

## Texto Tipo: Artículo

### Reading Text

#### "Legacies"

1. Each of us is more than an individual. We are all part of history. Each of us receives a valuable inheritance –a legacy– from those who lived before us. Our knowledge comes from discoveries of the past. Our heritage comes first from our family and later from our national identity. We are all Americans but each of us has another tradition, that of our ancestors.

The selection about Easter Island that follows shows how heritage and legacy are important for us.

2. Easter Island is always topic of curiosity and speculation. Why and how did the islanders carve and transport those huge statues which surround the island? What remains of this culture today, and what lesson can we learn from their legacy?
3. Easter Island is over 2000 miles from the nearest population centers (Tahiti and Valparaíso, Chile) making it one of the most isolated places in the world. In 1722 it was named Easter Island but now the island, people and language are called Rapanui . There is much controversy concerning the origin of the Easter islanders and the discovery of the island. Some said that the people who built the moais, had the same origin of Peruvians due to the similarity Rapanui and Incan stonework.
4. Archeologists, however, gave evidence that the Polinicians discovered the island at about 400 AD, led by Hotu Matua. With them an enigmatic culture began to develop. In addition to the massive statues, the Rapanui possessed the Rongrongo script, the only written language in Oceania. They wrote on tablets which have never been deciphered. They also carved the rocks (Petroglyphs ) and the wood.
5. The population of Easter Island came to its peak at about 10.000 people, but on time resources became scarce, forests were destroyed and, at the same time their advanced social order began to decline.

Following the annexation to Chile in 1888 population grew again. Despite a growing Chilean presence in the island, Polynesian identity is still very strong.

6. Easter Island today remains one of the most unique places you will know: an open museum showing a fascinating but unfortunately lost culture. The Rapanui are very friendly, the landscape is truly amazing –with its volcanic craters, lava formation, beautiful beaches and archeological sites.