Evidence from this cave suggests that the inhabitants covered animal bones in skin, which preserved the bone marrow for up to nine weeks. This is said to be the first evidence of food preservation in history. Before this discovery, it was believed that hunter-gatherers only consumed bone marrow immediately after killing or finding a dead animal.

Recently, in Jaljulia, Israel, a vast array of tools that hunter-gatherers used in ancient times were found. In this place, hunter-gatherers had been able to source safe water and various plants and animals for food.

This video shows the site at Jaljulia and how archaeologists uncovered their findings: <https://youtu.be/4EHllcJtcv0>

The Hunter-Gatherer Lifestyle

The table below identifies the positive and negative aspects of the life of a hunter-gatherer.

| Positives | Negatives |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When food was available, they generally ate a wide variety of it. • Everyone was considered equal and had a role in the group. • Life just evolved around sourcing food. • Sometimes they had a lot of time to relax. • Due to their nutritious diets, they were healthy. • They existed in small groups; everyone knew each other. • All food that was caught and gathered was shared. • They could source different foods from other locations, which may have contributed to the variety in their diets. • Their nomadic lifestyle meant that food supplies could be replenished when they moved to other locations. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food was not always available. • Hunting and gathering food took a lot of energy and could be time-consuming. • If no food could be hunted or gathered on a given day, they did not get to eat. • As very little could be stored and saved, they had to work daily to source food. • Their lives were not comfortable or luxurious – housing was temporary. • Arguments over food and areas to hunt for food may have occurred with other tribes. • Each time they arrived at a new location, they needed to determine the best place to source food. • They could not take a lot of food with them when they moved from one location to the next. |

From Hunter-Gatherers to Early Agriculturalists

Around 12,000 years ago, more people began to form settlements. The transition from the nomadic lifestyle of the hunter-gatherer to one that lived in established communities with small farms was gradual. They slowly settled down in one place and began to live more sedentary lifestyles. They soon learned how to cultivate crops and raise animals for food, labour, textiles (clothing), and medicine. However, this was time-consuming, and they spent many days and hours doing it. It is thought that, in early farming, women did most of the agricultural work and that men still focused on hunting animals. Due to this lifestyle change, more children were born, and communities increased in size. The successful growth of plants boosted the food supply, which was needed due to the growth in the size of their communities.

Written Activity One

Story Time

Imagine you are an adult male or female or a child in a hunter-gatherer society.

Write a short story describing what life is like in your hunter-gatherer tribe.

In your story, include information about:

- Where your hunter-gatherer group originated from;
- The stone age era did you live in (ensure your responses relate to this period);
- The types of food you ate;
- The techniques and tools you used to source food;
- A description of your role in the hunter-gatherer group and the roles of other people in the group;
- Reasons why you stayed or moved onto other locations; and
- Your feelings about being a hunter-gatherer are what you like and do not like.

Written Activity Two

Good or Bad?

Working individually or in small groups, brainstorm all the plus (positive), minus (negative), and interesting things about the hunter-gatherer food system.

Think about things such as:

- The type of foods they ate;
- Their roles and responsibilities;
- Their accommodation and living conditions;
- The kind of work they did;
- Their health status;
- The leisure activities;
- Their travel experiences; and
- How they ensured they were safe from danger.

Record your responses in the chart below.

| Plus (positive) | Minus (negative) | Interesting |
|-----------------|------------------|-------------|
| | | |

State whether you think the hunter-gatherer life was good or bad.

Justify your response.

Written Activity Three

Hunter-Gatherer Survival Kit

Imagine that you are a stone-age hunter-gatherer.

You have just arrived at a new place to live and need to collect some things that will help you survive in this area.

Look around your new location and **find** something in nature that:

- is safe to eat (don't eat it);
- is safe to drink (don't drink it);
- you could use to make a tool;
- use could use for medicine or healing;
- you could use to make a shelter;
- you could make into clothing; and
- you could use to cook with.

Record your findings below.

