

Global Culture- PACIFIC ISLANDS- Polynesian Cultural Art

K-5

Materials: copy paper or construction paper, pencils, markers.

Opening Activity: The last stop in this round the world journey are the Asian-Pacific Islands. Fiji, Samoa, Hawaii, Tahiti- all of these islands share elements of culture and heritage, religious traditions and styles of food! Ask members if they've seen the movie MOANA, and have them name elements of the lifestyle of the island people depicted in that movie. Ask them if they remember that Maui had many stories of his life depicted as tattoos on his body. Have students think about the symbols they might use to describe their own life's journey, heritage or family history.



Core Activity: Students will invent a short story told in symbols, like the tattoos on MAUI! Style the drawings like traditional Polynesian tattoos: use strong shapes, repeating patterns, and stylized animals or features of nature: waves, volcanoes, trees. Ask students: what are the symbols and images of YOUR story? Copy the attached template SUN MANDALA for students to color.

Reflection: We see that stories can be told through imagery- what other ways do we use art to tell our stories?



