

THE KON-TIKI EXPEDITION

Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the root word on the right.

The Norwegian explorer and (1) _____, Thor Heyerdahl, accomplished many things during his life but his name has become (2) _____ linked with the *Kon-Tiki* voyage. In 1937, while doing research in the western Pacific, Heyerdahl became (3) _____ interested in how the Polynesian islands had become populated. He made the observation that ocean currents flowed across the Pacific from east to west. Since there were cultural (4) _____ to be found on either side of this ocean, he was convinced that South Americans had sailed westwards to populate these islands before the eleventh century.

The (5) _____ argument against Heyerdahl's theory was lack of evidence that, at that time, boats existed with the (6) _____ to cross such an (7) _____ of ocean. So a determined Heyerdahl built a primitive raft of balsa wood, named it *Kon-Tiki*, and on April 28th, 1947, left Peru with a crew of five. Moved along by the ocean currents, the fragile raft *Kon-Tiki* sailed a steady 70 kilometers a day. Despite heavy storms, failure never crossed the crew's minds. After 97 days, they caught (8) _____ of one of the islands. However, due to unusually high winds they could not land and, realizing that a reef presented an (9) _____ obstacle, they prepared for the inevitable (10) _____. Amazingly, they all survived the crash, and Heyerdahl had his (11) _____.

(1) archaeology

(2) separable

(3) increase

(4) similar

(5) centre

(6) capable

(7) expanse

(8) sight

(9) avoid

(10) collide

(11) prove

