

RESPECTING PACIFIC ISLAND CULTURE AND WAR DANCES



At a glance

- Where is Rugby played across the Pacific region?
- How does culture in the Pacific Island countries compare to Australian culture?
- What are the war dances used by Pacific Island Rugby teams?
- What do war dances look, sound and feel like?
- What is the cultural significance of the New Zealand Haka?
- What impact do war dances have on players and fans?

OVERVIEW

Rugby is an extremely popular sport throughout the Pacific Island region. In this learning experience students will explore aspects of Pacific Island culture through different rugby stories and make comparisons with their own way of life. Students will also focus on the cultural significance of war dances used by various Pacific Island rugby teams before international rugby events and understand the important roles that these rituals play in shaping national identity.

LEARNING AREA

- Health and Physical Education

FOCUS AREA

- Relationships and sexuality

Strand: Personal, social and community health

Sub-strand: Communicating and interacting for health and wellbeing (ACPPS037)

Sub-strand: Contributing to healthy and active communities (ACPPS024; ACPPS042; ACPPS060)

GENERAL CAPABILITIES

- Intercultural understanding: Recognising culture and developing respect.
- Ethical understanding: Exploring values, rights and responsibilities.
- Literacy: Comprehending texts through listening, reading and viewing; Composing texts through speaking, writing and creating.
- ICT capability: Investigating with ICT.

STIMULUS

- PowerPoint Presentation – ready to use!
- Various YouTube Pacific Island Rugby stories
- NZ Haka
- Samoan Siva Tau
- Tongan Sipi Tau
- Fiji iBOLE
- Cook Islands war dance

POSSIBLE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES / TASKS

- See what you already know about the Pacific region including the Pacific Ocean, bordering countries, continents, seas, climate, natural resources, natural hazards, history etc.
- Look at the Rugby playing countries throughout the region and discuss why Rugby might be such a popular sport in the region.
- View one or more of the Rugby stories from PNG, Samoa, Cook Islands and Tahiti and point out similarities and differences between their way of life and our way of life in Australia.
- Think about how schools in the Pacific might be similar or different to ours.
- Talk about why it is important to recognise and respect other people's culture or way of life.
- Talk about one of the most visual expressions of Pacific Island culture at international Rugby events, i.e. war dances. View one or more of the war dances including the NZ Haka, Samoan Siva Tau, Tongan Sipi Tau, Fiji iBOLE, and Cook Islands war dance.
- Discuss what the war dance/s look, sound and feel like in your opinion and share ideas with the class.
- Find out more about the NZ Haka and how it is part of New Zealanders' national identity.
- Explore some other interesting cultural aspects of the Pacific region including ceremonies, body art, music and famous artists.

REFLECTION

Students reflect on the diversity of Pacific Island culture and the importance war dances have in shaping people's national identity. Students reflect on the importance of recognising and respecting others' cultures in everyday life and at large sporting events.

EXTENSION IDEAS

- Research other things Rugby teams may do to symbolise pride, strength, unity or other important values before a match.
- Research other rituals people or groups perform in life.
- Develop your own personal ritual to use before big sporting events. Explain your choice and reason to the class.
- Research controversies surrounding the Haka and discuss these as part of a make-believe current affairs radio program.

WORKSHEETS

- LP - Make up photo stories
- MP - Develop a quiz
- UP - Advertise a match

ASSESSMENT IDEAS

- LP - Dance and sing to one of the Rugby war dances
- MP - Create a class war dance
- UP - Debate a topic about the Haka