

Neighborhood Heroes

Firefighters (fiy-
uhr-FIY-tuhrz) are
people who are
trained to put out
fires. They help
people in many
ways. Firefighters
rescue (RES-kyoo)
people and animals
in trouble. It is
hard work.



◆ Firefighters work hard to protect others.



◆ Both men and women work as firefighters.



History of Fighting Fires

It is hard to put out a fire. But, it was even harder a long time ago. When there was a fire back then, people would form a long line. The line stretched from the fire to water. The people filled buckets with water. Then, they passed the buckets down the line. The person closest to the fire threw the water on the fire. It did not work very well.



◆ A fireman pulling a fire wagon



◆ Firefighters fight a big fire in 1850.

Later, George Washington ordered the first fire truck. It was just a wagon. But, it was a big help. This made it easier to get water to the fire. Horses usually pulled the early fire wagons. Sometimes, men had to pull the wagons.

The city of Chicago on fire in 1871 →

An Unhappy Cow

In 1871, the city of Chicago burned to the ground. People think that a cow started the fire. She kicked over a lantern (LAN-tuhrn). Then, the barn caught on fire. And, the fire spread.



Depending on Farmers

People depend on farmers. They grow the food we eat. Other things are grown on farms, too. Cotton and wool come from plants and animals. It takes special skills to grow a lot of plants, or **crops**. It also takes a lot of hard work.



▲ This farmer cuts his wheat crop by hand.

▼ An early farming machine



Long ago, crops were raised by hand. Then, farming machines were **invented**. This helped farmers grow more crops. More crops fed more people. Farming has changed the way people live all over the world.

▼ Today, farmers use big trucks.

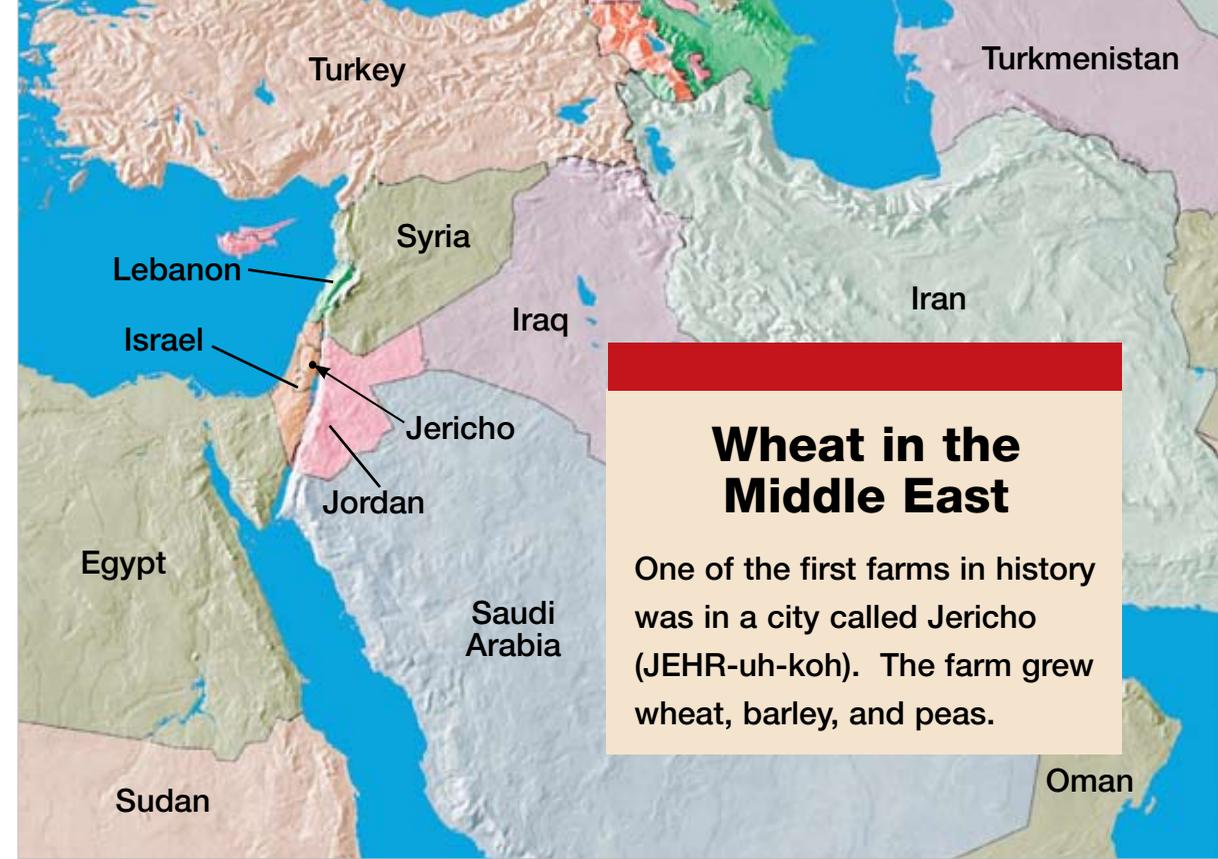


Before Farming

Farming began a very long time ago. The first farms were in the Middle East.

Before farming, people had to search for food to eat. They ate wild animals. They also ate plants. But, it was hard to find enough food. They had to travel a lot to find more food. This meant a lot of moving around.

▼ A cave drawing shows early men hunting animals.



Wheat in the Middle East

One of the first farms in history was in a city called Jericho (JEHR-uh-koh). The farm grew wheat, barley, and peas.

▲ Map of the Middle East

▼ The goddess Demeter

The Birth of Farming

Long ago, the Greeks believed that their goddess Demeter (dih-MEE-tuhr) gave wheat seeds to a priest. Then, the priest traveled around the earth and gave the seeds to humans. They believed that this was how farming began.

