

Chapter 6

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Making A Living

Chapter Outline

- Human Adaptation and the Environment
- Major Types of Subsistence Strategies

Subsistence Patterns

- The ways in which societies transform the material resources of the environment into food, clothing, and shelter.
- Develop in response to:
 - Seasonal variation in the environment.
 - Environmental variations over the long run such as drought, flood, or animal diseases.

Human Adaptation

- Modern science and technology allow industrial societies to exploit their environments.
- Nonindustrial societies rely on their knowledge of their environment and ingenious, simple technologies.

Subsistence Strategies

Factors:

- Population density - number of people inhabiting an area of land.
- Productivity—yield per person per unit of land.
- Efficiency—yield per person per hour of labor invested.

Major Subsistence Strategies

- Foraging
- Pastoralism
- Horticulture
- Agriculture
- Industrialism



World Distribution of Subsistence Strategies

	Pastoral Nomadism		Commercial Grain Farming		Commercial Gardening and Fruit
	Livestock		Plantations and Small Farms		Intensive Subsistence, Wet Rice Dominant
	Shifting Cultivation		Crop and Livestock Farming		Intensive Subsistence, Wet Rice Not Dominant
	Mediterranean Agriculture		Commercial Dairy Farming		Little or No Agriculture

This map indicates the different ways of making a living through cultivation and animal husbandry as they are found in different environments.

Question

- As noted on the map of subsistence patterns in world environments, the major geographical areas of pastoral nomadism is (are)
 - a) the Pacific Islands.
 - b) Aboriginal Australia.
 - c) Saharan Africa to Central Asia.
 - d) across the continent of North America.
 - e) Mexico.

Answer: c

- As noted on the map of subsistence patterns in world environments, the major geographical areas of pastoral nomadism is **Saharan Africa to Central Asia.**

Foraging

- Relies on food naturally available in the environment.
- Strategy for 99% of the time humans have been on earth.
- Limits population growth and complexity of social organization.

Pastoralism

- Caring for domesticated animals which produce both meat and milk.
- Involves a complex interaction among animals, land, and people.
- Found along with cultivation or trading relations with food cultivators.

Transhumant Pastoralism

- Found mostly in East Africa
- Men and boys move the animals regularly throughout the year to different areas as pastures become available at different altitudes or in different climatic zones.
- Women and children and some men remain at a permanent village site.

Nomadic Pastoralism

- The whole population—men, women, and children—moves with the herds throughout the year.
- There are no permanent villages.

Horticultural

- Production of plants using non-mechanized technology.
- Plant and harvest with simple tools, without use of animals, irrigation, or plows.
- Typically a tropical forest adaptation and requires cutting and burning of jungle to clear fields for cultivation.
- **Swidden (slash and burn)**
A form of cultivation in which a field is cleared by felling the trees and burning the brush.

Agriculture

- Production of plants using plows, animals and soil and water control.
- Associated with:
 - Sedentary villages, the rise of cities
 - Occupational diversity
 - Social stratification

Peasants

- Food-producing populations that are incorporated politically, economically, and culturally into nation-states.

Question

- Agriculture is generally associated with all **except** which one of the following?
 - a) sedentary villages
 - b) the rise of cities and the state
 - c) increase in social equality across the society
 - d) occupational specialization
 - e) draft animals, plows and control of water and soil

Answer: c

- Agriculture is generally not associated with an **increase in social equality across the society.**

Transitions to Industrial Economy

Had an effect on many aspects of society:

- Population growth
- Expanded consumption of resources
- International expansion
- Occupational specialization
- Shift from subsistence strategies to wage labor

Questions

- The type of labor force needed in industrial societies includes all **except** one of the following?
 - a) large number of available workers
 - b) mobility
 - c) skills and education
 - d) individuals with obligations and responsibilities within their extended families and larger kin groups
 - e) willingness of many to work in low-paying and often monotonous jobs

Answer: d

- The type of labor force needed in industrial societies does not include **individuals with obligations and responsibilities within their extended families and larger kin groups.**

Effects of Global Exchange

Resulted in worldwide inequities:

- Cultivation oriented primarily toward the market
- Predominance of wage labor
- Control over culture and social institutions
- **Bureaucracy** - Cultivation oriented primarily toward the market.

Quick Quiz



1. According to archaeologists, the subsistence pattern engaged in for the longest time of human existence is
 - a) horticulture.
 - b) fishing and farming.
 - c) animal herding.
 - d) foraging.
 - e) village agriculture.

Answer: d

- According to archaeologists, the subsistence pattern engaged in for the longest time of human existence is **foraging**.

2. Ecological anthropologists are aware that the ways in which members of world cultures experience and conceptualize the physical and organic environment
- a) is a cultural universal.
 - b) results in cultures that live in one region or type of environment being almost identical.
 - c) are "culturally constructed."
 - d) reflects their use of all the resources within any given environment.
 - e) is not a relevant concern for their type of research.

Answer: c

- Ecological anthropologists are aware that the ways in which members of world cultures experience and conceptualize the physical and organic environment **are "culturally constructed."**

3. Subsistence practices of most world societies are
- a) geared to environmental circumstances in the immediate present.
 - b) designed to take into account the "extremes" that may occur only occasionally over time, e.g., drought, flooding, temperature changes.
 - c) are so varied from one culture to the next that they cannot be categorized.
 - d) are so specialized that most cultures have been unable to adapt to the rise of industrialism.
 - e) extremely fragile, so that a "bad year" may result in internal collapse and a need for change.

Answer: b

- Subsistence practices of most world societies are **designed to take into account the "extremes" that may occur only occasionally over time, e.g., drought, flooding, temperature changes.**

4. Perhaps the greatest concerns of many experts as a global economy develops is that of
- a) more communication between peoples of the world.
 - b) fewer opportunities to achieve satisfying ways of making a living.
 - c) the participation of women in the workplace.
 - d) environmental degradation.
 - e) increased mobility.

Answer: d

- Perhaps the greatest concerns of many experts as a global economy develops is that of **environmental degradation**.