

Grade 7
Reading -Travel Itinerary

"The Enigmatic Easter Island"

Located in the vast Pacific Ocean, Easter Island, also known as Rapa Nui, is a wonder of human history. Despite being over 2,000 miles away from the nearest populated land, this small island has become renowned worldwide due to its mysterious stone statues known as "moai."

The moai are monumental statues with oversized heads. They were carved by the Rapa Nui people from the island's volcanic tuff approximately between 1250 and 1500 AD. The purpose of these statues has been a matter of much debate and speculation. Some theories suggest they represented ancestors or chieftains, while others believe they might have had a religious or ceremonial significance.

It's astonishing to think of the technical expertise and coordination required to craft and transport these statues. The largest ever erected weighs a staggering 82 tons! Historians are still puzzled by how the Rapa Nui people managed to move these massive structures across the island without modern machinery.

The island's history isn't just limited to the moai. Rapa Nui had a complex society, with its own written language system called 'rongorongo.' Although this script is yet to be fully deciphered, it's one of the few ancient writing systems to have been developed independently in the Pacific.

However, the civilization on Easter Island saw its decline by the time Europeans arrived in the 18th century. Deforestation, overpopulation, and introduced species might have contributed to its downfall.

Today, Easter Island is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a destination for travelers who wish to witness the awe-inspiring moai and the natural beauty of this remote island. Managed by the Chilean government, it serves as a poignant reminder of the accomplishments of ancient societies and the delicate balance between man and nature.

Multiple Choice Questions:

1. Where is Easter Island located?
 - A. Atlantic Ocean
 - B. Indian Ocean
 - C. Arctic Ocean
 - D. Pacific Ocean

2. What is another name for Easter Island?
 - A. Moai Land
 - B. Rongo Rongo
 - C. Rapa Nui
 - D. Pacific Isle

3. What material were the moai statues carved from?
 - A. Granite
 - B. Volcanic tuff
 - C. Limestone
 - D. Marble

4. Which of the following theories suggests the purpose of the moai statues?

- A. They were toys.
- B. They represented ancestors or chieftains.
- C. They were used as currency.
- D. They were seating arrangements.

5. How much does the largest moai statue weigh?

- A. 20 tons
- B. 50 tons
- C. 82 tons
- D. 100 tons

6. What is 'rongorongo'?

- A. A type of dance
- B. A musical instrument
- C. The island's currency
- D. A written language system

7. By what century did the civilization on Easter Island start to decline?

- A. 16th century
- B. 17th century
- C. 18th century
- D. 19th century

8. Which organization has designated Easter Island as a World Heritage Site?

- A. United Nations
- B. World Tourism Organization
- C. UNESCO
- D. International Heritage Committee

9. Who manages Easter Island today?

- A. The local Rapa Nui people
- B. The United Nations
- C. The Chilean government
- D. A private company

10. What does Easter Island serve as a reminder of?

- A. Modern art techniques
- B. Advanced technology
- C. The accomplishments of ancient societies and the balance between man and nature
- D. The dangers of tourism

1. D. Pacific Ocean

Explanation: Easter Island is located in the Pacific Ocean.

2. C. Rapa Nui

Explanation: Another name for Easter Island is Rapa Nui.

3. B. Volcanic tuff

Explanation: The moai statues on Easter Island were carved from volcanic tuff.

4. B. They represented ancestors or chieftains.

Explanation: The suggested purpose of the moai statues is that they represented ancestors or chieftains.

5. C. 82 tons

Explanation: The largest moai statue on Easter Island weighs 82 tons.

6. D. A written language system

Explanation: 'Rongorongo' is a written language system on Easter Island.

7. C. 18th century

Explanation: The civilization on Easter Island started to decline in the 18th century.

8. C. UNESCO

Explanation: Easter Island has been designated as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO.

9. C. The Chilean government

Explanation: Easter Island is managed by the Chilean government.

10. C. The accomplishments of ancient societies and the balance between man and nature

Explanation: Easter Island serves as a reminder of the accomplishments of ancient societies and the balance between man and nature.