

Krista Langlois. "Landlocked Islanders." Hakai Magazine: Coastal Science and Societies. November 16, 2015.

Relevant information related to climate change and human migration. Synthesize the concepts from Langlois into ideas about climate change and human migration.

2. The amount of water is incomprehensible. ...the Pacific Ocean stretches thousands of kilometers in every direction. For every square kilometer of land in the Republic of the Marshall Islands, there are 10,732 square kilometers of Ocean

3. Even on land, Marshallese life is defined by the ocean. The foods that do come from land—breadfruit, taro, the fruit of the spiky pandanus plant— are often fermented or preserved for seafaring journeys.

4. Even the language is born of the sea: instead of using "right" and "left" to give directions on land, the islanders use "ocean-side" (the outer edge of the atoll) and "lagoon-side" (the protected interior).

10. In spite of surviving nuclear testing, the Marshallese are facing the one battle that might be impossible to win. Climate experts predict that because of rising sea levels caused by greenhouse gas emissions, the Marshall Islands could be uninhabitable by the end of this century.

11. other climate refugees are people from the island nation of Kiribati buying backup land in Fiji, for example, or the family from Tuvalu seeking climate refugee status in New Zealand.

12. the Marshallese know exactly where they'll go: the the USA.

13. The Compact of Free Association is "[a]n agreement that came into force when the Marshall Islands gained independence in 1986 [and] allows any citizen to live and work in the United States indefinitely, without a visa or green card. (Since Hawaii is part of the U.S., climate change in the Marshall Islands is indirectly affecting Hawaii's social institutions such as health care, education, and employment.)

14. By the year 2100, it's conceivable that climate change will force the entire population of the Marshall Islands to US shores. Already, more than 25,000

Marshallese—over a third of the population—have left the islands, many in the last 15 years,” and relocated to Enid, Oklahoma.

22. Sarah’s timing couldn’t have been better. That December (2008), the highest tides of the year coalesced with a massive storm, and three-meter waves swamped the Marshall Islands. Staple crops like taro and breadfruit were ruined, roads and seawalls washed out, and knee-high seawater surged into people’s homes. Graveyards flooded and tombs were destroyed.

24. “Archaeologist Marshall Weisler calls low coral atolls (Kiribati, the Maldives, the Marshall Islands) ‘the most precarious landscapes for human habitation,’ bar none.”

25. In addition to “rising sea levels [5 centimeters per decade)” [d]roughts have become more frequent, too. The lack of rainwater— which people depend on to fill drinking water catchments and irrigate crops— is almost as troubling as rising sea levels.

26. Stacked atop one another, rising sea-level causing inundations and drought causing a lack of freshwater, there’s a threshold: a point at which people decide that the risk of property damage, the health and safety of their children, and the stress of living in fear, overpower the desire to stay on land that’s been handed down for generations, with their family and culture intact.

27. No one I spoke to knows anyone who’s yet left the country because of climate change. But the country’s first climate refugees may not be far off.

28. Bikinians are petitioning the US Congress to use the trust fund to buy land in the United States. The fund set up to help them survive nuclear testing may now help them survive climate change instead.

30. Mary-Elena Carr, a biological oceanographer with Columbia University, explains that even if carbon emissions stopped tomorrow, the lengthy lifespan of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere means that warming trends will continue unabated for the next 1,000 years.