Written Activity Four

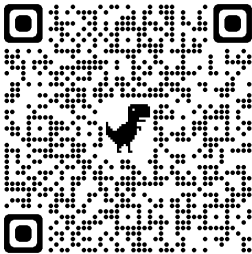
Analysing Art

Zdenek Burian, from Czechia, was a painter who attempted to depict prehistoric life in his artwork.

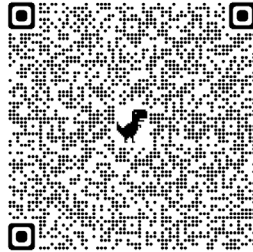
In this task, you will need to use the knowledge you have gained about hunter-gatherers to analyse a painting by Zdenek Burian.

Activate the QR codes and view each of the paintings. **Select** the painting that you want to analyse.

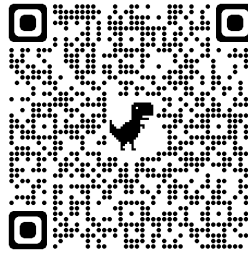
Painting One



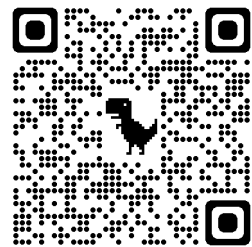
Painting Two



Painting Three



Painting Four



Answer the following questions.

1. What painting did you select?

2. What kind of people, animals, shelter, clothing, and food do you see in this picture?

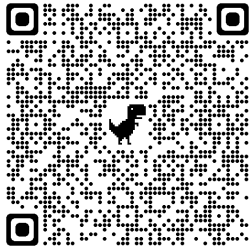
3. What do you think is happening in this setting?

4. How does the artist depict the hunter-gatherer lifestyle, gender roles, family, and community structure?

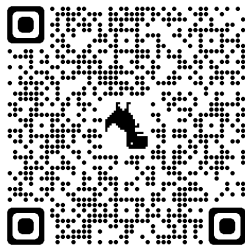
5. What era in the stone age period do you think the painting represents? Why do you think it illustrates this era?

6. Compare the features of your chosen image to the images of early agriculture represented below.

Painting One



Painting Two



7. List as many differences as you can.

Written Activity Five

The Agricultural Revolution: Crash Course World History #1

Watch this video: https://youtu.be/Yocja_N5s1I

Create a free account at www.canva.com

Type ‘*comparisons*’ in the search toolbar. You will be able to access a selection of templates you could use to conduct a comparative analysis.

Select one of the ‘free’ templates and use it to create a guide about the positives and negatives of agriculture.

Practical Activities

Practical Activity: Spicy Seed Mix

Hunter-gatherers roamed the natural world, foraging for their food. Their hunter-gatherer diet included grasses, tubers, fruits, seeds, and nuts. This recipe contains a variety of seeds.

Ingredients:

| | |
|---|---|
| 40 grams sunflower seeds | $\frac{1}{8}$ teaspoon salt |
| 40 grams pumpkin seeds or pepitas | $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon reduced-salt soy sauce |
| 40 grams linseed | $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon honey or maple syrup |
| $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon canola oil | Pinch cayenne |
| $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon ras-el-hanout spice blend* | |

Method:

1. **Preheat** the oven to 160°C.
2. **Line** a baking tray with paper.
3. **Mix** all the ingredients in a bowl.
4. Spread the mixture onto a baking sheet.
5. **Cook** for 15 to 20 minutes or until the mixture is dry and golden.
6. **Stir** once during baking.
7. **Allow** to cool and **store** in a sealed container for up to 3 weeks.

Ras-el-hanout Spice Blend

Ingredients:

| | |
|--|--|
| 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoons cumin seeds | $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon black peppercorns |
| 1 teaspoon coriander seeds | $\frac{1}{8}$ teaspoon ground turmeric |
| $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon ground cinnamon | Seeds from two cardamom pods |
| $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon ground ginger | Pinch saffron |

Method:













1. **Toast** the cumin, coriander, and cardamom seeds in a non-stick frypan until they become aromatic and the colour becomes slightly darker.
2. **Combine** all the ingredients in a mortar and pestle. **Grind** until fine.
3. **Store** in a jar for up to six months.

