



“Easter Island”

Reading Comprehension – Informational Passages ⁽⁶⁾

Directions: Read the passage. Then answer questions about the passage below.

One of South America’s mysteries is Easter Island. Easter Island, also called *Rapa Nui* and *Isla de Pascua*, 3,600 km (2,237 mi) west of Chile, is a volcanic island with an interesting and partly unknown history. The island was named by the Dutch explorer Jacob Roggeveen because he **encountered** it on Easter Sunday 1722. He was the first European to find the island. The official name of the island, *Isla de Pascua*, means Easter Island in Spanish. This island is famous because of the **approximately** 887 huge statues which were found there. The statues consist of heads and complete torsos, the largest of which weighs 84 tons! These monuments, called *moai*, were carved out of **compressed** volcanic ash, called tuff, which was found at a quarry at a place called Rano Raraku. Statues are still being found. Some of the **monuments** were left only half-carved. Nobody knows why Rano Raraku was abandoned. It is thought that the statues were carved by the ancestors of the modern Polynesian inhabitants. But the purpose of the statues and the reason they were abandoned remain **mysteries**.

Questions:

1) Who named the island “Easter Island”?

- A. An explorer
- B. A Dutch explorer
- C. The original inhabitants
- D. Both A and B are correct.

2) Who was Jacob Roggeveen?

- A. A European who found the island
- B. An explorer who named the island
- C. A person who carved several statues
- D. Both A and B are correct.

3) What are *moai*?

- A. Ancestors of the current inhabitants
- B. Quarries on the island
- C. Statues on the island
- D. Volcanic ashes

4) Why isn’t the number of statues known?

- A. The island is too big to explore.
- B. Statues are still being found.
- C. Some statues were taken away.
- D. None of the above

5) What are the statues made of?

- A. Volcanic ash
- B. Tuff
- C. Clay
- D. Both A and B are correct.

Vocabulary:

1) When he **encountered** the island, he ...

- A. found the island.
- B. saw the island.
- C. drew pictures of the island.
- D. Both A and B are correct.

2) A synonym for **approximately** is...

- A. more than.
- B. about.
- C. rather.
- D. None of the above.

3) **Compressed** ash is ...

- A. pressed together.
- B. ancient.
- C. hot.
- D. None of the above



4) **Monuments** are ...

- A. explorers.
- B. volcanoes.
- C. statues.
- D. ancestors

5) **Mysteries** are ...

- A. unexplainable.
- B. unpopular.
- C. dangerous.
- D. Both A and C are correct.