



Language and Culture Show and Tell: Faroese

Bjarni Steintún

University of the Faroe Islands

Worksheet

1. The Faroe Islands

- Where are the Faroe Islands located and who settled there?
- Name the two Faroese painters mentioned in the presentation.
- Who was V.U. Hammershaimb and what did he achieve?
- Why is Faroese so difficult to spell?

2. Language

Do you remember the Faroese words related to the boat?

English	Faroese (føroyskt)
boat	
stern/stem	
	róður
	ár
	bekkur
sail	
keel	
	borð



Key to the exercises

1. The Faroe Islands

- a. The Faroe Islands are located halfway between Iceland, Scotland, and Norway.
- b. The two Faroese painters mentioned in the presentation are called Thomas Arge and Sámal Joensen Mikines.
- c. V.U. Hammershaimb was a priest and a renowned folklorist. But he is most famous for creating the Faroese written standard.
- d. Instead of basing the spelling system on the sounds of the language, Hammershaimb opted for an etymological approach, basing his system on that of Old Norse. Since Faroese has changed a lot from Old Norse, there is a considerable gap between Faroese spelling and pronunciation.

2. Language

Do you remember the Faroese words related to the boat?

English	Faroese (føroyskt)
boat	bátur
stern/stem	stevni
rudder	róður
oar	ár
thwart / bench	bekkur
sail	segl
keel	kjølur
ship side / board	borð