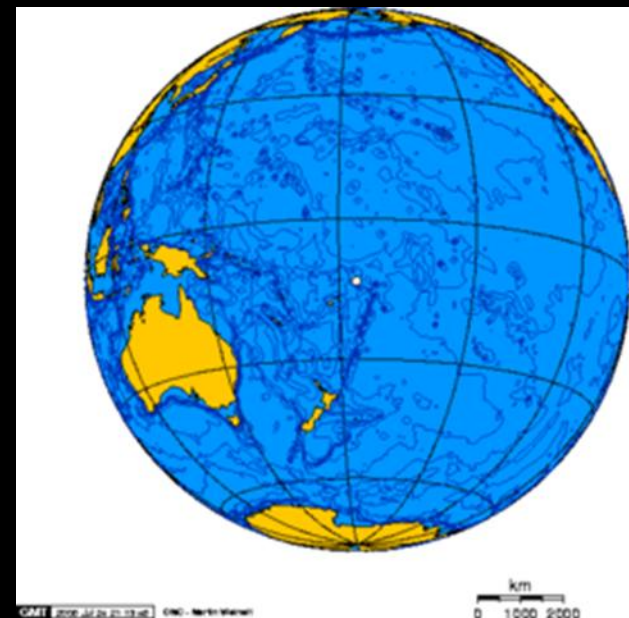


# Oceania: Australia & The Pacific Islands

A thick, horizontal orange brushstroke underline is positioned beneath the word "Islands". The stroke is irregular and textured, resembling a hand-painted line. Below the underline, the bottom half of the slide features a background of vertical grey bars of varying heights, creating a striped effect.

# The Societies of Oceania

- ✓ Did not interact with peoples from different societies, as did their counterparts in the eastern hemisphere.
- ✓ Had a vast area of trade with merchants from New Guinea, and the islands of southeast Asia.
- ✓ Islanders built complex agricultural societies which were generously populated.
- ✓ Hereditary chief systems
- ✓ Trade was exceedingly popular between the islands.



## Religious and Cultural Traditions.

- ✓ Aboriginal people paid close attention to the geographic features around them.
- ✓ Rocks, forests and bodies of water were crucial to their survival.
- ✓ They often conducted religious observances to ensure the use of plant life, animals and water.
- ✓ They were very focused on the local matters.

# Nomadic Foragers



- ✓ In New Guinea people began to herd swine and root crops
- ✓ Inhabitants around the Torres straight took up gardening around 5000 B.C.E.
- ✓ During the 19th and the 20th centuries European peoples migrated to Australia in large numbers



# Trade



- ✓ As a result of nomadic way of life Australians met and interacted with bordering societies.
- ✓ Pearly oyster shells were a popular item to trade, they were sometimes made into jewelry.
- ✓ Some of the highly priced items such as the shells and the Australian spears, went north and were traded for trinkets, iron axes, and stone clubs.

# Development of Pacific Island societies and Island Trading

- ✓ Human migrations established societies in most all of the Island groups of the Pacific Ocean.
- ✓ During the middle portion of the first millennium C.E. they voyaged to the immense islands of New Zealand, which was the last region of the earth to be inhabited from the human species.
- ✓ Some exchanges included; pottery, shells, foodstuffs such as yams.
- ✓ Trade helped ruling elites obtain harmonious relations with each other.
- ✓ In some ways it linked different isles, such as; Samoa Tonga and Fiji, who traded mats and canoes.



