

Topics from Oceania Units for Junior Secondary School History

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WELCOME

Welcome to your eBook archive of classroom units on Pacific History for junior and middle-secondary High School students.

1. How to use the units

You can browse the contents and download **each unit** for free by selecting individual lessons on a topic of interest, or by selecting a neighbouring North Pacific or South Pacific country, or your own nation's history.

Or, you can also use the **full list of contents** to design a new curriculum in Pacific History for your students – the five themes included are: on early history, the colonial era, cultural sites, World War II and the contemporary Pacific as new nations and governments were created and re-created.

2. Who are they designed for?

The Units were designed for Pacific Island history and social studies students with English as a second language, and pitched at the middle secondary school years (13-16 year old students).

3. What is available in this eBook

Each of the 44 units is based on a key question, a narrative text, and a set of simple questions or activities that can be completed in class time. Each unit is fully self-contained. (Some units have suggestions for other student assessment or work on the topic – such as an excursion, wall mural, debate, or performance). They are designed for immediate classroom use.

There are three background readings are for teacher preparation and a Glossary of Historical terms for student use.

4. The Five Themes

The units cover the North and South Pacific and nearly all nations, territories and dependencies. At this stage there are no units on West Papua, Kiribati, Tokelau or Rapanui. The units are divided into five themes of different size. The themes are:

- Part 1: The Pacific in 1500 (4 units of work)
- Part 2: Cultural Sites in the Pacific (16 units of work)
- Part 3: Pacific Histories around the region (10 units of work)
- Part 4: Your War – Our War: the impact of WWII (7 units of work)
- Part 5: My government, My nation (7 units of work)
-

(Note: It is planned to add further units to this eBook archive as history teachers around the region make further contributions)

5 Background readings

There are three background readings or guidelines for teachers (Appendices 1-3) and a glossary. The appendices are:

- Cultural Sites; a heritage approach to teaching history and social studies in the Pacific Islands
- My country, my government: the path to self-government, independence and nation status
- The Past, the Other, Self, History and Histories

6 Expanding the teaching of Pacific Histories

The aim of this eBook and providing it free *online* is to supplement, and possibly replace the European History topics and the older history curriculum that developed out of the colonial education systems. Students need a global perspective, but these units of classroom work are definitely and purposefully *local, indigenous* and embedded in the *stories, experiences and past events of Oceania*. By providing the resources, we hope History and Social Studies Teachers will feel confident to embark on a new “Pacific History” curriculum.

7 The eBook project

These units were written by practicing History teachers from across the North and South Pacific in workshops in 1995-2002 and edited for publication as an *online* eBook. They were written initially as part of a professional development project for history teachers across the region called TTPF, coordinated by Associate Professor Grant McCall (Anthropology, UNSW) and Dr Max Quanchi (Pacific History, University of the South Pacific) and later as *HistoryCOPS* coordinated by Professor Lau Asofou So’o (National University of Samoa). This project was funded by the Sasakawa Peace Foundation of Japan.

The units were revised and edited by a series of editors, and with a grant from the Pacific History Association (PHA) in 2009, finally prepared for publication as an eBook. The Australian Association for the Advancement of Pacific Studies (AAAPS) and the Fiji Islands History Association (FIHA) also became partners in the project.

The eBook is available free online on both the PHA and the AAAPS websites. (www.aaaps.edu.au and www.pha.com.au)

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The Editors and co-editors:

Several people have contributed to the editing of these units since the original project began in 1995, particularly Alli Suhonnen, Melinda Noble, Jenny Long and Jessica Bird.

The final version was prepared for publication in 2010 by Hannah Perkins, Max Quanchi and Samantha Rose. (For further information contact the Secretary of the PHA at www.pha.edu.au).

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Cover photograph

Memorial for indigenous Fijians who served in World War I, Beach Street, Levuka, Fiji; photograph taken April 2010.

PREFACE

We chose as a preface for this eBook, a poem which demonstrates the complexity of most Pacific Island histories, and the way in which these histories are personal, national and international. The poem was written by Janet Christopher Ikimotu, a history teacher from Niue, attending a History Teachers workshop in Suva in 1997. She wrote the poem and then presented it at a “Pacific Women Writers” social evening at the *Barn*, Suva. The theme of the night was “Free floating coconuts”, Janet is of Banaban-Kiribati descent, but born in Fiji and married to a Niuean.

I’m a floating Niu

I’m a floating Niu.
Still looking for my roots
Mama and Papa gave me away
To a childless couple who came to bubuti.*

Still looking for my roots
My New Papa and Mama sent me away
To an all-girls boarding school.
I’m a floating Niu.

Still looking for my roots
I gave myself away
To a man of an island called Niue.*
Is this my roots at last?
A Banaban i-Kiribati
Fiji born and bred
Still holding my Fiji passport
And a Niuean Resident.
Floating to and fro
Please help me find my roots.

- * Butui is a i-Kiribati word meaning to borrow, or to ask for adoption.
- * The name Niue comes from the phrase “Niu-E” ... Heh, a coconut.

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