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# **INTERACTIVE READERS**

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## DEEP BLUE DISCOVERING THE SEA



Caroline Shackleton and Nathan Paul Turner



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# Before You Read:

## Get Ready!

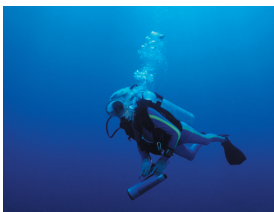
The sea covers 71 percent of our planet, but what exactly is under all that water?

### Words to Know

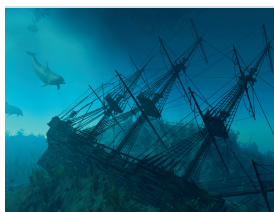
Look at the pictures. Then complete the sentences below with the correct words.



coral



diver



shipwreck



submarine



treasure

- ① A \_\_\_\_\_ is a person who uses special breathing equipment to look for things underwater.
- ② A \_\_\_\_\_ is a ship that can travel underwater.
- ③ \_\_\_\_\_ is something in the seas formed from the hard outer bodies of sea animals.
- ④ A \_\_\_\_\_ is a ship that has sunk or been destroyed at sea.
- ⑤ \_\_\_\_\_ is great riches, especially in the form of gold or silver.



## Words to Know

Read the paragraph. Then complete the definitions below with the correct **highlighted** words.

On April 28, 1947, six men set off from Peru on a **voyage** of discovery. They wanted to try to cross the Pacific Ocean in a small **raft** made from a very light wood, called balsa. This raft floated on the **surface** of the water. The name of the boat was the *Kon-Tiki*. The leader, a Norwegian named Thor Heyerdahl, wanted to prove that it had been possible for people from South America to **navigate** as far as the islands of Polynesia. After 101 days at sea, the group arrived safely on a Polynesian island. The voyage had not been easy. Heyerdahl said there were times when he was afraid for his life. He later wrote a book about his journey, *The Kon-Tiki Expedition*.

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_ : a flat boat made of pieces of wood tied together
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_ : a long trip, especially by ship
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_ : the top part of something
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_ : move a ship or other vehicle across an area of water or land



# Humans and the Sea

**KAIKEA LOOKED UP AT THE STARS, FOLLOWING  
THE PATH THAT HE KNEW WOULD KEEP THE CANOE  
ON COURSE. . . .**

*He was still only a young boy, but he knew all the traveling songs and stories. His father had sung them to him since before he could remember. He looked down at his father who was finally resting. How tired he must be! The big storm had thrown the boats in so many directions, and his father had spent three days without sleep before finding the other families. He was a great sailor.*

*They had little food or water left, but they had seen birds, so land must be near. They would be safe now, as long as the weather stayed calm. Kaikea sang his own name quietly to himself as he watched the stars. It made him feel safer. "Kaikea . . . Clear sea, clear sea . . ."*



Scientists believe that people first started leaving Africa about 100,000 years ago, moving into parts of Europe and Asia, Australia, and the Americas. To do this, they made boats strong enough to cross rivers, lakes, and seas.

Australian Aborigines crossed the sea from Asia as early as 50,000 years ago. They probably used simple rafts made from whole trees tied together.

