

Comparative Civilizations
The Reconstruction of An Anthropological Event

Instructions:

1. Form a group of 4 or 5 persons
2. Read the Fact Sheet #1 - 19
3. Look at the map provided very carefully
4. Prepare to report to the class
 - each group is to pick a recorder and a reporter
5. Time Limit: 20 Minutes

Task:

- to determine what happened to the people who lived there?
- what caused the place to be empty of human beings?

Fact Sheet:

1. The lake is 500 feet deep, 600 feet across
2. The lake is 6,500 feet above sea level. The mountains rise to 11,000 feet
3. The causeway is made of dumped rocks
4. The houses are close together. Each one is about 20 by 25 feet and has more than one room. They are made of limestone blocks.
5. Some broken tools and pottery have been found in the homes.
6. The edifice in the center is made of marble and has three levels. At the bottom it is six times larger than the houses. At the top level of the edifice, you can sight the planets and stars through a hole slit in a stone. You can sight Venus at its lowest rise, which occurs on December 21.
7. There is evidence that the islanders fished with traps. They also had livestock such as sheep, cows, and chickens.
8. Apparently there was no art, but evidence of graphic writing has been found.
9. Cisterns have been found under limestone streets
10. There is no habitation within 80 miles.
11. The area was discovered in 1900.
12. The island has been uninhabited for about 300 years.
13. It is located in a subtropical area of South America where there is plenty of drinking water and where every available area was farmed. There is evidence of irrigation but no evidence of crop rotation. In general, the land is marginal for farming.

14. There is a thin layer of topsoil over a limestone shelf.
15. About 1,000 to 1,500 people lived on the island.
16. The mountains around the island can be crossed, but with difficulty.
17. There is a stone quarry in nearby mountains and a burial ground across the lake
18. Dead bodies with hands folded have been found.
19. There is no evidence of plague, disease, or war.

The Map:

This map shows an island in the middle of a lake. The island is connected to the shore by a causeway made of stones piled on the bottom of the lake until the pile reached the surface. Then smoothed stones were laid down to make a road. The lake is surrounded by mountains, and the only flat land is near the lake. The island is covered with buildings whose walls are still standing, although the roofs are now gone. It is completely uninhabited.

