

Introduction to Agriculture

Hunter-Gatherer Societies and The
Neolithic Revolution

Agriculture Defined

- The deliberate modification of Earth's surface through cultivation of plants and rearing of animals to obtain sustenance or economic gain.
 - Intentional planting of crops and raising of domesticated animals



Geography of Agricultural Origins



Hunter-Gatherer Societies

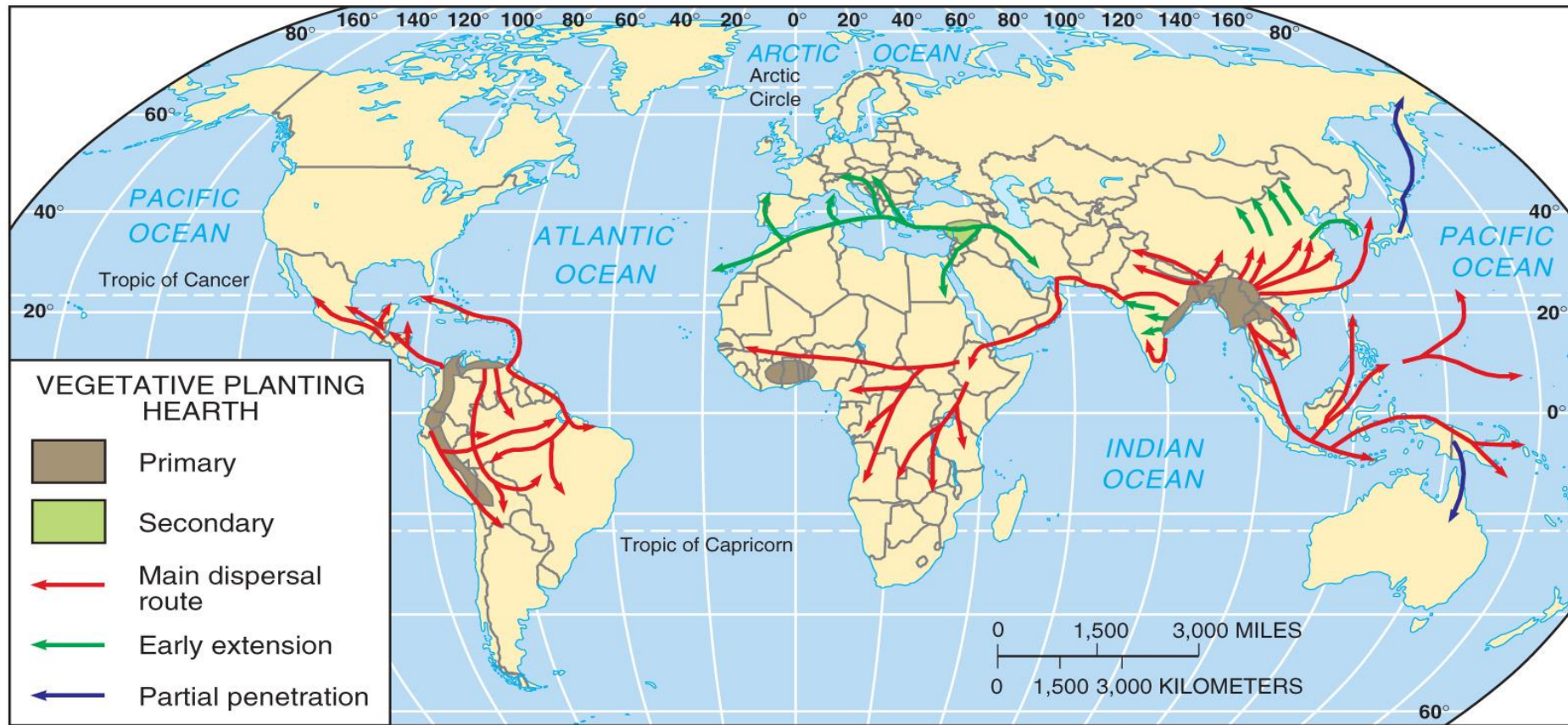
- Before the Neolithic revolution humans hunted for animals, fish, and wild fruits and vegetables
 - Hunters and gatherer groups were small
 - The men hunted game or fished, and the women collected berries, nuts, and roots.
- Where they traveled, and how often, depended on seasonal growths of plants and migratory patterns of animals