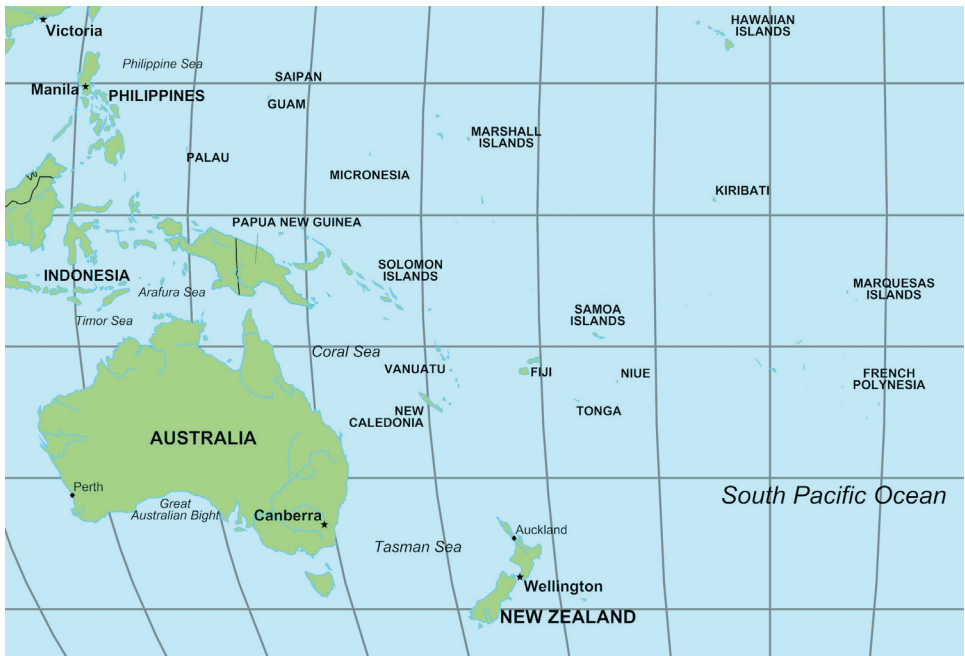
It seems that a lot of early exploration<sup>1</sup> was done by small family groups who **navigated** their rafts slowly along the coasts of Europe and Asia. This was for a very simple reason; it was very difficult and dangerous for these early travelers to move through the thick forests that covered most of the land. Most people lived and worked along the rivers and coasts, which allowed them to eat, drink, and travel more easily.

---

<sup>1</sup>exploration: going to and learning about a completely new place

A photograph of a traditional canoe with two people rowing on a body of water. The scene is captured at sunset or sunrise, with the sky and water reflecting a warm, golden light. The silhouettes of the two people in the canoe are visible against the bright background. The canoe is long and narrow, and the people are using long oars to propel it forward. The water has a textured, rippled surface. In the background, there are dark silhouettes of buildings or structures along the shore.

A traditional canoe



Many cultures have such a close relationship with the sea that it becomes part of their social identity. Often, these are island communities<sup>2</sup> that depend on boats to travel and catch food.

Pacific South Sea island cultures, such as the Polynesians and the New Zealand Maoris, are famous for being able to navigate thousands of kilometers in their traditional canoes without maps. Between about 3000 and 1000 BCE, these people emigrated<sup>3</sup> from southeast Asia across the Pacific Ocean, arriving in New Zealand, Samoa, and as far away as Hawaii.

Their knowledge of the islands, seas, winds, and stars were passed down in songs that allowed them to remember even the smallest details.

---

<sup>2</sup>**community:** all the people who live in a particular area

<sup>3</sup>**emigrate:** leave your own country or area to live in another place

For thousands of years, people have used the sea for **trade**. The earliest picture of a boat with a sail was painted on an Egyptian vase about 5000 BCE.

By the 1st century CE, Roman and Greek sailors were traveling across the Mediterranean Sea, through the Arabian Gulf, and across to India. Gold Roman coins have been found in Southern India. Some Roman writers even complained about how much Roman gold was being spent on Indian silk<sup>4</sup> and spices!<sup>5</sup>

And yet, the sea has always been something to fear. Its power and size has led to many stories about huge **creatures** called sea monsters. Even today, many people continue to search for signs of sea monsters, such as Scotland's famous Loch Ness Monster!

But this **fascination** with monsters might not be as crazy as it seems. As we are going to see, the world's seas hold many strange and terrifying creatures!

.....  
<sup>4</sup>**silk**: a smooth, shiny cloth

<sup>5</sup>**spices**: made from plants, they make foods taste special



Sailors told exciting stories about sea monsters.



### UNDERSTAND

Why did the first explorers travel by sea? What did sea travel allow people to do?

