

## Arts for Learning CT PROGRAM GUIDE

### LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Hawai'i is not the only set of islands in the Pacific Ocean
  - Learn about the other islands within the Polynesian Triangle
  - Learn how the Hawaiian Islands were discovered by voyagers from Tahiti
- Experience the dances and music of New Zealand and Tahiti
  - Experience and learn how to do a Maori warrior chant called the Haka
  - Experience the art of Maori poi ball spinning
  - Learn Tahitian drum beats and Tahitian style dances
- Learn about the elements of nature through Polynesian mythology
  - How islands were formed
  - Legends of Maui
  - Legend of the Coconut, and more...



## Kahana Hula

South Pacific Island Rhythms,  
Storytelling & Mythology Performance

### ABOUT THE PROGRAMS

Polynesia in Greek means “many islands”, referring to a group of islands within three marking points: The Hawaiian Islands, The Easter Islands, and New Zealand, referred to as the Polynesian Triangle. Cultures and dances of other Polynesian islands are often misrepresented as Hawaiian. While learning to perform dances and chants of the South Pacific, students learn that Polynesian dance is a form of storytelling; requiring skills such as comprehension, imagery, mindfulness, posture, and spatial awareness. Also performed by men and boys, this oral language tradition has served as an effective means of preserving ancient wisdom and documenting the island’s history and mythology for centuries. Connections are made with language arts, history, geography, and social studies.



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Arts for  
Learning  
Connecticut



# About the Artist & Program Preparations

## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Tiare Kahana, the founder of Kahana Hula since 2006, is a performing and teaching artist, dedicated to sharing the Aloha Spirit and perpetuating Hawaiian and Polynesian culture. Tiare is formally trained as a hula dancer, but also learned the art of poi ball spinning and Tahitian dance.

Kawika Sanitago has been with Kahana Hula since 2009. His talent on the drums brings the heartbeat of Aloha to the show. As a percussive drummer since childhood, he was drawn to playing Tahitian drums and the Hawaiian ipu gourd, which elevate the authenticity and energy of the show! Kawika also demonstrates a variety of Polynesian dance styles performed by men.

## PRE PROGRAM

### Discuss with students:

- What and where is Polynesia?
- Polynesia means many islands, located in the Pacific Ocean
- What islands mark off the Polynesian Triangle?
- Hawai'i, New Zealand, and The Easter Islands
- Do you know the name of a famous demi-god from the South Pacific? (Maui)
- Do you know any of the Pacific Island legends? Do you know of other legends, demi-gods or goddesses?

## POST PROGRAM

### Discuss with students:

1. What was the most interesting thing that you learned from the program?
2. Can you name the three marker points of the Polynesian Triangle?
3. What island does fire knife dancing come from?
4. What island does the haka come from?
5. What island does poi ball spinning come from
6. Can you name islands that are part of the Polynesian Triangle, and can you demonstrate their style of dance, chanting or music?
7. Are there similarities with legends from other cultures that you know of?

## CURRICULAR LINKS

### Language Arts

**Speaking and Listening:** Comprehension and Collaboration, 1-3; Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas, 4-6.

**Language Standard:** Knowledge of Language, 3; Vocabulary Acquisition and Use, 4-6; Conventions of Standard English, 1-2

Polynesia - Greek for "many islands"| Haka - Maori Warrior Chant Poi- Maori word for "ball"  
| Legend of Pele | Legend of Maui Pahu vs. Toere - types of Tahitian drums |  
'Ori and 'Aparima - types of Tahitian dance



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