



KATARAINA
POI

LA'AKEA
AI

RAI

AUGUST 14
2025

The British
Museum

**The
stone currency of Yap**

JOIN US IN EXPERIENCING PEOPLE AND CURRENCY OF YAPESE

RAI LABEL

TITLE: RAI; LIMESTONE MONEY

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN, CULTURE, DATE: YAP, CAROLINE ISLANDS, MICRONESIA; YAPESE; 1900-1940

PROVENANCE:

MATERIAL: LIMESTONE

BRIEF COMMENTARY: THIS YAPESE STONE MONEY CALLED RAI REPRESENTS CENTURIES OF SHAPED MEGALITHS WITH STONES DATING AS EARLY AS 600 AD. QUARRIED ON THE ISLAND OF PALAU, RAI WERE TRANSPORTED SOME 450 KM BY BOAT AND COULD STAND AT 4M TALL AND WEIGH UP TO 9 TONS. RAI WERE USED IN MAJOR TRANSACTIONS AND ITS VALUE WAS DEPENDENT ON SIZE, SHAPE, AND QUALITY. TOO LARGE FOR THE HOME, RAI CAN BE FOUND IN COMMUNAL AREAS FOR ALL TO SEE.

DONOR, LENDER, BEQUEST: BEASLEY COLLECTION

REGISTRATION NUMBER: OC1980,Q.928

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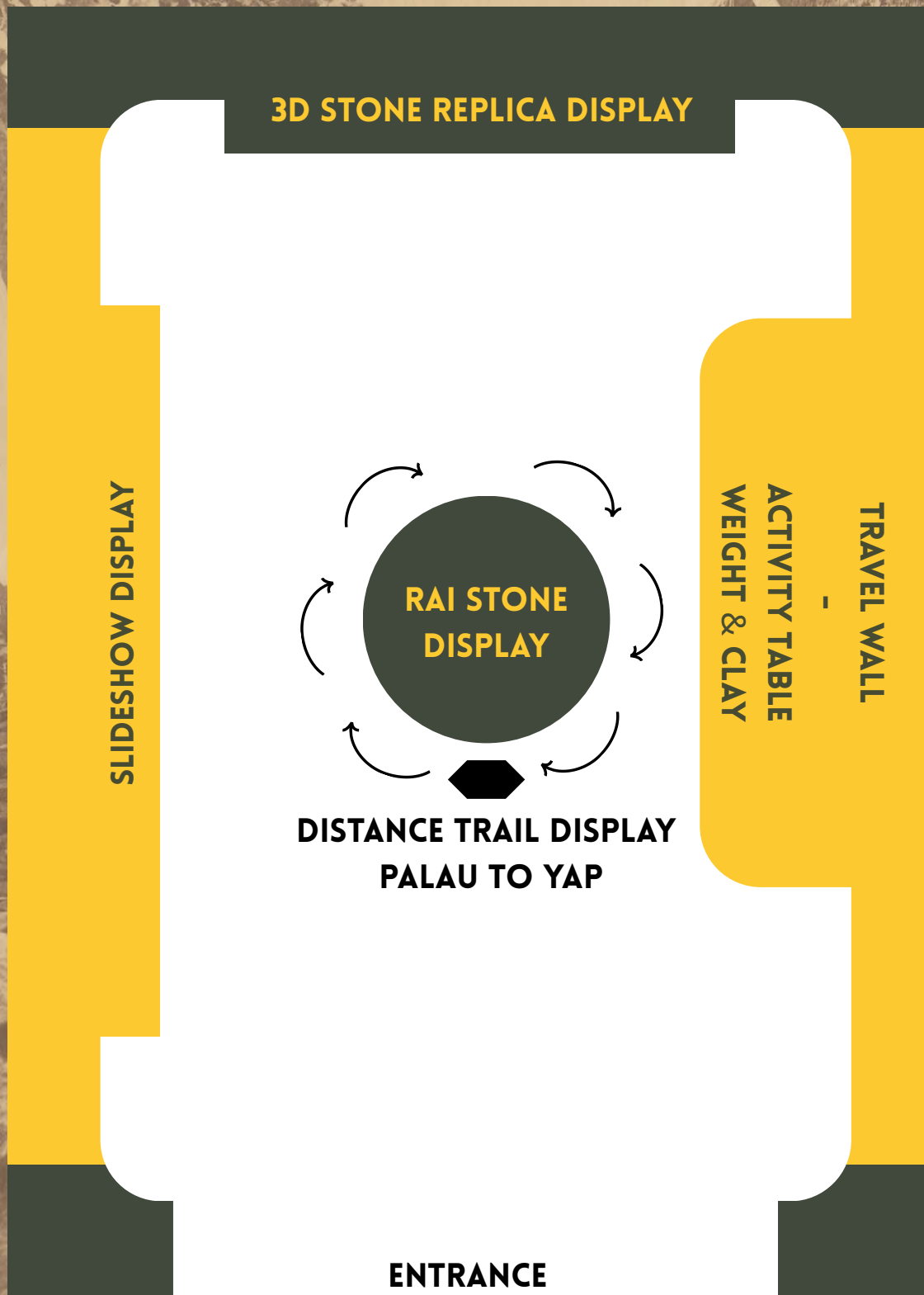
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RAI exhibition floor plan

