

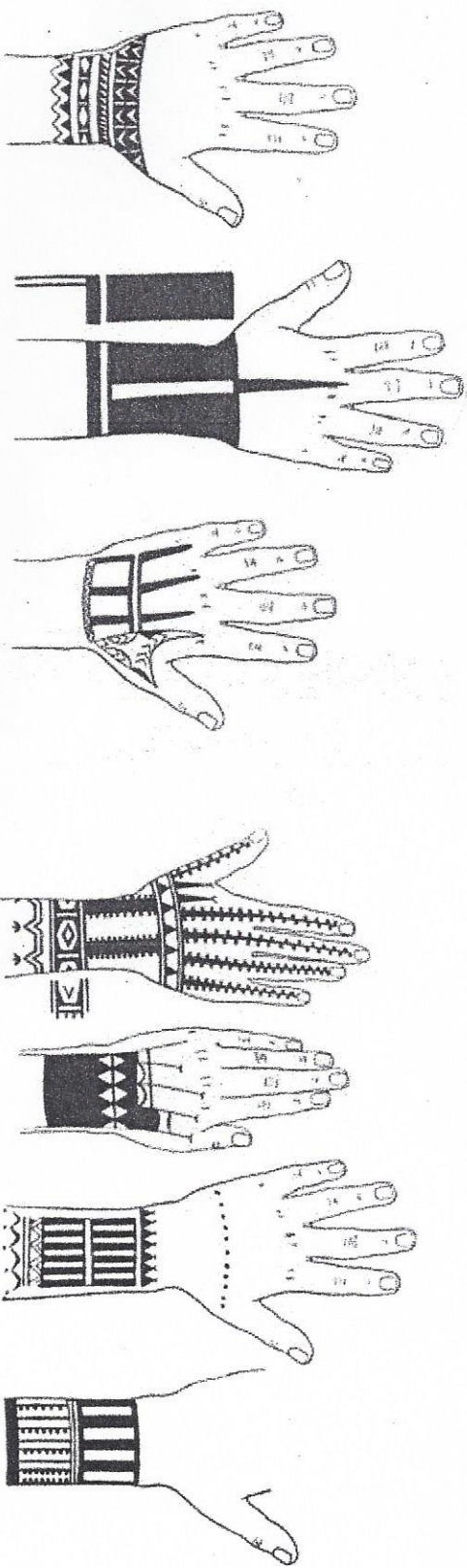
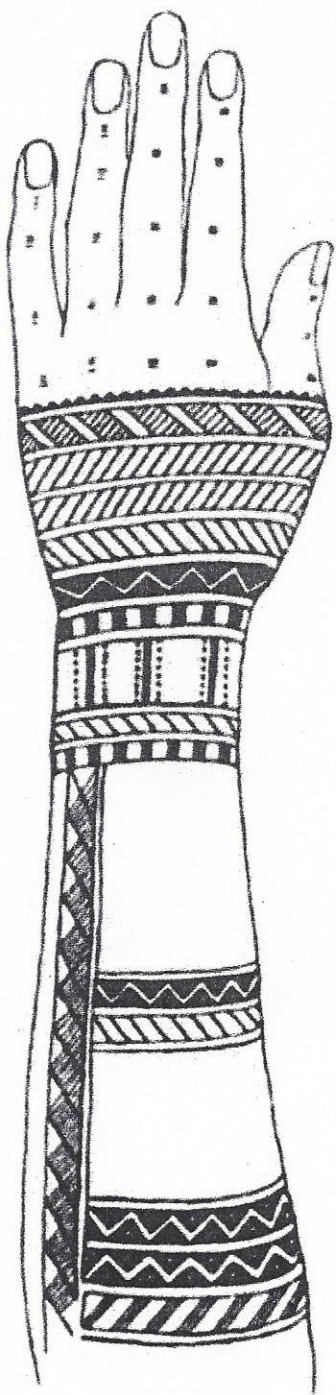


Many more resources  
on Pinterest

Check it out!

