





Science V9/S2: Domestication of Corn

Corn is one of the most important plants in the world. It was domesticated 10,000 years ago. To domesticate means to be changed over time for the benefit of humans. Modern corn was domesticated from a grass called **Teosinte**. The Indigenous peoples of **Mesoamerica**, now located in modern day Mexico, created corn by carefully choosing which Teosinte plants to use **seeds** from.

Corn, Maize	Teosinte	Mesoamerica	Corn Seeds
			

This is a scientific process called **selective breeding**. Another word for selective breeding is **artificial selection**. Farmers only use seeds from their favorite plants. Eventually, the plant's genes will change, creating a new plant over time. This process turned the Teosinte grass into corn. Domesticating a plant can take thousands of years. However, this process is worth it as it eventually creates a better-tasting and easier-to-grow food **crop**.

Natural Domestication