(BIRDS EYE VIEW)



EXHIBITION PURPOSE: TO REPRESENT PEOPLE AND CURRENCY

MISSION STATEMENT: TO CHALLENGE MAINSTREAM UNDERSTANDINGS OF CURRENCY AND VALUE BY CENTERING THE CULTURAL, HISTORICAL, AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE OF YAPESE STONE MONEY (RAI)

Slideshow display wall

People and Culture



TEXT
PANEL

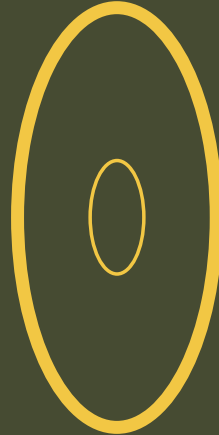
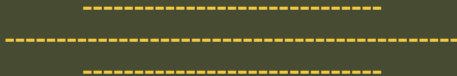
*****THIS INTERPRETATION IS TO REPRESENT THE PEOPLE AND CULTURE OF YAPESE - THEIR CUSTOMS,
THEIR VOICES, THEIR NARRATIVES*****

3D replica display wall

Purpose



TEXT PANEL



*****THIS INTERPRETATION IS TO EDUCATE VISITORS ON THE PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND ON RAI STONE
- SOCIAL TRANSACTIONS, OWNERSHIP EXCHANGE AND HOW RAI STONE CHALLENGES THE WESTERN
IDEOLOGY OF CURRENCY*****

Activity wall

Travel



TEXT PANEL



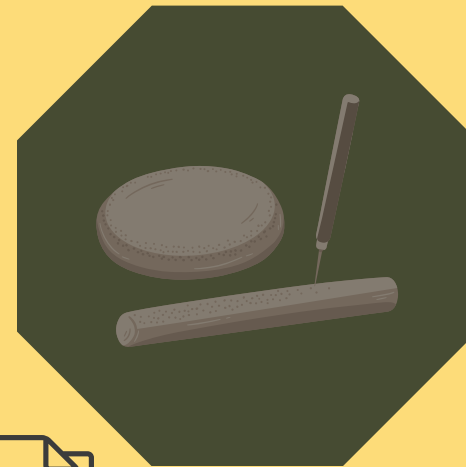
*****THIS INTERPRETATION IS TO EDUCATE VISITORS ON THE HARVEST AND THE TRAVEL JOURNEY OF
RAI STONE - FROM PALAU TO YAP ISLAND. DISTANCE TRAIL AROUND RAI DISPLAY.*****

Activity table

Currency value



TEXT PANEL



***THIS INTERACTION TABLE INCLUDES ACTIVITIES FOR BOTH ADULTS AND CHILDREN.
WEIGHT IS TO DETERMINE THE WEIGHT OF RAI STONES AND CLAY TO MAKE THEIR OWN STONE ***





