

Pacific Cultures Gallery

Primary Years - Student Guide Level 1 North

Draw something used in a ceremony or celebration on display which you think is really interesting and explain why.

This Outreach Education Program for schools is made possible by the partnership between the South Australian Museum and the Department of Education and Children's Services. Outreach Education is a team of seconded teachers who are based in public institutions.

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Ceremonies and Celebrations



Susu mask from Wide Bay in East New Britain.

Florence Kamen and students who performed in a special ceremony at the opening of the Pacific Cultures Gallery.

On your visit to the Pacific Cultures Gallery you will learn about the ceremonies and celebrations of Pacific Islander people by looking closely at their masks and ornaments.

Name:

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Museum guidelines

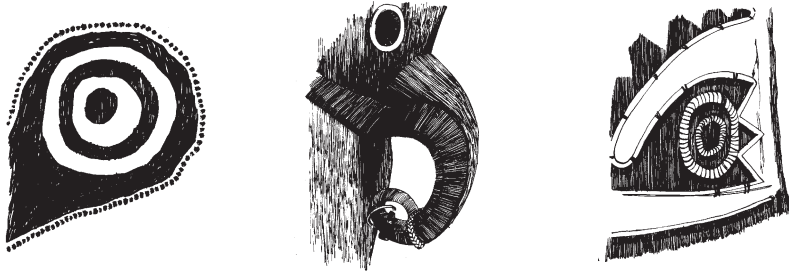
1

We would like you, and all our visitors, to enjoy visiting the museum.

- Please stay with your group.
- Walk safely around the exhibitions.
- Talking is an important part of learning. Please remember to use a quiet voice in this public place.
- The museum glass cases can get dirty or scratched. Please enjoy looking without touching.
- Please use the stairs instead of the lifts.

Let's get started:

- In small groups take 5 minutes to explore the gallery and watch some films on the big screens.
- Talk to someone about what you discovered.



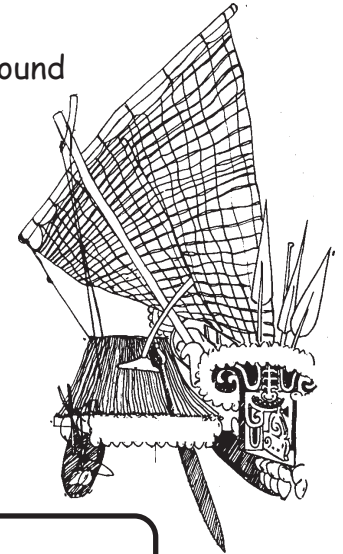
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Kula shell trade

10

Important ceremonies were organised when the Kula canoe *Sopikarin* arrived at an island. Read the big label and watch the video on the big screen.

Talk about the dangers you think the Trobriand Islander men faced sailing around in the Sopikarin. List them here.



Write the names of the two types of Kula shell body ornaments next to the direction they travelled around the islands.

- clockwise
- anti-clockwise

Why is the Kula journey so important to the men involved?

Can you find the Kula shell necklace in the flat case near the house on legs?

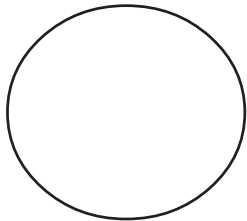
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The shell ornaments on display were used by Pacific Islander men and women to enhance their appearance. Talk about how shells might have been used in their daily lives and ceremonies.



Find these *kap kaps* worn by village chiefs. Record information about,

- the materials used;
- how they were made;
- and how they were worn.



Design your own *kap kap* here in the circle.

Choose another body ornament you like and draw it here.

Talk to a friend about why you like it.

Describe a body ornament you like wearing.



The Pacific Islander people often organise ceremonies to celebrate special occasions such as weddings, funerals, or when boys and girls become adults, the harvesting of yams and when they set out on a sea voyage.



See if you can find the names of these Pacific Islands above the wall cases as you walk around the gallery.

In the Pacific Gallery

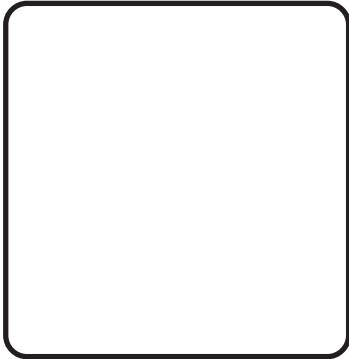
Although many of the things on display in this gallery no longer present a picture of these Pacific Islander cultural groups today, you can learn a lot about their traditional ceremonies and celebrations, some of which still occur.



Masks - Papua New Guinea

3

People living near the Sepik River made masks which represented 'bush spirits'. They wore them in ceremonies to celebrate when children became adults.



Draw the large beak-shaped mask. (North eastern corner, near the lift.) Describe how you think it was made and the materials used.

Look closely at the skulls decorated by the Sepik River people. Label the parts of this figure showing the materials it is made from.



They modelled the faces of their ancestors and enemies so they would remember them. Talk about how you remember your ancestors.

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Malangan Masks - New Ireland

8

These dramatic masks from New Ireland were made by artists for use in their Malangan feasts and ceremonies that honoured relatives who died. (North western corner.)

Label the parts of this mask and the colours and materials used to make it.



What does it remind you of?

'Tatenua face mask'



Choose another Malangan mask you like and draw it here.

Compare it to another mask. What is the same or different about it?

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Sulka Dance Masks

7

Find the two large Sulka dance masks or *hemlouts* made by the people of Wide Bay. Read the big labels and look closely at the photographs.



Why do the Sulka people 'dance' their masks in special ceremonies?

When was this new *hemlout* made?

Describe the similarities and differences between the two *hemlouts*.

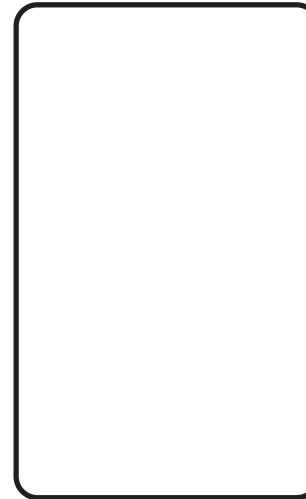
Talk about how special ceremonies are performed in your community.

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Asmat Memorial Poles (bisj or mbis) 4

Ceremonies were organised when memorial house poles (bisj or mbis) were carved by the Asmat people. Each figure represents someone who died. **Please do not touch them.**

Try drawing one of the figures from their wooden poles.



How many figures can you see on the highest pole?

How do you think they carved it?

Where would you find something similar today?



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Masks - Papua New Guinea

5

The Elema people of the Papuan Gulf region made *eharo* and *hevehe* masks to wear in ceremonies.



Ehara masks like this one were worn in ceremonies for fun. They were sometimes decorated with model aeroplanes!!

Find another *ehara* mask. Describe their similarities and differences.

Large *hevehe* masks like this one on display were worn in ceremonies to celebrate the opening of a new house or when children became adults.

Draw the missing pattern on this mask and label it with the materials it is made from.



Describe a mask that you or your friends have made or worn.

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Hohao boards - Papua New Guinea

6

The Namau people from the Papuan Gulf region stored the skulls of their ancestors and ceremonial boards in a men's house. (Look at the old photo.)



Find these ceremonial boards painted with spirit figures called *hohao* on display. What do they have in common?

What do you notice if you draw a line straight down the centre of a *hohao* board?

Explain how you think they were made.

The navel of the *hohao* represents the umbilical cord which leads to the spirit world. Namau magicians get into a trance and believe they can follow the umbilical cord through the navel into the spirit world.

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