

## “The Worst Mistake” Reading Guide

Respond to each question in **complete sentences**. Read the entire question and answer every part.

1. What is Diamond’s main argument in this essay?
2. What is the popular perspective that Diamond challenges in this essay? What does this perspective believe?
3. According to progressivists, why was agriculture superior to hunting and gathering? List the three main reasons Diamond cites in paragraph 4.
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4. According to Diamond, how is the day-to-day life of modern farmers different from the day-to-day life of modern hunter-gatherers?
5. According to Diamond, how is the diet of modern farmers different from the diet of modern hunter-gatherers?
6. How do paleopathologists test the health of ancient humans?

7. How did humans physically change after adopting agriculture? What caused this change?

8. Describe three major ways in which societies changed after adopting agriculture:

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9. How did agricultural societies gain superiority over hunter-gatherers?