

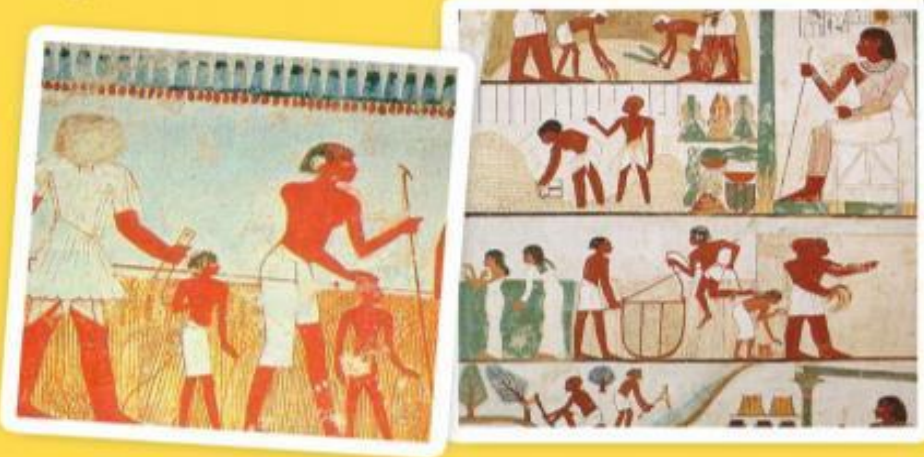
Unit 3 Home Learning Week 6

Thursday Reading

Farming

With the land that they had, the Egyptians would grow a large variety of crops including wheat, barley, figs, melons, pomegranates and vegetables. The water used in the flood from the Nile helped the soil stay fertile.

Of the crops that they grew, their most important harvest was grain. The grain was used to make beer, bread and porridge. Once the grain was safely cut, the farmers could start growing the vegetables like onions, cabbages, beans and lettuces.



The Seasons

A farmer's year was split into three seasons:

Akhet (June-September): The Flooding Season.

In the floods, no farming could be done so the workers would have to do other jobs to make money and pass the time like taking care of animals, serving their King (the Pharaoh) and fixing their tools for the year ahead.

Peret (October-February): The Growing Season.

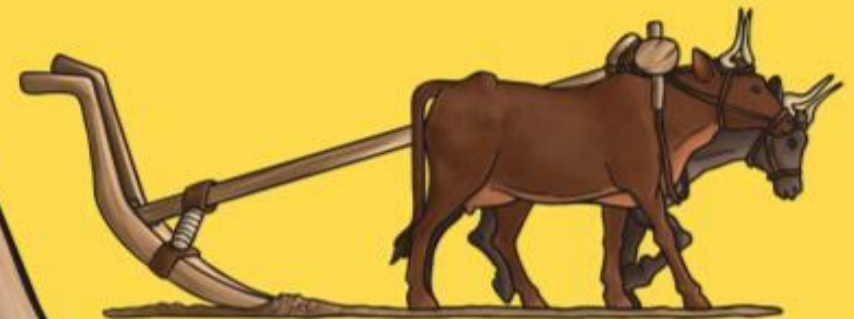
The flood water leaves behind the rich soil so the farmers can go into the fields to plough and sow them.

Shemu (March-May): The Harvesting Season.

By March, many of the crops are ready to be harvested. This job must be done quickly before the floods return.

Tools They Used

The Egyptians used tools similar to those still used today. They would use a hand plough or use an oxen to pull a larger plough. They also had tools like the mattock (left) which was a mix between a hammer and an axe, used to loosen the soil and remove stones. Other useful tools used in farming were rakes, hoes and a sickle; a curved piece of wood with a sharp blade of copper or flint on the inside, used to harvest crops (top left).



1. What crops could the Egyptians grow?
2. What did they make from grain?
3. How many seasons did the Egyptians split the year into?
4. What would farmers have to do during “Akhet”?
5. What animal are oxen similar to?

Answers

1. wheat, barley, figs, melons, pomegranate, vegetables.
2. beer, bread, porridge
3. 3 seasons
4. During Akhet, they'd have to get other jobs as they could not farm because the land was flooded.
5. Oxen are similar to cows.