Neolithic Revolution Practice SAQs

“What seems to have happened is that in unusually rich and diversified landscapes, communities of hunters and gatherers found it convenient to settle down for all or most of the year, whereupon already familiar methods for encouraging the growth of useful plants acquired wider scope than before...Whenever communities settled down, it was convenient to have especially useful plants growing close by…It is easy to imagine that whenever individual women began to create gardens of useful plants around their dwellings, they developed a sense of personal and familial ownership on the strength of the sweat they expanded and the proximity of the garden to their home. ”

— McNeil & McNeill, *The Human Web*, 2003.

“One factor is the decline in the availability of wild foods. The lifestyle of hunter-gatherers has become increasingly less rewarding over the past 13,000 years, as resources on which they depended (especially animal resources) have become less abundant or even disappeared…[M]ost large mammal species became extinct in North and South America at the end of the Pleistocene, and some became extinct in Eurasia and Africa, either because of climate changes or because of the rise in skill and numbers of human hunters...A second factor is that, just as the depletion of wild game tended to make hunting-gathering less rewarding, an increased availability of domesticable wild plants made steps leading to plant domestication more rewarding.”

—Jared Diamond, *Guns, Germs, and Steel*, 2007.

**1. Use the excerpts above to answer part a.**

1. Briefly describe ONE major difference between McNeill & McNeill’s and Diamond’s interpretation of the agricultural revolution.

# #2. Early Civilizations SAQ

1. Briefly describe ONE characteristic of early, Paleolithic civilizations.
2. Briefly describe ONE new invention that was a part of the “secondary effects revolution.”

c) Briefly describe why ONE particular domestication of plant or animal was the most important in the Agricultural Revolution.