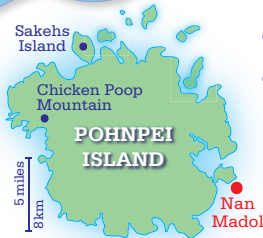


1828

Where: Nan Madol, a tight cluster of 90 or so islets off the coast of Pohnpei, a Pacific island.



Lava Land

James O'Connell, a shipwrecked Irish sailor, has just discovered this strange city of tiny islands. How strange? It's manmade.

Local islanders who have befriended O'Connell are trying to stop him from going in. "Acoa ban midjila!" they howl, "You will die!" They believe evil spirits live in **Nan Madol**. But O'Connell ignores their warnings and paddles his canoe through its **canals**. The humongous stone buildings on the islets, all abandoned, are unlike anything he's ever seen!

The construction method is similar to how **log cabins** are made. Workers stacked a frame of **basalt** "logs" on top of the **coral reef** that surrounds Pohnpei. Then they filled in the frame with coral rubble to make an islet. Many more logs were stacked atop the islets to make the buildings.

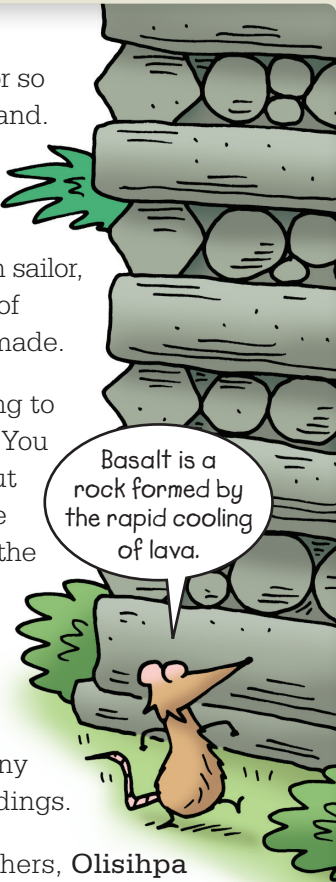
Who created Nan Madol? Legend has it that twin brothers, **Olisihpa** and **Olosohpa**, came to **Pohnpei** hundreds of years ago. They built the city in one day using a **dragon** to cut through the coral and magic to lift the logs.



Looking at these buildings, made of stone logs and boulders weighing up to *50 tons each*, that legend begins to sound a little less crazy. The nearest known basalt sources are on **Sakehs Island** or at **Pwisehn Malek** (translation: Chicken Poop Mountain). Dragging the stone logs through the thick jungle or transporting them on rafts seems equally impossible. And how did the workers raise them up to make 30-foot-high walls (10 meters)? You got me!

In 1833, O'Connell was rescued by the U.S. ship *Spy of Salem*. He soon shared his story with the world, the first written account of Nan Madol. But who built this city, as well as when and how, still remains a secret.

Basalt is a rock formed by the rapid cooling of lava.



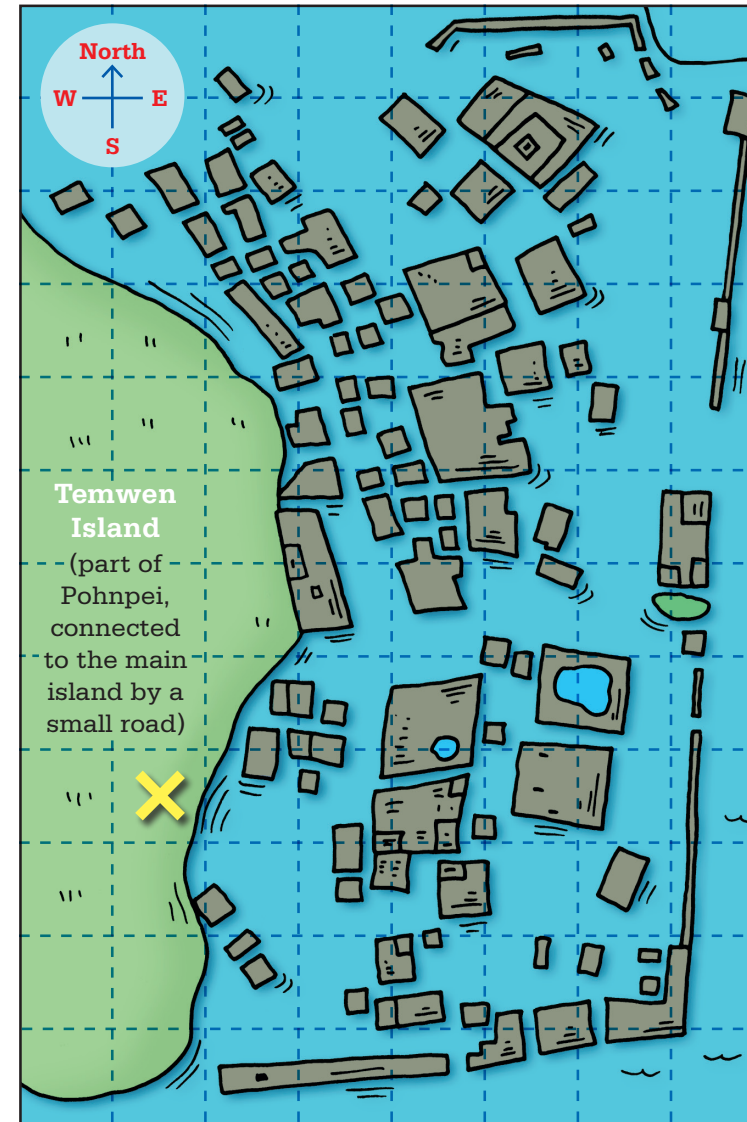
Because of its canals, Nan Madol has been called the "Venice of the Pacific."

Nan Madol required 250 million tons of stone, about 40 times as much as the Great Pyramid of Giza.

iPuzzle

Canoe Find It?

Follow the directions to find your way to Nan Dowas islet, home to Nan Madol's largest building.



Start at **X** on **Temwen Island**

1. Paddle **EAST** 2 squares
2. Go **NORTH** 2 squares
3. Go **EAST** 3 squares
4. Go **NORTH** 6 squares
5. Go **WEST** 3 squares
6. Go **SOUTH** 2 squares
7. Go **EAST** 2 squares
8. Go **NORTH** 1 square

Welcome to **Nan Dowas!**



Jump to this page or follow the pipes

Strangers known as Sandeleurs ruled Nan Madol for about 400 years, driven out by islanders perhaps in the 1400's.

Some of Nan Madol's buildings were used for sacrificing turtles or for housing sacred eels.