

Programme title: Pacific Art: Contemporary and Customary Practices

Years 1–8

Theme	Key questions	Key competencies
Customary art practices in Pacific cultures are diverse and constantly evolving, with contemporary artists continuing to draw on and develop them today.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What customary art practices have evolved in Pacific cultures?• How do contemporary Pacific artists use or transform customary practices in their art works?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Thinking• Using language, symbols, and texts• Participating and contributing

English-medium curriculum	Māori-medium curriculum
<p>Visual Arts</p> <p>Understanding the Arts in Context</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • L1–L2: Share ideas about how and why their own and others' works are made and their purpose, value, and context. • L3: Investigate the purpose of objects and images from past and present cultures, and identify the contexts in which they were made, viewed, or valued. <p>Developing Ideas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • L1: Investigate visual ideas in response to a variety of motivations, observation, and imagination. • L2: Investigate and develop visual ideas in response to a variety of motivations, observation, and imagination. • L3: Develop and revisit visual ideas in response to a variety of motivations, observation, and imagination, supported by the study of artists' works. 	<p>Ngā Toi</p> <p>Toi Ataata</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T1: Ka tūhura, ka whakauru atu, ka whai mōhiotanga, ka whai māramatanga: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • i ngā huānga me ngā ariā • ki ngā tohu o tōna ao. • T3: Ka tūhura whānui, ka whakawhanake, ka whai mōhiotanga, ka kite: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • i ōna wheako whakaaro • i ngā whakawhiti ariā tikanga ahurea me ōna uaratanga • i te huhua o ngā tohu. <p>Tikanga ā-lwi</p> <p>Te Ao Hurihuri</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T2.1: Ka whakamārama i ngā take me ngā huarahi e whakaaro nuitia ai e te tangata ngā wā o mua.

Social Sciences

- L1: Understand how the past is important to people.
- L2: Understand how cultural practices reflect and express people's customs, traditions, and values.
- L3: Understand how cultural practices vary but reflect similar purposes.

- T4.1: Ka tautohu i ngā pūtake me ngā otinga o ngā tūāhua kua waihanga i te oranga o te tangata.

Learning intentions

- Identify the materials, techniques, purpose, and context of a range of customary taonga (treasures) from Pacific cultures.
- Identify some key patterns and symbols used in Pacific art.
- Create an art work to take back to school, inspired by contemporary and customary practices in Pacific cultures.

Programme description

In this programme, students explore selected items of Pacific art (including tīvaevae – quilts; and tapa/siapo – bark cloth) from Te Papa's collections. They discuss the materials, techniques, purpose, and context of those objects. In small groups, they identify patterns used in the works, learning what they symbolise.

Students then examine and discuss some examples of contemporary art, explaining the ways in which they might have been inspired by customary practices.

Students work individually and as a group to create an art work to take back to school, inspired by the taonga they have seen and incorporating customary and contemporary features.

Possible pre-visit activities

Watch these *Tales from Te Papa* videos and answer the questions provided – talesresource.tepapa.govt.nz

- Pisupo lua afe (a sculpture by contemporary artist Michel Tuffery, made from corned-beef tins) – <http://bit.ly/Sd1Bf3>
- Tapa Cloth (bark cloth) – <http://bit.ly/N9kr62>
- Stories Sewn in Quilts (tīvaevae) – <http://bit.ly/MRa0sf>

- Recycled Plastic Art (contemporary art from the Pacific) - <http://bit.ly/PfT6Qh>

Possible self-guided activities around Te Papa

Level 4

- PlaNet Pasifika Discovery Centre – Get hands-on to learn about Pacific celebrations, body adornment, tīvaevae (quilts), and tapa (bark cloth). You can also bang a drum, strum a ukulele, or make a lei (flower necklace).
- *Tangata o le Moana* – Explore ‘Pacific beats’ to remix the sounds of Pacific musicians like Bill Sevesi, Fat Freddy’s Drop, and OMC. Watch the 3D holographic film ‘Journey to a new land’ to learn about the epic voyages that early Pacific migrants took to reach New Zealand.

Possible post-visit activities

Create your own tīvaevae designs

Many customary tīvaevae (quilt) patterns are inspired by things in nature, including flowers, leaves, birds, and animals. Gather your own collection of natural things, such as leaves, berries, flowers, shells, stones, and insects. Use their outlines to inspire your tīvaevae designs. Think about what they could symbolise. Use your new symbols to create an art work.

Make a recycled animal

Collect a range of recycled materials, such as plastic bags, empty food wrappers, bottle tops, cans, boxes, and straws. Fix them together to build an animal, bird, or fish shape, using hot glue and/or sticky tape. Give your sculpture a title.

Hold an exhibition of your sculptures and invite other students, family members, or community members to attend. Take photographs of the sculptures and upload them to The Wall in *OurSpace* for all our museum visitors to see. Go to ourspace.tepapa.com

Make tapa-inspired art

Follow the instructions below to make a textured rubbing board.

- Draw a simple pattern on card.
- Using PVA glue, stick string on top of all the lines you have drawn, following the lines carefully.
- Allow the glue to dry completely, and then brush a thin coat of PVA glue over the whole board to seal it.

- Allow it to dry thoroughly. Your rubbing board is now ready to use!

Place a piece of paper on top of the board and use the side of a crayon to rub over the surface. Move the board and repeat this over and over to build up a larger pattern.

Supporting material

Online resources

- **Collections Online, Te Papa** tepapa.govt.nz/collections
Search Collections Online for information on 'Pacific art'.
- **Paperskin: The art of tapa cloth** tepapa.govt.nz/paperskin
Explore the online resources and information about this exhibition, which was on at Te Papa in 2010.

Print resources

- Mallon, Sean. *Tangata o le Moana: New Zealand and the people of the Pacific*. Wellington: Te Papa Press, 2012
[Order this book from Te Papa Store – tepapastore.co.nz](http://tepapastore.co.nz)
- Mallon, Sean, and Pereira, Pandora Fulimalo. *Speaking in Colour: Conversations with artists of Pacific island heritage*. Wellington: Te Papa Press, 2006
[Order this book from Te Papa Store – tepapastore.co.nz](http://tepapastore.co.nz)
- Ministry of Education. *Pasifika Visual Arts: A resource for teachers of years 7–10*. Wellington: Learning Media, 2005