

## 21H421-- Introduction--Words and Dates

### DATES

12,900-11,600 years ago Younger Dryas (last significant cold period)  
10,000 year ago (approximately) beginning of agriculture  
400-500 Settlement of Rapa Nui (Easter Island)  
800-1300 Medieval warm period  
874 First settlement of Iceland  
986 First settlement of Greenland  
1285 Complaints about air pollution in London  
1388 English attempt at antipollution legislation  
1400-1850 Little Ice Age  
1408 Greenland loses contact with Scandinavia  
1492 First voyage of Columbus  
1722 First European visit to Rapa Nui  
1859 Publication of On the Origin of Species

### WORDS

circumpolar  
flora  
fauna  
climatic maximum  
climatic minimum  
Little Ice Age  
Neolithic  
Greenland  
Inuit  
Iceland  
L'Anse aux Meadows  
Rapa Nui/Easter Island  
Pleistocene  
megafauna  
La Brea tar pits  
marsupials  
Maori  
moa  
co-evolution  
Atlantic basin  
Homo sapiens  
ungulate  
synchronic  
diachronic

MIT OpenCourseWare  
<http://ocw.mit.edu>

21H.421 Introduction to Environmental History  
Spring 2011

For information about citing these materials or our Terms of Use, visit: <http://ocw.mit.edu/terms>.