

Farming Today vs. Farming in 1850

ALL LEVELS



Homeplace 1850s Working Farm

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Comparing Farming Today vs. Farming in 1850

What is a Farm?

An area of land and its buildings used to grow crops and raise animals, usually owned by a single farm family.

- **200 years ago, 90 %** of the U.S. population lived on farms and *produced their **own families** food to eat.*
- **Today, only 2%** of the U.S population lives on farms and *produces food for the **world** to eat.*

That's a **big change** in the amount of people farming and producing food to make sure that everyone has enough to eat.



Think about how your family gets their food today. We can go to a **supermarket** and walk up and down the isles and to pick out everything we need, from meat to milk to apples.

Families of the past got their food very differently. Many lived on **farms** where they could **grow their own** vegetables, and raise animals for meat, milk and eggs and even clothing.



List things that you buy at a supermarket that come from a farm.



How people work on a farm has changed over time.

Farmer: A person who owns or works the farm.

Farming: Working the farm to grow crops and raising animals.



Compare each of the pictures below .



A _____



B _____

Label the pictures above for the time period it represents. | 1850's Farm or Farm of Today

- ◆ What type of plow will you see at the Homeplace 1850s Farm? _____
- ◆ What is the farmer using to get the fields ready to plant? _____
- ◆ Which type of plowing do you think takes longer? _____
- ◆ Which farmer can have a bigger farm and feed more people with less work? _____
- ◆ Find the: Tractor Mule Plow

Fill in the blank: Food Sunlight Gasoline

- ◆ What type of energy is used to make the tractor go? _____
- ◆ What type of energy is used to make the horses/farmer go? _____
- ◆ What type of energy makes the crops grow? _____

Gardens and Fields on the 1850s Farm

To be able to **survive**, the family farm had to be able to **produce** most of the food they would eat for the entire year. **Gardens** were planted in **spring, summer** and **fall** with different vegetables so the family could have fresh vegetables in spring and summer and **preserved** vegetables in fall and winter. Gardens had to be large enough to feed the family. The bigger the family the bigger the garden.



Farmers also had **fields** where they raised their **crops**. Fields were **larger** than gardens. Crops were used to feed the animals on the farm, feed the family and trade or sell for goods. Common crops grown were **tobacco, corn, oats** and **wheat**.

