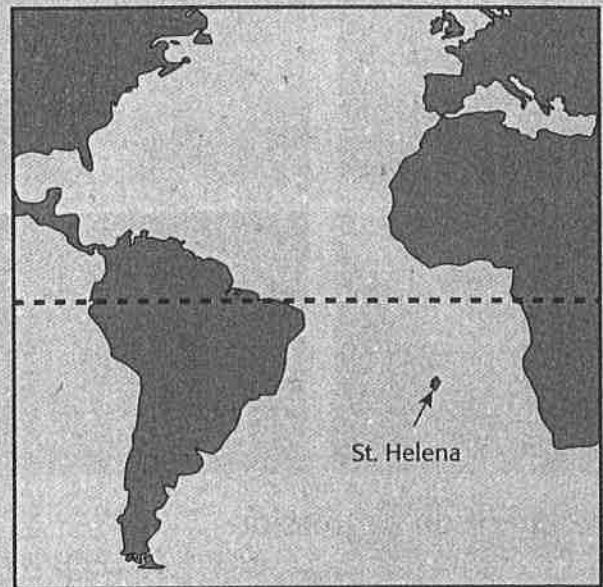


## *Be a critical thinker: the other side of the argument*

The island of St Helena in the Atlantic Ocean has been the site of an interesting natural experiment. Television was first introduced on St Helena in 1995. Psychologists from the UK used this unique opportunity to investigate the effect of the introduction of television on aggression in children. Cameras were set up in the playgrounds of two primary schools on the island, and the behaviour of children (between the ages of 3 and 8 years) was observed *before* and



St Helena

*after* the introduction of television. A content analysis of the television programmes showed little difference in the quantity or level of violence watched, when compared with children in the UK, so children on St Helena were exposed to exactly the same level of violence.

Analysis of hundreds of hours of videotape, backed up by interview data from teachers, parents, and some of the older children, showed no increase in antisocial behaviour among the children of St Helena. The good behaviour evident before the arrival of television had been maintained even after five years of exposure to violent television. From: Charlton, T., Gunter, B. and Hannan, A. (eds.) (2002) *Broadcast Television Effects in a Remote Community*, Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.

- 1 Find information about the people and culture of St Helena. What are the major differences between this community and communities in the UK?
- 2 Discuss possible reasons why the results of this study are so different from the results of the studies conducted by Bandura et al. (and by Kimball and Zabrack.)