

Mary Jo Smith
Section 23345

Initial Search

Broad topic: Origins of farming, or agriculture.

Narrowed topic: Humans had their origins as hunters and gatherers – they went out and *found* food. Then, at some point, they started growing edible plants, and keeping animals for food. I am mostly interested in the plants. What caused groups to shift to cultivating plants? Was it population pressure? What are the latest theories?

Cohen, Mark Nathan. The Food Crisis in Prehistory: Overpopulation and the Origins of Agriculture. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1977.

This book is at Cabrillo College Library. Its call number is GN799.F6C64 1977. It is on the shelves. I physically looked at this book.

The book has a bibliography and an index.

Subject headings used for the book are:

- Prehistoric peoples -- Food
- Prehistoric peoples -- Population
- Agriculture -- Origin
- Food supply -- History

The book is a bit dated (published in 1977), but seems to cover the subject very well.

Price, T. Douglas, and Anne Birgitte Gebauer, eds. Last Hunters, First Farmers: New Perspectives on the Prehistoric Transition to Agriculture. Santa Fe, N.M.: School of American Research Press, 1995.

This book is at Santa Cruz Public Library. It is located at the Central Branch; its call number is 306.349 LAS. It is available.

The book includes bibliographical references, and has an index. It is illustrated and has maps.

The book was given one subject heading:

- Agriculture -- Origin -- Congresses

This book is more up to date (published in 1995)

Smith, Bruce D. The Emergence of Agriculture. New York: Scientific American Library, 1995.

This book is at Cabrillo College Library. Its call number is GN799.A4S52 1995. It is on the shelves. The book includes bibliographical references, and has an index. It also includes illustrations and maps.

Subject headings used for the book are:

- Agriculture -- Origin
- Agriculture, Prehistoric
- Plants, Cultivated -- Origin NOTE: This could be a very good subject heading to use!
- Domesticated animals -- Origin
- Nature -- Effect of human beings on
- Paleoethnobotany

This book is also fairly recent (published in 1995)