

PEOPLE . PLACES

THE HISTORY OF FOOD

5 x 30' (ENG, GER)

Go back in time to our earliest hunter-gatherer beginnings all the way to the future of seed storage and food production.

The history of food is the history of human life itself. From hunting and gathering on the savannas of Africa to the cornucopia of the modern American supermarket, our primal and essential need for food and drink has driven human evolution, invention, and society. In keeping with the age old adage, "you are what you eat," the series focuses on the indelible link between us and what's on our plate.



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1. The Invention of Cooking

Humans have depended on fire for millennia, but do we fully understand the impact it has had on our diet? When our hunter-gatherer ancestors learned to harness this tool, it ignited a culinary and cerebral revolution believed to be one of the most important factors in our evolution.

2. The Agricultural Revolution

From the first row of planted crops, the practice of agriculture rendered man's hunter-gatherer lifestyles obsolete in favor of settled life and stable food supplies. This led to a skyrocketing population and enabled humans to develop skills outside of gathering the food needed to survive.

3. Fermentation, Preservation and Exploration

Just as humans have always sought food to survive, we have also sought the means to preserve that food. Right from the very moment of a kill or a harvest, food begins to break down. With preservation, we can plan for times of scarcity during times of plenty.

4. The Industry of Food

Industrialization brought the second great food revolution. Over the brief span of the 20th century, agriculture underwent greater change than it had since it was first practiced some 12,000 years ago.

5. The Future of Food

Industrialized and processed food has dominated the last century. Now, the question is, what's next? We go around the world to meet pioneers in urban farming, veganism, and insect protein production to find out what will be the future of food.