

Hands On Gallery Viewing Questions

1. What natural materials did the Polynesians find on the islands that they used to make their household items?
2. Polynesians do many things as a community--what are some activities mentioned here that they do as a group?
3. For what occasion is the large headdress worn?
4. What did Polynesians use to help them find their way across the open ocean?

Extension questions:

1. If you live on a small island, what kinds of foods would you eat?
2. We learned about Wayfinding--navigating across the open ocean to get to an island. What does this tell us about the Polynesians and their environment?
3. How did living on small islands affect the way Polynesians lived? How would their lives be different than ours here in Central Texas, on the plains?

Lesson Plan for "Gallery," Hands On

Gallery is the station where students get to experience the culture we are studying, through artifacts and interactions. This year, our cultural region is Polynesia; the activities reflect social studies TEKS, in particular for geography, as students see objects made from the resources available on Polynesian islands, and learn about the skill of Wayfinding.

TEKS:

- (4) Geography. The student understands how humans adapt to variations in the physical environment. The student is expected to:
 - (A) describe and explain variations in the physical environment, including climate, landforms, natural resources, and natural hazards;
 - (B) identify and compare how people in different communities adapt to or modify the physical environment in which they live such as deserts, mountains, wetlands, and plains;
- (5) Geography. The student understands the concepts of location, distance, and direction on maps and globes. The student is expected to:
 - (A) use cardinal and intermediate directions to locate places on maps and globes . . . in relation to the local community;

Materials needed:

Blackline map of the Pacific Ocean, globe, yarn
viewing worksheet

Instructional Plan

Pre-viewing:

1. Ask if students know where Polynesia is located. Show students a globe. Point out that if you could push all the continents on Planet Earth together, they still would not fill up the area of the Pacific Ocean.
2. Distribute the blackline map of the Pacific Ocean to the students. Project the Pacific Countries Map picture; help students locate New Zealand, Tonga, Samoa, French Polynesia, the Hawaiian Islands, Pitcairn Island, and Rapa Nui (Easter Island--it's the one with the faint box around it). Have students draw a triangle from New Zealand to Hawaii to Rapa Nui--this area is Polynesia. Find it on the globe; outline the area in yarn on the globe and compare it to the United States. But look--there's really very little land there--it's open ocean! There is roughly 10 million square miles of area in Polynesia--but only 10,000 sq miles of land--the other 9,990,000 square miles are ocean! The USA has about 3,500,000 square miles. So Polynesia covers an area roughly three times the size of the USA, but only has about half as much actual land as Central Texas. Use the yarn to measure the distance from Hawaii to Texas (about 3,500 miles), and from New Zealand to Texas (about 7,400 miles).

During viewing:

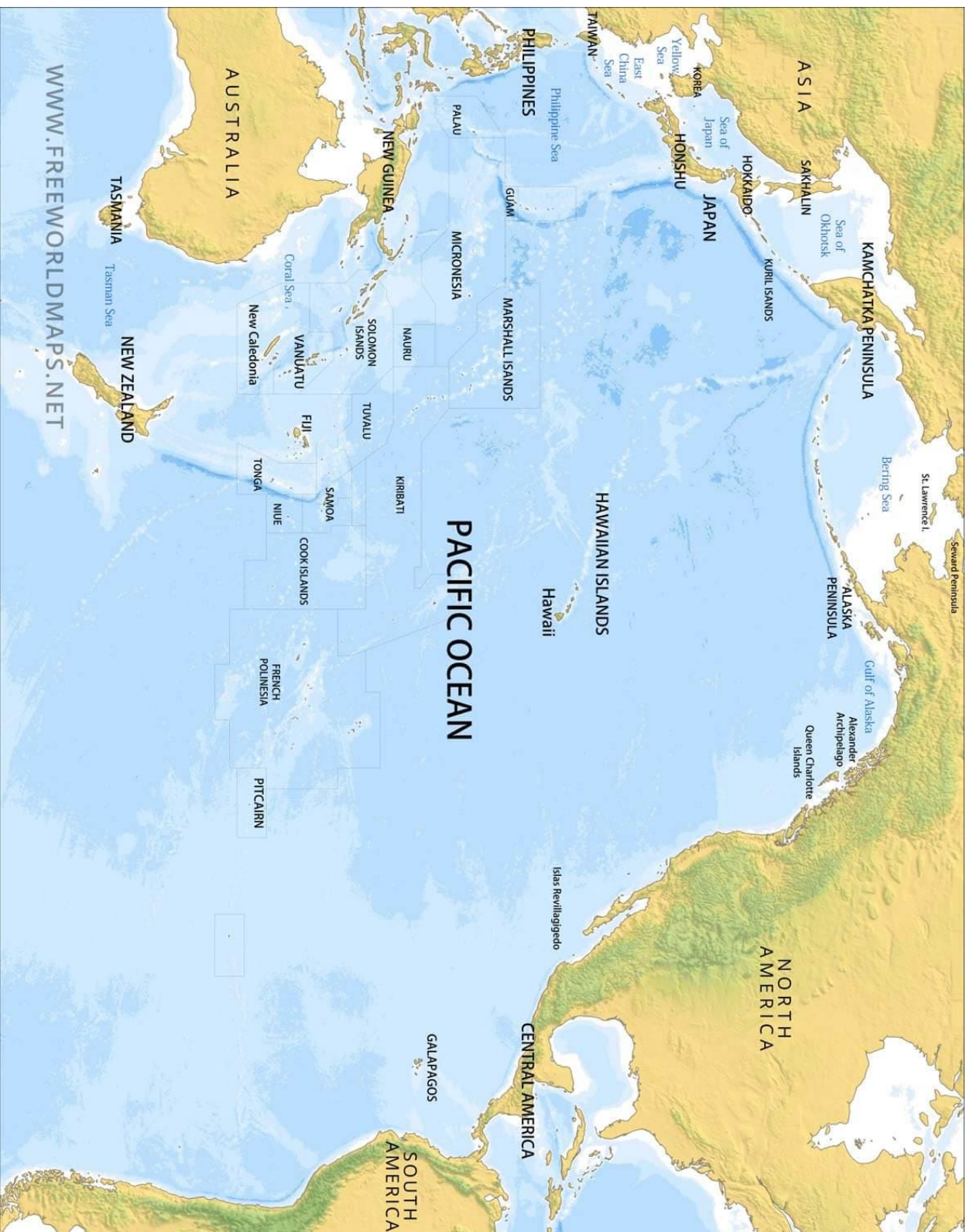
3. Students will view the Gallery video; students either complete the viewing questions on their own, or the teacher can post the questions on the board to be answered upon completion of the video. Discuss the questions.

