

Ancient humans were nomadic hunter-gatherers. Why did we settle down and start farming?

After millions of years of our predecessors and us evolving as hunter-gatherers, humans abruptly stopped roaming, settled down and started to farm.

That process is loosely referred to as the Neolithic Revolution.

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This begs questions. If the [human brain hasn't changed in 200,000 years](#), how come this cultural change suddenly arose spontaneously around the world (albeit with differences of a few thousand years here or there)? Why did it first emerge in the [Near East](#) and China? What was so special about the Near East and China? What triggered this pivot?

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Possibly this: Our own biological and cultural evolution, along with exogenous geographical and climatic limitations, created a process that led modern humans to coordinate then cooperate, then collaborate – which could have led to a social bottleneck. By some point, even if you don't want to be a farmer, you can't turn back anymore, [researcher Ayelet] Shavit sums up.

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According to this thinking, there didn't need to be a specific notable trigger to explain the Neolithic Revolution. Not necessarily climate change and not a storm god. "We suggest that if we examine the processes of interaction, we don't need a dramatic trigger or event," she adds.

[**This is an excerpt. Read the original post here**](#)