



Polynesian Expansion

Patterns of Polynesian Migration

Plotting Polynesian Origins

For hundreds of years, many conflicting ideas have circulated about how the people of Polynesia came to be there. Explorers, historians and scientists have all presented their theories, attempting to solve the centuries-old mystery.

In this task, you are required to research the theory posed by one of the following people and fill your findings into the table below.

- James Cook
- Jacob Roggeveen
- Thor Heyerdahl
- Andrew Sharp

Name of the theorist	
If you could sit down with this person, what questions would you ask them about their theory?	
Year (or decade) in which the theory was developed	
What does the theory suggest about where the Polynesians originated?	
What evidence supports this theory?	
What evidence opposes this theory?	





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How useful and reliable
do you find this theory
to be?

Extension Activity

Using the *latest* theory and evidence explaining the origin of the Polynesian people, create a board game or computer game called Journey to Polynesia. The game should take players on a voyage across the Pacific, following the course of the ancient Polynesians, based on current evidence.

