8b Easter Island

Listening Easter Island

1 You are going to listen to a commentary from a video about the Easter Island statues. Look at the pictures and find out what *moai* and *pukao* mean.

2 2.1 Listen to the commentary. Answer the questions.

1 How many statues exist?

.....

2 What are they of?

.....

3 What are the statues made of?

.....

4 How were they made?

.....

5 When were they made?

.....

6 Do all of the statues have hats (*pukao*)?

.....

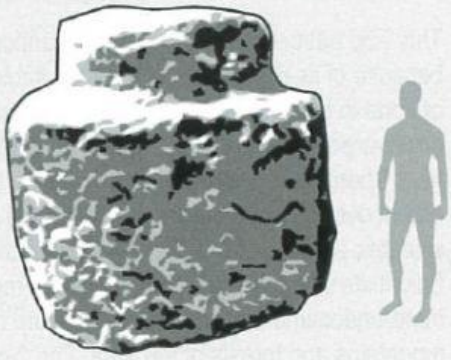
3 2.1 Listen again. Are these sentences about the statues' hats (*pukao*) true (T) or false (F)?

1 The hats are painted red.
2 The hats have special significance.
3 The hats are made from the same rock as the main statues.
4 One theory is that the hats were carried to the statues.

Glossary
carbon-dating (n) /ˈkɑːbn deɪtɪŋ/ a method for finding out the age of old objects
ramp (n) /ræmp/ a slope that connects things which are at different levels



Easter Island is part of Polynesia and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.



Pukao **can be up to 2.5 metres high.**

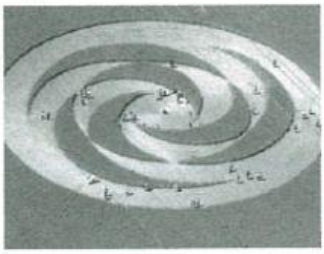


Easter Island statues or *moai*. The figure second from right wears a *pukao*.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

8c Crop circles

Reading and listening
crop circles

1 
a crop circle

2 
a wallaby

3 
a poppy

4 
poppy seed capsules

1 2.4 Listen to a news story from Australia. What's the connection between the photos?

2 2.4 Read the news story. Complete the article with these words. You can use the words as many times as you think necessary. Then listen again and check.

extraterrestrial hoaxers humans patterns
physical poppies tools wallabies

3 Read these comments that people made after hearing this news story. Which comments are supported by the information given in the story?

a 'Crop circles must be hoaxes because there is no other rational explanation.'
b 'Wallabies live in Australia, so they can't have made the UK crop circles.'
c 'I think the crop circles might have been the result of animal activity.'

4 All these words are in the news story. Which groups of words (a–c) can replace the words in bold in these sentences?

a	b	c
circular	explanation	bizarre
complex	suggestion	odd
geometric	view	weird

1 That's an interesting **theory**.
2 I've read about this **strange** phenomenon.
3 The building has an **intricate** shape.

A bizarre theory

The strange and fascinating phenomenon of crop circles – which actually aren't simply circular but form intricate geometric [1] *patterns* in farm fields – has inspired many possible explanations over the years. Crop-circle enthusiasts who prefer para-normal explanations for the circles believe that they must be messages left behind by [2] _____ visitors, while more conventionally scientific-minded people have theorised that they might have resulted from natural [3] _____ forces, such as wind or heat. But now, there's another, even more bizarre explanation: [4] _____ .

As the BBC News and many other news outlets are reporting, Lara Giddings, Attorney General for the Australian state of Tasmania, told a Parliamentary hearing that [5] _____ have been eating [6] _____ in fields that provide legal opium for morphine and other painkillers. Apparently, according to Giddings, the [7] _____ are eating the [8] _____ and then becoming so disoriented that they run around in the fields erratically, creating paths that resemble crop circles.

An official with an Australian poppy-cultivation company told ABC News that in the process of consuming the poppy-seed capsules, the [9] _____ often also eat some of the substances that cause opium's hallucinogenic effect in [10] _____ . The weird suggestion that animals may have been the cause of Australian crop circles, however, doesn't really explain the crop-circle phenomenon. Are they capable of creating the sort of intricate geometric [11] _____ seen in most crop circles? What about the crop circles found thousands of kilometres away from Australia, in the UK?

This odd explanation also doesn't account for the alternative view that crop circles are nothing more than elaborate jokes. A University of Oregon physicist, Richard Taylor, speculates that crop-circle [12] _____ may now be using increasingly sophisticated [13] _____ such as GPS devices and laser pointers to burn complex [14] _____ into fields.

LIVEWORKSHEETS