



# 5.4 The Second Agricultural Revolution

# Objective and Essential Learning

Explain the advances and impacts of the second agricultural revolution.

- New technology and increased food production in the second agricultural revolution led to better diets, longer life expectancies, and more people available for work in factories.



# The First Agricultural Revolution – Neolithic Era

- When & Where: 12,000-10,000 years ago, Fertile Crescent
- Diffusion: Trade routes & the Columbian Exchange

## Characteristics

- Origin of farming - First domestication of plants and animals where previously societies had been nomadic, hunter and gatherers.
- Subsistence farming: Farmers grow the crops for their own consumption, not for sale.
- Methods: Simple hand tools, manual labor

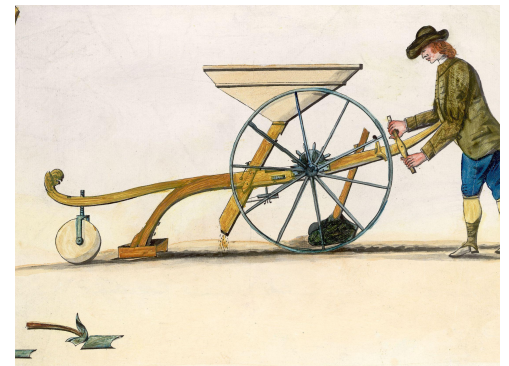


# The Second Agricultural Revolution

- When & Where: 1750, Great Britain
- Diffusion: Through G. Britain into Europe and the US

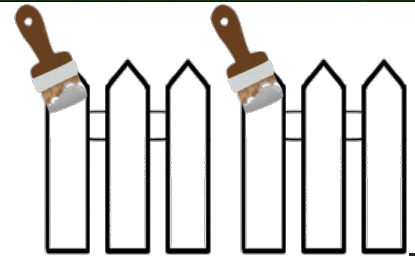
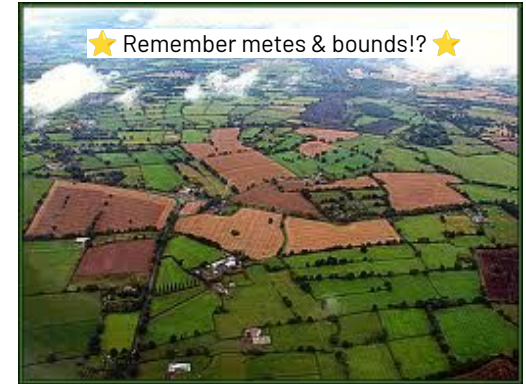
## Causes of the Second Agricultural Revolution

1. Industrial Revolution: The use of technology (mechanization) to increase production and distribution of agricultural goods.
  - a. Cotton gin, seed drill, steel plough, barbed wire
  - b. High yields -> surplus of food -> population growth and longer life expectancy.
  - c. More technology -> less manual labor -> decrease in the number of farmers.



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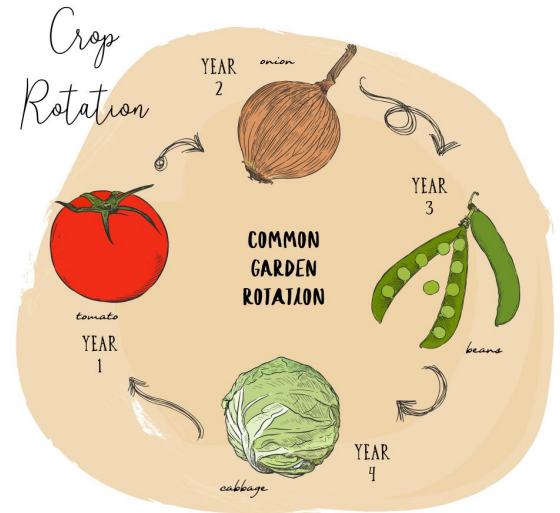
2. **Enclosure Movement:** Series of laws enacted by the British government that enabled landowners to purchase and enclose land for their own use which had previously been communal land used by peasant farmers. Resulted in:
- a. Emergence of commercial agriculture
  - b. Fewer and larger farms -> decrease in farm owners  
-> improvements in farming techniques ->  
decrease in agricultural laborers
  - c. Urbanization: Mass migration of people into the cities to work in newly emerging factories.



# The Second Agricultural Revolution

## Characteristics of the Second Agricultural Revolution

- Crop Rotation: Planting the same crop each year can deplete the natural resources in the soil. Farmers began rotating crops planted each year to sustain the fertility of the soil.
  - Led to increased crop yields, experimentation with fertilization techniques
- Transportation Improvements & New Markets
  - Trains and steamboats allowed farmers to ship their products further and at a lower cost.



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