

Today's Activity:

Animal Husbandry

Era 1: The Beginnings of Human Society

From Hunter-Gatherers to Farmers

Activity 1:

When human beings switched from hunter-gatherers to farmers, their entire view of animals changed. Instead of merely hunting animals for food, it now became necessary to domesticate them, care for them, and keep them healthy. Ask students to list *three* reasons why it was necessary for people to care for animals when they decided to switch from hunting and gathering to agriculture. For example:

- 1) **The livestock had to be healthy to supply nourishing food and milk.**
- 2) **The livestock had to be cared for in order to give birth to healthy offspring.**
- 3) **The livestock had to be strong to help with the fieldwork and transportation of goods.**

Discuss with your students how the role of human beings shifted from expert animal hunters to expert animal care providers. With the rise of agriculture came the study of animal husbandry. Animal husbandry includes everything that has to do with the managing and caring for livestock. As a class, brainstorm what sort of duties this broad definition includes. Here are some ideas to get you started:

- ◆ **Breeding**
- ◆ **Nutrition**
- ◆ **Veterinary medicine**
- ◆ **Herding**
- ◆ **Milking**



Activity 2:

As soon as people began to learn a little about agriculture, they realized that animals provided some of the best fertilizer for new crops (*in the form of manure*).

Have your students list ways that animals and livestock help out on a farm in ways other than providing food and dairy products. Here are some ideas:

- ◆ **Drafting** (*pulling equipment such as plows*)
- ◆ **Transporting items**
- ◆ **Herding animals** (*usually done by dogs*)
- ◆ **Fertilizer** (*in the form of manure*)
- ◆ **Grazing** (*which prevents the overgrowth of grass and weeds*)

Curriculum Goals: The Beginnings of Human Society

Standard: Understand how and why humans established settled communities and experimented with agriculture.

The student should be able to:

- Describe leading theories to explain how and why human groups domesticated cattle, sheep, goats, and pigs.