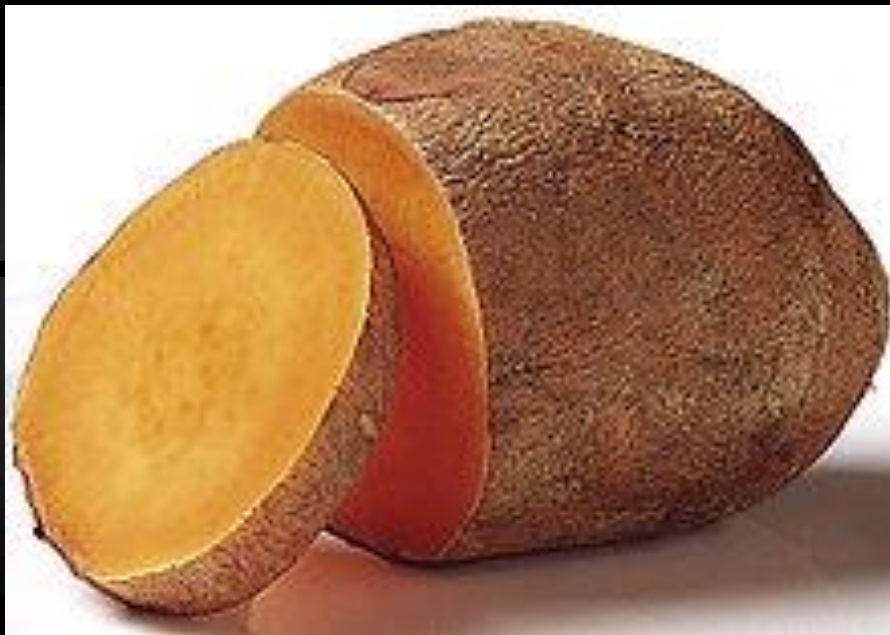



✓ trade

# Long Distance Voyaging

- ✓ In Polynesia, it was more difficult to travel between different societies and isle groups, as a result of that trade networks didn't flourish in the eastern part of the Pacific Ocean.
- ✓ Original settlement of Easter Island in about 300 C.E. Polynesian mariners ventured to the west coast of south America where they learned to harvest sweet potatoes.
- ✓ New crop became a staple source of food in that of the isles that it came into contact with.

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- ✓ The sweet potatoes became especially important to the Maori people who populated most of New Zealand, because the staple crops in the Pacific didn't flourish.
  - ✓ Which made long-distance distribution of sweet potatoes a dire need.
  - ✓ Another version of long distance trade was the social changes in the Hawaiian Islands
  - ✓ There was very little communication or travel between Hawaii and other Polynesian societies.
  - ✓ However, in the 12th, and 13th centuries a series of 2 way voyages linked Hawaii with Tahiti, and the Marquesas Islands.

# Population Growth



- ✓ Islanders throughout the Pacific Ocean built very productive fishing societies.
- ✓ They also harvested taro, yams, bananas, sweet potatoes, and coconuts.
- ✓ They also kept domesticated pigs, dogs, and chickens.
- ✓ Caught the fish with net, hook, and spear.
- ✓ The increased fish population led to growth in all of the Pacific islands. Some have even exceeded 5 hundred-thousand.
- ✓ Easter Island was suffering dramatic problems due to over population.

# Nan Madol and the Development of Social Classes.



- ✓ On Pohnpei in the Caroline islands, the Sandeleur organized a very powerful state and organized the plans to build a massive stone palace.
- ✓ About around the 13th century most of the pacific islands began to develop complex political and social estates.
- ✓ Specialized workers came to play, crop harvesters, fishers, producing axes, and constructing canoes.
- ✓ Higher chiefs, lesser chiefs, and commoners. Were the social classes of Hawaii, Tonga, and Tahiti.

## Formation of Chiefly States and the Polynesian religion.



- ✓ Islands societies began to generate stable political leadership.
- ✓ Ruling chiefs usually for saw the political portions of the island, sometimes the entire island, and on rare occasions over a couple of islands.
- ✓ In Hawaii the high chiefs wore extravagant cloaks and ate the finest fish and kapu.
- ✓ High chiefs coincided with priests, who served as intermediaries between gods, and the human communities.
- ✓ Marae, temple structure, with terraced floors with a coral wall designing the boundaries of the temple.

