

**Unit
9**

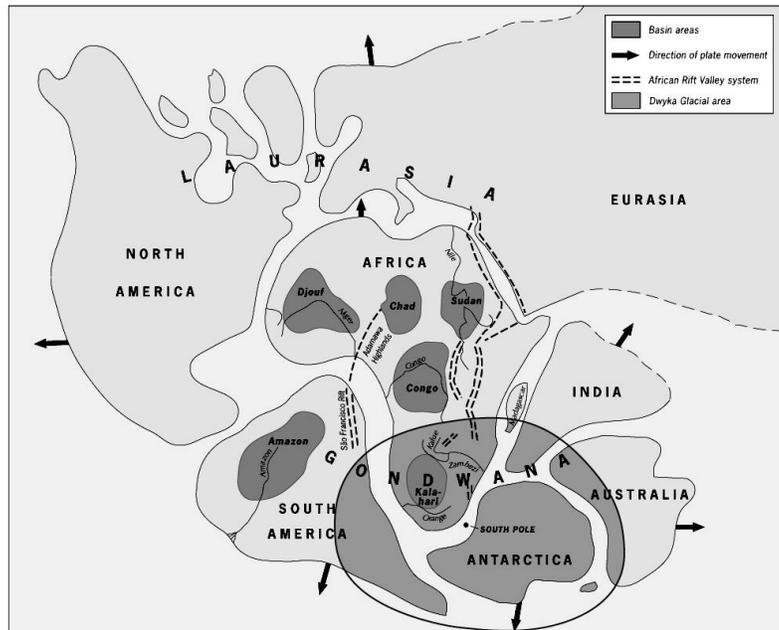
The Planet and Humanity

Environmental Geography

The following information corresponds to Chapter 13 in your textbook. Fill in the blanks to complete the definition or sentence. Note: All of the following information in addition to your reading is important, not just the blanks you fill in.

Man's Cultural Beginnings

- _____ - the "supercontinent" that has broken into the continents & landmasses we have today; Alfred Wegener's theory of _____ (plate tectonics).
- _____ Glaciation - the most recent Ice Age; Pleistocene Epoch (~ 2 mill. yrs ago).
- _____ - began ~12,000 yrs. ago when a huge ice-sheet (in Canada) slid into the Atlantic - caused huge waves & chilled the ocean (beginning of 1st Agr. Rev. & Holocene).

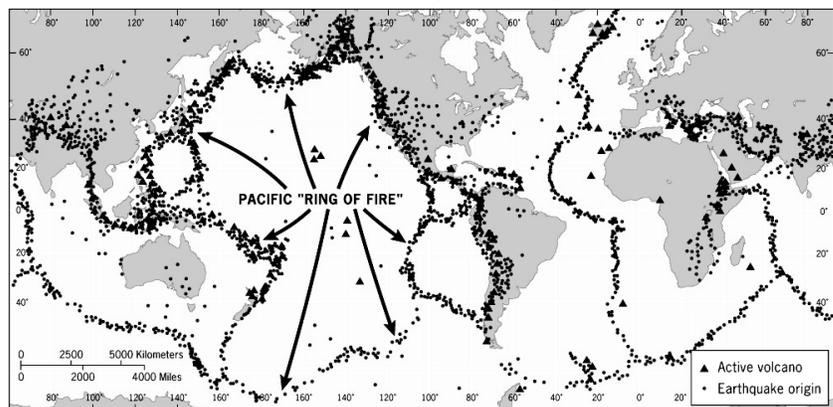


The Dwyka Ice Age



Postglacial Optimum

- _____ - global warming ~2,000 yrs. ago; Rome & Han (Chinese) flourished.
- "Little _____" - reglaciation during post-1300; crop yields decrease; leads to more urbanization as rural people look for work in the cities.



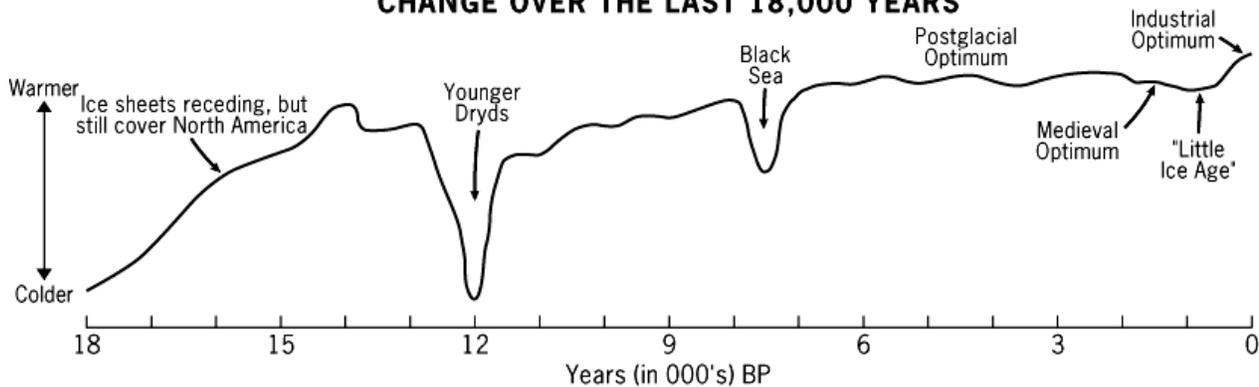
Pacific "Ring of Fire" (one source that broke up Pangea)

