

UNIT FOUR

III In ancient Greece and Rome, a long tradition of literature was founded on an idealized notion of country life. This genre is often broadly referred to as pastoral, and it covers several forms of prose and both short and long verse. An idyll, for instance, is a short work describing one incident or scene in a rural setting. The most famous idylls are by the Greek poet Theocritus. Other important ancient pastoral works include those by the Greek Longus and the Roman poet Virgil. English poets picked up the theme, especially in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. John Milton, Edmund Spenser, and even William Shakespeare drew on pastoral imagery and forms.

PAST

Latin PASCERE, PASTUS “to feed (especially flocks or herds)”

PASTORAL (pā' tər əl) *adj.* Having to do with the country
Poet William Wordsworth's works often evoke images of the *pastoral* English countryside.

REPAST (rē past') *n.* A meal; food and drink for a meal
L. re, “again,” + pastus = *feed again*
Because he was on a diet, Josh could not enjoy the bounties of the great *repast* prepared for Christmas.
syn: feast

GREG

Latin GREX, GREGIS “herd, flock”

AGGREGATE (ag' rə gət) *adj.* Gathered into a whole; total
L. ad, “towards,” + gregis = *towards the herd*
The economist gave the board of directors an interesting presentation on *aggregate* demand for the company's goods.
syn: combined *ant:* individual

EGREGIOUS (e grē' jəs) *adj.* Standing out sharply as wrong or bad
L. ex, “out of,” + gregis = *out of the herd*
The feud between the station and the show's producers was based on an *egregious* error in an important report.
syn: glaring *ant:* minor

GREGARIOUS (grə ger' ē əs) *adj.* Liking to be with other people
The most important thing to have for a customer service job was a *gregarious* personality.
syn: social *ant:* unfriendly

AGRI

Latin AGER “field”

AGRARIAN (ə grər' ē ən) *adj.* Having to do with farming
In the early stages of our nation's development, the economy was primarily *agrarian*.
syn: agricultural *ant:* urban



The LIBRARIAN cares about farmers and other AGRARIAN affairs.

PEREGRINATION (per ə gri nā' shən) *n.* The act of traveling about; a journey
 L. per, "through," + ager = *through the fields*
 Johnny Appleseed's *peregrination* through the early United States has been the subject of many legends.
syn: journey

FRUI

Latin FRUI, FRUITUS "to enjoy, to harvest"

FRUITION (frōō ish' un) *n.* Fulfillment of an effort or desire
 The dreams of many people came to *fruition* on the day the railroad was completed.
syn: realization *ant:* frustration

FRUITLESS (frōōt' lis) *adj.* Yielding no positive results
 Ken's many hours filling out job applications were *fruitless*, landing him no lucrative employment offers.
syn: in vain *ant:* successful

RUS

Latin RUS, RURIS "country"

RUSTIC (rus' tik) *adj.* Having to do with the countryside; rural
 L. rus, "countryside"
 The *rustic* charm of the shepherd's little cottage made us want to stay in the country forever.

COL

Greek KOLOS "herdsman"

BUCOLIC (byōō käl' ik) *adj.* Having to do with country life or farms
 G. bous, "cow," + kolos, "herder" = *cow-herder*
 The family was forced to make the switch from the *bucolic* tranquility of their farm to the hectic city life of New York.

ID

Greek EIDOS "form, shape, little work of verse"

IDYLLIC (ī dil' ik) *adj.* Simple and pleasant
 G. eidyllion, "little form"
 Until the end of his life, Peter treasured the memory of his *idyllic* holiday in the mountains.

EXERCISES - UNIT FOUR

Exercise I. Complete the sentence in a way that shows you understand the meaning of the italicized vocabulary word.

1. Rather than the *idyllic* village she had expected, Maureen found Brownsville to be...
2. The volunteers at the animal shelter knew that their efforts had not been *fruitless* when...
3. The *pastoral* themes of the poem included...
4. The most *egregious* error made by the quiz-show contestant resulted in...
5. Ben was the most *gregarious* employee of the library, and could often be seen...
6. The author claims that his book took years to come to *fruition* because...
7. The cabin's *rustic* appeal came through in details like...
8. The *bucolic* setting of the little town inspired many poems about...
9. The meeting focused on *agrarian* issues, such as...
10. *Aggregate* sales for the year must be calculated differently than...
11. The family's frequent *peregrinations* resulted in...

Exercise II. Fill in the blank with the best word from the choices below. One word will not be used.

egregious rustic agrarian gregarious fruitless

1. A more _____ person would have been eager to meet everyone at the party, but Wendell, a shy child, hung back.
2. Ray, who had spent his life in the big city, was now in search of a more _____ lifestyle.
3. Abbie feared that her efforts to build a playground for the children might be _____, leaving them with the same trash-strewn vacant lot they had had for years.
4. Because the population is largely _____, it has needs that are different from those of the city-dwellers an hour away.

Fill in the blank with the best word from the choices below. One word will not be used.

repast peregrination pastoral aggregate fruition

5. The play opens in a(n) _____ setting, complete with sheep and hay bales.
6. To celebrate the athlete's success, the town held a grand _____ and invited everyone to dine.
7. Since talks between the divorcing couple were clearly not coming to _____, their lawyers decided to meet in court.
8. The poet's _____ in the isolated northern desert led him to write a book of verses on travel.

