

Thor Heyerdahl Encyclopedia Article

Thor Heyerdahl

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Thor Heyerdahl

1914-

Norwegian anthropologist and explorer who led several transoceanic voyages aboard primitive vessels to prove the possibility of ancient sea migrations. During his 1947 *Kon-Tiki* expedition, Heyerdahl sailed on a small raft from the Pacific coast of South America to Polynesia. In 1969 he crossed the Atlantic Ocean from Morocco to the coast of Central America in the *Ra II*, a replica of an ancient Egyptian reed boat. Since then Heyerdahl has made similar voyages down the Tigris River, to Easter Island, and Peru.