Name

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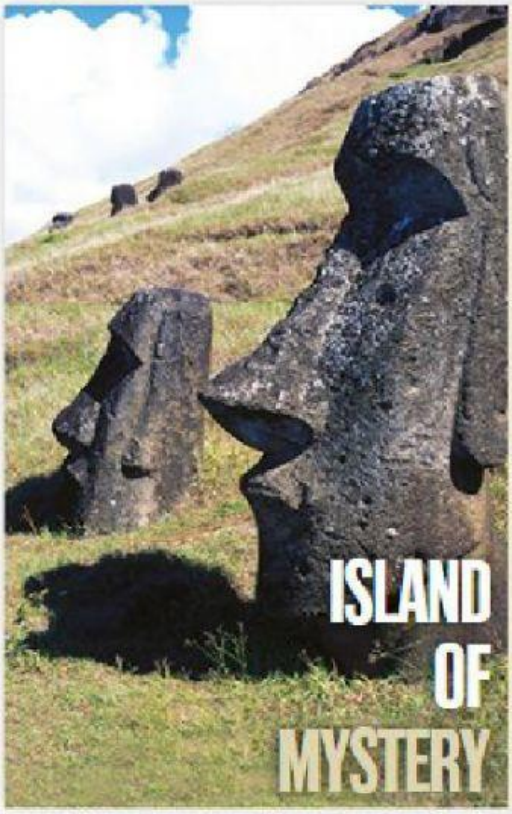

Rapa Nui (or Easter Island) is the most remote inhabited island in the world. Its huge stone figures (called *moai*) are world-famous, but their origin, as well as much of the island's history, is shrouded in mystery.

Experts believe the stone figures **may have been used** to establish religious and political authority and power, but no one knows for sure. Islanders moved a total of 540 figures across the island—some as far as 22 kilometers. Several experts believe the *moai* **could have been "walked"** upright, using ropes to rock the figures back and forth. Others theorize the islanders **must have laid** the figures down flat and **rolled** them over logs. They point out that moving each figure **could not have been accomplished** without the help of 70 or more people and probably took days to achieve.

In the early twentieth century, Norwegian explorer Thor Heyerdahl noticed cultural similarities between the people on Rapa Nui and the Incas in Peru. He argued that the island **might have been inhabited** by people who came in boats from South America. To prove it was possible, he successfully sailed a raft called the Kon-Tiki on that route. However, experts citing more recent DNA evidence confirmed that the original inhabitants **had to have sailed** from Polynesia, which lies to the west.

The first arrivals most likely found an inviting habitat lush with palm forests. However, today, the native trees are extinct. Some experts believe that, as the population of this small island increased, trees **must have been cut** down to build houses and boats and to make logs for moving the huge *moai*.

These are some of the theories about Rapa Nui, its stone figures, and the people who created them. Perhaps someday we will learn all the answers.

the Kon-Tiki

C GRAMMAR PERFECT MODALS FOR SPECULATING ABOUT THE PAST: ACTIVE AND PASSIVE VOICE

Active voice

You can form perfect modals using may, might, could, must, or had to to speculate with different degrees of certainty about the past. Remember: A perfect modal is formed with a modal + have and a past participle.

very certain: The islanders **had to have come** from Polynesia.
They **couldn't** (or **can't**) **have come** from Peru.

almost certain: The figures **must have been** very important.
They **must not have been** easy to move.

not certain: They **might** (or **may**) **have moved** the *moai* by "walking" them.
However, they also **could have laid** the *moai* flat on logs.

PRONUNCIATION BOOSTER p. 149
Reduction and linking in perfect modals in the passive voice

Passive voice

Use the passive voice if the performer of the action is unknown or if you want to focus on the receiver of the action. To form the passive voice with perfect modals, use a modal + have been and a past participle. In negative statements, place not before the auxiliary have.

The stone figures **must have been moved** using ropes and logs.
The secrets of Rapa Nui **might not have been lost** if their writing system had survived.
The island **couldn't have been inhabited** originally by people from South America.

GRAMMAR BOOSTER p. 138
Perfect modals: short responses (active and passive voice)

Write 4 examples from the text that use the Perfect Modals

1-
2-
3-
4-

LIVEWORKSHEETS