

Socio economic stage's of

Human
Develop
ment

Hunting and gathering culture

1) **Hunting and gathering culture**, also called **foraging culture**, any group of people that depends primarily on wild foods for subsistence. Until about 12,000 to 11,000 years ago, when agriculture and animal domestication emerged in southwest Asia and in Mesoamerica, all peoples were hunters and gatherers. Their strategies have been very diverse, depending greatly upon the local environment; foraging strategies have included hunting or trapping big game, hunting or trapping smaller animals, fishing, gathering shellfish or insects, and gathering wild plant foods such as fruits, vegetables, tubers, seeds, and nuts. Most hunters and gatherers combine a variety of these strategies in order to ensure a balanced diet.

Many cultures have also combined foraging with agriculture or animal husbandry. In pre-Columbian North America, for instance, most Arctic, American Subarctic, Northwest Coast, and California Indians relied upon foraging alone, but nomadic Plains Indians supplemented their wild foods with corn (maize) obtained from Plains villagers who, like Northeast Indians, combined hunting, gathering, and agriculture. In contrast, the Southwest Indians and those of Mesoamerica were primarily agriculturists who supplemented their diet by foraging.

A foraging economy usually demands an extensive land area; it has been estimated that people who depend on such methods must have available 18 to 1,300 square km (7 to 500 square miles) of land per capita, depending upon local environmental conditions. Permanent villages or towns are generally possible only where food supplies are unusually abundant and reliable; the numerous rivers and streams of the Pacific Northwest, for instance, allowed Native Americans access to two unusually plentiful wild resources—acorns and fish, especially salmon—that supported the construction of large permanent villages and enabled the people to reach higher population densities than if they had relied upon terrestrial mammals for the bulk of their subsistence.

civil society

Conditions of such abundance are rare, and most foraging groups must move whenever the local supply of food begins to be exhausted. In these cases possessions are limited to what can be carried from one camp to another. As housing must also be transported or made on the spot, it is usually simple, comprising huts, tents, or lean-tos made of plant materials or the skins of animals. Social groups are necessarily small, because only a limited number of people can congregate together without quickly exhausting the food resources of a locality; such groups typically comprise either extended family units or a number of related families collected together in a band. An individual band is generally small in number, typically with no more than 30 individuals if moving on foot, or perhaps 100 in a group with horses or other means of transport.

However, each band is known across a wide area because all residents of a given region are typically tied to one another through a large network of kinship and reciprocity; often these larger groups will congregate for a short period each year.

Where both hunting and gathering are practiced, adult men usually hunt larger game and women and their children and grandchildren collect stationary foods such as plants, shellfish, and insects; forager mothers generally wean their children at about three or four years of age, and young children possess neither the patience nor the silence required to stalk game. However, the capture of smaller game and fish can be accomplished by any relatively mobile individual, and techniques in which groups drive mammals, birds, and fish into long nets or enclosures are actually augmented by the noise and movement of children.

The proportion of cultures that rely solely upon hunting and gathering has diminished through time. By about 1500 CE, many Middle and South American cultures and most European, Asian, and African peoples relied upon domesticated food sources, although some isolated areas continued to support full-time foragers. In contrast, Australia and the Americas were supporting many hunting and gathering societies at that time. Although hunting and gathering practices have persisted in many societies—such as the Okiek of Kenya, some Australian Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders of Australia, and many North American Arctic Inuit groups—by the early 21st century hunting and gathering as a way of life had largely disappeared.

Herding Societies

People have been herding this rare breed of sheep (piebald or Jacob sheep) for thousands of years.

Herding is the practice of caring for roaming groups of livestock over a large area. Herding developed about 10,000 years ago, as prehistoric hunters domesticated wild animals such as sheep and goats. Hunters learned that by controlling animals they once pursued, they could have reliable sources of meat, milk and milk products, and hides for tents and clothing.

Many animals naturally live and travel together in groups called herds. Goats, sheep, and llamas, for instance, live in herds as a form of protection. They move from one fertile grassland to another without an organized direction.

Predators such as lions, wolves, and coyotes pose major risks to domestic herds. Herders have traditionally provided protection for the animals. Herders

also keep the herd together and guide it toward the most fertile grassland.

Herders often specialize in a particular type of livestock. Shepherds, for instance, herd and tend to flocks of sheep. Goatherds tend to goats, and swineherds to pigs and hogs.

Herders who tend to cattle were once called cowherds. Most cowherds are now known as cowboys. In Australia and New Zealand, cowboys are called jackaroos and jillaroos. In Latin America, they are known as *vaqueros*.

Herders often use herding dogs to help them tend their herd. Herding dogs have been bred to respond to the whistle or other commands of the herder. They keep a herd of sheep, goats, or cattle together. Herding dogs, such as kelpies and koolies, can also guide herds through dangerous terrain. Herding dogs are so skilled and efficient that they often participate in competitions. At these competitions, called trials, herding dogs move animals around an enclosure, through a series of fences and gates.

