

Reading B2 LEVEL

[1] In the southeastern Pacific Ocean, on the piece of land known as Easter Island (now a territory of Chile), stand several hundred massive stone monoliths. These carvings, called “moai,” are recognizable by their oversized heads, with their heavy brows, long noses, elongated ears, and protruding lips. While they average four meters in height and 12.5 tonnes, the largest is almost 10 meters tall and the heaviest weighs a full 86 tons. The upright sculptures are scattered around Easter Island, many installed on platforms called “ahu” along the coast, while others are more inland and several stand near the main volcanic quarry of Rano Raraku. The Rapa Nui people of the island built a total of 887 of these impressive statues between the 12th and 16th centuries. They were, it is said, symbols of religious and political authority, **embodiments** of powerful chiefs or ancestors which faced inland toward the island’s villages, perhaps watching over their creators, keeping them safe.

a. The word 'embodiments' in paragraph 1 is closest in meaning to:

1 CREATIONS 2 REPRESENTATIONS 3 INDICTMENTS 4 CONTAINERS

[2] **While the very creation of such monoliths – most out of volcanic ash with stone hand chisels – is an impressive feat, what is more remarkable (not to mention mysterious) is how they were transported to their resting places.** In the past, most researchers associated the building and transportation of the moai with widespread deforestation on the island and eventual collapse of the Rapa Nui civilization. This hypothesis is based, in part, on the fact that the pollen record suddenly disappears at the same time as the Rapa Nui people stopped constructing the moai and transporting them with the help of wooden logs. How exactly would logs facilitate the movement of the statues? Most proponents of this method believe that the people created “rollers” by arranging parallel logs on which the prone statues were pulled, or pushed. **They** would not have required an entire roadway of logs, since logs from the back could be placed at the front, creating a moving platform of sorts. To make it easier to roll, and keep in position, the statue would be placed on two logs arranged in a V shape.

b. Which of the following best expresses the essential information in the highlighted sentence? Incorrect answer choices change the meaning in important ways or leave out essential information.

While the very creation of such monoliths – most out of volcanic ash with stone hand chisels – is an impressive feat, what is more remarkable (not to mention mysterious) is how they were transported to their resting places

The transportation of the moai is both remarkable and mysterious, but not as impressive as the actual creation of the statues.

The moai were carved with stone hand chisels, which is an impressive accomplishment, but it is still unknown whether the people actually transported them

The creation of the moai is amazing, but not as amazing as how they were transported.

The transportation of the moai is remarkable, mysterious, and as impressive as their creation with simple hand tools.

[[3] One proponent of this idea of rolling the statues in a prone position is Jo Anne Van Tilburg, of UCLA. Van Tilburg created sophisticated computer models that took into account available materials, routes, rock, and manpower, even factoring in how much the workers would have to have eaten. Her models supported the idea that rolling prone statues was the most efficient method. As further evidence, Van Tilburg oversaw the movement of a moai replica by the method she had proposed. They were successful, but evidence that it was possible is not necessarily evidence that it actually happened.

Why does the author mention “sophisticated computer models” developed by Jo Anne Van Tilburg in paragraph 3?

To emphasize the difficulty of theorizing about the activities of people in the remote past.

To demonstrate that Van Tilburg's hypothesis appeared to be supported by evidence.

To cast doubt on theories that relied more on experimentation than on effective digital modeling.

To show how archaeology can apply modern tools to ancient mysteries

[4] Van Tilburg was not the only one to have experimented with rolling the statues. In the 1980s, archaeologist Charles Love experimented with rolling the moai in an upright position, rather than prone, on two wooden runners. Indeed, a team of just 25 men was able to move the statue a distance of 150 feet in a mere two minutes. However, the route from the stone quarries where the statues were built to the coast where they were installed was often uneven, and Love's experiments were **hampered** by the tendency of the statues to tip over. While Love's ideas were dismissed by many, the idea of the statues tipping over along the route was consistent with the many moai found on their sides or faces beside the island's ancient roads. And local legend held that the statues “walked” to their destinations, which would seem to support an upright mode of transportation. In fact, rolling was not the only possible way of transporting the moai in an upright position.

4. The word '**hampered**' in paragraph 4 is closest in meaning to:

1. STYMIED 2. ASSISTED 3. DELAYED 4. CONFUSED