

ACTIVITY : Reading “**Nurishtar invents the plough**”

Activity : reading comprehension gap

Aim : To study how wealthy is created through productivity thanks to the inventions of human being

Interaction: Individually

Language focus : reading and writing

Preparation : Photocopy one worksheet for each student

Procedure : Read this fictional story about a farmer named Nurishtar, who lived in the Fertile Crescent of Mesopotamia around 4000 B.C.E. After reading the story, complete the assessment by answering the questions.

Nurishtar invents the plough

Nurishtar was the eldest son in a very large family of farmers who grew grain used to make bread called **wheat** extracted from wild grains. Wheat was spread on a flat rock, placed over a fire and cooked into a primitive form of flat bread. Wheat could be stored for a long time. Nurishtar and his five brothers spent over 60 days in the spring each year ploughing the soil on their small plot of land. They used long pointed tree branches to work the soil by hand. It was very hard work. Each year, they grew just enough grain to produce the bread that the family would eat for the year. If the weather was good, they might have enough cereal to trade a small surplus of grain to others. If the weather was bad, they risked periods of hunger and had to look for other food. One day, Nurishtar had an idea: If he could attach a tree branch to one of the cows they raised, the cow could pull the tree branch through the hard soil. He designed a tool he called a “**plough**”. He attached the tree branch to a frame that was harnessed to the cow. The cow pulled the plough through the soil, creating furrows in which to plant seeds. Nurishtar or one of his brothers put their weight on the frame to push the tree branch into the ground. It took a long time to determine the right way to use the new tool and to train the cow to pull the plough. By using this innovation—the plough, pulled by the cow—Nurishtar and his brothers could work their plot of land in far less time and increase their productivity. Because they saved so much time, some of the brothers could spend their time making a new harness for the cow or building an irrigation ditch to bring more water to their land. When they had more water, they could plow a larger plot of land and grow more grain to make more cereal. They increased their production of grain. With some of the brothers free to work on other jobs, they built better homes and more tools. With a more abundant and sure food supply, they could have more children and enjoyed better health. Their standard of living improved, and they made a major contribution to the Neolithic Agricultural Revolution.

Fill in the blanks with the correct economic term

1. When Nurishtar and his brothers were able to plow their land in a shorter period of time, they improved their _____.
2. The plough was a/an _____ that made farming easier.
3. When Nurishtar's family could consume more food and build better homes, they improved their _____.
4. Because Nurishtar could work more land with the plough, he was able to increase his _____ of grain.
5. The invention of the plough was an important part of the _____

ANSWER QUESTION

Write in your notebook :

What resulted when ancient farmers like Nurishtar created new tools, such as the plough, and used new systems of farming and watering?