Larger dogs are often used by herders as livestock guardian dogs. These dogs, such as Great Pyrenees, have been bred to protect herds, usually sheep and goats, from predators such as wolves and coyotes. In Africa, livestock guardian dogs such as Anatolians protect domestic herds from lions and cheetahs.

Herding often takes place in transition zones, where land is not fertile enough for intensive farming. Animals can live on the forage of these grasslands, while people cannot.

3) Nomadic Herding

There are several different types of herding. One of the most ancient forms of herding is nomadic herding. Nomadic herders roam in small tribal or extended family groups and have no home base. Nomads live in arid and semiarid parts of Africa, Asia, and Europe, and in the tundra regions of Asia and Europe.

In Africa, nomads herd cattle, goats, sheep, and camels. In the tundra, they usually herd domesticated reindeer. Other animals managed by nomadic herders include horses, musk-oxen, and yaks. For many nomads, their herds provide meat, milk, and hides for their own use, as well as for trade.

Nomadic herding is sometimes considered a form of subsistence agriculture. It actually is not. Subsistence farmers grow and harvest crops mostly for their immediate family and community. Unlike subsistence farmers, herders are

traditionally wage-earners: They sell their herds' materials for goods and services, or herd other people's animals for a fee. Often, this trade is part of the informal economy—not accounted for by the government of a region. In Africa, the United Nations estimates that herders are responsible for more than \$100 million in economic activity every year.

The Fulani people of Nigeria have long been nomadic herders. They move with their cattle from one grazing area to another. The cattle feed on scrub and grasses in land unsuitable for farming. The Fulani rely on cattle for milk, but rarely slaughter the animals for meat.

Nomadic herding as a way of life is declining because of natural disasters such as droughts, loss of land area due to development and degradation, and pressure from governments to lead a settled existence.

4 Semi-Nomadic Herding

Semi-nomadic herders live a more settled life than nomads, but still follow their herds for long periods of time. Millions of Mongolians, for example, have been semi-nomadic herders for thousands of years. They traditionally herd sheep, goats, horses, and Bactrian camels. Today, about a quarter of Mongolia's population continues to live a semi-nomadic herding lifestyle.

Semi-nomadic herders can be associated with invasions. The Mongol leader Genghis Khan conquered almost all of Asia by uniting various nomadic and semi-nomadic tribes in the 1200s. Their familiarity with vast tracks of land, and living in sparse conditions for long periods of time, made these herders ideally suited to moving across varied terrain.

The Sami are semi-nomadic herders indigenous to the Arctic. They live throughout northern Norway, Sweden, Finland, and on the Kola Peninsula of Russia. For centuries, the Sami have herded reindeer as a principal means of livelihood, supplemented by fishing and trapping.

Development has made it difficult for semi-nomadic herders to sustain their traditional way of life. State and national borders, for example, have divided traditional Sami land. Industries like timber and mining have reduced grazing land. Today, some laws exist to protect the Sami and their rights to use the land, but conflicts still exist.

Transhumance

Another type of herding is called transhumance. Transhumance herders follow a seasonal migration pattern, usually moving to cool highlands in the summer and warmer lowlands in the winter. Unlike nomads, these herders move between the same two locations, where they have permanent settlements.

Transhumance has had an enormous impact on the landscape. In the European Alps, for instance, thousands of years of transhumance have transformed foothill forests into alpine pastures. Swiss and German herders traditionally led sheep, cattle, and pigs to pastures at elevations above 2,000 meters (6,562 feet).

Transhumance in the Alps actually involved three herding grounds. The village floor, at the lowest elevation, was where livestock were kept sheltered during the cold and snowy winter months. Shepherds led herds to the middle pastures during the spring. During the summer and fall, shepherds led sheep and cattle to the high alpine pastures, while pigs stayed in the middle area.

Transhumance is still widely practiced throughout agricultural communities in Switzerland, Germany, Austria, Italy, and Slovenia.

The Kirghiz horsemen of Central Asia used to migrate between regions of eastern Afghanistan, western China, and southern Tajikistan with their herds of goats, yaks, and camels. They would spend their winters in the lower valleys of China or Tajikistan, moving to high mountain grasslands in the summer.

When China restricted its borders to travelers, the Kirghiz transhumance herders lost the ability to summer in Chinese mountain valleys. While some Kirghiz have settled into sedentary lives in other regions, a small group still upholds their traditional lifestyle in the remote, austere Wakhan Corridor of Afghanistan.

Ranches

Most large-scale livestock herds today live on ranches. Ranching involves raising livestock on a single, large tract of land. Ranches are common in Australia and New Zealand, the western United States, Argentina, and Brazil. Ranchers don't migrate the way nomadic or transhumance herders do.

However, throughout most of the 1800s, ranchers in the United States set their cattle and sheep loose to roam the prairie as herds. Most of the grazing land was

owned by the government, not individual ranchers. This was the so-called "open range." Twice a year, cowboys would round up cattle for branding (in spring) and for gathering for sale (in autumn). Round-ups are still a part of ranching culture, but livestock now roam on private land.