Original Source: <https://www.bbcgoodfood.com>

Practical Record: Spicy Seed Mix

Sensory Evaluation

1. **Conduct** a sensory analysis of the Spicy Seed Mix.
2. **Think** of a descriptive word to describe the appearance, texture, taste, and aroma of the mix.

| Sensory Property | Descriptive Words | Rating |
|------------------|-------------------|---|
| Appearance | |    |
| Texture | |    |
| Taste | |    |
| Aroma | |    |

3. **Research** the nutritional value of nuts and seeds.

Record your findings below.

Explain why nuts and seeds were a popular food source for hunter-gatherers.

Practical Activity Two

Hunter-Gatherer Meal

Select one of the modern-day hunter-gatherer groups listed below.

- The Jarawa Tribe, Indian Ocean
- Yanomami Tribe, Venezuela/ Brazil
- The Tsimane, Bolivia
- The Hadza Tribe, Tanzania
- The Inuit, Greenland
- Bajau, Malaysia
- The Krygyz, Pamir Mountains

Investigating and Research

Research your chosen hunter-gatherer tribe.

1. **Identify** the foods they consume.

2. Use the table below to compare the similarities and differences between the tribe's diet with the [Australian Guide to Healthy Eating](#) (AGTHE).

| Tribe's Diet - Differences | Similarities | AGTHE - Differences |
|----------------------------|--------------|---------------------|
| | | |

3. **Discuss** the nutritional value of the foods that the tribe eats.

Planning and Managing

Plan a meal that uses at least two foods your hunter-gatherer group consumed.

Provide a copy of your recipe and completed food order to your teacher (on the next page).

- If working in pairs, ensure the quantities of ingredients serve two people.
- If working individually, ensure the quantities of ingredients serve one person.
- Some of the ingredients in your recipe may be challenging to Source. In this case, substitute the ingredient with something similar from local shops.













| Food Order | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Name | |
| Recipe | |
| Source | |
| Preparation Time | |
| Cooking Time | |
| Specialised Equipment | |
| Fruit and Vegetables | |
| | |
| Meat, Fish and Poultry | |
| | |
| Dairy Foods | |
| | |
| Frozen and Refrigerated Foods | |
| | |
| Pantry Foods and Miscellaneous Items | |
| | |

Producing

Make your meal in class.

Evaluating

Complete the sensory analysis of your meal.

| Sensory Property | Descriptive Words | Rating |
|------------------|-------------------|---|
| Appearance | |    |
| Texture | |    |
| Taste | |    |
| Aroma | |    |

Discuss how well your meal represented the foods that your hunter-gatherer tribe consumed.

State whether you would eat the foods of your chosen hunter-gatherer tribe.

Explain why or why not.

Summary Activity

Complete the summary activity below.

| | |
|---|------------------------------|
| Write down the main idea about this key knowledge and key skills. | |
| Write two or three sentences in your own words. | |
| State where hunter-gatherers originated from and how they spread around the world. | |
| | |
| Identify the types of foods hunter-gatherers and early agriculturalists consumed. | |
| Hunter-Gatherer | Early Agriculturalist |
| | |
| Describe the life of a hunter-gatherer and early agriculturalist. | |
| Hunter-Gatherer | Early Agriculturalist |
| | |
| Describe the food system of a hunter-gatherer and early agriculturalist. | |
| Hunter-Gatherer | Early Agriculturalist |
| | |

Discuss why the hunter-gatherers moved from one place to another.

State whether you think the hunter-gatherer's lifestyle was positive or negative. Justify your decision.

Describe what the hunter-gatherer's food system was like.

Exam Preparation

Multiple-Choice Questions (5 marks)

Choose the response that is correct or that **best answers** the question.