Terri Nagel: Aboriginal, Polynesian and  
Oceanic Art and Tattoo Examples  
(way at end of my boards)

Cindy Haggens: Aboriginal Art



Men's hand tattoos from Yap





Strength



Adaptability



Energy



Freedom and Emancipation



Supremacy of God



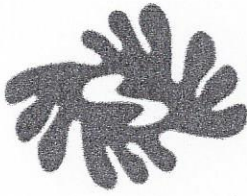
Harmony



Intelligence



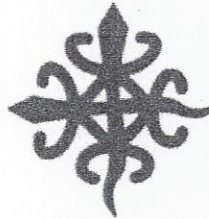
Power of Love



Peace



Transformation



Unity in Diversity



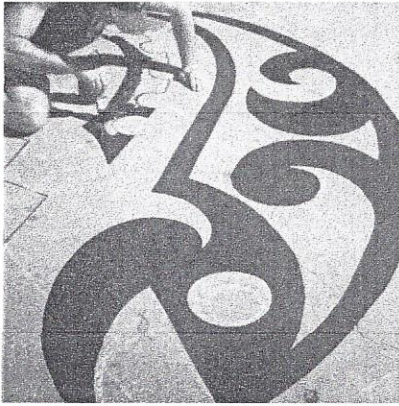
Universe





# DOCK TATTOO PROJECT

## Maori/Pacific Islands



Sketching out and adding the first shading to the Maori tattoo

Though European and Eurasian indigenous people had a long history of tattooing, it's widely accepted that our sailors of the 1600s-1800s picked up the art and custom from visiting the South Seas, and this led to a wave of tattoo popularity throughout Europe and the United States, even in the highest society.

Tattoos are called Kakau in Hawaiian, Moku in New Zealand. Used for marking social status, ritual and meaningful transitions and accomplishments, and for decoration. Tattooing the body has a special significance for Polynesian peoples, and some symbols are either sacred or reserved for specific families or people. In the modern era, there has been a resurgence of traditional tattooing amongst the Maori as a statement of cultural pride.

Polynesian tattoos have a special graphic impact because of their strong black designs, elegant use of figure/ground shapes, and either flowing complex curves or strong geometrics. The aesthetic of Polynesian tattoos has become very popular worldwide. There has been some controversy over this being an exploitation of a native culture without benefit to the people who developed the designs and feel ownership of them.

Because of this issue, and to make sure we used the forms and ideas correctly, I approached Tiki O'Brien, a native artist and

designer based in Hamilton, New Zealand, who makes a business of adapting Maori arts for custom uses overseas. After talking over the theme and intent of this art project, Tiki was able to create for us a large design meant to be used as a decoration on the ground, and even form beautiful curving paths for contemplating the symbols while walking. All the symbols are OK to use on the ground and for use by ordinary people. The whole design contains meanings of good luck, vision and spirit, and safe travel over the ocean.

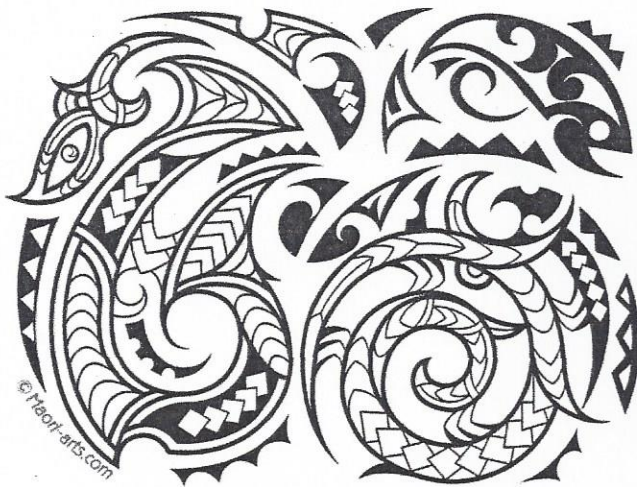


Tiki O'Brien

### The Tattoos:

(in walking order:)

- New England Native Americans
- New England Sailors
- Taino (Indigenous Caribbean)
- Basque Fishermen
- England
- Japan
- India
- Russia
- Haiti (Afro-Caribbean)
- Portugal
- Italy
- Spain
- West Africa (Kongo)
- Brazil
- France
- China
- Ireland
- Maori/Pacific Islands
- Compass Rose



### Meanings:

Tiki O'Brien writes this about the images contained in his tattoo design:

"The Polynesian people had a great affinity with the ocean, water symbols represented travel and journey. Designs created in the style of Tangaroa (Guardian of the sea) are known throughout the Polynesian Pacific Rim; a respected Atua (God) source of power, and means safe travel over ocean seas. All who dwell in the ocean are the children of Tangaroa:"

He Ika (Fish): Food, wealth, abundance.

