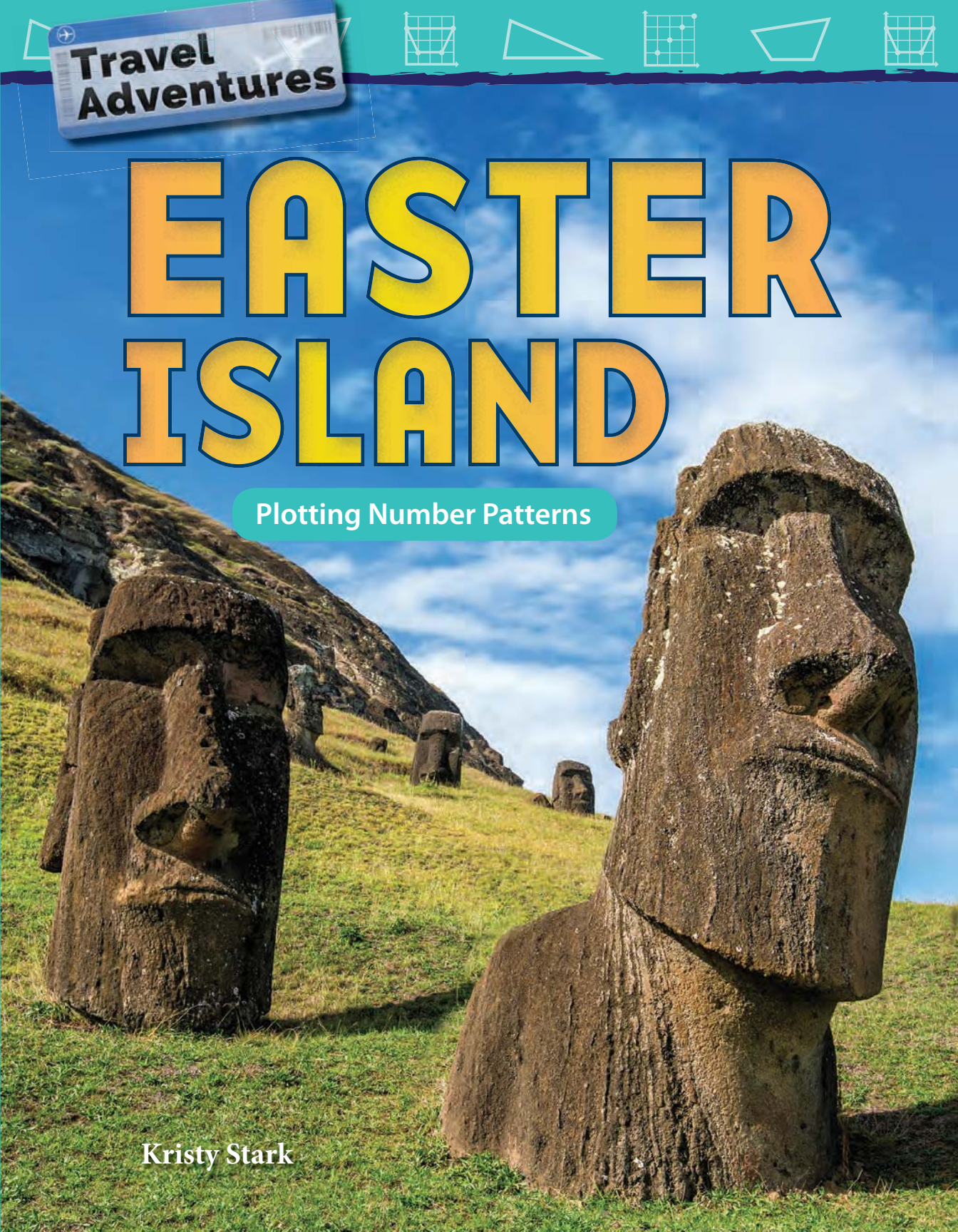
Travel Adventures

EASTER ISLAND

Plotting Number Patterns



Kristy Stark

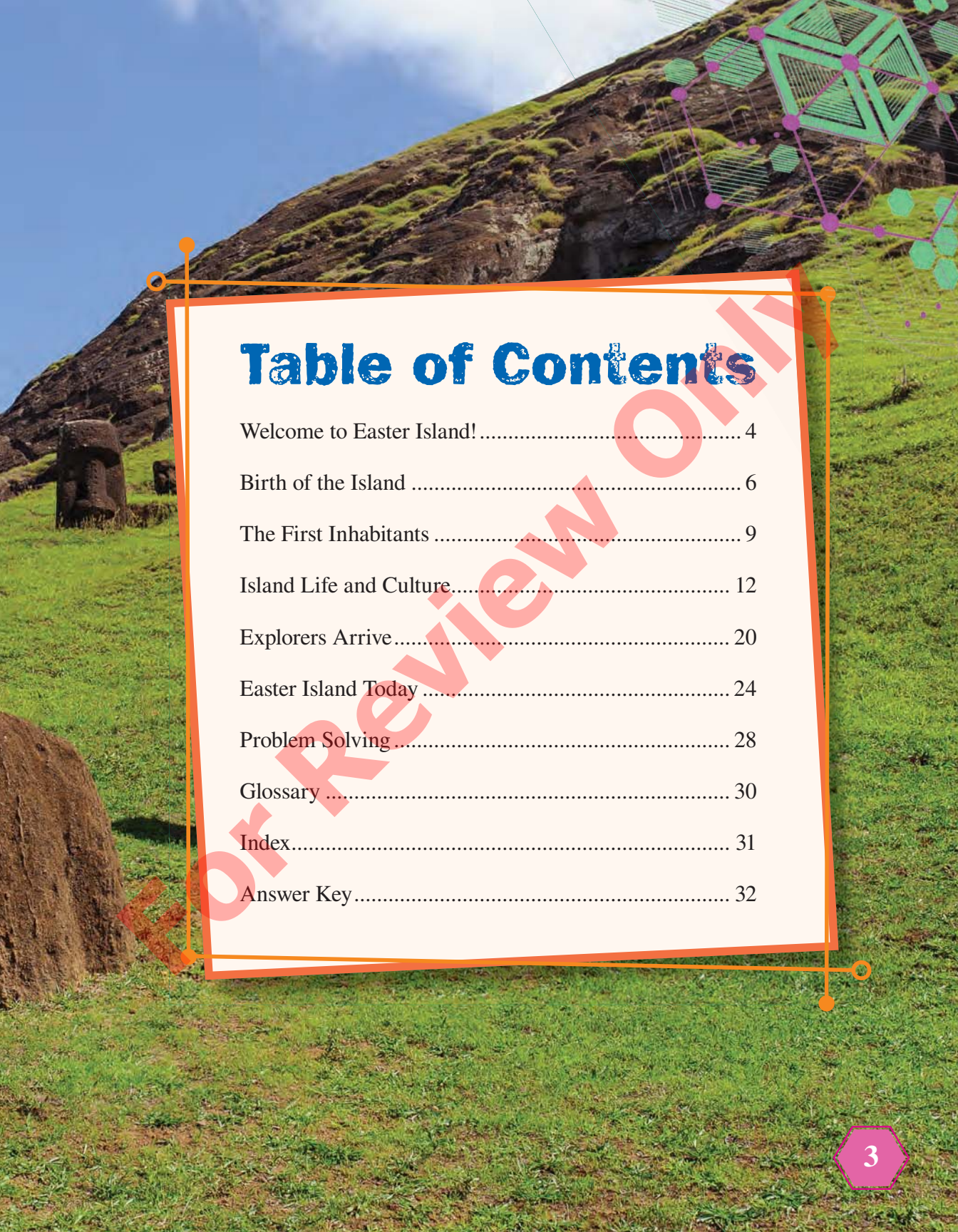


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Welcome to Easter Island!

Easter Island is not a land of rabbits, colorful eggs, or spring flowers. It is a land with high peaks that were formed by volcanoes. It's a place with lakes of water in the **craters** of old volcanoes. Few trees dot its landscape. And, it is best known for more than 600 giant stone statues that give the island a sense of mystery.

Easter Island is a small island located in the Pacific Ocean. Like all islands, it is surrounded by water on all sides. Many people are not familiar with it. Only a small number of people live there. Few tourists visit. This is because Easter Island is so far from most places. Still, the **remote** island does get some visitors. The visitors exploring Easter Island see its lakes, craters, peaks, and famous statues.



volcanic crater

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Birth of the Island

Islands are created by volcanic activity. It starts when **magma** rises from under Earth's crust. Magma eventually breaks through the ocean floor and becomes lava. When the lava cools, it leaves a formation of land.

This process formed the 63 square miles (163 square kilometers) of Easter Island. It is believed that the island was formed about half a million years ago. The volcanoes are now inactive. They no longer spew lava to add to the size of the island.

There are three main volcanoes that helped create the island. The island is shaped like a triangle. The three main volcanoes are found at each of the three points of the triangle.



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The southwestern point is where Rano Kao (RAH-no cow) is found. It is the largest volcano on the island. It is so big that it can be seen from space!

Terevaka (TEHR-ih-vah-kah) is found on the northern point. It is the tallest volcano on the island. Its peak is about 1,969 feet (600 meters) above sea level.

The Poike (POY-kay) volcano is found on the east side of the island. It is the oldest of the three volcanoes.

