

World History and Culture  
Kailua High School  
Social Studies Requirement  
2023-2024

J. R. McNeill. "Of Rats and Men: A Synoptic Environmental History of the Island Pacific." Journal of World History: Vol. 5. no. 2 (1994).

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#### Vocabulary

1. labile: adjective: liable to change; easily altered
2. homogenization: noun: the process of making things uniform or similar
3. basalt: noun: a dark, fine-grained volcanic rock that sometimes displays a columnar structure. It is typically composed largely of plagioclase with pyroxene and olivine.
4. flora: noun: the plants of a particular region, habitat, or geological period
5. fauna: noun: the animals of a particular region, habitat, or geological period
6. attenuation: noun: attenuate: verb: reduce the force, effect, or value of; reduce the amplitude of; reduce in thickness.
7. biota: noun: the animal and plant life of a particular region, habitat, or geological period
8. alkaloid: noun: any of a class of nitrogenous organic compounds of plant origin which have pronounced physiological actions on humans. They include many drugs (morphine, quinine) and poisons (atropine, strychnine).
9. paucity: noun: the presence of something only in small or insufficient quantities or amounts
10. endemic: adjective: (of a plant or animal) native and restricted to a certain place

11. vulnerable: adjective: susceptible to physical attack or harm
12. diverge: verb: develop in a different direction; differ markedly
13. biogeographical: adjective: related to the branch of biology that deals with the geographical distribution of plants and animals
14. ethnos: noun: an ethnic group
15. ethnic: adjective: of or relating to large groups of people classed according to common racial, national, tribal, religious, linguistic, or cultural origin or background
16. straitened: adjective: restricted in range or scope
17. ensilage: noun: another word for silage: noun: grass or other green fodder compacted and stored in airtight conditions, typically in a silo, without first being dried, and used as animal feed in the winter.
18. portmanteau biota: noun: portmanteau: noun: a large trunk or suitcase, typically made of stiff leather and opening into two equal parts; biota: noun: the animal and plant life off a particular region, habitat, or geological period.
19. swidden: noun [used as an adjective]: an area of land cleared for cultivation by slashing and burning vegetation
20. sheetwash/sheet wash erosion: noun[used as an adjective]: the even erosion of substrate along a wide area
21. substrate: noun: an underlying substance or layer
22. lateritic soils: lateritic: adjective: a reddish clayey material, hard when dry, forming a topsoil in some tropical or subtropical regions and sometimes used for building
23. carrying capacity: noun: the number of people, other living organisms, or crops that a region can support without environmental degradation.