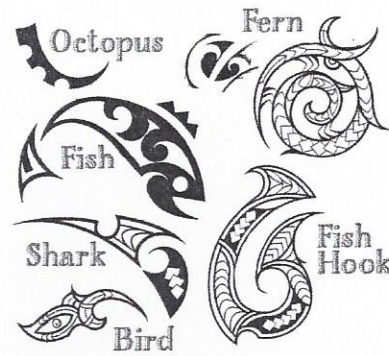
He Mako (Shark): Warrior symbol for strength and power.

He wheke (Octopus): Warrior symbol, mean tenacious nature, holding onto knowledge.

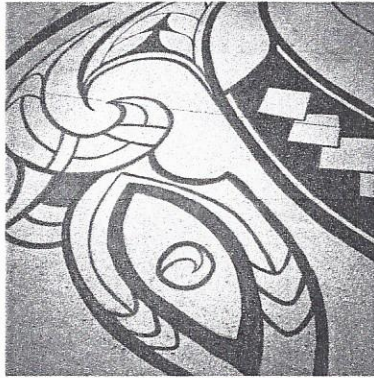
**Hei Matau (Fish hook):** The fish hook represents strength and determination and is a Symbol for good luck and prosperity, has its origin in the ancient myths of Maori and Polynesia. Maui the demigod is said to have used a magical spell on his fish hook to perform supernatural acts. The fish hook symbol draws good luck and abundance to the wearer. It is also believed to bring safe journey across water for travelers.

**Manaia (Bird head and beak):** Symbol of vision and the spirit, known genuinely as the messenger from the heavens. Maori studied the migrations of different species of birds to help plot distance and navigate their direction to and from Islands.

**Spiral (Koru):** Represents the unfolding of the New Zealand native fern. It is symbol of new life, new beginning, personal growth and harmony. It is believed to bring hope, peace and tranquility.



© MokoMoko.com



Passages Below reprinted from Skin Stories, PBS:

"New Zealand: Aotearoa, Land of the Long White Cloud, was settled by the Maori in about AD 1000. The art of Moko reflected their refined artistry, ties to their land and their rank among their peers."

"First contact with Europeans was with a Dutch vessel captained by Abel Tasman in 1642, which promptly fled after losing 4 men in a skirmish with the Maori. Over a hundred years later Captain Cook reached the islands, in 1769. There followed a bloody and difficult period as access to European firearms destabilized the balance of tribal politics on the islands."

"The moko was often created by literally carving the skin with a chisel. The full-face moko was a mark of distinction for Maori men, which communicated their status, lines of descent and tribal affiliations. It recalled their wearer's exploits in war and other great events of their life. Maori men also wore puhoro, an intricate tattoo extending from mid-torso to the knees, which featured the characteristic design of a spiral on the

buttock."

"By the 1850s, the moko suffered under attacks from missionaries, but revived briefly during the 1860s Maori Wars as a statement of defiance against British colonization, and more women began to get chin-and-neck tattoos with needles newly available, to mark their passage into adulthood, commemorate a special occasion, and to beautify themselves. By the 1920s, the last of the tattooed men had died, but many women continued to wear moko until the middle of the century."

"Maori, along with other Polynesian peoples, believe that a person's mana, their spiritual power or life force, is displayed through their tattoo. The recent re-emergence of traditional Maori tattoo art is a mark that the Maori people have not lost their ties to their ancient past."

## Resources:

[Traditional Process of Ta Moko \(video\)](#)

[Moko Museum in Wellington, NZ](#)

[Rihanna article in the Daily Mail](#)

[PBS documentary Skin Stories](#)

["Definitive Guide to Ta Moko" by Maori Tattoo](#)

[Maori Arts.com \(Tiki O'Brien's site for custom artwork- Also has e-books on Maori art and design\)](#)

[Tiki O'Brien's original customized tattoo design pages](#)

[Maori Symbols](#)

