



EARLY PEOPLES

The Polynesians

The Polynesians explores the daily life, history, and culture of Hawaiians, Samoans, Tahitians, Tongans, Maori, and other groups of Polynesians. Skilled at sailing and boatbuilding, Polynesians were the first people known to make long ocean voyages.

What did you learn?

QUESTIONS

1. Chiefs were believed to possess a sacred power called ...
 - a. The Force
 - b. Mana
 - c. Atoll
 - d. Karma
2. One of the most complicated Polynesian dances was the ...
 - a. Polynesian shuffle
 - b. Tapa dance
 - c. Tongan paddle dance
 - d. Hawaiian hula
3. On special occasions, Tongan women wore a decorative string girdle called a ...
 - a. Ta'ovala
 - b. Lava-lava
 - c. Kiki
 - d. Kiekie
4. American settlers overthrew the Kingdom of Hawaii with the support of the United States government in ...
 - a. 1816
 - b. 1844
 - c. 1893
 - d. 1910
5. The name *Polynesia* comes from the Greek words meaning what?
6. What is the name of the Hawaiian volcano goddess?

TRUE OR FALSE?

- _____ 1. The most common Polynesian artifacts found by archaeologists are tools made of wood.
- _____ 2. Instead of laws and courts, the Polynesians had ritual restrictions called taboos.
- _____ 3. To the Polynesians, the noni tree was the most important of all medicinal plants.
- _____ 4. Polynesian navigators were taught to ignore the flight of birds that feed at sea but roost on land.
- _____ 5. In Samoa, expert workers belonged to guilds.
- _____ 6. Hawaiian society had a very informal class system.

ANSWERS

- 1. b. Mana.** According to section "Clans and Chiefdoms" on page 15, we know that "Chiefs were believed to possess a sacred power called mana, which came from the gods." So, the correct answer is B.
- 2. c. Tongan paddle dance.** According to section "Entertainment" on page 30, we know that "The Tongan paddle dance was one of the most complicated Polynesian dances. Large groups of men carried painted wooden paddles. The dancers moved the paddles slowly and gracefully as they formed lines, squares, and semicircles." So, the correct answer is C.
- 3. d. Kiekie.** According to section "Clothing" on page 45, we know that "Tongan women wore a kiekie (*KEE ay KEE ay*) around the waist on special occasions. This was a decorative string girdle worn over the top of a lava-lava." So, the correct answer is D.
- 4. c. 1893.** According to section "The Colonial Era" on page 56, we know that "In 1893, American settlers overthrew the Kingdom of Hawaii with the support of the United States government." So, the correct answer is C.
- 5.** According to page 36, the name Polynesia comes from the Greek words meaning *many islands*.
- 6.** According to page 12, Pele is the volcano goddess.

TRUE OR FALSE? ANSWERS

- 1. False.** According to section "How Do We Know About Polynesian History?" on page 7, we know that "The most common Polynesian artifacts found by archaeologists are tools made of shell, bone, and stone." So, the correct answer is False.
- 2. True.** According to section "Mana and Taboo" on page 18, we know that "The Polynesians did not have law codes and law courts. Instead, they had taboos." So, the correct answer is True.
- 3. True.** According to section "Health and Medicine" on page 25, we know that "To the Polynesians, the noni tree was the most important of all medicinal plants." So, the correct answer is True.
- 4. False.** According to section "Polynesian Navigation" on page 37, we know that "The behavior of birds was another sign used by Polynesian navigators. The flight of birds that feed at sea but roost on land pointed the sailors' way to shore." So, the correct answer is False.
- 5. True.** According to section "Making a Living" on page 41, we know that "In Samoa, experts belonged to guilds, which laid down rules and regulations for each craft. There was a total of nearly 30 guilds." So, the correct answer is True.
- 6. False.** According to section "Hawaii" on page 52, we know that "Hawaii developed a rigid class system with dozens of ranks." So, the correct answer is False.