Two Moriori Readings

**Source One: The Whence of the Moriori- Douglass Sutton**

Geography and the environment affect human society. When people arrive in a new place they make the kind of society that works best for their environment. The Maori and the Moriori made different kinds of societies because each island had a different kind of environment.

Both groups were Polynesian. Both groups had the same ancestors but both groups were different!

The Maori live on New Zealand (Aotearoa). New Zealand is a large island. The Maori had a large population so they often fought wars over resources, power, and land. As a result of the wars they had more advanced weapons than Moriori. Maori used outrigger canoes and sailed to find new lands because they had a large population of people. Both cultures had different water craft. The Moriori did not have outrigger canoes they had square rafts used for fishing.

New Zealand’s geography has lots of flat land which is perfect for farming. Therefore, Maori have always been an agrarian culture (farming and raising livestock) The ability to find food easily gave them time to become experts at other things besides looking for food. That is why they had four social classes: chiefs, experts, commoners, and slaves. Their class system gave them a society with strong leadership. Finally, because of their large population they became experts at war because different groups of Maori fought each other for land and resources.

The Moriori lived on Chatham Island. The island was so small they had to have a small population. Chatham is often described as a “cold windy harsh landscape”. The Moriori found it was too cold to grow the crops they had (taro, bananas, breadfruit and coconuts). Instead they became hunter-gatherers. Everyone had to hunt or gather food so no one became a warrior or a chief who ruled a large community. 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 two bays, eight points, four reefs, two lakes, and a giant lagoon.They ate seals, nesting birds and shellfish so all they needed was their hands and clubs. They did not need any more advanced technology. Since The Chatham Islands were so small, they learned to get along with each other and they had no wars. They did not need any weapons. So The Chatham Islands had a small population of peaceful people.

**Second Source**

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| **Source Two: A Cultural History of the Chatham Islands -Written by Douglass Sutton**  When the Moriori arrived on Chatham Island they had to adopt new ways that changed their society. First, they became hunters and gatherers. Chatham Island was unsuitable for the cultivation of most crops known to Polynesians because the island was covered in hills, mountains, and a very large lagoon. In addition, freezing temperatures made it even more difficult to grow common Polynesian crops. So the Moriori adopted a hunter-gatherer lifestyle because fish and sea life were readily available from Food was almost entirely marine-sourced-protein from fish, seals and the fatty young of sea birds. Fish was readily available from capes, bays, points, reefs, lakes, and a 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. |

C3 standard D2.Geo.5.6-8.Analyze the combinations of cultural and environmental characteristics that make places both similar to and different from other

places.