

Oceanic Art

ENDURING UNDERSTANDING

- Since the region is so big, the arts of the Pacific are hard to classify.
- Pacific art, across all spectrums, is influenced by the sea, which separates and connects each island.
- Pacific art deals with complex belief systems controlled by powerful members of society.
- Pacific arts are performed using costumes, dance, song, and cosmetics.

ESSENTIAL KNOWLEDGE

- Art is created using available materials such as bone, shell, wood, coral, fiber, and stone.
- Australia was populated about 30,000 years ago. The islands were populated about 4000 years ago. Europeans began arriving in the sixteenth century.
- Some objects symbolize family or clan history; others celebrate history and were meant to be destroyed afterwards.
- The Lapita culture began with the Pacific pattern of migration, bringing their plants, animals, customs, and culture with them.
- Ship building and navigation became essential communication lines in the vast distances involved.
- Sculptures representing forces in the supernatural world were often wrapped to be protected. One's *mana* or vital force needs to be defended and protected.
- Sometimes *mana* would represent a whole community.

IDEAS AND CONCEPTS

1. The act of protecting the *mana* through rituals or wrapping is called *tapu*.
2. Each community in the Pacific had a different way of conducting spiritual exercises and commanding a social structure.
3. Ritual performances each have a different purpose; e.g., celebration, war.
4. The act of performance contains the work's meaning. The objects in that performance contain no meaning unless brought to life by rituals.
5. Rituals and performances often involve exchanging pre-arranged items that have symbolic value.
6. A symmetry of relationships is often sought. Opposing forces, such as gender, are placed within a balancing situation in many rituals.
7. The process and technique of creating Tapa.
8. The relationship with death in Papua New Guinea.
9. The form and function of the navigation charts found in the Marshall Islands.
10. The form and function of Nan Madol

VOCABULARY

Ahu'ula
Maoi
Tapa
Rapa nui
micronesia
polynesia
melanesia

RESOURCES

A link to the Music Video Project:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mEn5-uX67p8>

Moana and History:
<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smithsonian-institution/how-story-moana-and-maui-holds-against-cultural-truths-180961258/>

Ahu Ula:
<https://www.oha.org/kalaniopuu>

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JOURNAL

The Moai Easter Island Heads
(3.1, 1.2, 3.5)

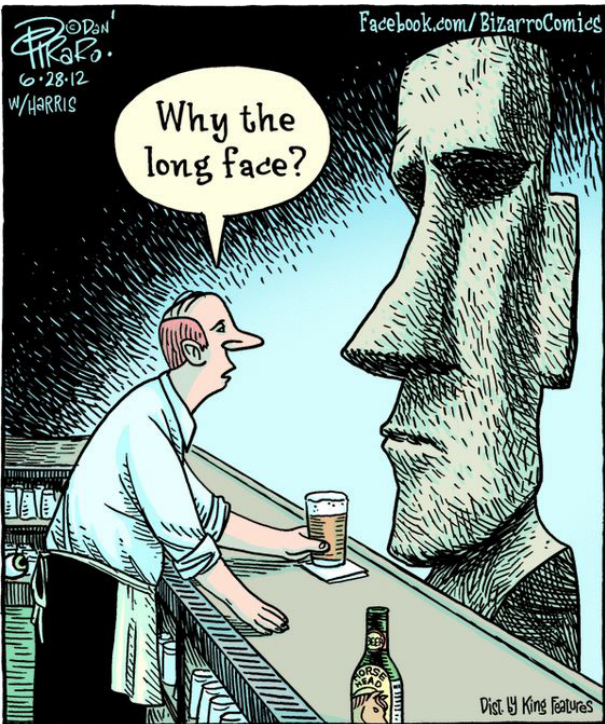
CONTEXT

Certain areas of the Pacific are some of the oldest inhabited places on earth, and yet, paradoxically, some areas are among the newest. Aborigines reached Australia around 50,000 years ago, but the remote islands of the Pacific, like Hawaii, Easter Island, and New Zealand were occupied only in the last thousand years or so.

Around 1300 BCE seafarers reached across the vast oceanic expanses to chart their way toward Fiji in the central South Pacific. Technological development of sailing craft meant greater territories could be mapped and charted for possible occupation. The particularly effective twin hulled sailing canoe was used to traverse hundreds of nautical miles; Tonga was reached in 420 BCE, and then Samoa in 200 BCE.

The final push to populate the Pacific came with the discovery of New Zealand. This happened perhaps as early as the tenth century but certainly by the thirteenth century by the ancestors of the Maori.

European involvement in the Pacific began with the circumnavigation of the globe by Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan and his crew. Explorers of the eighteenth century were followed by occupiers from the nineteenth century, who implanted European customs, values, religions and technologies onto the indigenous population. Many areas of the Pacific, however, achieved independence in the twentieth century.



WORKS OF ART

- The Ambum Stone , Papua New Guinea, 1500 BCE
- Terracotta Fragment, Solomon Islands, 1000 BCE
- Nan Madol. Pohnpei, Micronesia. Saudeleur Dynasty 700-1600
- Moai on platform (*ahu*). Rapa Nui (Easter Island) 1000-1600
- 'Ahu'ula (feather cape). Hawaiian 18th cent.
- Female deity. Nukuoro Micronesia 18th-19th cent
- Staff god, Rarotonga, Cook Islands 18th-19th cent
- Buk (mask), Torres Strait 19th cent
- Hiapo (tapa), Niue 1850-1900
- Gottfried Lindauer, Tamati Waka Nene 1890
- Navigation chart, Marshall Islands, 19th-20th cent
- Malagan display and mask. New Ireland Province, Papua New Guinea 20th cent
- Presentation of Fijian mats and tapa cloths to Queen Elizabeth II. Fiji, Polynesia 1953

ASSIGNMENTS

- ☐ Read Gardners pages 1103-1118
- ☐ Complete homework packet
- ☐ Write journal
- ☐ Fill in flashcards
- ☐ Make a timeline of Art History to review
- ☐ Take the AP Exam practice Quiz

HOMEWORK DUE: _____