Question 1

Hunter-gatherers consumed:

- a. Fruits the size of tennis balls.
- b. Meat they found dead or killed.
- c. Meat from large animals such as woolly mammoths
- d. Nuts and seeds from crops they domesticated.

Question 2

Hunter-gatherers' daily activities revolved around their desire for food.

- a. They planted foods before moving on to another location which increased the likelihood of a food supply when they returned.
- b. They foraged for plants like grasses, tubers, fruits, seeds, and nuts.
- c. They ensured the food they prepared tasted as good as it looked.
- d. They sourced as much food as possible and stored what they could not consume.

Question 3

It is thought that in hunter-gatherer societies:

- a. Men were required to hunt, which was the most important job in the camp.
- b. Women were required to gather plants to eat, which was considered equally important as hunting.
- c. Children learned about responsibility by caring for wild animals.
- d. Elderly members of the tribe were not considered an asset.

Question 4

Over time, the hunter-gatherers became more skilled at hunting due to:

- a. Making sharper tools.
- b. Changes in the landscape resulting in animals having more places to hide.
- c. The increasing number of members in tribes.
- d. Developing their skills and knowledge.

Question 5

Bone marrow was a vital food source for hunter-gatherers:

- a. When there was nothing else available to eat.
- b. Because it was from the bone and contained no bacteria.
- c. Due to its high energy content and immunological properties.
- d. Because drinking the bone marrow was a part of hunting ceremonies.

Short Answer Questions (20 marks)**Question 1** (10 marks)

Many early hunter-gatherers required access to vast amounts of land to find food.

- a. **Identify** four types of plant foods that hunter-gatherers were likely to source. 2 marks

- b. **Identify** the types of meat that hunter-gatherers would have eaten at the start and end of the stone age period. 2 marks

Provide a reason for this difference. 3 marks

- c. **Describe** a type of tool the hunter-gatherer used during the stone age era.

Explain how this tool was used to source food. 3 marks

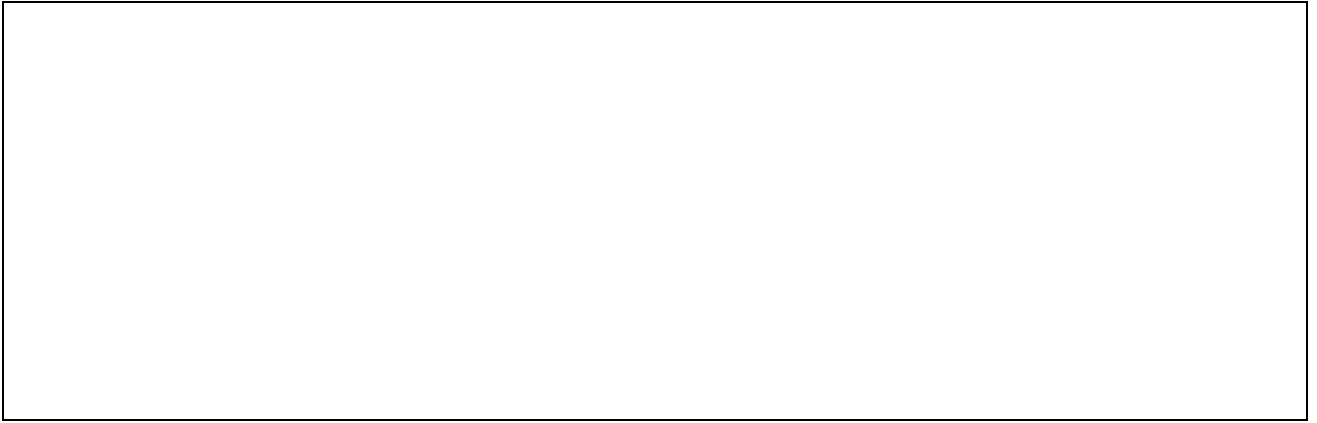
Question 2 (10 marks)

This photograph represents a group of African Pigmy modern-day hunter-gatherers in the Congo.

