What factor helped to spread the disease of myxomatosis?

In the early days of the settlement of Australia, enterprising settlers unwisely introduced the European rabbit.

This rabbit had no natural enemies in the Antipodes so it multiplied with that promiscuous abandon characteristic of rabbits.

It overran a whole continent.

It caused devastation by burrowing and devouring the herbage that might have maintained millions of sheep and cattle.

Scientists discovered that this particular variety of rabbit (and apparently no other animal) was susceptible to a fatal virus disease, myxomatosis.

By infecting animals and letting them loose in the burrows, local epidemics of this disease could be created.

Later, it was found that there was a type of mosquito that acted as the carrier of this disease and passed it on to the rabbits.

So while the rest of the world was trying to get rid of mosquitoes, Australia was encouraging this one.

It effectively spread the disease all over the continent and drastically reduced the rabbit population.

It later became apparent that rabbits were developing a degree of resistance to this disease so the rabbit population was unlikely to be completely exterminated.

There were hopes, however, that the problem of the rabbit would become manageable.

Ironically, Europe, which had bequeathed the rabbit as a pest to Australia, acquired this man-made disease as a pestilence.

A French physician decided to get rid of the wild rabbits on his estate and introduced myxomatosis.

It did not, however, remain within the confines of his estate.

It spread through France, where wild rabbits are not generally regarded as a pest but as a sport and a useful food supply, and it spread to Britain, where wild rabbits are regarded as a pest but where domesticated rabbits, are equally susceptible to the disease, are the basis of a profitable fur industry.

The question became one of whether Man could control the disease he had invented.

The rabbit is regarded as a serious pest in Australia because it causes devastation by burrowing and eating food that sheep and cattle should eat.

It proved impossible to exterminate rabbits completely from Australia because they developed a certain degree of resistance to the disease.

Myxomatosis was introduced into Europe through a French physician who introduced it on his estate to get rid of the wild rabbits.

It was very enterprising of the boys to see a gap in the market and set up a business like that.

When the police and fire brigade finally arrived at the fire, they found a scene of complete devastation.

We watched a line of soil moving in front of our eyes and realized that a mole was burrowing under the grass.

In the past, deserts have been created by animals devouring the herbage until nothing can grow.

My niece is rather susceptible to colds and flu.

The doctors were amazed that the man survived because the injuries that he sustained in the accident were usually fatal.

There have been several quite serious flu epidemics in Britain in recent years.

When the lake was poisoned with waste chemicals, the fish population was drastically reduced.

A large number of animals and birds have been completely exterminated during this century.

The old man bequeathed most of his estate to his only grandson.

Within the confines of his estate, the local lord of the manor believes he can do just about whatever he likes.

Cows, pigs, and sheep are domesticated animals.

When Australia acquired the rabbit from Europe, it became a pest.

When Europe acquired myxomatosis from Australia, it acquired a pestilence.

A French physician introduced the disease on his estate, and it spread from there to the rest of the country and then to Britain.

In France, the rabbit is not a pest, but a sport and a valuable food supply.

In Britain, on the other hand, the wild rabbit is a pest, while tame rabbits form the basis of the fur industry.

The question was: Could man control this artificial disease?

The balance of nature is very delicate, and we have only begun to realize in this past century just how delicate it is.

Let us take the case of forests.

People in the past cut down trees to use as fuel or to use for the construction of houses, ships, and so on—apparently with little regard for the damage they may have been doing to the environment.

Often they replanted the area, but was that because they instinctively recognized the need to replace what they had taken away or damaged, or simply because they knew that they would need more wood later?

In other words, were our forefathers concerned about the balance of nature?

Or were they simply concerned that they might run out of things that Nature could provide?

People in the past were probably more in touch with Nature, and they knew how important the balance of nature was.

We seem to have lost that instinct in the twentieth century.

But natural disasters (like the extinction of certain species of animals and birds) have begun to make us realize the effect of cutting down forests with no regard for wildlife or the planet as a whole.

He could not drive very well, so he had an accident the second time he went out on the road.

She learned a little Italian so that she could ask for things when she went there on holiday.

While Tom was doing his homework, his sister was watching a video.

While my wife was going to the evening meal, I was writing some letters.

Captain Cook discovered Antarctica when he was exploring the Eastern Pacific Ocean.

Do you have any idea who invented the safety pin?

Poverty and disease usually go together.

A national crisis was caused by the sudden demise of the President.

What’s your basis for making such a decision?

The base of the memorial is engraved with the names of those who died.

It soon became apparent that our opponents were too strong for us.

It was obvious to the parents that Tom was lying.

He has acquired a fearsome reputation.

Further information can be obtained from the information center.

To a certain degree, I accept the truth of what you say, even if I disagree with your conclusions.

The campaign to protect the countryside involves people from all degrees of society, not just the landowning classes.

What rank was your father when he was in the army?

We were woken in the early hours of the morning by cats fighting in the street.

In the early years of the king’s reign, the country enjoyed a period of peace.

The great violinist Yehudi Menuhin learned to play at a very early age.

The old barn on that farm is overrun with rats.

You can’t overtake on that bend; you can’t see what’s coming from the other direction.

She’s very tired because she’s been overdoing things at work.

The teacher overlooked my rudeness once but warned me never to be rude again.

Don’t spread the butter too thickly on my sandwiches.

This butter spreads very easily straight from the fridge.

This CD is not the one I borrowed from you; it’s my own.

I didn’t stay with the others all the time because I wanted to spend some time on my own.

I don’t need an umbrella because I’ve got one of my own.

One of the reasons rabbits multiply so rapidly in Australia is that they breed rapidly.

Scientists found two ways of spreading myxomatosis.

The disease was spread right across the continent of Australia, largely because of the mosquito.

Myxomatosis, which was a blessing in Australia, proved to be a curse in Europe.

This rabbit had no natural enemies in the Antipodes, and as a result, it multiplied.

It burrowed and caused devastation.

How were local epidemics created? By infecting animals.

It was possible to create local epidemics of this disease.

It caused devastation by consuming the herbage.

By infecting animals and introducing them loose in burrows...

The rabbits were able to withstand this disease to a certain extent.

Australia inherited the rabbit as a pest from Europe.