LET'S EXPLORE MATH

Rano Kao is an inactive volcano. Rainwater accumulates in its crater. Imagine that scientists keep track of the total rainfall by recording the amount in a table each month.

Month	Total Rainfall (millimeters)
1	115
2	230
3	345
4	460
5	575

1. Describe the pattern.
2. If the pattern continues, what will the total rainfall be at the end of months 6, 10, and 12?

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A team competes in a canoe competition.

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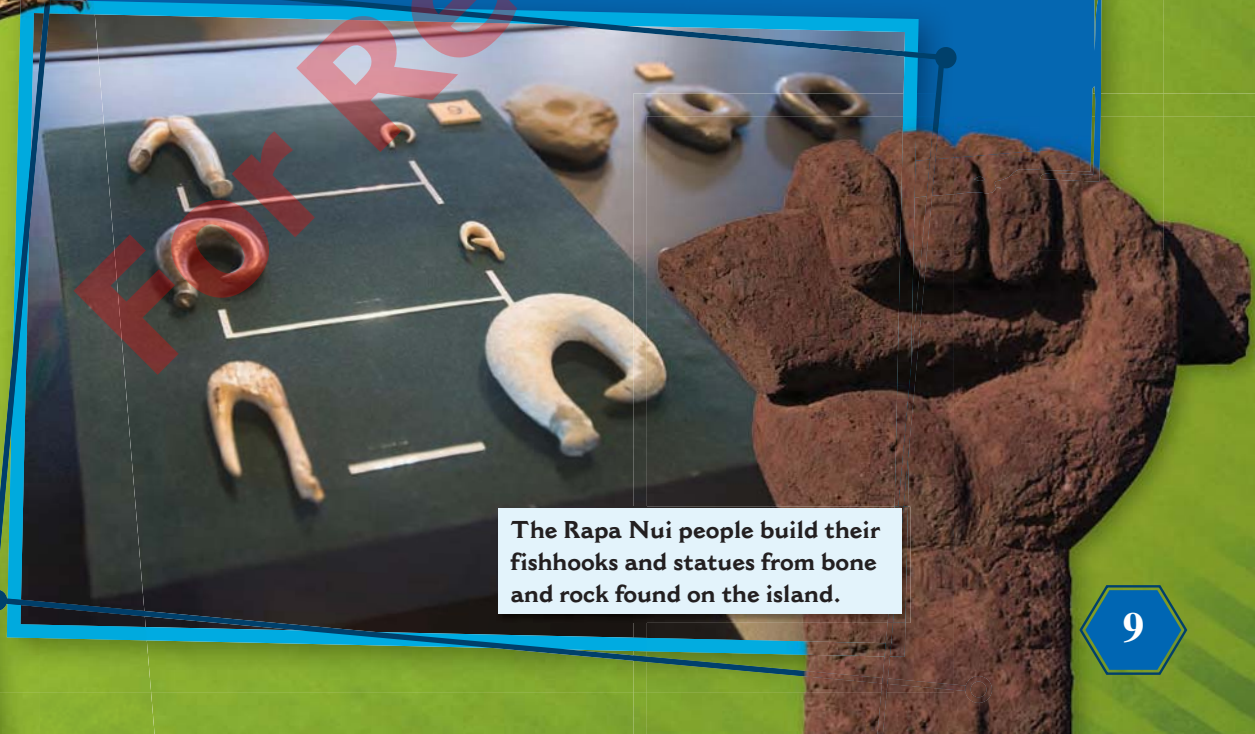
The First Inhabitants

Easter Island is very remote. Because of this, no one knows for certain when the first people arrived on the island. It is estimated that the first people arrived around AD 400. The people only had stone tools on hand to build their boats. They sailed the boats from their home to the new island.

The first **inhabitants** called the island and themselves *Rapa Nui* (RAH-pah NOO-ee). The people who live there today still use this name.

It is likely that these people were **Polynesians**. But, the exact place they came from is not known. Some scientists think they came from the Marquesas (MAHR-kay-suhs) Islands. Other people think they came from Chile.

Wherever they came from, they traveled a long way to get there. The Marquesas Islands are more than 2,275 miles (3,662 kilometers) away. Chile is about 2,200 mi. (3,541 km) away.



The Rapa Nui people build their fishhooks and statues from bone and rock found on the island.

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Math Talk

1. What strategies help you remember which order to plot *x*- and *y*-coordinates on the coordinate plane?
2. On a coordinate plane, how are locations of (1, 8) and (8, 1) different?
3. How do tables and graphs show patterns?
4. How can you use a table to create a graph? How can you use a graph to create a table?
5. Imagine that researchers are recording rainfall for a month on Easter Island. Do you recommend they use a table or a graph to organize the data? Why?
6. What are some patterns that scientists studying Easter Island might need to analyze?

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