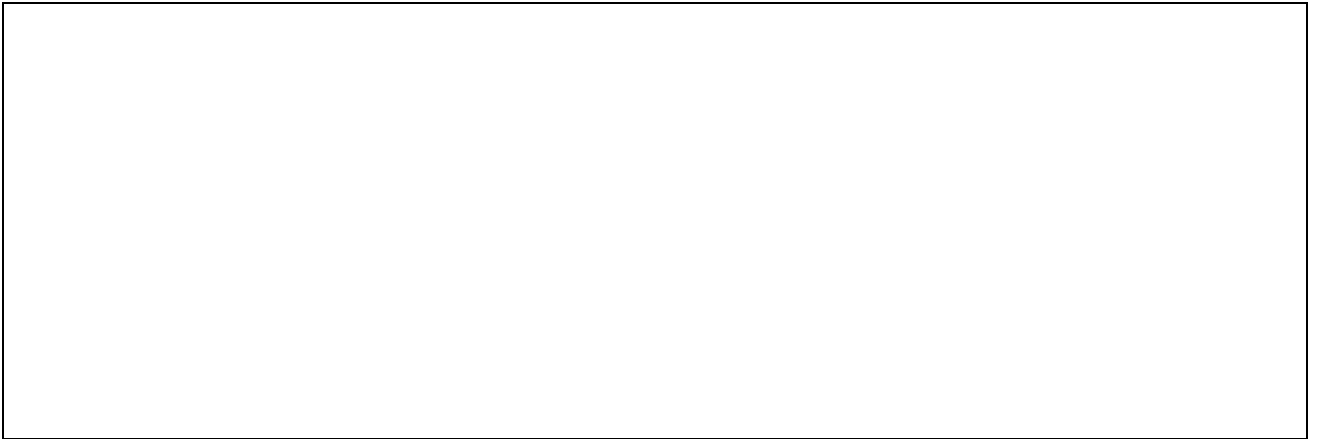


Image Source: By JMGRACIA100 – Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0,
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=52373514>

- a. **Identify** two things in this photograph that are typical of a nomadic hunter-gatherer tribe. 2 marks