Herding and Land Use

Herders maintain complex maps of the area where their herds graze. These maps include seasonal weather patterns; partnerships or conflicts with other herders, ranchers, or landowners; and soil quality. Herders can be excellent resources for data about the agricultural fertility of an area.

A herder's vast knowledge is threatened by the pressure to conform to modern society. Permanent residence allows members of a community to have access to education and health care facilities. It also affords members a greater choice in their professional and personal lives.

However, the complex social structure of herding communities is lost as they are absorbed into mainstream culture. Unique language and customs become outdated and not useful in settled urban or suburban life.

The Bedouin people of the Arabian Peninsula and the Middle East, for example, are almost entirely semi-nomadic and settled. Prior to the 20th century, Bedouins were mostly nomads, herding sheep and goats. A series of droughts in the 1960s throughout Western Asia limited fertile areas. Oil production in Egypt and Saudi Arabia further limited land available for grazing.

More importantly, however, Bedouins sought a better standard of living. Schools, health-care facilities, law enforcement, and social opportunities are usually greater in settled areas than through herding lifestyles.

5) Definition of an Agricultural Society

An **agricultural society**, also known as an **agrarian society**, is a society that constructs social order around a reliance upon farming. More than half the people living in that society make their living by farming.

People in an agricultural society generally lead a more settled lifestyle than those in nomadic hunter-gatherer or semi-nomadic pastoral societies because they live permanently near the land that is farmed. Agricultural settlements tend to develop in areas of convenience near bodies of water, which is used for both crops and transportation, or along trade routes. Not everyone in an agricultural society is a farmer. Some people make a living trading or making and selling goods such as tools used for farming.

Though there are modern societies based upon agriculture, most societies today are either **industrial societies**, or societies that depend on mass production of goods using technological means, or **postindustrial societies**, which are societies dependent on services rather than goods. Workers in postindustrial societies tend to be professional workers such as computer engineers or investment bankers rather than manual laborers. The United States is often described as being a postindustrial society.

Social Order

In general, citizens of contemporary nations like the United States enjoy a lot of **social mobility**. Social mobility is the ability that individual citizens have to move from one class into the next. Ideally, someone who grew up in a lower class can work hard, become educated, and get a job that would allow him to become a member of the middle or upper class. Similarly, if someone from an upper class does not have a job that earns a high salary, it is possible they will drop from an upper to a lower class.

The social order in an agricultural society is generally very different. Because farming is the basis for an agricultural society, the land is of utmost value. Therefore, those who own land hold more power than those who do not. One comparatively recent example of an agricultural society is feudalism under medieval Western Europe between the ninth and fifteenth centuries.

In a **feudal society**, a king owned all the land. The king allowed other, less powerful nobles to own and work portions of the land in exchange for a pledge of military support in the form of knights, soldiers, and goods. The land was then further divided by these lords among vassals with their own resources to loan to the lord. Commoners were allowed to work the land in exchange for protection and a small share of the resources they helped gather. In an ideal feudal society, the lowest tier of the social order, the **serfs**, benefited wholly from providing labor for their lord's interests. In reality, serfs were practically slaves and had little if any form of mobility. They were essentially attached to the land they worked.

As previously mentioned, not everyone in a large agricultural society was a farmer or was immediately dependent on farming. Some people lived in cities. They performed different jobs, such as teaching, making and selling goods such as military weapons, or constructing roads or ships.

5) **What is Urban Society, Meaning & Characteristics of Urban Society**

What is Urban Society

An urban living is similar to having the facilities of modern social life. Social interaction is fast and formal. The rate of social change is faster due to education in, technology, industry and urbanization. A complex social life is found in which the people or different races, professions, castes and religions live together. Anonymity is an important trait.

Characteristics of Urban Society

Dense Settlement Pattern: In urban societies, houses are constructed contiguous to each other due to shortage of land. Millions of populations resides within few kilometer of me area which shows high density of population.

Palatial Houses: Houses are made using brick, stone, marble and other modern infrastructure. A lot of palatial houses can be seen in these societies costing millions of rupees.

Urban Facilities: Urban facilities like electricity, gas, telephone, drinking water system, mobile phone, fax, internet, road networks, air ports, shopping mall and commercial center etc. are available in urban society.

Formal Social Interaction: Interaction among the members of society is generally of formal type. Secondary group and organizations have a lot of importance and played important role in need fulfillment.

Formal Group Life: Group life in this society is also of formal type. Formation of group is based on the need and common interests. Members get close to each other in order to fulfill their needs.

Division of Labor: Very clear and complex division of labor is found in every walks of life. People are trained for their job and functions according to needs of the people. Shortage of houses due to shortage of land and population pressure, there is always shortage of houses for the people of this society.

Social Institutions and Social Organizations: Basic social institutions and their working organizations are found fulfilling the very needs of the people.

Social Change: A high rate of social change is found. People of this society appreciate social change and are prone to adopt it rapidly.

Anonymity: Due to high population pressure, fast life, and social differentiation, a high degree of anonymity is found causing crime and violence.

High Standard of Living: Due to availability of civic facilities, industry and business activities, high standard of living is found comparing with rural society.