

Additional Resources – Reading Comprehension

The Stone Enquirer

Read the text on the following pages then answer the questions below.

1. What writing technique has been used in the headline and why?

2. Which foods are gathered whilst travelling great distances?

3. In paragraph one, which word has a similar meaning to 'travellers'? Why do they travel?

4. Why did Mr. Granite choose to create his 'farm'?

5. Look at the paragraph which begins, '*Granite explains...*'

Find and copy the adjective which describes animals being kept on a farm.

6. Give two ways that Mr. Granite's farm will improve the way of life for his community.

7. '*We have shared the labour between all the residents.*' In this sentence, explain what 'labour' is referring to.

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8. *'others are replicating his idea.'* Explain what this phrase means.

9. Summarise the final paragraph in one sentence.

10. Based on what has happened, what might the next newspaper article report on?

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Exclusive: First 'Farm' Bears Fruit!

On Monday 14th May 4016 BC, Stone Enquirer reporter, Sam Sandstone, discovered a strange new innovation that may have the potential to change the way we live forever.

As our regular readers will know, most people today struggle to survive, travelling great distances to hunt and gather food for their families. People spend most of their time hunting for animals and gathering plants, such as roots, berries and seeds. For centuries, people have lived like nomads, moving from place to place without a settled home. This allows families to find new sources of food every day and prevents them from depleting the resources in one area.

This way of living has sustained us for many years, but now it seems a fascinating alternative has been found. One man has gone against the traditional methods of food gathering, creating an innovative way to produce food, and we, here at The Stone Enquirer, are here to give you the latest news on this modern way of living.

Our reporter, Sam Sandstone, discovered an area of land being used for food production that was known as a 'farm'. It belongs to Mr. Sandy Granite, a local man from Caveton. He explained to us how he first thought of the amazing idea in our exclusive interview.

"One day, I woke up and I was just so fed up of hunting and gathering day in and day out, travelling miles and miles just to find even the smallest amount of food.

I knew there had to be a better way to live," Mr. Granite explained. "I gathered a few of the animals I was planning on hunting, and penned them in a small area near the cave where I was staying at the time."

Granite explained that he uses these animals for both milk and meat and that keeping them in an enclosed area means they cannot hide or escape. He found that these animals had to be domesticated so they could be used for his own benefit. "Caging them made life so much easier. It meant that we no longer needed to travel to hunt as the animals were close by."

It seems that once Granite discovered this, he decided to add other animals in adjoining pens. This means that he can vary the type of food he eats daily. He now has a range of domesticated animals on his 'farm', including pigs, dogs, chickens and turkeys. He even uses cattle and horses to fetch and carry.



Our reporter also discovered that animal rearing was not the only new technique Mr. Granite has been experimenting with.

"I saved the seeds from the different plants and fruits I gathered, and then replanted them near to my home."

Mr. Granite explained that within a few months these seeds produced fruit that could be gathered and eaten. Following this success, he began to expand by growing a wider range of crops such as wheat and barley. He now eats these foods regularly and in such large quantities that they have become part of his staple diet. These foods now supply most of his family's energy. Mr. Granite called this new idea 'agriculture' and believes it will transform people's lives. Having staple crops and a regular source of meat means that he can now control and regulate his food supply.

Others in the local community have since approached Granite and have requested to follow his way of life. This includes local father of two, Rocky Shale. "Mr. Shale is a skilled fisherman and can make impressive tools from rock, wood and bone. He agreed to share his skills with me if I allowed him and his family to use my farm," commented Mr. Granite. Shale has since created many effective tools for use on the farm including flint sickles for harvesting crops and rounded stones for grinding wheat.

The idea is travelling fast, and now Granite's small 'farming' community has grown at a rapid rate, much like the crops he harvests. It is now the home for several families and is soon to hold even more. "We have shared the labour between all the residents. Men farm and herd the animals whilst women raise the children and take care of our homes."

When asked when they would be moving on to a new location, Mr. Granite replied, "We're not going anywhere! We are all planning to stay here and create a farming village of our own." This may eventually lead him to build more permanent types of dwelling.

Only time will tell if Mr. Granite's creation will be a hit, but, as the success of his project begins to bear fruit, others are replicating his idea and creating small farming communities of their own.

"One day I hope to trade some of my produce with my neighbours and, through this, improve the quality of life for the families in my own community and elsewhere."

So, is Mr. Granite a genius and will his idea be a triumph? Or, as some believe, will the result be only failure as we pursue a goal of expanding and creating more 'farms'? Here at The Stone Enquirer we will be keeping a close eye on any new developments and our readers will be the first to hear of it.

Reported by Sam Sandstone