

More Changes

By the end of the Archaic period, life for Native Americans changed even more. They started farming and living in villages.

Growing Food

About 3,000 years ago, Native Americans in Kentucky began to grow squash, sunflowers, and other plants. At about the same time, people from other regions brought corn and beans to Kentucky. People in Kentucky began to grow these crops, too.

Agriculture, or farming, required clearing the land. That involved a lot of work. It made little sense to move to another place after only one harvest. If people did that, they would have to start over and clear new land. Instead, they stayed and planted crops

again on the same land. In addition, people had to stay close by to care for and protect the crops.

Settling Down

As a result of farming, Native Americans started building **permanent**, or long-lasting, shelters and staying in one place. They still went out hunting, sometimes for days. When the hunt was over, though, they returned home. In time, they formed villages.

Most villages in Kentucky were built along rivers and streams. Sometimes, native peoples who did not farm attacked the villages to get the food that was stored there. Some villagers built walls for protection against such attacks.

READING CHECK MAIN IDEA AND DETAILS

How did Native Americans change the land to meet their needs?

► **EARLY FARMING** Men used large sticks to break up the soil, women used hoes to make furrows, and then smaller sticks were used to make holes in which the seeds were planted.

