

The Mystery of Easter Island

1. What triggered the end of the centuries of peace among the Polynesians on Rapa Nui?
2. What specific activity triggered the decline of their civilisation?
3. What evidence suggests that the event in #2 really occurred?
4. What problems resulted from the deforestation of the island?
5. How did the inhabitants attempt to solve the fighting between tribes on the island?
6. The Dutch and the British brought smallpox and syphilis to Rapa Nui. What similarity does this have to the causes of extinction we discussed?
7. What message of hope can we draw from the lesson of Rapa Nui?