## Installation Crew:

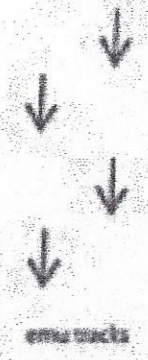
**Layout:** Liz LaManche, Dan Alroy

**Inking:** Liz LaManche, Dan Alroy, Amanda Leigh Berberich, Joe R., Julia Jerome

**Sealant Application:** Liz LaManche, Dan Alroy, Amanda Leigh Berberich, Joe R.

**NEXT →**





emu tracks



dingo tracks



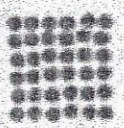
goanna tracks



snake tracks



kangaroo



desert landscape



pestum



sugar ant



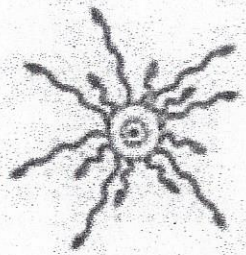
witchetty grub



eggs, rain or fruit



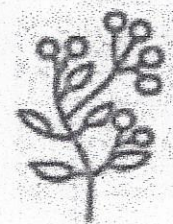
bush rosemary



bush onion



bush sultana



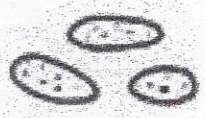
bush plum



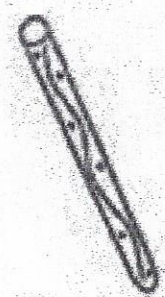
bush banana



bush tomato



bush potato



Yidaki (didgeridoo)

Context and interpretation may vary.  
 Compiled with the assistance of Jerry Whitaine for  
**M&S Textiles Australia**  
 msa@textiles.com.au  
 www.textiles.com



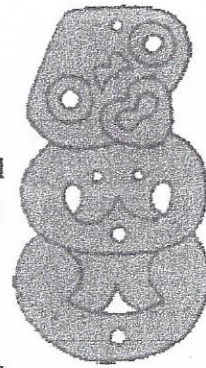
### Koru

From the tree fern, spiral representing New Life and Growth.



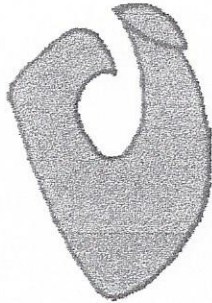
### Tiki

First Child or Ancestor. Usually in fetal position. Strong Good Luck charm.



### Hei Matau

Fish hook originally carved from Maui's Grandfather's jawbone. Used to fish up the North Island. Brings Good Luck and Prosperity.



### Heru

Ceremonial headdress for Maori man, nowadays, a unisex hair adornment.

### Manaia

Guardian of Spiritual Energy. Has the Head of a Bird, Body of a Man and Tail of a Fish creating a balance of Sky, Earth and Sea.



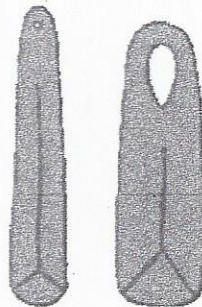
### Koropepe

Eel-type fish usually in motion.



### Maripi

Flesh cutting knife made with sharks teeth. For ceremonial occasions.

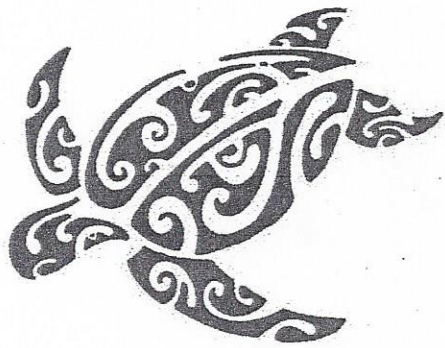
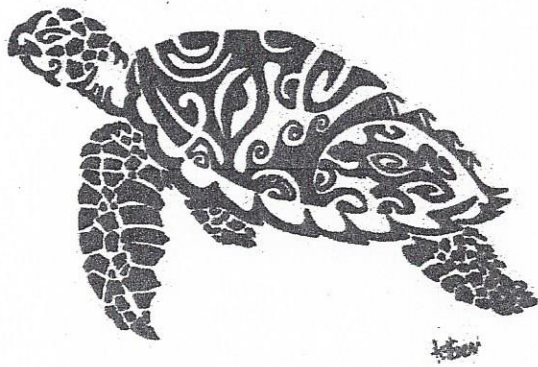


### Hei Toki-Adze

Representing Power and Authority (often male).









## Making a Mini Moai

Sometime in the late 300's, Polynesian sailors and their families set out in huge canoes and came across the Pacific Ocean to Easter Island, probably by accident. They developed a complex culture that included creating hundreds of giant statues that represented their ancestors. The islanders call these statues *moai*.

