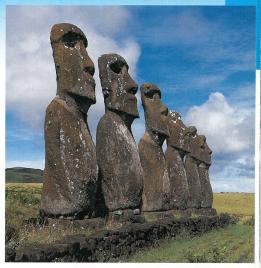
## THE PACIFIC

Most islanders are farmers.

Many tropical food crops such as sweet potatoes, cassava and coconuts grow well; sugar-cane, bananas and pineapples are important exports. And, with so much sea,

fishing is also important. Islands big enough for a full-sized airport, such as Fiji, the Samoan islands, Tahiti, and Hawaii (see page 72), now have tourists coming to enjoy the beautiful beaches.





▲ Easter Island, South Pacific. These huge stone sculptures each weigh about 50 tonnes! They were cut long ago with simple stone axes, and lifted with ropes and ramps — an amazing achievement for people who had no metal, no wheels and no machines. Look for Easter Island on the map (in square U11): it is one of the most remote places in the world. It is now owned by Chile, 3860 kilometres away in South America.

## **PACIFIC FACTS**

**OCEAN AREA** 155,557,000 sq km – the world's biggest ocean

HIGHEST POINT Mount Wilhelm (Papua New Guinea), 4508 metres

LOWEST POINT ON LAND Lake Eyre (Australia), 16 metres below sea level

**DEEPEST PART OF OCEAN** Mariana Trench, 11,022 metres below surface. This is the deepest place on Earth.

**LONGEST RIVER** Murray—Darling (Australia), 3750 km

LARGEST LAKE Lake Eyre (Australia), 8900 sq km BIGGEST COUNTRY Australia, 7,741,220 sq km SMALLEST COUNTRY Nauru, 21 sq km

Most Pacific countries are large groups of small islands. Their boundaries are out at sea – just lines on a map. For example, Kiribati is 33 small coral atolls spread over 5,000,000 square kilometres of ocean.