

Mining CEO quits after destruction of ancient caves

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The CEO of one of the world's largest mining companies, Rio Tinto, has resigned following the destruction of two sacred Aboriginal sites. However, it will not be a speedy exit. The CEO has until March to empty his desk and head for the door. He handed in his notice

after the furor created by the demolition of 46,000-year-old caves in the Juukan Gorge in Western Australia. The company was mining for high-grade iron ore. The CEO acknowledged there was no doubt the company could have made "better decisions". The ancient caves are sacred to Australia's indigenous Aboriginal communities. There is evidence to show they were used as dwellings as far back as the Old Stone Age, when humans were developing stone tools.

The blasts at the caves led to international condemnation and adversely affected Rio Tinto's reputation worldwide. The blasting took place against the wishes of the traditional owners of the site, the Puutu Kunti Kurrama and Pinikura people. They accused the mining giant of a blatant disregard of their culture and traditions, purely in a quest for greater profits. They said: "We cannot and will not allow this type of devastation to occur ever again." The Rio Tinto chair offered an apology. He said: "What happened at Juukan was wrong and we are determined to ensure that the destruction of a heritage site of such exceptional archaeological and cultural significance never occurs again at a Rio Tinto operation."

Sources: sky.com / mining-technology.com / smh.com.au

Writing

Mining is a necessary evil. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

CEO / mining / sacred / Aboriginal / speedy / exit / desk / furor / iron ore / tools / blasts / reputation / wishes / owners / profits / heritage / cultural / archaeological

True / False

- a) Rio Tinto is the world's largest mining company. T / F
- b) The CEO had to leave his post and his office last week. T / F
- c) The company was mining for iron ore. T / F
- d) The caves may have been inhabited in the Old Stone Age. T / F
- e) The indigenous people did not grant permission to the mining company. T / F
- f) The indigenous people said the mining company just wanted profits. T / F
- g) The company is yet to make an apology for its actions. T / F
- h) The company said it would never do such a thing again. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| 1. resigned | a. outstanding |
| 2. sacred | b. accepted |
| 3. furor | c. proof |
| 4. acknowledged | d. shameless |
| 5. evidence | e. revered |
| 6. condemnation | f. intent on |
| 7. blatant | g. quit |
| 8. determined | h. importance |
| 9. exceptional | i. uproar |
| 10. significance | j. criticism |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you know about mining?
- b) Do mining companies care about the environment?
- c) Do mining companies have the right to take things from the earth?
- d) What do you know about Aboriginal cultures?
- e) What do you think of the destruction of the caves?
- f) How important are 46,000-year-old sacred sites?
- g) What advice do you have for mining companies?
- h) What was life like in the Old Stone Age?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. the destruction of two sacred | a. as dwellings |
| 2. empty his desk and head | b. of a heritage site |
| 3. The company was mining for | c. stone tools |
| 4. evidence to show they were used | d. condemnation |
| 5. when humans were developing | e. Aboriginal sites |
| 6. international | f. of the traditional owners |
| 7. against the wishes | g. cultural significance |
| 8. in a quest | h. for the door |
| 9. the destruction | i. for greater profits |
| 10. archaeological and | j. high-grade iron ore |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- What do you think about mining?
- Would you condemn the mining company?
- What do we need mining companies for?
- Should the wishes of the Aboriginal communities be respected?
- Is it immoral to put profits over the destruction of ancient sites?
- How confident are you the company will mine responsibly from now?
- What questions would you like to ask mining company CEOs?

Spelling

- arcsed Aboriginal sites
- He handed in his notice after the urfor created
- the mioletidon of 46,000-year-old caves
- The CEO kocewlnidgaed that
- niinegodus Aboriginal communities
- There is vedinece to show they were
- led to international dmcennatioon
- vedresaly affected
- a labntat disregard of their culture
- allow this type of nestadvotai
- a tearihge site
- cultural snfangieccii

Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. e	3. i	4. b	5. c
6. j	7. d	8. f	9. a	10. h

Role Play

Role A – Ancient Sites

You think ancient sites are the most important part of heritage to protect. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least worthy of protection of these (and why): dance, forests or local dialects.

Role B – Dance

You think dance is the most important part of heritage to protect. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least worthy of protection of these (and why): ancient sites, forests or local dialects.

Role C – Forests

You think forests are the most important part of heritage to protect. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least worthy of protection of these (and why): dance, ancient sites or local dialects.

Role D – Local Dialects

You think local dialects are the most important part of heritage to protect. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least worthy of protection of these (and why): dance, forests or ancient sites.

Speaking – Heritage

Rank these with your partner. Put the most important at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------|
| • Archaeological sites | • Music |
| • Local dialects | • Forests |
| • Dances | • Art |
| • Stories | • Theatre |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	T	d	T	e	F	f	T	g	F	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.