

# Monoliths

## *Giants of Stone*

Heather Hammonds



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Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are advised that  
this text may contain images of people who have passed away.



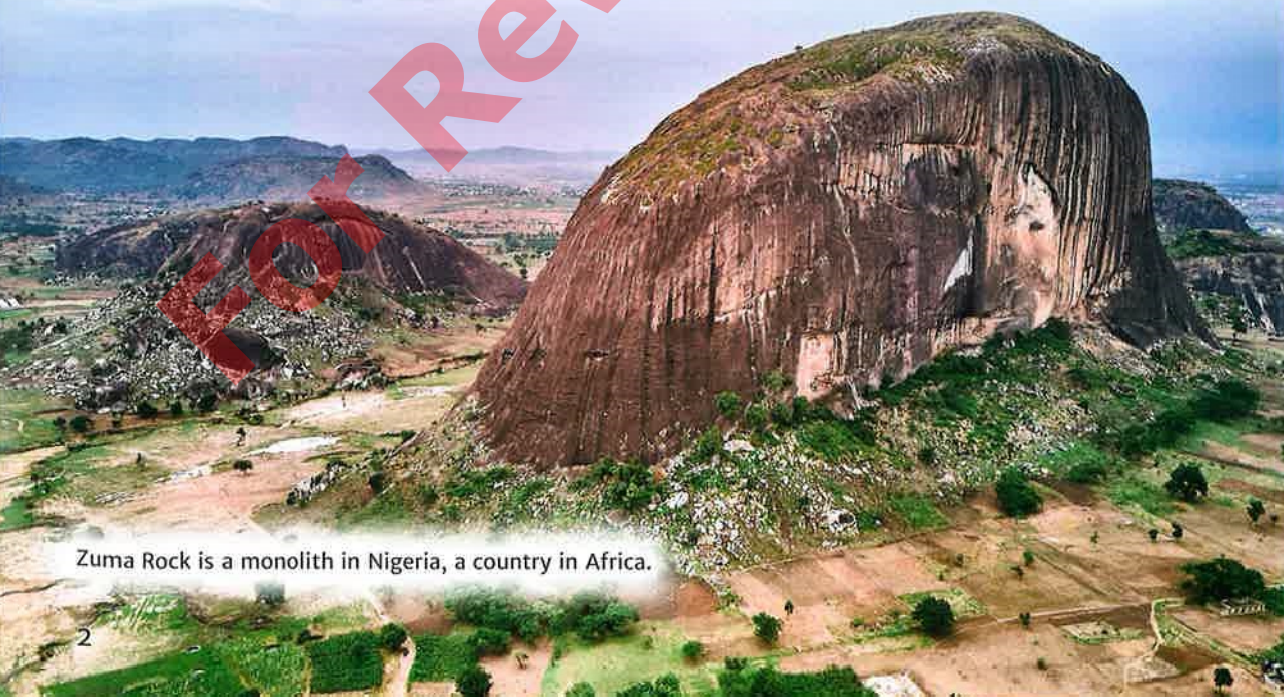
# Monoliths: Giants of Stone

## What Are Monoliths?

Monoliths are enormous rocks or stones that rise high above the areas around them.

These giants of stone are often hundreds of metres tall, and can be seen from a long way away.

Monoliths are found in many parts of the world, from hot deserts to the frozen seas of **Antarctica**.



Zuma Rock is a monolith in Nigeria, a country in Africa.

Monoliths can have different and interesting shapes.  
These are often caused by **erosion**.

Some monoliths have rounded shapes,  
while others have tall, pointed **peaks** or very steep rock walls.  
There are monoliths with snow and ice on them, too.



Devils Tower National Monument is a monolith in Wyoming, USA.



People have been amazed by monoliths for thousands of years.  
Some monoliths are very important to the communities  
of **First Nations peoples** that live around them.  
They are **sacred** places to these peoples.



Uluru is a monolith that is sacred to the Anangu people  
of the Northern Territory, Australia.

Today, monoliths attract many tourists.

People travel long distances to take photos of the monoliths and learn about them.

Rock climbers enjoy the challenge of climbing to the top of some of the tallest monoliths.

Other monoliths are easier to climb, and people can hike to the top of them.



People can climb a long staircase to get to the top of the Rock of Guatape in Colombia, a country in South America.

# Uluru

Location: Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park,  
Northern Territory, Australia



Uluru is found in the central part of Australia and rises 348 metres above the flat desert.

Uluru is the tip of a gigantic rock that formed millions of years ago.

The rest of the rock is buried several kilometres underground.





The Anangu (say: *Arn-an-oo*) people are the **traditional owners** of Uluru. They have lived on the land around Uluru for thousands of years.

Uluru's rounded shape has been caused by erosion over millions of years.

Many visitors travel to Uluru every year. They can walk around the base of the rock and learn about it from the Anangu people.

Visitors to Uluru cannot climb the rock, as it is sacred to the Anangu people.



A traditional Anangu owner guides visitors at Uluru.