Agriculture & the Cultural Landscape

Honor’s global – AVHS
First, what is the “Cultural Landscape?”

Cultural landscapes are landscapes that have been affected, influenced, or shaped by human involvement.
Agriculture’s impact on the cultural landscape

Pattern of land ownership that can be seen in the landscape
Rectangular Survey System in the US

This came about because land was bought and sold in 1 square mile increments after the Revolution.

Homestead Act also parceled out land in this shape
the French Long-Lot system in French Settlements

Divided land into narrow parcels stretching back from rivers or canals
Size of the plots of land also depend on inheritance rules within a culture.

The Germans - primogeniture - 1 son gets all the land so the plots are bigger.
Divided heirs = divided land

England passed the Enclosure Act to consolidate land so this wouldn’t be the case.
Terracing

AKA how to farm on a hillside
Commercial agriculture

MDCs

Monoculture or monocropping

Large scale grain producers and cattle ranches, mechanized equipment, and factory-type labor forces.

The Pop culture of food
Related term: Agribusiness

agriculture conducted on commercial principles, especially using advanced technology.

Monsanto (now Bayer) – chemicals, GMOs are a big part of Agribusiness
Mass production of Animals as Agribusiness
Commercial Farming In LDCs

Plantation agriculture

Colonial legacies that persist in poorer, primarily tropical, countries.
Plantation farming continued

Common crops: Tea, Coffee, Rubber, cocoa, palm oil
Subsistence Agriculture

Farming to feed yourself and your family

Labor intensive

Land intensive
Pastoral Nomadism

In arid and semi-arid climates

Cattle

Camels

reindeer
Slash and Burn/SwiddeN
Agriculture/Shifting
Cultivation
REDD

Rice in Southeast Asia
Maize (corn) in South America
Millet and Sorghum in Sub-Saharan Africa