



## Fall 2025 Expedition Helios Hawks & Falcons

# Wayfinders

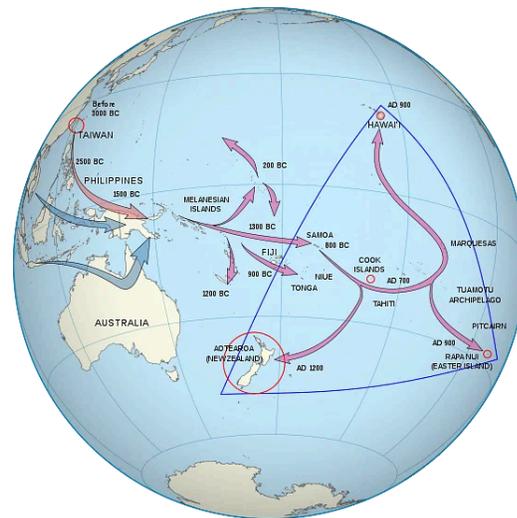
### Enduring Understandings

- *We are all crew, not passengers.*
- *A variety of experts makes a resilient crew.*
- *Leaving home is hard and wonderful.*
- *Getting out of our comfort zone can lead to new discoveries.*
- *The unfamiliar can become home.*



### Immersion: Hula Lessons

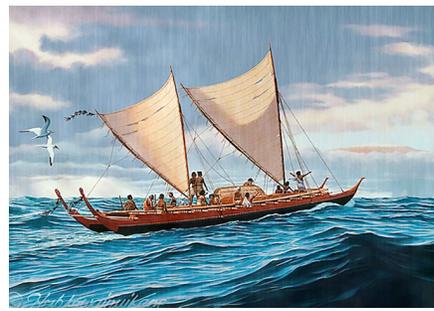
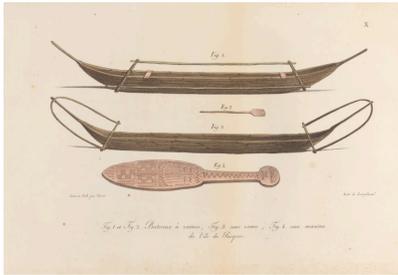
Ha'i Ola Hula School will be coming to Helios to introduce the Hawks and Falcons students to ancient Polynesian Culture. Students will learn about life in the polynesian triangle, and will get to learn some traditional hula dances.



### Investigation One: Vanua

This investigation will introduce students to ancient Polynesia by looking into geography, maps, and history of the Polynesian Triangle. Students will learn about ancient Polynesian's day to day lives, including artifacts such as musical instruments, art, and games played. They will learn about reasons why they needed to leave their current island, and explore the Pacific, as well as research Hawaii, Rapa Nui (Easter Island), and New Zealand. After learning the different roles on a canoe crew, students will pick different roles, and persuade their crew about which island we should all set sail for.

*Key Areas of Study: History, Geography, Maps and Globes, Research Writing, Narrative Writing, Opinion Writing, Primary and Secondary Sources, and Reading Comprehension.*



## Investigation Two: Challenges at Sea

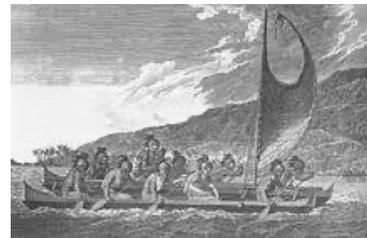
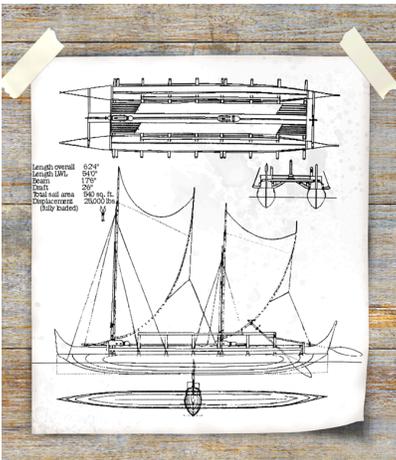


This investigation will familiarize students with the skills, knowledge, and history of life on board double hulled canoes from Polynesia, while traveling around the world. Who were these early wayfinders and passengers? Where were they going and where were they coming from? What was life like on these early ocean sailing vessels? What did they have to know to successfully crew a ship? What inherent dangers accompanied them on their voyages? Students will enter into the story, taking on the personas of sailors from Polynesia to share their journey stories.

Do not fear, Navigation and Wayfinding School will help train our sailors prior to their departure. They will use the engineering design process to create their own mini canoe using materials to make it float, and adding sails to help best utilize the wind.

Research into historical sailing voyages such as Hokulea will inform and guide our study of topics such as navigation and geography, navigating by the stars, oceanography, meteorology, and history.

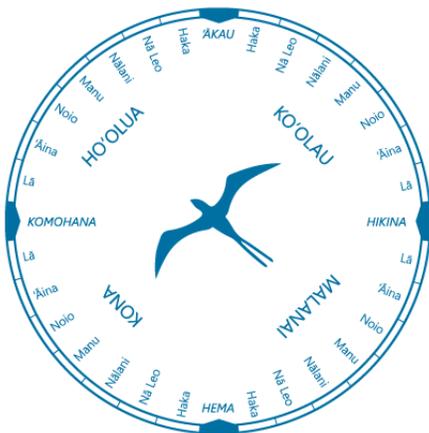
*Key Areas of Study: History, Weather, Water and Oceanography, Geography, Maps and Globes, Navigation, Astronomy, and Narrative Writing.*



## Investigation Three: A New Home

As a storm blows our journey off course and damages our canoe, students will land in an unknown area of the Pacific. Students will get to make a new home in this land and create their own society. Students will also investigate and learn several survival skills to use in their new home. Lastly, we will develop narrative endings to students' own journey stories.

*Key Areas of Study: Narrative Writing (especially Climax and Conclusion), Text Structure, Survival Skills, Role Play, History, Research, Primary and Secondary Sources, Reading Comprehension*



## Celebration of Learning: Luau



Mark your calendars for an early-afternoon exploration of life on board a double hulled canoe.

Learn navigation techniques from your sailors, read their journals, learn and practice sailing skills, and handle their artifacts.

Lastly, we'll celebrate with a Luau along with food from their limited options on the journey, and hula dances we've learned along the way.



## Wayfinders Calendar:

### **Immersion: Hula Lessons from Ha'i Ola Hula at Helios**

August 29, 2025

### **De Anza Planetarium: Wayfinders: Waves, Winds, and Stars**

TBD: October 1, 2025

### **Canoeing Expedition with Pu Pu Hawaii at Vasona Lake County Park**

TBD most likely October

### **Survival Skills at Huddart Park**

October 29, 2025

### **Celebration of Learning: Hawks and Falcons Luau**

December 11, from 12 - 2pm

*\*Additional fieldwork trips and experts may be added, and trips may be changed if necessary.*