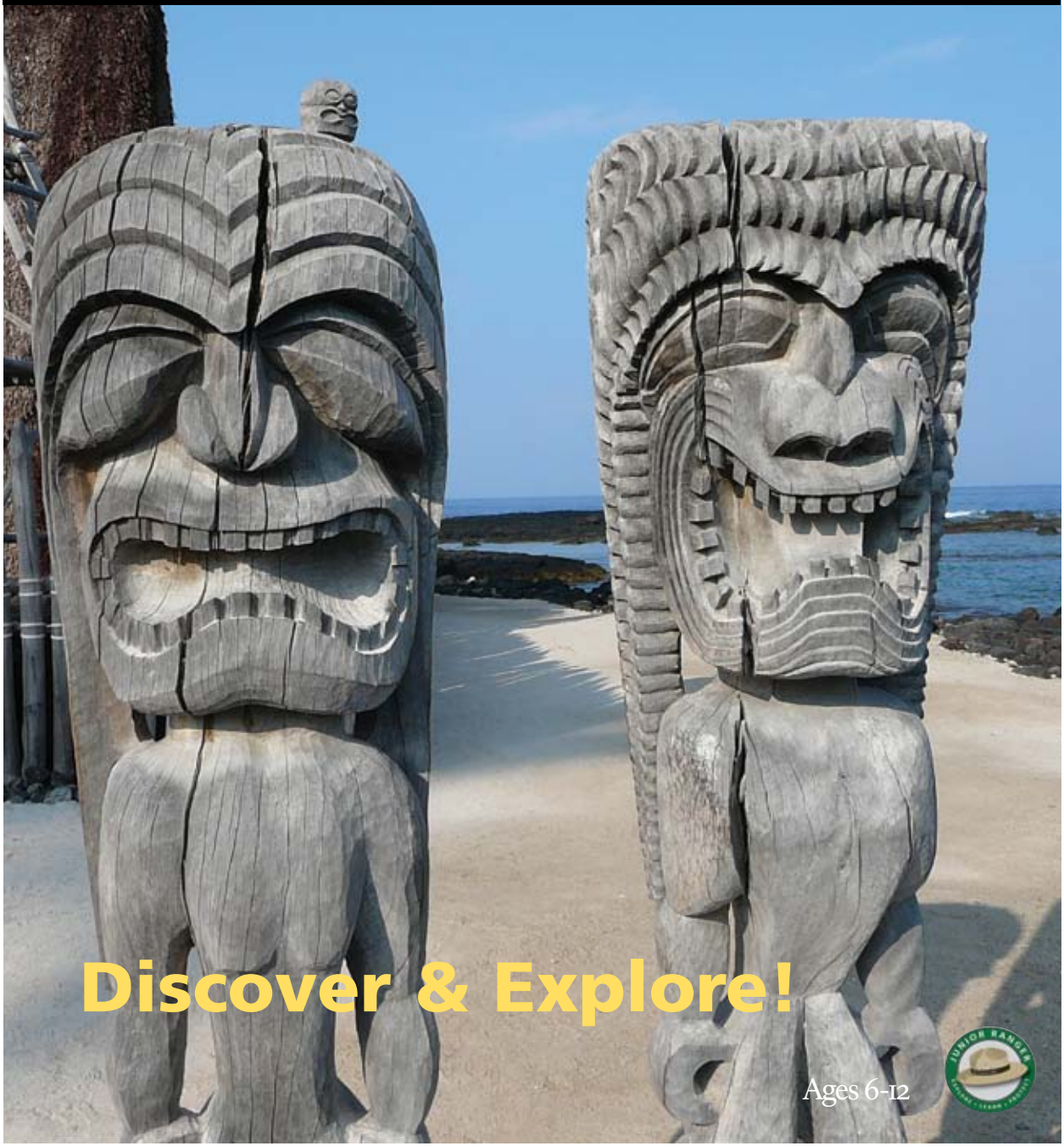
Ranger Explorer Activity Guide

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

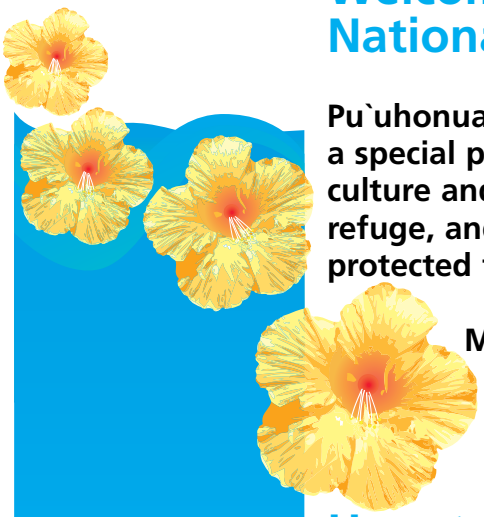
Puùhonua o Hōnaunau
National Historical Park



Discover & Explore!

