

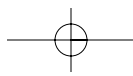
## **b** Vocabulary: New Context

*Put the right word in each blank.*

cliff	presently	roll	giant
isolation	location	inhabitants	theory
crater	realize	prevent	statues
solemn			

1. Don't carry the rock. Just \_\_\_\_\_ it down the hill.
2. In \_\_\_\_\_, we should get eight hours of sleep every night. In practice, we often sleep only five or six hours.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ of former kings and queens lined the entrance to the cathedral.
4. Last year, there were ten people in the club. \_\_\_\_\_, there are only five.
5. The redwood tree is a \_\_\_\_\_. It grows very tall.
6. Don't go too close to the side of the \_\_\_\_\_. You might fall off.
7. When did you \_\_\_\_\_ that your daughter is a good athlete?
8. One hundred years ago, the \_\_\_\_\_ of our town were all farmers.
9. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the volcano wasn't dead. The villagers expected it to erupt at any moment.
10. This is a very good \_\_\_\_\_ for our farm. It has water and lots of trees.
11. My grandfather was a \_\_\_\_\_ person. He almost never laughed.
12. What can we do to \_\_\_\_\_ the birds from returning and eating the fruit?
13. They put him in \_\_\_\_\_ because he had a contagious disease.





- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. No palm trees grow on the island today.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. The statues were placed on the cliffs to welcome visitors.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. Today, many people visit Easter Island to look at the statues.

## **e** Questions

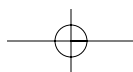
*The asterisk (\*) means you have to think of the answer. You cannot find it in the text.*

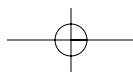
1. Is Easter Island large or small?
2. Which ocean is it in?
3. How far away is the nearest continent?
4. What are the statues on Easter Island made from?
5. How tall is the biggest statue?
6. How much does it weigh?
7. Can you describe the faces of the statues?
8. Where did the rocks for the statues come from?
9. How far did the inhabitants move some of the statues?
10. Did the present inhabitants of Easter Island make the statues?
11. What is one possible purpose of the statues?
- \*12. What do you think the purpose of the statues was?

## **f** Main Idea

*Which is the main idea of this lesson? Choose one.*

1. The early inhabitants of Easter Island made huge statues whose purpose is a mystery.
2. The early inhabitants of Easter Island spent years placing the statues in their present locations.
3. Easter Island has many visitors every year.





lesson

# 4

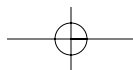
## The Tunguska Fireball

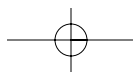


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### Before You Read

1. What is happening in the picture?
2. Where do meteors come from?
3. What other things come from space?





## 4 The Tunguska Fireball



The Tunguska **plateau** is an isolated area in central Siberia. On the morning of June 30, 1908, inhabitants of the area saw and heard a mysterious **explosion**. Fire **covered** the sky, and the earth **shook** violently. In the following nights, there were strange lights in the sky. The night sky was so **bright** that people could read the newspaper outdoors. Far away in Europe, many people **reported** seeing unusual lights in the night sky.



plateau

The Tunguska plateau is very difficult to reach, so no one went to inspect the **site** of the explosion. Most people thought the explosion was probably an earthquake, and they soon forgot about it.

described

Nineteen years passed before Leonid Kulik, a Russian scientist, went to look for the site of the explosion. With great difficulty, he traveled on foot to the Tunguska plateau. What he saw there amazed him. As far as he could see, the trees were black. Many lay **flat** on the **ground**. The explosion burned perhaps 80 million trees over an area of about 1,000 square miles. After seeing the destruction, Kulik decided that a **meteor** probably caused the explosion.

place

For many years, the meteor theory was the most popular explanation for the Tunguska explosion. However, there were problems with this theory. No one could find the crater where the meteor hit the ground, and no one could find any pieces of a meteor.



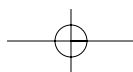
meteor

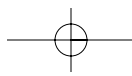
**In addition**, some of the trees at the center of the explosion weren't burned.

also, besides

Over the years, there were many explanations for the Tunguska explosion. Some people thought it was a huge bomb. Others **suggested** that it was an exploding spaceship. One recent theory is that the meteor exploded in the air before it hit the ground. That explains the missing crater, but it doesn't explain the missing pieces of a meteor. A more recent theory

offered an idea





suggests something completely different. Perhaps it wasn't something from outer space that destroyed the area. Instead, some scientists now think gas from the center of the earth caused the explosion.

Scientists continue to travel to the Tunguska plateau looking for clues to the cause of the explosion. Every few years newspapers report that scientists finally have a solution to the Tunguska mystery. **So far**, however, scientists can't agree on the cause of the explosion. For them, the Tunguska explosion is still one of the great mysteries of all time.

until now

## a Vocabulary

Put the right word in each blank. The sentences are from the text.

bright	meteor	flat	plateau
site	covered	shook	suggested
in addition	so far	explosion	ground
reported			

1. Far away in Europe, many people \_\_\_\_\_ seeing unusual lights in the night sky.
2. Fire \_\_\_\_\_ the sky, and the earth \_\_\_\_\_ violently.
3. After seeing the destruction, Kulik decided that a \_\_\_\_\_ probably caused the explosion.
4. On the morning of June 30, 1908, inhabitants of the area saw and heard a mysterious \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Many lay \_\_\_\_\_ on the \_\_\_\_\_.
6. \_\_\_\_\_, however, scientists can't agree on the cause of the explosion.
7. The Tunguska plateau is very difficult to reach, so no one went to inspect the \_\_\_\_\_ of the explosion.
8. The night sky was so \_\_\_\_\_ that people could read the newspaper outdoors.

