

Farming had changed little up to about 1700 but the eighteenth century saw an agricultural revolution and a corresponding large increase in food production. The Industrial Revolution of the nineteenth century brought mechanisation to many farms, which continued into twentieth century.

The image below was taken approximately 100 years ago and shows harvest time near the village of Poundstock in Cornwall.

### Student tasks

1. Use the image to identify five differences between farming today and farming 100 years ago.
2. Generate a caption to accompany the photograph.
3. Compare your caption with another student, pair or small group. Is your caption similar to that of others?
4. What similarities are there between farming in this image and today's agriculture?
5. How might the area have changed in the last 100 years?



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### Teaching notes

Students may note any of the following differences. Some are obvious from the image but others require prior knowledge of farming in the past:

#### In the past

- smaller fields and more hedgerows
- labour intensive, i.e. a large number of workers
- a lack of technology, e.g. a horse-drawn reaper-binder
- a lack of chemicals producing a more organic output

#### Today:

- larger fields with many hedgerows removed
- capital intensive, more machinery
- greater use of pesticides, fertilisers and possibly GM crops with a corresponding increase in production/hectare
- greater involvement of government in the form of grants, subsidies and stewardship schemes
- farm diversification, e.g. farm shops and an income from additional sources such as tourism

The 1881 census shows George Greenaway together with his wife, 12 year old son and three servants living at the 134 acre Trevisick Farm. All had been born in Cornwall. Other farm workers would have walked to the farm for seasonal employment.

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~kayhin/82271.html>

#### Image Credits

The image description from Heritage Explorer is ... A horse-drawn reaper-binder pauses during the harvest at Trevisick to pose for a photograph. Two men carry bales of corn. The tower of Poundstock church rises from the trees in the distance.

<http://www.heritage-explorer.co.uk/web/he/searchdetail.aspx?id=1072&crit=harvesting>

Additional historical images relevant to farming are available at:

<http://www.heritage-explorer.co.uk/web/he/search.aspx?crit=farming&start=1&pid=50&rt=0>