Ages 6-12

Welcome to Pu`uhonua o Hōnaunau National Historical Park



Pu`uhonua o Hōnaunau National Historical Park is a special place with deep significance to Hawaiian culture and history. Here, a royal residence, a place of refuge, and a sacred temple have been preserved and protected for future generations.

Ma'o hau hele (yellow hibiscus) is the state flower of Hawai'i.

How to become a Junior Ranger

Junior Rangers are dedicated young people who help to protect the natural and cultural resources of Pu'uhonua o Hōnaunau National Historical Park.

Parents are encouraged to take the opportunity in guiding your child's learning experience and to discover for yourself the wonders of the last remaining *pu'uhonua* (place of refuge) in Hawai'i.

Complete <u>four</u> or more activities and the Park Ranger Duties page in this booklet. Present the booklet to the Park Ranger at the Visitor Center to recite the Junior Ranger Pledge and to receive your Junior Ranger Badge and Certificate.

Places to Explore

Using the walking tour guide section of the park brochure, explore the royal grounds, Keone`ele Cove, the Great Wall, and the sacred temple of Hale o Keawe with its many *ki'i* (wooden images). Walk around the seaward side through the pu'uhonua and return back as you walk between the royal fish ponds.

1.

The Royal Grounds

This is where the *ali'i* (royal chiefs or kings) resided. It is a place where the *maka'āinana* (the common people) were forbidden to enter. The penalty for breaking this *kapu* (sacred law) was death.

Find a quiet place to sit.

List five things you see:

1. _____ **2.** _____ **3.** _____

4. _____ **5.** _____

How is it different from the town you live in?

What do you hear?

What don't you hear (like traffic noise)?

2.

Your Royal Grounds

You are the *ali'i nui* (high chief of the entire island). You have found this wonderful place in Hōnaunau and have decided to build your home here.

If you were the high chief, what you would like to have on your own royal grounds?

Make a list or draw your own Royal Grounds.

3.

The Great Wall

This massive wall with a thickness of 17 feet, height of 10 feet and extending over 1000 feet towards the sea was built sometime in the 1500's to separate the pu'uhonua from the royal grounds. Some of the stones used to construct the wall are massive, weighing several tons (1 ton = 2000 pounds).

Can you find the largest stone in the wall (hint: it has slightly reddish color and faces the royal grounds)?

Draw yourself standing next to the stone.

Believe it or not: **Legend says that it took only 5 days to build the wall.**

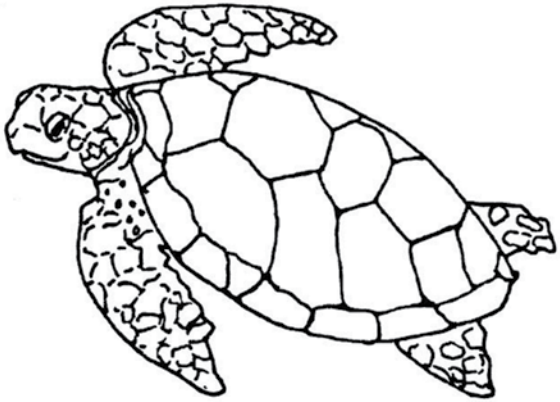
How do you think the ancient Hawaiians moved the massive stones without any large equipment that we have today?

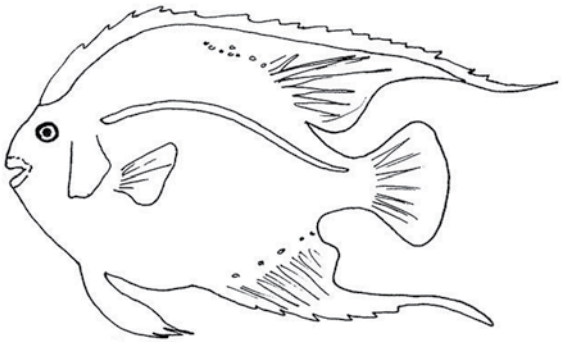
4.

Under Water

The waters of Hōnaunau Bay (bordering the park on the north side) are teeming with life. From the walking path you can look out into the waters and see a variety of colorful wildlife: fish, turtles, crustaceans and more.

Please give the green sea turtle and angelfish bright and beautiful colors.
(Crayons are available at the visitor center.)



