



Polynesian Expansion

Patterns of Polynesian Migration

Comprehension Questions

View the programme attentively. As you watch, complete the following comprehension questions and tasks.

1. New Zealand, Hawaii and Tahiti form part of which region?

2. Approximately how much of the Earth's surface does Polynesia cover?

- a) 1/8
- b) 1/5
- c) 1/4
- d) 1/2

3. What geological feature do Samoa and Tonga have in common?

4. The environment, flora and fauna of all Polynesian islands are basically the same.

True False

5. In which century did European explorers arrive in Polynesia?

- a) 14th century
- b) 15th century
- c) 16th century
- d) 17th century

6. What do you think is the most likely reason Europeans wanted to explore the islands?

- a) Sailing was a popular leisure activity in that era.
- b) They were searching for a mythical treasure chest.
- c) They wanted to find resources to use and ways to make international trade more efficient.
- d) They wanted to double-check that the Earth wasn't flat.





Polynesian Expansion

Patterns of Polynesian Migration

Comprehension Questions

7. a) Name the French explorer who first divided the Pacific Islands into the regions of Melanesia, Polynesia and Micronesia.

- b) What do you see as being problematic with how he divided and named the islands?

8. The term Polynesia comes from the Greek words, meaning:

poly: _____ nesos: _____

9. What was the main difference between Captain Cook and Thor Heyerdahl's theories about the origin of Polynesian settlement in the Pacific?

- a) Cook believed they came from the north, Heyerdahl from the south.
- b) Cook believed they came from the south, Heyerdahl from the north.
- c) Cook believed they came from the east, Heyerdahl from the west.
- d) Cook believed they came from the west, Heyerdahl from the east.

10. Explain the common weakness in many early theories about the origins of the Polynesians.

11. Which scientific advancement has helped historians develop a modern theory about the origin of the Polynesians?



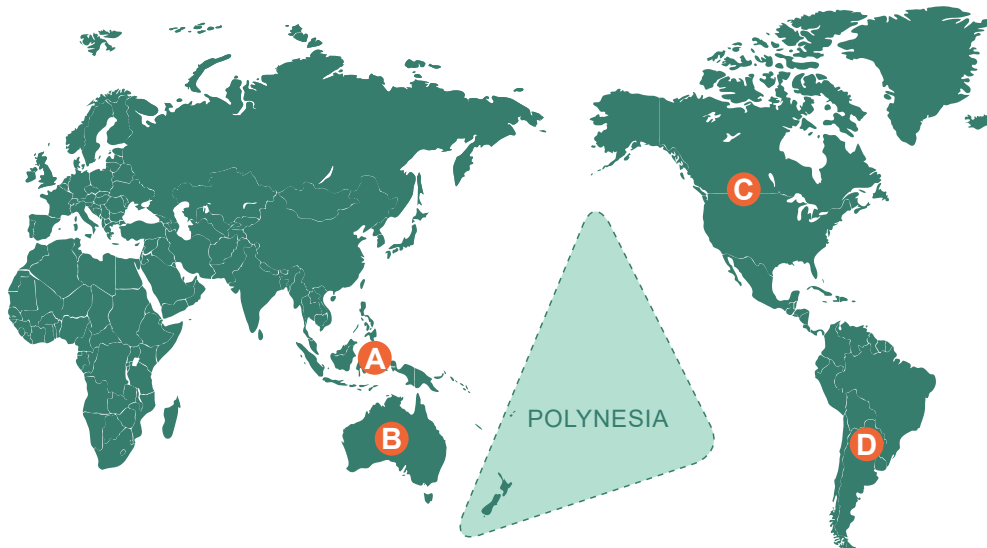


Polynesian Expansion

Patterns of Polynesian Migration

Comprehension Questions

12. Where does the latest theory state that Polynesians originated?



- a) Taiwan and other parts of South East Asia
- b) Australia
- c) North America, including Alaska
- d) South America

13. What do the traditional stories of Easter Island (Rapa Nui) say was the method of transport used by the earliest settlers?

14. What did the early Polynesian travellers use to navigate across the sea?