The "Little Ice Age" in Europe

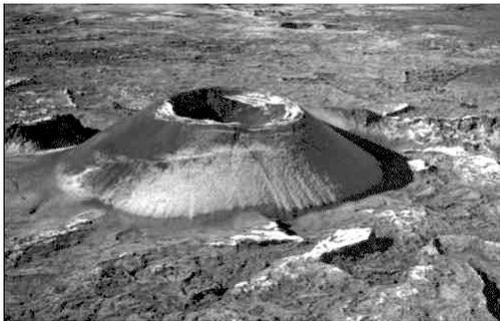
- The _____ diffused from Central Asia (e.g. China) to the west during the 14th c.; in the process they brought with them the _____, and its vector - the _____ (which bit into rats, which transferred the disease to cats, which transferred the disease to humans). The Plague killed an estimated _____ million in Europe from 1347 to 1352!



NORTHERN HEMISPHERE TEMPERATURE CHANGE OVER THE LAST 18,000 YEARS



- The “Little Ice Age” necessitated the onset of the _____; field methods improved (planting, sowing, watering, harvesting,...); transportation and storage of produce involved less waste & loss.

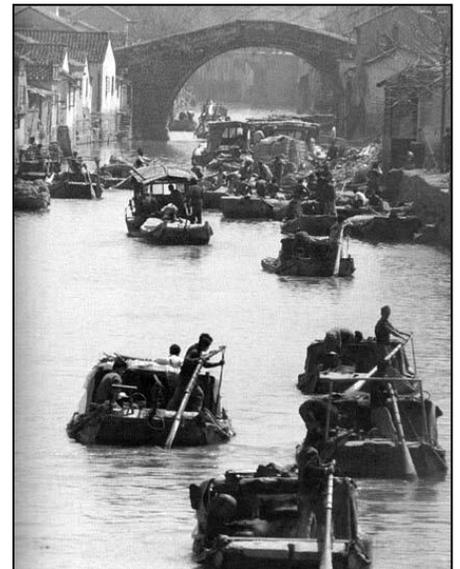


- The area around _____ (c. 1607) experienced the worst drought in eight centuries (1606-12)!
- The “real” Little Ice Age occurred from _____ - _____ (cooler temp. began in the 13th c.):
 - The _____ eruption (1783, Iceland) lowered temperatures in N. America by ~7 degrees (e.g. _____ didn’t ripen in New England in the “year without a summer”).
 - Particularly cold weather can also be attributed to food shortages leading to the _____ (1791); _____ disastrous defeat in Russia (1812), & the Irish _____ (1848).

- The _____ Volcano (Dutch East Indies) erupted in 1815 – killing all but ___ of the island’s 12,000 inhabitants; tens of thousands died around the area due to famine; the ash from the eruption widened into a world-wide membrane that blocked some of the Sun’s rays; _____ shortages were acute.

The “Little Ice Age” in Asia (a.k.a. “Why we Don’t Speak Chinese”)

- Early _____ (1368-1644) rulers (in China) had a huge oceangoing fleet (> 6,000 ships); they sponsored massive _____ (their vessels (junks) were far superior to that of the Europeans).
- Colder weather caused famines, epidemics, especially in the North where _____ was primarily grown; the _____ (1644-1912) rulers ordered an end to overseas expeditions; built only ships for the _____ (with cargoes of Southern rice brought to the North; rice became the staple crop of the Chinese).
- This is a classic example of _____.



The Industrial Optimum

- Post-_____ phase; glaciers are retreating; global _____ are warming; _____ has expanded (e.g. the _____ wine industry has returned for the 1st time since the Romans controlled the island!)
- The Industrial Optimum was interrupted by cooler decades from _____ - _____ (this led to the _____); but temperatures are rising again (uncertain how much mankind has influenced this).
- By 2015 (two centuries after the Tambora eruption) the Earth will carry _____ times as many people.

FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS: “Climate change is almost always abrupt, shifting rapidly within decades, ... it is _____, and sometimes vicious. The future promises violent change on a local and global scale ... such cycles of change are frightening to contemplate in an _____ & heavily _____ world” (Brian Fagan, *The Little Ice Age*, 2000).