

HUNTER OR FARMER?

Name:

Date:

Block:

Directions:

1. **READ** the introduction and the story.
2. **ANNOTATE** while you read the introduction **AND** the story (circle unknown words, underline important phrases, “talk back” by writing your thoughts)
3. **ANSWER** the questions at the end of the reading.

Talk Back Below!

About 12,000 years ago, the last of the Ice Ages ended. The world’s climate slowly grew warmer, the ice left, and the landscape and animals changed. Up to this time, humans had been **nomads** – they had no settled home. Instead, people lived in small groups that followed and **hunted** the huge animals, like mammoths and bison, living at the time, and they **gathered** wild grains, fruits, and nuts.

By about 10,000 years ago, many human groups had settled down and were growing their own food. Some of these farmers had also begun to **domesticate** (tame) once wild animals like cows and sheep. These early agricultural groups settled in **fertile** (rich) lands that had good supplies of water.

The humans did not all turn immediately to farming or raising animals. Wild animals were still there, and many people still enjoyed hunting. The man in our story seems determined to remain a hunter. But his friends have found new ways of caring for themselves and their families. As you read the story, ask yourself what you would do if you were faced with the same situation as Ogg the hunter.

East Africa 7500 B.C.

My name is Ogg, and I am a hunter. I usually walk a great distance each day to find my food. The animals often fight back, and I have been attacked and bitten many times by deer and goats. Twice I have come close to losing my life to lions.

I continue to hunt for a living, even though many of my friends have given up. They have learned to plant crops and keep animals. They live in houses made of brick, stone, and grass.

One day, while returning from the hunt, I happened to pass the field of my friends Ulana and Lute. Ulana was working in the hot sun.

She called out, “Ogg, how tired you look! Your life is so hard and dangerous!”

“I would rather hunt than work in a hot, dusty field,” I answered.

“Look how well we live,” replied Ulana. “We have a steady supply of meat, milk, vegetables, and wool. In fact, we have everything we need.”

“But you are paying a high price for these goods,” I answered.

“What price?” she said.

“You are paying with your freedom. You must spend all of your time tending to your crops and animals. You are not free to come and go as you please.”

“Your old friends are happy to live this way,” she responded. “We are not afraid, nor are we hungry. We all work together and help one another. Some till the soil. Others care for the animals. Still others make weapons and tools. We trade goods with people in other villages. You should give up the hunt and join us, Ogg. You will have a better life.”

I answered, “If I settle down and become a farmer, I will have to live according to the rules of the group. On the hunt, the only rules I have to follow are my own. Besides, the hunt is exciting. I even enjoy the danger. No, I will not join your group.”

I left Ulana and continued to hunt for my food. But last week I returned from the hunt empty-handed every day. I was cold, tired, and hungry. For the first time, I wanted the comfort and security that Ulana and her people had. I decided to go and to talk to Lute and Ulana.

Note: The people in our story had bows and arrows for hunting, and knives and tools for farming. They built houses of stone, mud brick, and grasses, and made their clothing from animal skins. But they did not have two essentials of civilization: writing and cities. Everything these people knew was told to them by their parents or by other people. All human knowledge was passed along from one generation to another by oral tradition. It would take thousands of years of living in communities before writing and cities evolved (developed).

Understanding the Story: You can write the answers in the spaces below.

Write True for each statement that is true and False for each statement that is false.

1. _____ No one knows exactly when modern humans first appeared on earth.
2. _____ During the Ice Age, the climate was colder and drier than today.
3. _____ About 10,000 years ago, all hunters became farmers.
4. _____ All of Ogg’s friends were hunters.
5. _____ Ulana encouraged Ogg to become a farmer like Lute and herself.
6. _____ Ogg often wrote letters to his friends.

Questions for Review: Answer on a **SEPARATE** sheet of paper.

1. What is a nomad? How are the lives of nomads and farmers different?
2. Why did Ogg refuse to change his lifestyle from hunter to farmer?
3. Why did Ulana feel that her way of life was better than Ogg’s?
4. Why did Ogg finally decide to talk to Ulana and Lute?

Activities: Choose **ONE** of the following activities to complete (continue to answer on the looseleaf paper you are using for the questions above)

1. Imagine that you are a reporter. You interview Ogg. What questions would you ask to find out his true feelings? You interview Ulana. What questions would you ask her? What would they answer the same? Differently?
2. Compare your life with either Ogg or Ulana. Which person in the story would be better able to cope with or handle life in your city? Why? What would you do to help either Ogg or Ulana adjust to your way of life?