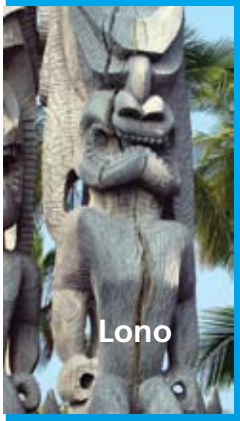


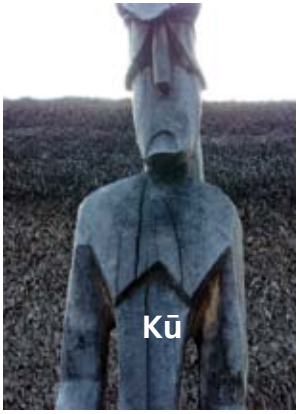
5.

Hale o Keawe

The sacred temple of Keawe was and still is a place of worship where *ho'okupu* (offerings) are placed on the *lele* (tower). The temple possessed tremendous mana (spiritual power) to protect the pu'uhonua and was the resting place of the bones of many past ali'i.

Today what you see is a close replica of the original structure that was built around 1650 including the many *ki'i* (wooden images). Hale o Keawe (literally meaning the House of Chief Keawe) is dedicated to god Lono. Lono and Kū, two of the four major gods of ancient Hawai'i, have ki'i standing tall at the temple.





gods	represent
Lono	god of agriculture, rain, peace, wisdom and prosperity
Kū	god of war and forest

If you were to bring an offering, what would you bring and why?

6.

Your ‘Aumakua (Family god)

In ancient times, every family had an *‘aumakua* (a guardian spirit) which was the spirit of deceased ancestors.

The ‘aumakua could take on a physical form such as an animal, sea life, plants, clouds or anything in nature to communicate with their descendants. For example, a family that lived along a shore whose main skill was fishing, their ‘aumakua might be a certain type of fish or a shark.

If you had lived in ancient Hawaií, what would your ‘aumakua to be?

Why?

Draw your family ‘aumakua.

7.

Pu'uhonua

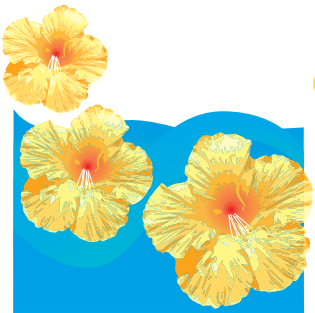
A pu'uhonua is a place of refuge — this is the best preserved pu'uhonua in Hawai'i. People who broke the kapu (sacred laws) could come here for forgiveness. It was also a refuge for defeated warriors and people in time of war.

Kapu regulated the daily activities and relationships of ancient Hawaiians. It outlined the ways of worship of the gods and regulated the natural resources of the *'āina* (land) and the sea to conserve the finite resources for future generations.

Everyone respected the kapu including the ali'i. If one were to break a kapu, the punishment was usually death unless he or she made it to a pu'uhonua for forgiveness by the gods. Once a kapu breaker reached pu'uhonua, no one could harm them and the *kahuna* (priest) would perform a purification ceremony to remove the guilt of breaking the kapu.

Some examples of kapu are:

- **One could not fish for certain kind of fish at certain times.** This was to protect fish during spawning season (when the fish reproduce) so there would be lots of baby fish.
- **Not praying to a god or disrupting a religious ceremony.** Respect of the gods, who represent all things on earth, was very important.
- **Women were not allowed to eat pork, bananas and certain types of fish.** These foods were common offerings to the gods and therefore were forbidden to women.



Today's Kapu

Just like the ancient Hawaiians, there are laws and rules that we all live by.

List some of the rules in your house.

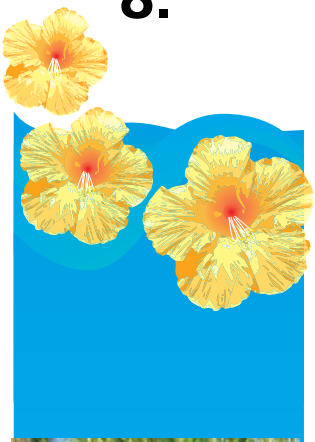
Do you think that these rules are fair and necessary? Why or why not?

Now list some of the rules at the school that you attend.

Do you think that these rules are fair and necessary? Why or why not?

If there were no rules or kapu, what do you think may happen?

8.



"Canoe" Plants Brought to Hawaií

Pu'uhonua o Hōnaunau National Historical Park is home to many Polynesian introduced plants. Early Polynesians brought with them in canoes many of the essential plants to survive in a new land.

As you walk around the park, try to identify these important plants and as you discover them check them off in the box next to the names.