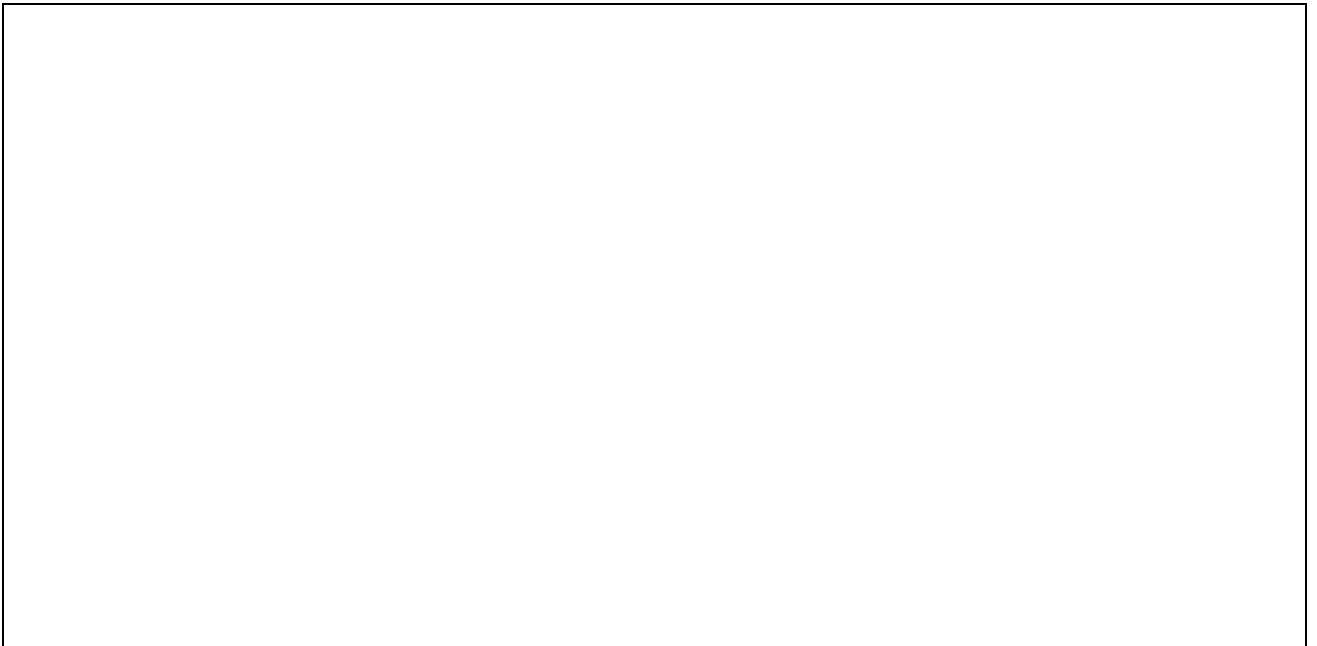


- b. **Outline** how the hunter-gatherer's nomadic lifestyle impacted their food supply. 4 marks



- c. **Predict** how the hunter-gatherer's lifestyle would change if they had a more consistent and constant supply of nutritious food in one location.

Justify your response. 4 marks



Exam Preparation

Multiple-Choice Questions (5 marks)

Choose the response that is correct or that **best answers** the question.

Question 1

Hunter-gatherers consumed:

- a. Fruits the size of tennis balls.
- b. Meat they found dead or killed.
- c. Meat from large animals such as woolly mammoths
- d. Nuts and seeds from crops they domesticated.

The answer is not A. Fruits were very small during the hunter-gatherer period of time.

The answer is B. They consumed meat they found dead or killed.

The answer is not C. Hunter-gatherers did not have the knowledge or skills to kill large animals.

The answer is not D. Hunter-gatherers did not domesticate crops.

Question 2

Hunter-gatherers' daily activities revolved around their desire for food.

- a. They planted food before moving on to another location which increased the likelihood of a food supply when they returned.
- b. They foraged for plants like grasses, tubers, fruits, seeds, and nuts.
- c. They ensured the food they prepared tasted as good as it looked.
- d. They sourced as much food as possible and stored what they could not consume.

The answer is not A. It is unlikely that hunter-gatherers cultivated food.

The answer is B. Hunter-gatherers foraged for food.

The answer is not C. Hunter-gatherers likely focused on consuming food for survival rather than ensuring it had sensory appeal.

The answer is not D. Hunter-gatherers were unable to store food.

Question 3

It is thought that in hunter-gatherer societies:

- a. Men were required to hunt, which was the most important job in the camp.
- b. Women were required to gather plants to eat, which was considered equally important as hunting.
- c. Children learned about responsibility by caring for wild animals.
- d. Elderly members of the tribe were not considered an asset.

The answer is not A. All roles and responsibilities were considered equally important in the hunter-gatherer life.

The answer is B. It is thought that women were required to gather plants and their jobs were considered equal.

The answer is not C. Wild animals were not cared for.

The answer is not D. This is unclear.

Question 4

Over time, the hunter-gatherers became more skilled at hunting due to:

- a. Making sharper tools.
- b. Changes in the landscape resulting in animals having more places to hide.
- c. The increasing number of members in tribes.
- d. **Developing their skills and knowledge.**

The answer is not A. It is unknown if their tools became sharper.

The answer is not B. Animals having more places to hide would make it more challenging to hunt.

The answer is not C. An increase in the number of members in tribes may make it harder to hunt for food.

The answer is D. Over time, the hunter-gatherer's brain increased in size, and they developed the capacity to develop skills and knowledge.

Question 5

Bone marrow was a vital food source for hunter-gatherers:

- a. When there was nothing else available to eat.
- b. Because it was from the bone and contained no bacteria.
- c. **Due to its high energy content and immunological properties.**
- d. Because drinking the bone marrow was a part of hunting ceremonies.

The answer is not A. Bone marrow was a viable food source regardless of what else was available.

