



Geographers and Scientists

Examine the geography and science of Rapa Nui (Easter Island)

12. Rapa Nui (Easter Island) – submarine volcanic origins

Requirements: internet access for research

Working style: individually, in pairs, and with class discussion

Curriculum: Geography (islands, volcanoes); Computing (using online resources); English (oracy)

Time: 20 minutes

Rapa Nui is an island created by submarine volcanoes active at least 2.5 million years ago. These volcanoes form underwater from a ‘hot spot’ in the Earth’s crust, and over time break the surface of the sea producing an ‘island’. Rapa Nui is no longer on a hot spot and its 3 main volcanoes have not erupted for about 110,000 years.

*Submarine volcanoes, driven by these hot spots, are found in oceans across the world, creating islands on which people live. Search for **Hawaii** and **Canary Islands** online. Decide if these island chains are created by submarine volcanoes and write down your reasoning. Discuss as a class.*