Fill in the blank with the best word from the choices below. One word will not be used.

bucolic gregarious aggregate idyllic

9. We enjoyed a(n) _____ holiday in the countryside of Ireland.
10. Hazel enjoyed the _____ loveliness of the fields of speckled cattle.
11. The _____ results of the national census were roughly similar to the census results by state.

Exercise III. Choose the set of words that best completes the sentence.

1. The _____ splendor of the farm that we visited convinced us to adopt a more _____ life-style.
 - A. agrarian; gregarious
 - B. egregious; agrarian
 - C. aggregate; gregarious
 - D. pastoral; agrarian
2. A(n) _____ error was made at the royal _____; the king was allowed to dine on spoiled food.
 - A. egregious; repast
 - B. pastoral; agrarian
 - C. idyllic; repast
 - D. bucolic; peregrination
3. Being a naturally _____ person, the mail carrier made many friends on his _____ through the country and town.
 - A. idyllic; peregrinations
 - B. aggregate; agrarians
 - C. gregarious; peregrination
 - D. bucolic; fruitions

4. The developer's attempts to build a new shopping center on the farmland were _____ because local residents wanted to preserve the area's _____ character.
- rustic; aggregate
 - fruitless; idyllic
 - idyllic; gregarious
 - aggregate; idyllic
5. Even the _____ pressure of all the citizens combined could not make the public works project come to _____.
- aggregate; fruition
 - idyllic; peregrination
 - fruitless; repast
 - egregious; repast

Exercise IV. Complete the sentence by inferring information about the italicized word from its context.

- In response to the *egregious* mistake in Gwyn's essay, her teacher will probably...
- When speaking of his birthplace, Anthony describes a *pastoral* setting, complete with...
- When Polly, the *gregarious* valedictorian of this year's graduating class, is surrounded by cheering classmates, she may do things like...

Exercise V. Fill in the blank with the word from the Unit that best completes the sentence, using the root we supply as a clue. Then, answer the questions that follow the paragraphs.

The next time you walk through the produce section of your local supermarket, think about the chemicals and pesticides lurking on those luscious-looking fruits and vegetables. Each year, American farmers layer tons of pesticides and chemicals onto our agricultural farmland, and no one really knows the long-term health effects of ingesting that tainted produce.

The return to organic farming that we have seen in the last few years is a response to these concerns. In fact, organic farming is at the forefront of the new _____ (AGRI) revolution. California farmer David Masumoto is one of a growing number of organic farming revolutionaries. He says that he wants everyone to know what tasting a great peach is really like. A devotee of organic farming, he gives the consumer the opportunity to buy healthy, tasty, organic produce. Masumoto favors working in harmony with nature rather than overpowering the environment with chemicals and pesticides. He avoids the potential harm of pesticides to his land and his products through his organic farming methods.

Due to legislation and the dedication of farmers such as David Masumoto, consumers today can take advantage

of a greater abundance of organic fruits and vegetables. There certainly are compelling reasons to try. The family that "goes organic" will be much healthier, since no one will need to worry about pesticide poisoning. An added benefit is that any _____ (PAST) of organic fruits and vegetables will always be more satisfying. It will be a new adventure to discover how produce really was meant to taste.

The organic farming scene is much closer to the family farm of earlier times in which man and nature mutually coexisted in a more peaceful setting than the general factory-type agribusiness farm of today. Organic farmers maintain that a natural approach to farming does not pollute the land; instead it leaves the air pure, without clouds of chemicals and pesticide sprays.

The benefits for the consumer are numerous. The California Department of Pesticide Regulation found in a ten-year study (1989-1998) that fifty-four percent of all conventional (non-organic) fruits and vegetables had pesticide residues. This telling statistic is diametrically opposed to the fact that in the same sample, only seven percent of the certified organic produce contained pesticides.

1. According to this article, a person should choose organic produce in order to
 - A. save the environment.
 - B. keep farmers in business.
 - C. reap the health benefits.
 - D. keep the air pure.

2. The main idea of this passage is that
 - A. organic farming is safer for people and the environment.
 - B. organic farming is more expensive and time-consuming.
 - C. the government opposes organic farming through regulations.
 - D. most farmers today are practicing organic farming.

3. According to the passage, organic farming
 - A. is a new invention.
 - B. can be linked to earlier times.
 - C. was invented by David Masumoto.
 - D. is very unpopular today.

Exercise VI. Drawing on your knowledge of roots and words in context, read the following selection and define the *italicized* words. If you cannot figure out the meaning of the words on your own, look them up in a dictionary. Note that *nomy* means “study of a particular field” and that *se* means “apart.”

Agronomy and plant genetics have come together in the new science of strategical bio-farming. Manipulation of a *segregant* gene has allowed for production of a hearty new strain of corn which can resist diseases and weather damage. The separation of the chromosomes in the original gene was accidentally achieved in a lab, but can now be brought about intentionally. Once the genetically different corn is available in seed form, the soil that supports it must be tested and monitored so that the highest yield is possible.