

The Silent Giants: A Curiosity About Easter Island

Easter Island, a remote volcanic island in the Pacific Ocean, is famous for its mysterious stone statues called *moai*. These giant figures, with their long faces and solemn expressions, have fascinated explorers, scientists, and curious travelers for centuries. But who built them, and why? The island's original inhabitants, the Rapa Nui people, created nearly 900 of these statues centuries ago. Historians believe the moai represented important ancestors or chiefs, watching over the community.

What's truly intriguing is how they were made and moved. The moai were carved from volcanic rock using simple stone tools—a task requiring incredible **patience** and skill. Even more impressive is how the islanders, without modern machinery, transported these massive statues, some weighing over 80 tons, across the island. Some theories suggest they “walked” the statues using ropes, while others believe they were moved on wooden sledges. This demonstrates not only remarkable **ingenuity** but also strong communal cooperation.

However, the story of Easter Island also carries a warning. Many scientists believe that the island's civilization declined because of environmental damage. The islanders cut down too many trees to move the statues, which led to soil erosion and the loss of resources. This story attracts not just the **adventurous** but also the **reflective**—those who see it as a lesson about balance and sustainability.

Today, the moai stand as silent reminders of a creative and determined people. They attract visitors who are **inquisitive** by nature, people who are not satisfied with simple answers and who love to explore mysteries. Whether you are **daring** enough to travel to this remote island or **contemplative**, preferring to read about it, the moai inspire a deep sense of wonder about human history and our relationship with the planet.

A. Choose the best answer based on the text.

1. What is the main purpose of the moai statues?
 - a) They were used for religious sacrifices.
 - b) They represented important ancestors or chiefs.
 - c) They were built to scare away invaders.
2. How were the moai statues moved across the island?
 - a) With the help of modern machinery.
 - b) By “walking” them with ropes or using sledges.
 - c) By carrying them on boats.
3. What lesson does the story of Easter Island teach us?
 - a) Always use advanced technology.
 - b) Cooperation is unnecessary for big projects.
 - c) Balance with the environment is important.

B. Match the vocabulary word with its meaning.

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| 1. Ingenuity | () Willing to take risks or try new things. |
| 2. Inquisitive | () Cleverness and originality in solving problems. |
| 3. Reflective | () Having a strong desire to know or learn something. |
| 4. Adventurous | () Thinking deeply about things. |

C. True (T) or False (F)?

- () 1. The moai statues are made of marble.
- () 2. The decline of the Rapa Nui civilization might be linked to cutting down too many trees.
- () 3. Easter Island is easily accessible and very crowded with tourists.