☐ **Hala (Pandanus)**

Leaves were used as canoe sails, weaving baskets, mats, hats, and sandals. The bark and roots were used to make dyes and the fruit was used as paint brush.

☐ **Noni (Indian Mulberry)**

The fruit of the noni tree was used as medicine to cure many illnesses. Also the root, bark, leaves, and flower were used as medicine and for dyes.

☐ **Niu (Coconut Palm)**

Like other plants, every part of the coconut tree was used. Coconut was used as food, leaves for weaving baskets and roofing, and the trunk for wood and musical instruments.

9.

Voyage to a New Home

Like the early Polynesians who explored the oceans, discovered the Hawaiian Islands and settled here, you and your family will set out to explore and discover unknown land for your new home. What would you take with you to live and survive?

List 8 items that you would take with you.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____

Draw or describe one item that you consider to be most important.
Why?

10.

The People of Ancient Hawai'i

In traditional Hawaiian society, people were born into different groups or social status.

Ali'i ruled the land. The highest group was the ali'i. They were the chiefs who ruled the land with the *mana* (spiritual power) from the gods. They were responsible for the welfare and security of the population. The ali'i was not just the ruler but was also the chief warrior. Anytime there was a battle or war, the ali'i led the battle. So the ali'i had great responsibilities to lead his people, who believed the ali'i was a god in human form.

The kahuna were the religious leaders. They were the *kahuna* (priests and highly skilled craftsman). They communicated with the gods and advised the ali'i. It was their duty to know how to appease the gods. They were also the highly skilled craftsmen as well as medical specialists. The kahuna also went into battle next to the ali'i.

The maka'āinana were the most numerous of the different groups. They were the common people who lived by fishing, farming, craft work and paying taxes to the ali'i. Maka'āinana lived in *ahupua'a* (traditional land divisions) that ran from the sea to the mountains where all the resources to survive existed. They raised families, took care of the land and the sea and were the backbone of the Hawaiian society.

Who Are You?

You have been chosen to be the first person to go back in time to ancient Hawai'i in a time machine.

Which of the groups would you want to be in and why?

What skills and knowledge would you need to live in ancient Hawai'i?

How different or difficult do you think it would be to live without anything modern like computers, T.V., Nintendo, cars, refrigerator, or even foods like ice cream, chocolate, and peanut butter?

What five things would be the hardest to live without?

11.

People of the National Park Service

This and other national parks would not be able to exist without the dedication and hard work of many people. Some of the park staff are shown below with their job description and pictures.

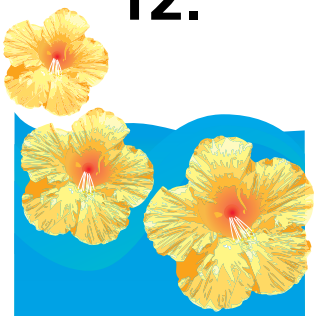
Draw a line from the jobs on the left to the corresponding pictures on the left.

I am Resource Management
I study and protect the cultural and natural resources in the park. I work with plants, animals, and historical objects. I help to control the invasive species that threaten native species.

I am Maintenance
I keep the park clean and maintain buildings, roads and visitor facilities. Sometimes I work with big equipment.

I am Park Ranger
(Law Enforcement)
I keep the visitors and park employees safe. I respond to emergencies and help people who are hurt.

12. National Park Service



Mission

The National Park Service preserves the natural and cultural resources and values of the national park system for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations.

If you could be a National Park employee who would you want to be?

Why?

Park Ranger Duties

You can be a Junior Park Ranger. Draw yourself with your name tag, badge, and a smile under the hat.

As a Junior Park Ranger, your job is to share information about the park.

Answer some questions from park visitors and write your answers of why or why not?

1. Is it okay to climb on the Great Wall?

☐ Yes ☐ No Why or why not?

2. Can someone carve their name on the wooden structures?

☐ Yes ☐ No Why or why not?

3. Is it okay to touch the turtles?

☐ Yes ☐ No Why or why not?

JUNIOR RANGER PLEDGE

As a Junior Ranger, I pledge to always do the following:

1. **I pledge to protect the land, plants, wildlife and special places at Pu`uhonua o Hōnaunau National Historical Park and to keep the park clean.**

2. **I pledge to leave things in their rightful place and tell my friends and parents to do the same.**

3. **I pledge to learn more about the National Parks and how to protect them.**

Created by Pu`uhonua o Hōnaunau National Historical Park
Supported by Student Conservation Association
Visit us online at: http://www.nps.gov/puho

Junior Ranger Certificate

is hereby awarded to:

_____

for the highest achievement in the dedication and protection of all national parks for future generations

_____ Park Ranger

_____ Date