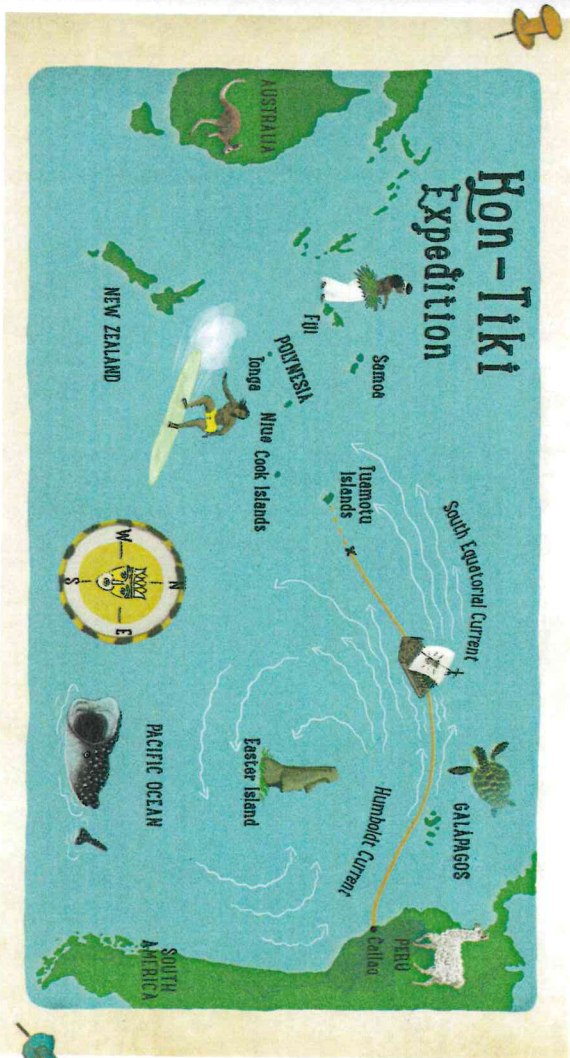
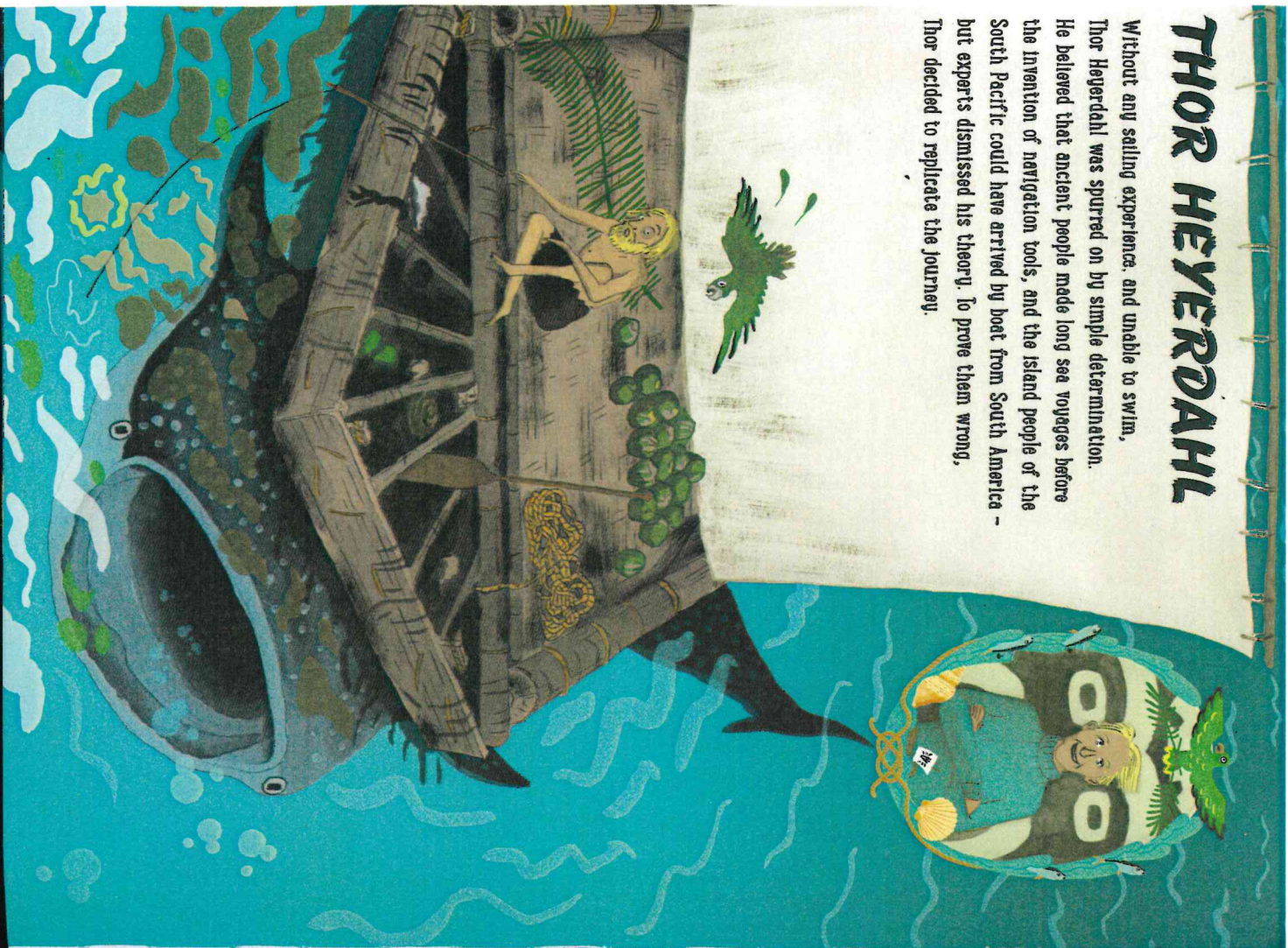


THOR HEYERDAHL

Without any sailing experience, and unable to swim, Thor Heyerdahl was spurred on by simple determination. He believed that ancient people made long sea voyages before the invention of navigation tools, and the island people of the South Pacific could have arrived by boat from South America - but experts dismissed his theory. To prove them wrong, Thor decided to replicate the journey.



KIT

- potatoe
- cocowiff
- calabash
- machete
- bamboo
- (to stove water)
- stove
- sextant
- harpoon
- Spanish-speaking parrot



Setting sail from Peru, the men aboard the Kon-Tiki drifted across the Pacific Ocean to the Polynesian Islands, led by Captain Thor Heyerdahl, who named the raft after the Inca sun god. They were at sea on their handmade raft for 101 days.

ANCIENT RAFT

Thor believed that people from South America could have settled in Polynesia by sailing, even though no one else thought the same. He built the Kon-Tiki only using materials that were available to the original raft-building ancient people, including massive balsa wood logs, natural hemp ropes and a cabin roof shaded with huge banana leaves. The crew also carried scientific instruments to collect weather and ocean information and a modern radio, in case of emergency. However, the radio would have been little help calling for rescue given their remote location.

CRASH LANDING

The team sailed almost 7,000 km before smashing into a reef in the Tuamotu Islands. Despite the bumpy arrival, they had successfully made landfall and were all alive and well. Thor had done it!

“Borders? I have never seen one. But I’ve heard they exist in the minds of some people.”