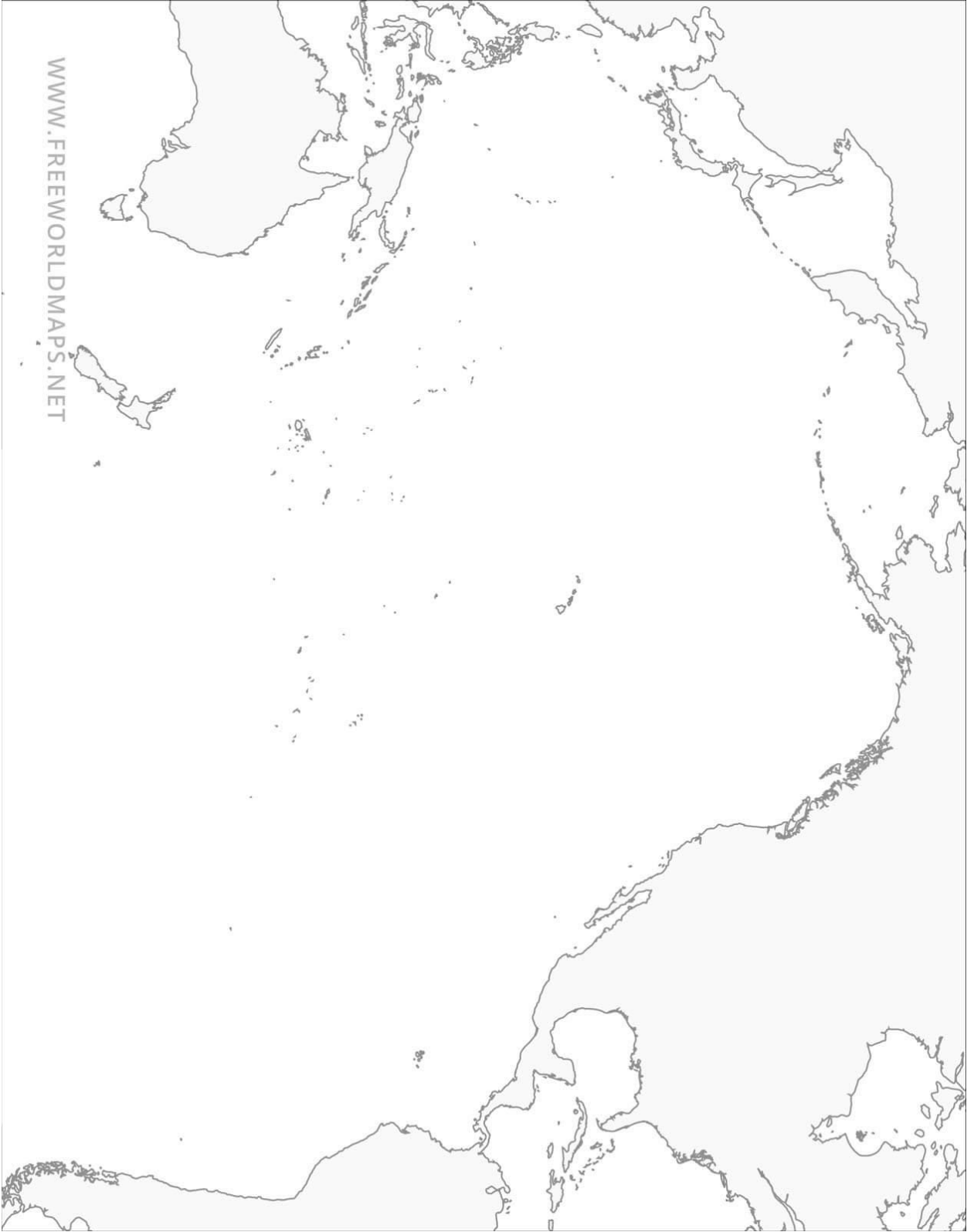
4. Wayfinding--during this section of the video, pauses have been built in to allow students to answer (about 10 seconds)--you may encourage students to give answers during this time, and then compare them to the answers given in the video.

After viewing:

5. Two extension questions are listed here that can be discussed with the class.

1. If you live on a small island, what kinds of foods would you eat?
(fish, shellfish, birds and chickens, native roots, fruits, rice)
2. We learned about Wayfinding--navigating across the open ocean to get to an island. What does this tell us about the Polynesians and their environment?
(Polynesians had great knowledge of their surroundings; they studied the stars, the ocean currents, and the wildlife in both sea and air)





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