



History Detectives

Explore the history of taken Rapanui heritage

10. The Thor Heyerdahl expedition and Kon Tiki

Requirements: access to Kon Tiki film (either online or downloaded); writing and drawing materials

Working style: as individuals or in pairs, and as a class

Curriculum: Geography (islands, oceans and continents, exploration); History (world civilisations); Design

Time: 20 minutes

Thor Heyerdahl was a Norwegian archaeologist who carried out significant excavations on Rapa Nui in the 1950s (about 75 years ago). He developed an idea that the first settlers on the Island did not come from the western Pacific (Polynesia) but from South America. To prove that it was possible he built a raft ('Kon Tiki'), from balsa wood using ancient techniques, and sailed from Peru across the Pacific. Although his idea was proved wrong, the dangerous voyage of Kon Tiki became a famous achievement in its own right.

*Watch this **short film about Kon Tiki**. Look closely at how the raft was built and draw a design; make a list of provisions you would want on board if you were on the expedition.*

3D Model in Kon Tiki Film: [Creative Commons](#); Kon Tiki is now located in the [Kon-Tiki Museet](#), Oslo, Norway