

6TH Grade Ancient History

Design Your Own Neolithic Village!

Driving Question: How did the shift from hunting and gathering to agriculture force Neolithic people to design their homes, communities, and technologies to ensure survival and successfully organize their new settled life?

Content Standards: 6.1 Students describe what is known through archaeological studies of the early physical and cultural development of humankind from the Paleolithic era to the agricultural revolution.

1. Describe the hunter-gatherer societies, including the development of tools and the use of fire.
2. Identify the locations of human communities that populated the major regions of the world and describe how humans adapted to a variety of environments.
3. Discuss the climatic changes and human modifications of the physical environment that gave rise to the domestication of plants and animals and new sources of clothing and shelter.

Major Products: Neolithic Village practicing agriculture drawn out and labelled on a large piece of blank paper.

The village design must be clearly labeled and include:

1. **Permanent Shelter:** Houses (huts, roundhouses, etc) suitable for permanent residence.
2. **Food Production Area:** Clear evidence of agriculture, such as small planted fields, irrigation channels, or designated areas for livestock pens (e.g., goats, sheep, early cattle).
3. **Defense/Protection:** A system to protect the village from the elements, wild animals, or rival groups (e.g., a simple wall, fence, or natural barrier).
4. **Storage Solution:** An area clearly designed for storing surplus food (e.g., grain pits, thick-walled storage buildings, or ceramic pots).
5. **Water Source:** A visible and accessible source of fresh water (e.g., a river, lake, well, aqueduct, or cistern).
6. **Workshop/Tool Area:** A dedicated area showing where specialized tools or crafts might be created (e.g., a designated area for pottery firing, flint knapping, or weaving).

Public Presentation: Students will showcase their final products to their parents/guardians during student-parent conferences.