The answer is not B.

The answer is C. Bone marrow provided hunter-gatherers with the energy they needed and had immunological properties.

The answer is not D. It is unknown whether bone marrow formed a part of hunting ceremonies.

Short Answer Questions (20 marks)**Question 1** (10 marks)

Many early hunter-gatherers required access to vast amounts of land to find food.

- a. **Identify** four types of plant foods that hunter-gatherers were likely to source. 2 marks

Fruits, nuts, seeds and vegetables.

- b. **Identify** the types of meat that hunter-gatherers would have eaten at the start and end of the stone age period. 2 marks

At the start of the stone age era, hunter-gatherers would have eaten small animals that were easy to kill. They would have fed off animals they had already found dead.

At the end of the stone age era, hunter-gatherers were more likely to kill larger animals like mammoths.

Provide a reason for this difference. 3 marks

Human brains got bigger over time. It is believed that their high protein intake contributed to this. As their brains developed, so did their ability to understand the world around them. They developed the ability to understand the seasons, and they were able to problem-solve better. They devised innovative and clever ways to catch animals and forage food. For example, it was not always the spear that killed an animal. It was more likely the poison placed on the spear that killed the animal. These methods of killing animals required the knowledge and skill that the earlier hunter-gatherers lacked.

- c. **Describe** a type of tool the hunter-gatherer used during the stone age era.

Explain how this tool was used to source food. 3 marks

Large round stones have been found in ancient hunter-gatherer caves. It is thought that these stones were used for crushing bone and removing marrow inside the bone. This bone marrow was used as a source of energy for the hunter-gatherer.

Question 2 (10 marks)

This photograph represents a group of African Pigmy modern-day hunter-gatherers in the Congo.



Image Source: By JMGRACIA100 – Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0,
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=52373514>

- a. **Identify** two things in this photograph that are typical of a nomadic hunter-gatherer tribe. 2 marks

The female is preparing the food.

The female is caring for the child in the distance and the child is old enough to walk.

The shelter is not elaborate, which indicates that the group is nomadic.

The shelter is not permanent, which indicates the group move on to other areas.

They have not got many belongings which means they have less to carry when they move onto another location.

- b. **Outline** how the hunter-gatherer's nomadic lifestyle impacted their food supply. 4 marks

The hunter-gatherers would forage for plants and meat. They relied on what was available in their immediate area for food.

Because they were nomadic, they moved from place to place. They may have had a more varied diet because they would find different types of food at other sites.

They moved on from one area to another so food and animals in places they had camped could replenish. This meant they could have a consistent food supply.

If the weather destroyed their food supply, then they could move on to another location to find food. They were not bound to one area.

- c. **Predict** how the hunter-gatherer's lifestyle would change if they had a more consistent and constant supply of nutritious food in one location.

Justify your response. 4 marks

If they had a more consistent and constant food supply in one area, there would be less reason for the hunter-gatherer to move to another location.

This may mean they could have more children, as the woman would not need to carry them from place to place.

They might accumulate more belongings that could assist them with food preparation. These things might make food preparation easier.

They might be able to store more food for later consumption. This might reassure them that they have enough food, and they might not be so focused on securing a food supply all the time.

They might build more permanent structures to live in, and these homes might offer more comfort and shelter from the weather.

Starter Activity

How Farming Planted Seeds for the Internet

Watch this video: <https://youtu.be/3Evl0tQAdXI>

Discussion Questions:

Discuss the video using the following questions:

1. Why would some argue that farming is the most important technology?
2. What did some people do before the invention of farming?

Humans, homo sapiens, has been on Earth for approximately 200,000 years, but we have only been farming for a little more than 10,000 years. For the vast majority of human history, people got their food by hunting and gathering.

Starter Activity

Design a Tool for Early Farmers

Design a tool that early farmers could use for farming.

- Draw your design.
- Outline how the different parts will work together.
- Label the different parts.
- Describe their features.

What materials would you use to make your tool?

How might a farmer use this tool?

What would the tool be used for?