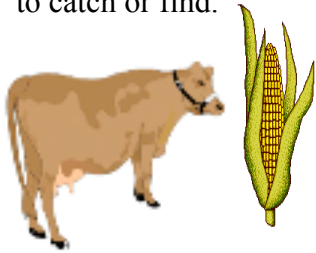


## Before Civilizations Develop

Before a civilization began to develop, the people lived on whatever natural resources were available. These people are referred to as hunter and gatherers because they had to hunt for animals or fish, and gather wild fruit and vegetables to eat. You can tell a lot about the way a people developed by thinking about their climate and geography. People who lived near the oceans probably depended on fish as a source of food. People who lived in the desert probably had to spend a lot of time wandering to and from places where there was fresh water. Wherever they lived, it was a hard life because they were never sure how they would survive if there was no food to catch or find.



## How Civilizations Develop

Civilizations began to develop as people looked for ways to have more food. Early peoples discovered it was better to grow their own food (**farm**) and **herd** their own livestock than to hunt and gather all of the time. That way, they would know where their next meal would come from.

When people were free from the constant hunt for food, they found that they had extra time on their hands. Gee, Free time! What to do? What to do? With all the extra time people began making things. Some people became artists while others learned to make things that made life easier, things like baskets, pottery, wagons and wheels, blankets, shoes, clothes and the list goes on. The people who made these things were called **skilled craftspeople** and Many of the things they made took the form of early **technology**.



After a time, things started to add up. People had a surplus of food (that means extra) and they also had a surplus of all of the new stuff they had been making. Gee, lots of stuff! What to do? What to do? People began to **trade**. A person with extra food could trade it for a new basket, or blanket or . . . You get the idea. What made this so great was that people could specialize in doing certain things. People who were good at farming farmed. People who were good at making wheels, made wheels. More people being good at more things added up to more production and that means more stuff.

Now that there was an even greater surplus of things and food, there was even more trading. It wasn't practical to walk all over the countryside trading for things a person needed, so people decided to meet in one place (like a swap meet). These places became market places and some people decided to live close to the marketplace so they could trade everyday. Some people began to make their living by trading. They built houses and stores and these market places became **towns**.



Now there were centers of business and trade called towns and people were trading everyday. Soon they needed to keep track of who traded with whom, who owed money, and who didn't pay their bills. Gee, all this stuff to remember! What to do? What to do? Write it down! People found it necessary to develop ways of keeping records so **writing systems** developed.



Towns had a lot of people and goods in them and soon there were people who would take stuff that wasn't theirs, or even hurt other people. Criminals! There was a need to create laws and rules to make people treat each other fairly. People making laws and enforcing laws in each town became a form of local **government**.

As time went on people began to travel over long distances to trade. As they did, they would share ideas and skills. Gradually communities grew larger. Some fought with each other. Slowly the world grew to what it is today. But now, you know how it all began.