

Polynesian Storytelling

My HulaHut

Grades: K-12

ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE:

Shake your hips and move your feet, this is a Polynesian experience you won't want to miss! Our show features an eclectic range of traditional and non-traditional music, and dancing from the Pacific Islands. This journey through Polynesia includes fun filled audience participation. Sharing the Aloha Spirit to those who love Hawaii and other islands—their land, people and culture. Learn how to tell stories with your hands and hips!

TEKS (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills):

	Music	Theater	Dance	Social Studies	ELA & Reading	The students will:
K	K.2	K.2		K.10	K.1, K.10, K.11	* Demonstrate appropriate concert etiquette during live performances. * Write literary texts, stories and poems that express their ideas and feelings. * Create writing and other forms to understand some specific Pacific Island cultures.
1	1.3	1.2		1.14	1.1, 1.12	
2	2.3	2.2		2.12	2.1, 2.12	
3	3.3	3.2		3.10, 3.12	3.1, 3.12	
4	4.3	4.2		4.17	4.1, 4.12	
5	5.3	5.2		5.20, 5.21	5.1, 5.12	* Understand how to use their bodies safely and expressively.
Middle School			1.3, 1.4	6.2, 6.13, 6.15, 6.16	6.10, 6.11	
			2.3, 2.4	7.18	7.10, 7.11	
			3.3, 3.4	8.23, 8.26	8.10, 8.11	
High School			1.2, 1.3, 1.4	World History 26	1.9, 1.10	

STAAR (State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness):

ELA & reading	Grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, Eng. I	Write well-developed essays that are suited to the writing task, with consistent command of grade-level appropriate conventions.
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Academic Vocabulary:	
Indigenous	*Native people who lived in a land from earliest times or before the arrival of colonists.
Polynesia	* More than 1,000 islands scattered over the central and southern Pacific Ocean. The indigenous people who live there share cultural practices, traditional beliefs and similar languages. In the past, they had a strong shared tradition of sailing and using stars to navigate at night.
Maori	*Native people of New Zealand, who are the largest Polynesian population.
Samoans	*Samoa is an independent nation. American Samoa is a territory of the United States.
Native Hawaiians	* Indigenous people from the 50 th state of the USA.
Tahitians	*Native people of Tahiti, often painted by artist Paul Gauguin.
Tongans	*Tonga is an independent and sovereign nation within the British Commonwealth.
Cook Islands Maori	*A distinct nation but related to the Maori of New Zealand.
Hula	*A storytelling dance that uses arm and hand movements to convey stories. Hula is accompanied by chanting and percussion instruments.

'Ōte'a	A dance that uses hip movements to tell stories. 'Ōte'a is accompanied by drums.
Haka	* A war dance from the Māori people of New Zealand. Participants make themselves look fierce by widening their eyes, sticking out their tongues, and stomping their feet.
Talk story	* An oral tradition in Hawaii where people share ideas, opinions, and events of the day. "Talk Story" is a Hawaiian expression that means "to chat informally."
'Oli	* Hawaiian chant delivered with no musical instruments using solely the voice of a chanter(s). It is used many ways within Hawaiian culture from asking permission to seeking guidance and understanding.

CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS:

Before the performance:

Ask

- What do you know about Hawaii or other Polynesian islands? Have you visited or heard about any islands in the Pacific Ocean?
- Listen to "Ka Uluwehi O Ke Kai" by Hapa, another traditional Hawaiian song, or "Somewhere Over the Rainbow/What a Wonderful World" by Israel Kamakawiwo'ole. Find out what, if anything students know about Ukulele music.

After the performance:

- What did you learn from the performance?
- Create a rap, song, dance, drama, or piece of artwork to express what you like about Polynesia.

Language Arts:

- Read the story about Leilani and Pele and recreate it by making art, puppets, or inventing hand movements:
<https://www.google.com/search?client=safari&rls=en&q=tell+story+with+hula&ie=UTF-8&oe=UTF-8>
- Write a rap, poem, or song about the hula or the haka.
- Examine the multiple meanings of “aloha.” Create a skit, story, or other form to show what you learned. (Aloha is the Hawaiian word for love, affection, peace, compassion and mercy, that is commonly used as a greeting. It has a deeper cultural and spiritual significance to native Hawaiians, for whom the term is used to define a force that holds together existence.) Use some of the following vocabulary to create skits or other forms:
 - Aloha kakahiaka* (good morning)
 - Aloha ‘auinalā* (good afternoon)
 - Aloha ahiahi* (good evening)
 - A hui hou* (until we meet again)
 - Ohana* (family)
 - Pau hana* (the end of work)

Mathematics:

- Learn about and use Polynesian math, based on the binary system.
<https://www.google.com/search?client=safari&rls=en&q=polynesian+math&ie=UTF-8&oe=UTF-8>
<https://www.science.org/content/article/polynesians-may-have-invented-binary-math>

Social Studies:

- To survive, teamwork was and is very important if you live on an island. The dual concepts of gratitude and humility foster reciprocal relationships—binding communities together. Research the meanings of the words “mahalo” and “pono” and then create a drawing or other form to illustrate what they mean.

- Create a Polynesian headdress of feathers, a lei, anklet (kupe'e), or a grass skirt.

Science:

- Ancient Polynesians could navigate their boats by the night stars. Learn more about the constellations and draw or otherwise give form to what you see.
<https://www.naturalnavigator.com/find-your-way-using/stars/>

Resources:

Related Websites:

Polynesia:

<https://kids.kiddle.co/Polynesia>

Tales of Polynesia: Folktales from Hawai'i, New Zealand, Tahiti, and Samoa by Yiling Changues

To Find the Way by Susan Nunes

Moana and Moana II, Disney films

Hula:

<https://textproject.org/wp-content/uploads/fyi4k/FYI-for-Kids-5-11-Hula.pdf>

Haka:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DoYEbilhAc0>

Aloha:

<https://www.robertshawaii.com/blog/spirit-behind-aloha/#:~:text=The%20term%20aloha%20derives%20from>

Mahalo:

<https://collectionsofwaikiki.com/mahalo-meaning/>

ABOUT THE ARTIST:

For over 15 years Malia's Hula Hut has produced Hawaiian & Polynesian shows in Texas, Louisiana, Florida, Oklahoma and more! Based in the Houston-Woodlands-Sugar Land Metro Area in Texas, they specialize in birthdays and corporate/convention luau themed parties. They offer live musicians, hula shows, fire performers, catering, private Hula lessons/dance classes, lei greeting, fresh flowers and more! website: <https://maliashulahut.com/>.