

reading module 1

Instructions: Read. Then complete each statement with three words from the text.

Pioneers of the Pacific

No one is sure how they did it or even why they did it, but over 3,000 years ago, people sailed into the Pacific Ocean in simple canoes. Within a few centuries, these people—now known as the Lapita—had migrated from Papua New Guinea to the island of Tonga, at least 2,000 miles to the east. They explored millions of square miles of the Pacific, and they discovered dozens of tropical islands never before seen by human eyes, including Vanuatu, New Caledonia, Fiji, and Samoa.

There is much we do not know about the Lapita. Although they traveled from the northern islands of Papua New Guinea, their language came from Taiwan, and their pottery seems to come from the Philippines. So, who were the Lapita? Did they come from one place in Asia or from several different places?

Archaeologists Matthew Spriggs and Stuart Bedford of the Australian National University are working to answer these questions. A Lapita cemetery on the island of Éfaté in the Pacific nation of Vanuatu has revealed information about Lapita customs, and DNA from the ancient bones may help to answer questions about the Lapita people. “This represents the best opportunity we’ve had yet,” says Spriggs, “to find out who the Lapita actually were, where they came from, and who their closest descendants are today.”

But even if the archaeologists can answer these questions, we still won’t know how the Lapita sailed so far east. However they arrived on the islands, the Lapita came to stay. Their descendants have lived in the region for thousands of years, and why not? They’re living in a tropical island paradise that many of us only dream about.

1. The Lapita migration took place more than _____.
2. The voyages of the Lapita people began from northern _____.
3. Nobody knows if the Lapita came from _____ or from a single place in Asia.
4. The descendants of the Lapita live in a region described as a _____.

Instructions: Read. Then respond to the prompts. Use reasons and examples from the text to support your answers.

Hey Lisette,

You've been talking about doing something a little different for your annual vacation trip for quite some time now. I think that this year you should come to the Venice of Mexico! Well, it isn't really Venice, but that's what people call it. Its real name is Mexcaltitán. You may not know this, but my grandparents live there.

What would it be like? Well, Mexcaltitán is a man-made island-city off the Pacific coast of Mexico in the Mexican state of Nayarit. It is very small (only about a half-mile wide) and shaped like a giant bicycle wheel; the streets of the city are perfect lines that all start at a park in the city center. Isn't that interesting? What's really fascinating, Lisette, is that Mexcaltitán sits low in the water that surrounds it, and from around September to December, water floods the streets and everyone rows from place to place in boats. This has given the island the nickname "Venice of Mexico"!

Fishing is the main source of food and work. In general, life there is very peaceful and slow. This is why my grandparents have not moved like many others who were pulled away to other places with better employment opportunities. In fact, the population is very small for a Mexican city ... only about 112,000 people.

What would you do? Well, it seems like the perfect place to come and relax. There's plenty of clean air, sailing, and fishing. There are no ancient temples or pyramids though ... just a plaza, a colonial church, small stores without names, and a museum that used to be the town cemetery. It's very humid, but I think that it would be so nice that you would fall in love with the "Venice of Mexico"! You definitely should think about it.

Paulina

5. The writer's grandparents

6. Mexcaltitán's shape

7. Boats

8. The most common job in Mexcaltitán

9. Population

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10. Weather
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Instructions: Read. Then answer the questions. Use reasons and examples from the text to support your answers.

Macquarie Island

Macquarie Island is a lonely place in the Pacific Ocean between New Zealand and Antarctica. Like many other places, it has a problem with invasive species. These are plants and animals that were brought from a different place. They grow and spread very quickly in their new home because local plants or animals cannot control them.

Cats were the first invasive species on Macquarie. Sailors used cats on ships to control rats, but some escaped. Rabbits were the second invasive species on the island. Hunters used to visit Macquarie to catch elephant seals. The hunters brought rabbits for food because there is not much to eat on the island. Unfortunately, some rabbits escaped, and their population quickly grew. This caused the cat population to grow, too, because the cats now had a lot of food.

The rabbits were eating all of the plants on Macquarie, so in 1968, scientists decided to do something. They introduced insects that carried a disease that kills rabbits. By the 1980s, the rabbit population had dropped from approximately 130,000 to only 20,000, and the island's plants had begun to recover.

Unfortunately, with fewer rabbits to eat, the cats began to eat sea birds. So, scientists tried to reduce the number of cats, but this was not a success either. Because there were fewer cats, the rabbit population increased, and they started eating the island's plants again.

Can the problem ever be fixed? Perhaps, but one expert thinks a solution will cost at least \$16,000,000.

11. Which animals did hunters try to catch?

12. What was the third species introduced on Macquarie Island?

13. How did the rabbit population change between the 1960s and 1980s?

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14. What does the writer suggest about Macquarie Island's problem?
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Instructions: Read. Then complete each statement with two words from the text.

Human Contributions to the Greenhouse Effect

Global warming is caused by the greenhouse effect. When light and heat from the sun reach us, most of it escapes back into space. Greenhouse gases help to trap some of the light and heat, which warms our planet. Cutting down and burning trees creates more greenhouse gases in the atmosphere than necessary.

About half of all the trees cut down in the world are used for fuel. Burning wood is especially common in developing countries where oil is very expensive or not easy to get. This problem is made worse because nobody replaces the trees that are cut down. In addition, the average US office employee, for example, uses approximately 10,000 sheets of paper every year. Only five percent of this paper is ever recycled. This makes the greenhouse effect stronger, and it overheats the Earth.

This leads to global warming, which is a problem because higher temperatures mean ice at the North and South Pole is melting. This leads to dangerous impacts such as rising sea levels, flooding, more and larger hurricanes and tornados, and droughts.

These are major problems, but many people think minor changes could help. For example:

- Recycle paper (as well as glass, plastic, metal, and electronics) as much as possible.
- Send memos and messages via email or text message.
- Store information as digital files instead of printing it out on paper.

15. The _____ is the cause of global warming.
16. Due to a lack of oil, people in _____ burn wood more often than in other places.
17. In the United States, a typical _____ uses around 10,000 pieces of paper every year.
18. Our planet is starting to experience _____ from disasters like flooding.
19. Some people are hopeful that making _____ could improve the situation.
20. Printing documents is worse for the environment than keeping them as _____.

