

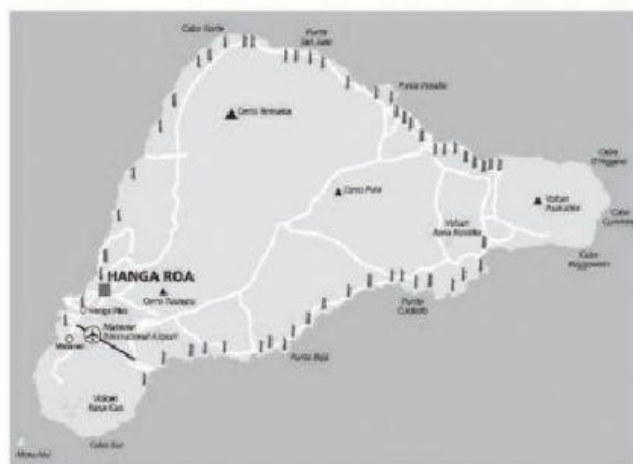
Giants on a Small Island

Rapa Nui, or Easter Island, is a small island in the Pacific Ocean. This little island is famous for some very old and very large statues. These statues, called *moai*, are hundreds of years old. They are enormous. The largest is 33 feet tall and weighs 80 tons. Even the smallest statue is big—it's 4 feet tall.

About a thousand years ago, people sailed from Polynesia to Rapa Nui. They settled on the island and made the statues from volcanic rock. They made eyes from white coral and used a black or red stone for the **pupil**. Some statues have headpieces, which could be hair or hats, made from red volcanic rock.

Researchers say the statues probably honor the **ancestors** of the Polynesian settlers. Rapanui legend says the statues have their ancestors' spirits inside them. There are many different ideas about how the statues came to be standing up.

The statues are located all over the island, usually close to the water. The rock used to make the statues came from miles away from where they stand. How did people move huge, heavy statues hundreds of years ago? Rapanui legend says they walked, and that the spirits of powerful ancestors inside the statues made it happen.

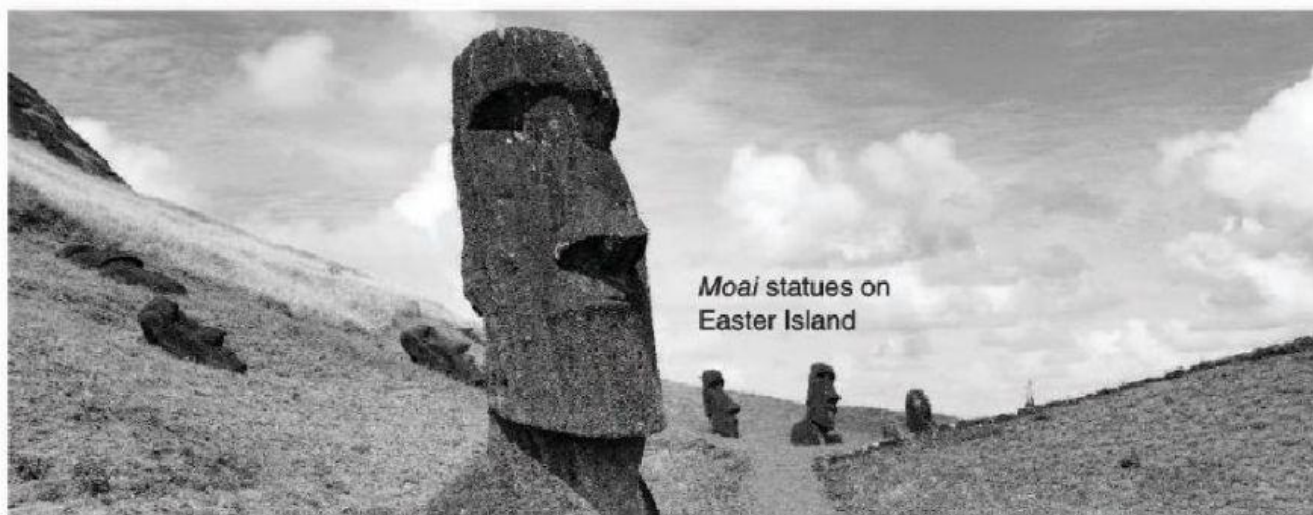


▲ The black figures show the locations of the statues.

Researchers have different ideas about how the statues moved. Some think that people rolled the statues using cut wood. Other researchers think that people pulled and rolled the statues on to their rounded front sides. In fact, research teams have tried to recreate moving artificial statues to test their ideas. They were able to move the statues, but they were exhausted from the hard work.

pupil the dark circle in the middle of the eye

ancestor a person in your family who lived a long time ago



A Read the article. Match the sentence parts.

- | | |
|---|----------------------------|
| _____ 1. Rapa Nui is also called | a. white coral and stones. |
| _____ 2. <i>Moai</i> are the | b. volcanic rock. |
| _____ 3. The people on Rapa Nui came from | c. Polynesia. |
| _____ 4. The eyes were made from | d. Easter Island. |
| _____ 5. The statues are made of | e. statues walked. |
| _____ 6. Rapanui legend says the | f. statues. |

B Read the article again. **Write true or false**

1. Most of the *moai* statues are taller than a person.
2. The statues are more than 1,000 years old.
3. The settlers probably carved the statues to honor people who lived before them.
4. Researchers say the statues have spirits inside them.
5. All of the statues are close to the water.
6. The statues were rolled down a mountain to the beaches.
7. Researchers disagree about how people moved the statues.

C Complete the sentences with a word from the box.

artificial coral legend Polynesia researcher ton

1. A _____ is about 900 kilograms.
2. _____ is a name for a group of islands in the Pacific Ocean.
3. _____ is made of tiny sea animal bones.
4. A _____ is an old story told again and again.
5. Something that is _____ is not real.
6. A _____ studies something to learn new things.