



Frames in Unit 2

In this era, humans began to build communities, create language networks (the smallest kind of human network), and produce and distribute goods. How did this happen?



<p>0:01 <i>Bob Bain, PhD surrounded by a green background.</i></p>	<p>A lot of big changes happen in the period we call Era 2. How can we understand these changes through our three frames?</p>
<p>0:15 <i>Bob Bain in front of a map of the world.</i> <i>Map zooms in on Africa.</i></p>	<p>At the beginning our ancestors lived only in Africa, in very small groups. Then cognitive breakthroughs happened that allowed us to communicate better and pass information along through generations.</p>
<p>0:28 <i>The Development of Language, Unit 2 Early Humans</i> <i>A timeline marking 250,000 years BP - 3000 BCE</i> <i>Image of a large gathering of people speaking at a meeting.</i> <i>Image of a person telling a story to listeners.</i> <i>Bob Bain speaking in front of a green background.</i> <i>Image of housing community, photograph of cave handprint paintings.</i> <i>Image of people networking, photograph of cave paintings with multiple people interacting. Bob Bain speaking in the foreground.</i> <i>Bob Bain speaking in front of a spinning globe. Pink lines track the travel of language from the continent of Africa across the rest of the globe.</i></p>	<p>One of the most important innovations of this era was the development of language. Humans are social animals, we need to cooperate with each other in order to survive and thrive.</p> <p>The development of language allowed us to do this in two ways:</p> <p>first, sharing ideas through language allowed us to work together or collectively to achieve goals. Working collectively meant that we could build our first communities - large stable bands that could work together for common purposes despite being made up of many individuals.</p> <p>Languages also allowed humans to create our first networks, enabling us to communicate with people who were in neighboring communities whose languages were similar in order to exchange ideas, things, and even members through intermarriage and migration.</p> <p>With the tool of language, our ancestors expanded from our original home in Africa throughout most of the world, picking up new skills and technologies along the way, and forming a whole patchwork of little communities and networks by the end of the era.</p>
<p>1:30 <i>Bob Bain speaking in front of a green background.</i></p>	<p>The biggest story was the development of farming. Farming is the domestication and cultivation of plants.</p>



<p><i>An icon of a factory, photograph of cave paintings of bovine.</i> Domesticate: Tame and control animals or plants <i>Bob Bain speaking in front of a green background.</i></p>	<p>This was one of the most important transformations of production and distribution in all of human history. Of course not everyone became farmers. Those who did made the changes at different times, and sometimes they still also hunted and gathered like their ancestors before them.</p> <p>But even so, farming dramatically changed how all people lived and worked.</p>
<p>2:01 The Neolithic Era: from Foraging to Farming. <i>Image of a community farming.</i> <i>An image of stone cut tools with the word "Paleolithic."</i> <i>An image of more intricately cut stone tools with the words "Neolithic."</i> <i>Bob Bain speaking in front of a green background.</i></p>	<p>Farmers generally settled down in one place. They also developed an entirely new set of tools.</p> <p>That's why we call the original foraging societies Paleolithic or Old Stone tool societies, and the farmers who came after them Neolithic or New Stone tool societies.</p> <p>Farming societies also grew much more rapidly than their foraging neighbors. Farmers had more children than foragers, partly because they had more food. And although farmers had more diseases, and were often less healthy, over time farmers came to represent the majority of human societies. Farming radically changed how we made and shared things.</p>
<p>2:48 <i>Two illustrations of ancient farming practices.</i> <i>Bob Bain speaking in front of a green background.</i> <i>An image of ancient weaving practices.</i> <i>Ancient early writing slab.</i></p>	<p>Farmers had to spend long hours doing work that foragers didn't have to do. They had to plant crops, tend them, protect them from weeds and bugs and other animals that wanted to eat them, they had to harvest them, and process them. Women especially found their hours consumed with turning harvested plants into edible food.</p> <p>But farming also produced enough calories that some people could do other work, specializing in making clothes or tools for example. In this way farming was also a gateway to a lot of other innovations.</p>



<p><i>Bob Bain speaking in front of a green background.</i></p> <p><i>Image of ancient plowing with a person and bovine.</i> <i>Caption that says "Agricultural Revolution - 12,000 Years Ago"</i></p> <p><i>Image of steam engine.</i> <i>Caption that says "Industrial Revolution - 250 Years Ago."</i></p>	<p>Later, as we will see, farmers were more likely to create villages and cities and produce innovations like writing and iron working, and these changes are still with us today.</p> <p>Farming is still the way most of our food is produced, even if fewer and fewer of us are farmers.</p> <p>In fact we won't see a change in production and distribution that is this significant again until about 12,000 years later when we get to the Industrial Revolution.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">3:50</p> <p><i>Bob Bain speaking in front of a green background.</i></p>	<p>That makes farming one of the most enduring historical transformations of all time, and it began a very very long time ago.</p>



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