

# SWOT: The Beginning of Farming

Farming began between ten and twelve thousand years ago. We take it for granted now, but this way of life forms only a miniscule proportion of human life on earth. How has it enriched our lives? Conversely, to what problems does it lead?

## S

### Strengths

- reliable food source
- fewer fractures and life-threatening injuries
- can support a greater population and larger families
- nomadic lifestyle no longer required
  - more possessions
- creativity and new ideas
  - division of labour → experts in a given field

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### Weaknesses

- less leisure time
- more water required
- less variety of food
- more intensive labour
- poorly distributed food → inequality
  - deforestation and environmental damage

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### Opportunities

- planning for the future
- able to settle in one place
  - chance to focus on advancing technology
  - increased trade
- broader range of people in any given community
- cultural development, e.g. art, education, architecture, tool-making, etc.

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### Threats

- famine, drought
  - theft
- unpredictable weather, e.g. storms, lightning, natural disasters
- sickness and disease (due to closer living quarters)
  - pests
- loss of stored food supplies

