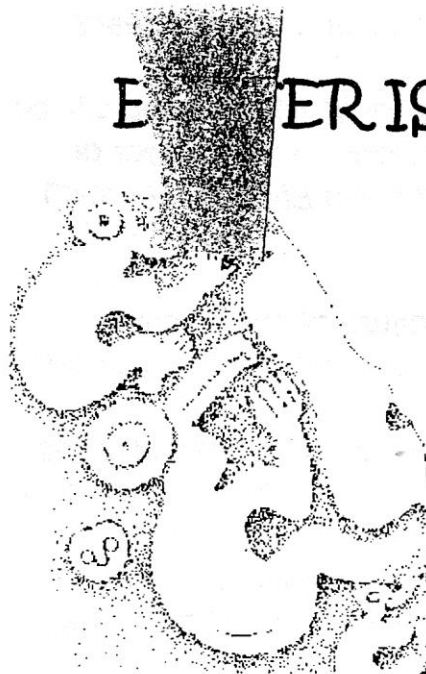


# EAST ISLAND PETROGLYPHS



## Content.

Petroglyphs are ancient carvings or engravings in rock. They have been discovered in Australia, Hawaii, Canada, North America, and even the Italian Alps. These rock pictures symbolize events and objects important to the history of each culture. The images tell a simple, yet beautiful story with an economy of line and the strength to endure centuries. Students will create a personal story by exploring the use of symbols as a form of non-verbal communication.

## National Standards.

Students will use visual structures and functions of art to communicate ideas. Students will understand the visual arts in relation to history and cultures. Students know and compare the characteristics of the artworks in various eras and cultures.

## Materials.

Styrofoam tray

Model Magic

Drawing chalk

Scissors

Colored wire- 18Ga.

Beads

Gloss Varnish

Plastic knife

Small Rolling pin

## Procedure.

1. After studying the various petroglyphs, design your own personal sacred image. Cut this shape out of the styrofoam tray. [For pin: design should be no larger than 1 ½" x 2"].
2. Cover the foam with an even layer of Model Magic. It should be approximately 1/8" thick. Be sure to cover the edges well and also to cover the backsides, smoothing the Model Magic around the entire shape.
3. Incise designs / patterns into the Model Magic while it is still soft and moist.
4. Use chalk powder to color the shape. To create powder, shave chalk onto a piece of paper. Use fingers to pick up the chalk dust and carefully rub it into the miniature sculpture. Try not to use too much chalk into the patterned impressions; leaving it white will make a striking finished appearance.

5. Bend wire into small spirals, swirls, or geometric shapes. Thread beads onto wire before attaching it to shape.
6. Allow Model Magic to dry (it will begin drying after 45 minutes and will be completely dry within 24 hours). Coat entire artwork with thin layer of Gloss Varnish or Modge-Podge. [Attach pin back and ENJOY wearing!]

#### Critical Thinking Questions.

The bird motif became prevalent on Easter Island because of the birdman ceremonies. In other cultures, birds have been honored as messengers between the earthly and spiritual realms. The relief sculpture *Winged Genius* in the Louvre was created by an Assyrian artist; a bird's head and its powerful wings were combined with a human figure. The Southwest is rich with petroglyphs, carved in sheltered rock overhangs and in open areas, birds in this culture represented human souls; denoting height and loftiness of spirit. Think of other artworks that you have seen that include birds- what kind of birds are they?, what could they mean?

Compare the similarities, differences, and cultural significance in the other cultures. For example: *Horus, Egypt*; *The Sleep of Reason, Goya*; *The Annunciation, Jan Van Eyck*; and *Taoist Immortals*.

#### Popular Culture:

ENJOY watching the movie *Rapa Nui*, directed by Kevin Cosner.

#### Resources:

##### Websites-

[http://www.mysteriousplaces.com/Easter\\_Isld\\_Pge.html](http://www.mysteriousplaces.com/Easter_Isld_Pge.html)

Take a virtual tour of Easter Island. This site features beautiful photography of the moais.

##### Unofficial Easter Island Home Page

<http://www.netaxs.com/~trance/rapanui.html>

Information on Easter Island's history, culture and tourism. Check out the great list of web links.

##### Books-

*Easter Island: Archaeology, Ecology, and Culture*  
by Jo Anne Van Tilburg and John Mack  
Smithsonian Institution Press, 1995

*Easter Island, Earth Island*  
by Paul Bahn and John Flenley  
Thames and Hudson, 1992

*Easter Island - Island of Enigmas*  
by John Dos Passos  
Doubleday & Company, 1971

*Easter Island: Mystery of the Stone Giants*  
by Catherine and Michel Orliac  
Harry N. Abrams Inc., 1995



THIS  
LESSON CAN  
BE RAISED  
UP GRADES  
OR ADDED TO  
OTHER LESSONS

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