

Milestones in Agricultural History

Agriculture · Answer Key · 12 Questions

1. Which ancient civilization is credited with the earliest evidence of systematic irrigation canals dating back to approximately 6000 BCE?

- A) The Sumerians
- B) The Indus Valley Civilization
- C) The Cucuteni-Trypillia culture**
- D) The Maya civilization

2. Who is credited with inventing the seed drill in 1701, a device that revolutionized farming by sowing seeds in uniform rows?

- A) Jethro Tull**
- B) John Deere
- C) Cyrus McCormick
- D) Eli Whitney

3. The 'Green Revolution' of the mid-20th century, which significantly increased global grain production, was spearheaded by the development of high-yield wheat varieties by which scientist?

- A) Norman Borlaug**
- B) George Washington Carver
- C) Gregor Mendel
- D) Luther Burbank

4. In 1842, Sir John Lawes patented the first industrial process for creating what essential agricultural input?

- A) Synthetic nitrogen fertilizer
- B) Superphosphate**
- C) Potassium chloride
- D) Ammonium nitrate

5. What was the primary function of the 'McCormick Reaper,' patented in 1834, which transformed the harvesting of cereal crops?

- A) Threshing wheat
- B) Winnowing chaff
- C) Cutting stalks**
- D) Planting seeds

6. The 'Three Sisters' agricultural technique, involving the intercropping of maize, beans, and squash, originated with which indigenous group?

- A) Inca
- B) Haudenosaunee**
- C) Aztec
- D) Mapuche

7. Which 19th-century chemist is often referred to as the 'father of the fertilizer industry' for his work on the law of the minimum?

- A) Justus von Liebig**
- B) Fritz Haber
- C) Carl Bosch
- D) Antoine Lavoisier

8. What is the oldest known domesticated crop, with evidence of cultivation dating back to roughly 11,000 years ago in the Fertile Crescent?

- A) Barley
- B) Emmer wheat**
- C) Lentils
- D) Chickpeas

9. The first successful commercial tractor, powered by a gasoline engine, was built by which company in 1892?

- A) John Deere
- B) Ford Motor Company
- C) Froelich Tractor Company**
- D) Case IH

10. In 1909, Fritz Haber and Carl Bosch developed a process to synthesize ammonia from nitrogen and hydrogen, fundamentally changing agriculture. What is this process called?

- A) Ostwald process
- B) Haber-Bosch process**
- C) Solvay process
- D) Contact process

11. Which crop was the first to be genetically engineered for commercial sale, hitting the market in 1994 as the 'Flavr Savr' tomato?

- A) Corn
- B) Soybeans
- C) Tomatoes**
- D) Cotton

12. The first mechanical cotton gin, which spurred a massive expansion of cotton production in the American South, was patented by Eli Whitney in what year?

A) 1789

B) 1793

C) 1802

D) 1815