With only stone tools, the Easter Islanders carved statues that weigh as much as 80 tons. Elaborate designs were carved into the statues, and some had

headdresses and white eyes. Family groups (clans) on the island competed to build the largest and most splendid statues. A food shortage led to fighting among clans, and rival clans toppled one another's statues.

In modern times, archaeologists and others have come to Easter Island to find out some of its secrets. They have raised some of the statues and placed them on their original platforms.

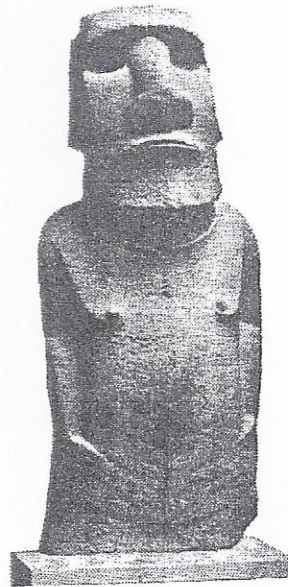
- ◆ *Objective:* To carve a head in the shape of a moai
- ◆ *Time to Complete Activity:* 1 hour
- ◆ *Materials Needed:* Bar of soft soap (like Ivory™), felt-tip pen, utensil with a small scoop on one end, like a potato peeler

### Directions:

\_\_\_\_ Using the drawing of the moai on this page as a guide, draw the outline of the face, including eyes, nose, mouth, and chin, on one side of the bar of soap. This will be your guide for making the head.

\_\_\_\_ Use the scoop to carefully remove bits of soap. First work on the front of the head, then the back, then one side, then the other, so you get an idea of how the whole head is coming along. The back of the moai is usually fairly flat.

\_\_\_\_ When the head has taken shape, start working on details like the mouth and eyes.



*This moai, which now is in the British Museum, weighs four tons and is 8.25 feet tall. The back of the statue is covered with elaborate designs.*





## Making an X-Ray Bark Drawing

Aboriginal rock paintings picture tall, skinny humanlike figures, animals with their internal organs showing, footprints, handprints, sailing ships and many other subjects. The earliest rock paintings were made with human blood as long as 20,000 years ago, and the most recent ones were made with mineral paints in the 1920's.

Aborigines do not paint on rock shelter walls anymore, but some elders of the northern and central regions of Australia still remember the meaning of the

rock paintings. They say that paintings of animals and plants on the walls of rock shelters were a way for the Aborigines to keep a record of the animals and plants they found and ate.

Animal paintings were always done in the "X-ray" style, showing their internal organs. The heart, lungs, esophagus, stomach, intestines, eye nerve, backbone, ribs, and leg bones were drawn in a very simplified way. Bark paintings done today by Aborigines look a lot like these X-ray paintings.

- ◆ **Objective:** To create an "X-ray" bark drawing
- ◆ **Time to Complete Activity:** 2–3 hours
- ◆ **Materials Needed:** Brown construction paper or brown wrapping paper (cut in rectangular shape) that will imitate bark, dark-red chalk or crayon to simulate the red-ocher mineral paint used in Aboriginal drawings, white chalk or white crayon, 2 thin branches of same length as shorter sides of paper, with leaves and small twigs removed, large needle, heavy-duty brown thread or embroidery floss, scissors, white practice paper, masking tape, pencil

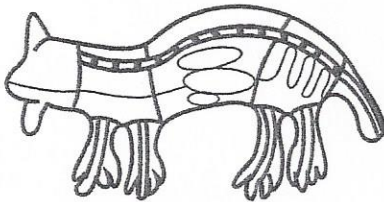
### Directions:

\_\_\_\_ Decide on the animal you want to draw and practice making X-ray drawings. As Aboriginal artists do, mark off sections of the body at major joints, like hips, ankles, and shoulders, and draw the internal organs in a simplified manner (see example below).

\_\_\_\_ Don't hesitate to add more lines and shapes if you think it would improve your artwork. Think about where you will use the red and where you will use the white colors in your final drawing.

\_\_\_\_ When you are finished practicing, re-create your design on the sheet of brown construction paper, using the red and white chalk (or crayons).

\_\_\_\_ Sew the thin branches onto the top and bottom edges of your drawing by simply pushing the thread through the edge of the paper and looping it around the branch. Tie off the ends of the thread and secure them on the back of the paper with small strips of masking tape.



*X-ray style animal painting shows simplified internal organs and bones.*

