

What really happened on Easter Island?

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Easter Island, or Rapa Nui, is the most isolated piece of permanently inhabited land on the planet, and yet it produces a most extraordinary Stone Age culture: hundreds of sophisticated coastal stone platforms, more than a thousand enormous stone statues, the richest rock art in the Pacific and a unique writing system. This talk will provide an introduction to the history of the discovery of this culture; to its principal features; and to what archaeology, oral traditions and, more recent evidence have combined to teach us about the island's cultural rise and decline, its environmental crisis and the lessons all this can teach us about how we look after the Earth as a whole.

