Name: _____ Date: _____

Yap's Giant Stone Money

Circle group

On the island of Yap, people once used big stone discs as money. They are called rai stones. They are made of limestone. Each has a hole in the middle. Some are small enough to carry. Others are taller than a person.

Yap has no such stone. Workers carved the discs on islands far away, such as Palau. They brought them home on rafts and canoes. The trip across open sea took skill and was risky. A stone that arrived safely was valued highly.

The money worked in a strange way. A big stone was too heavy to move each time someone bought something. So it stayed where it was. When one person paid another, everyone in the village agreed that the stone now belonged to the new owner. The stone did not have to go anywhere.

Rai stones still stand by paths and houses on Yap. They are not used like coins now. But people treasure them as part of their tradition and family history.

Questions

1. Where is the island of Yap?

_____

_____

2. What are rai stones made of?

_____

_____

3. Where were the discs carved?

_____

_____

4. How were the discs brought home?

_____

_____

5. How could a big stone be paid without being moved?

_____

_____

6. Why was a stone that arrived safely valued highly?

_____

_____

Words to know

limestone: a kind of rock used for building and carving
discs: flat, round shapes
rafts: flat boats made of logs tied together
valued: thought to be worth a lot
tradition: a custom handed down for many years

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Yap's Giant Stone Money

Triangle group

On the island of Yap, in the western Pacific Ocean, people once used huge stone discs as money. These discs are called rai stones. They are made of limestone and have a hole in the middle. Some are small enough to carry, but others are taller than a person.

The stone was not found on Yap. Workers carved the discs on islands far away, such as Palau, and brought them home on rafts and canoes. A trip across open sea took skill and was risky. A stone that arrived safely was valued highly.

The strangest part is how this money worked. A big rai stone was far too heavy to move every time something was bought. So it simply stayed where it was. When one person paid another, everyone in the village agreed that the stone now belonged to the new owner. The stone did not have to go anywhere.

Rai stones still stand along paths and beside houses on Yap. They are not used like everyday coins now, but people still treasure them as part of Yapese tradition and family history.

Questions

1. Where is the island of Yap?

_____

_____

2. What are rai stones made of?

_____

_____

3. Where were the stone discs carved?

_____

_____

4. How were the discs brought home?

_____

_____

5. How could a big stone be paid without being moved?

_____

_____

6. Why was a stone that arrived safely valued highly?

_____

_____

Words to know

limestone: a kind of rock used for building and carving
discs: flat, round shapes
rafts: flat boats made of logs tied together
valued: thought to be worth a lot
tradition: a custom handed down for many years

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Yap's Giant Stone Money

Square group

On the island of Yap, located in the western Pacific Ocean, people once used enormous stone discs as a form of money. These discs, known as rai stones, are carved from limestone and have a hole through the middle. Some are small enough to carry, while others are taller than a grown person.

The stone itself was not found on Yap. Workers carved the discs on distant islands such as Palau and transported them home on rafts and canoes. A voyage across open water demanded great skill and was risky, so a stone that arrived safely was valued highly.

The most unusual feature of this money was the way it worked. A large rai stone was far too heavy to move whenever something was purchased, so it simply remained where it stood. When one person paid another, everyone in the village agreed that the stone now belonged to its new owner, and the stone never had to travel anywhere.

Rai stones still stand along paths and beside houses on Yap. Although they are not used like everyday coins now, people continue to treasure them as part of Yapese tradition and family history.

Questions

1. In which part of the Pacific Ocean is the island of Yap located?

_____

_____

2. What material are rai stones carved from?

_____

_____

3. Where did workers carve the discs?

_____

_____

4. How were the discs transported back to Yap?

_____

_____

5. How could a large stone be used as payment without being moved?

_____

_____

6. Why was a stone that arrived safely valued so highly?

_____

_____

Words to know

limestone: a kind of rock used for building and carving
discs: flat, round shapes
rafts: flat boats made of logs tied together
valued: thought to be worth a lot
tradition: a custom handed down for many years

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

For the teacher: Yap's Giant Stone Money

Each student sheet carries a shape, not a level. The same topic and facts, written three ways.

Circle: Yap's Giant Stone Money

Easier · 166 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.4

1. In the western Pacific Ocean.
2. Limestone.
3. On islands far away, such as Palau.
4. On rafts and canoes.
5. Everyone in the village agreed it now belonged to the new owner.
6. The trip across the sea took skill and was risky.

Triangle: Yap's Giant Stone Money

This passage · 182 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 5.2

1. In the western Pacific Ocean.
2. Limestone.
3. On islands far from Yap, such as Palau.
4. On rafts and canoes.
5. Everyone in the village agreed that it now belonged to the new owner.
6. The trip across open sea took skill and was risky.

Square: Yap's Giant Stone Money

Harder · 192 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 8.3

1. In the western Pacific Ocean.
2. Limestone.
3. On distant islands such as Palau.
4. On rafts and canoes.
5. Everyone in the village agreed that it now belonged to its new owner.
6. A voyage across open water demanded great skill and was risky.