



What Lives and Grows in the Ahupua‘a?

Lesson Plan for Grades 4-5

Focus Question

How do the varieties of plants and animals change from the top to the bottom of the ahupua‘a (mountain to the sea)? Why is that?

Lesson at a Glance

Using the *Maoli Nō* DVD as an introduction, students will take a field trip to learn about vegetation zones within an ahupua‘a. They will then develop a field guide about the plants and animals seen within the ahupua‘a.

Key Concepts

Variation in the temperature and moisture result in unique zonation of natural communities. The ahupua‘a land division contains different natural community zones.

Objectives

Students will be able to:

- explain parts of an ahupua‘a.
- explain why plants grow in different parts of the ahupua‘a.
- conduct observations and note-taking
- design a simple guide for a field trip

Subject Areas

Science, Social Studies, English

Time

One to two class periods and a field trip

Materials

Maoli Nō – Truly Native DVD

DVD player/monitor

Zonation maps

Examples of road trip guides

Cameras (digital cameras, if available)

Assessment

- notes, pictures, observations
- field trip guide

Procedure

Preparation

Find a few examples of guides for a field/road trip that describe sites along the way. If you have trouble finding something, try:

Exploring the Islands Field Guides by Moanalua Gardens Foundation

<http://www.mgf-hawaii.com/>

Road Guide to Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park by Robert and Barbara Decker

<http://www.dartmouth.edu/~volcano/texts/DekHawaii.html>

Begin planning for a field trip to an ahupua'a where students can see the changes in plant and animal types and environmental conditions. Research hikes that students can go on.

1. Introduce the concept of natural community zonation (plants and animals living in zones due to changes in environmental conditions due to elevation, precipitation, temperature, and other factors). (See 'Ōhi'a Project grade 4, From the Sea to the Mountains.)
2. Introduce the concept of ahupua'a (a land division spanning the sea to the mountains) and compare/contrast to natural community zonation.
3. Play the *Maoli Nō* DVD – *Waika, Pua 'Iliahi*, and *E Hihiwai*. Discuss the different zones and types of plants and animals shown in the videos. Write student responses on what they saw on the board and categorize by zone/ahupua'a.
4. Inform students that they will go on a field trip to an ahupua'a, and working in groups, develop a guide that describes the visit. The guide will focus on the natural life (plants, animals) that may be found along the way. Show examples of field trip guides. Encourage students to keep their guides simple.
5. Take students on the field trip. Divide them into their groups and have each group focus on a particular section of the ahupua'a. Have them take photos and make sketches along the way. They should also take written notes and observations.
6. Back in the classroom, have the students develop the field guide as a class, with each group contributing text and graphics, including photos. If possible, make multiple copies of this guide to share with other classes.

Extended Activities

- Construct a three-dimensional model of mountains to the sea that includes three main parts describing activities, plants, and animals that live in each zone.
- Learn the song “Hilo Hanakahi”; Using the tune of this song, students will create their own lyrics describing where they live.
- Teach an ancient Hawaiian chant, such as “Noho Ana Ke Akua”, and have students do the chant as they enter a native forest. Teach the concept of protocol when

entering a *wahi pana* (special, sacred places) and how it is important to show reverence and respect for these places.

Noho ana kea akua i ka nā helehele
(Hawaiian forest entrance chant)

Noho ana ke akua i ka nā helehele
The gods dwell in the woodlands

I alai 'ia e ke kī 'ohu 'ohu, E ka ua koko
Hidden away in the mist in the low-hanging blooded rainbow

E nā kino malu i ka lani
O beings sheltered by the heavens

Malu e hoe
Clear our path of all hindrance

E ho'ōiū mai ana o Laka i kona kahu o makou
Inspire us o Laka and dwell on your alter

O makou noa
Free us

Resources

- 'Ōhi'a Project (grade 4 –From the Sea to the Mountain)
- Exploring the Islands-Distance Learning TV

