

Analyzing the Effects of Participation in the “Zones of Interaction”

Complete the table below using the map shown at the front of the room, tracing the places where crops originated and their pattern of transmission.

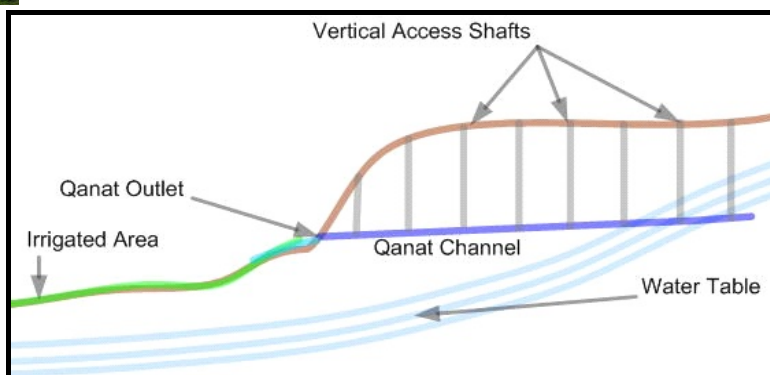
Crop (Arabic/Persian name)	English name	Location of Origin	Location of Furthest “Travel”
sukkar (Arabic)			
qutn (Arabic)			
laimun (Arabic)/limun (Persian)			
naranj (Arabic)/narang (Persian)			
sharbat (Arabic)			
isbanakh(Arabic)/aspanakh(Persian)			
arruz (Arabic)/brizi (Persian)			
al-badinjan (Arabic)/ badingan (Persian)			
al-kharshof (Arabic)			

Another important crop not shown is “durum” or “hard wheat,” which is the type of wheat often used in the making of bread (especially pita), pizza crust, and pasta.

These two photos below show norias from Cordova, Spain, (on left) & Hama, Syria. (right) Locate these general regions on the map. Do you expect these two devices to have been invented independently? Be able to justify your answer. How are these devices used as agricultural technologies?



Another technology that with which you are acquainted is the qanat, which is a well-like irrigation system that transported water from hills and mountains to arid valleys to be used for irrigation. Qanats were used across the Middle East and Central Asia.



Based on these observations work with your group to develop answers to these questions: Some of your answers may apply to more than one question.

1. How would the introduction of these new crops affect the lives of all people in the Middle East?

2. Why would it be important to gain access to crops that could be grown and harvested 3 times/year?

3. What effects could new irrigation methods such as norias and qanats have on the Muslim world, which contains many arid regions?

4. What effects might an increase in efficiency in food production have on the # people needed for agriculture?

5. Who else (besides farmers) would benefit from these new crops? What effects would new crops have on urbanization?

6. What does the Muslim Agricultural Revolution suggest about the effects of participation in Zones of Interaction on people of all economic backgrounds?

7. Some historians have argued that the emergence of the Muslim Caliphate marked an end to older empires and undermined previous patterns of trade. What does the MAR suggest about the impact of Muslim expansion?

8. What does the MAR suggest about the relationship between humans and the environment?



Transmission of New Crops to the Islamic World, ca. 1000

- | | | | | | |
|---|--|---|------------|---|-----------|
|  | Islamic world, ca. 1000 |  | eggplant |  | sugarcane |
|  | spread of crops from India |  | safflower |  | bananas |
|  | spread of crops from South and southeast Asia |  | mung bean |  | taro |
|  | spread of crops from China (by way of southeast Asia/Indian Ocean) |  | cotton |  | orange |
|  | Transmission of crops beyond Islamic frontier |  | lemon/lime |  | rice |