The Moriori-A Culture of adaptation

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| When the Moriori arrived on Chatham Island they had to adopt new ways that changed their society. First, they switched from farmers to hunters and gatherers. Chatham Island was colder and less hospitable than the land the original settlers had left behind. Chatham was unsuitable for the cultivation of most crops known to Polynesians because the island was covered in hills, mountains, and a very large lagoon. So the Moriori adopted a hunter-gatherer lifestyle. Food was almost entirely marine-sourced-protein from fish, seals and the fatty young of sea birds. Fish was readily available from the following geography areas 2 bays, 8 points, 4 reefs, 2 lakes, and a giant lagoon.  The second adaptation the Moriori were forced to make was they had to switch from a war-like culture to a peaceful culture. Chatham Island was so small it could only maintain 2000 people. As a small and precarious population, Moriori embraced a peaceful way of life called Nunuku. This enabled the Moriori to preserve what limited resources they had by avoiding waste through warfare. The Moriori couldn’t have wars because they didn’t have enough males to begin with so they couldn’t afford to lose any.  How does geography shape a culture? Look at the Moriori, why were they hunters and not farmers? How did the size of their island end war? |

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