

5.2 Spread of Agriculture

Source: Jared Diamond, *Guns, Germs, and Steel*. New York: Norton.

Background: Agriculture appears to have developed independently in nine different localities around the world. Every other region, including Western Europe, developed agriculture through cultural diffusion.

Questions

1. According to the map on the right, approximately how many years did it take for agriculture to spread from the Eastern Mediterranean to the British Isles?
2. Based on the map and chart below, which region(s) made the greatest contribution to agriculture? Explain.
3. In your opinion, why does agriculture develop independently in so many areas of the globe?

<https://www.themaparchive.com/the-spread-of-agriculture-70002000-bce.html>



Location	Crops
Fertile Crescent	wheat, barley, pea, lentil, olive, chickpea, flax, muskmelon
China	millet, rice, soybean, hemp
Mesoamerica	corn, beans, cotton, yucca, squash, jicama
Andes/Amazon	corn, lima, peanut, cotton, manioc, sweet potato, potato, squash
West Africa/ Sahel	sorghum, millet, rice, cowpea, groundnut, cotton, yam, watermelon, gourd, oil palm
India	beans, cotton, flax, cucumber
Ethiopia	teff, millet, coffee
Eastern U.S.	grasses, artichoke, squash, sunflower
New Guinea	sugar cane, yams, taro, banana