Neolithic Revolution

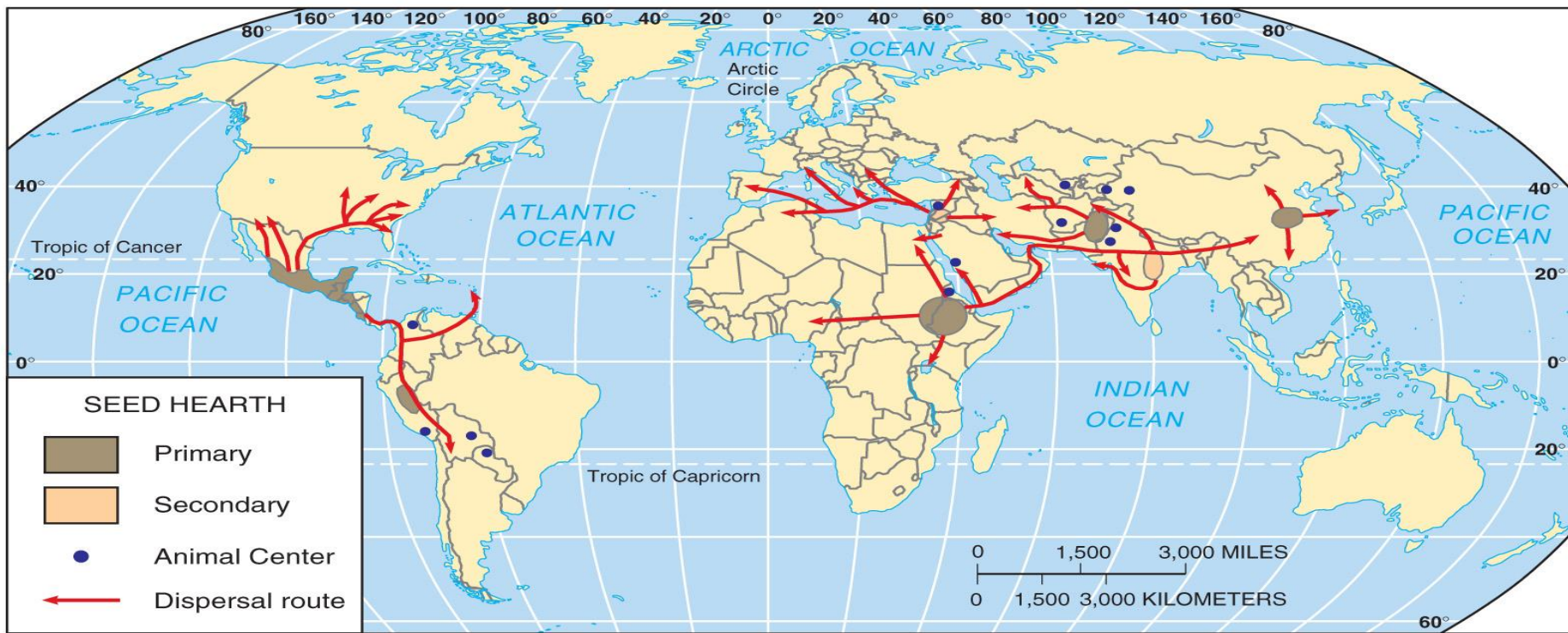
- Eventually plant cultivation evolved from a process of trial and error, and accidental experiment.
 - The earliest form of plant cultivation, according to Carl Sauer, was vegetative planting, direct cloning from existing plants, such as cutting stems and dividing roots.
 - Seed agriculture came later
- Domestication of animals probably originated in Southeast Asia
 - Dogs, pigs, and chickens

Vegetative Planting Hearths



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Seed Planting Hearths



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