Ancient Agriculture

Agriculture evolves from the art and science of cultivating the soil, growing crops, and raising domesticated animals. The transition from hunting and gathering to agricultural societies is not fully understood, but experts believe it occurred several times in different regions of the world. The earliest known evidence of agriculture dates back to around 10,000 BCE in the Fertile Crescent, which includes parts of modern-day Iraq, Syria, Jordan, Turkey, Lebanon, and northern Iran.

Agriculture in Early Civilization

The development of agriculture was a critical turning point in human history, marking the transition from nomadic hunter-gatherer societies to sedentary agricultural communities. This shift allowed for population growth and the development of complex societies, including the emergence of cities, trade, and writing.

Sumerian Agriculture

Sumer, the cradle of civilization, is known for its advanced agricultural practices. Sumerian farmers developed irrigation systems and used a variety of crops, including wheat, barley, and dates. The Sumerians also developed a system of weights and measures, which was based on the weight of different quantities of grain.

Art and Mayan Agriculture

The ancient Maya were skilled farmers who grew a variety of crops, including maize, beans, squash, and avocados. They developed sophisticated irrigation systems and used a calendar to track the cycles of planting and harvesting. The Maya also developed a system of writing, which included a modified version of the Greek alphabet.

Roman Agriculture

The Roman Empire was known for its advanced agricultural practices, which included the cultivation of a wide variety of crops, such as wheat, barley, and olives. The Romans also developed a system of weights and measures, which was based on the weight of different quantities of grain.

Indian Agriculture

India has a long history of agriculture, dating back to the Indus Valley Civilization. The ancient Indians developed sophisticated irrigation systems and used a variety of crops, including rice, wheat, and vegetables.

Chinese Agriculture

The Yellow River, also known as the "Mother River," plays a crucial role in Chinese agriculture. The Yellow River provides water for irrigation and supports the cultivation of a variety of crops, including rice, wheat, and vegetables.

References


Prehistory

Up and down the Indus Valley, evidence has been found that riverine environments were havens for early farmers. The Indus Valley civilization, which flourished around 2500-1900 BCE, is one of the earliest known agricultural civilizations. The farmers of this region developed sophisticated irrigation systems, which allowed them to grow crops even during periods of drought. The earliest known mound-builders, who built the famous cities of Teotihuacan and Cholula, also developed advanced agricultural techniques, which allowed them to support large populations.

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