

Intended for Grades: 6-8 Estimated Time: 45 min. Intro. - Extended time to complete

Lesson Title: MY SYMBOL/SIGN - Ku'u Hō'ailona

Lesson Purpose: Students will:

- * Develop a deeper understanding of who they are
- * Build deeper connections with the world/environment around them
- * Grow respect for all life and its unique and relevant expressions

Materials & Preparation:

- * Examples of personal designs (see below)
- * Student Think Sheets (two sided) 1 per student (See Lesson Resource) * Writing Tools
- * Copies to share of Words That Describe Character lists (See below)
- * Optional: Books and Internet resources about animal symbols

Background Information:

Island cultures, including Hawaiians, are deeply rooted in their environment. Survival on a finite piece of land in the middle of a vast ocean depended on it. One of the critical skills to survival was a keen sense of observation. Paying attention to everything around you was a way of life because the well being of the people depended on the health of their 'āina (land).

I ka nānā no a 'ike.
By observing, one learns.
'Ōlelo No'eau #1186- Mary Kawena Pukui

Kanaka (people) connected to the world around them in many ways. What they needed for nourishment, clothing, and shelter all came from where they lived. Families had personal 'aumakua (personal gods) which protected them. Many hula dances reflect movements in nature.

The natural world also provided many signs or omens that shared a message to the observer. These were call hō'ailona. A sign might be found in the clouds, an auspicious rainbow, or a Pueo or 'lo (owl or hawk) flying low to show their presence. These hō'ailona have meaning for individuals and families.

'Ailona: Sign, symbol, representation insignia, signal, omen, token of recognition;
hō'ailona kū'auhau - family crest or coat of arms

This lesson invites students to take a closer look at both who they are and how they relate to the natural world around them. They are asked to open their eyes to identify some important positive personal characteristics or character traits. Students are also asked to think about what they value and relate to in their environment.

Identifying an element in nature that they resonate is one goal for participants. Creating a drawing that includes this personal representation and other important aspects of nature that are relevant is the end product. The process of observation and research is what can provide powerful insights into learning more about self as well as the world.

He hō'ailona ke ao I 'ike 'ia
Clouds are recognized signs.
'Ōlelo No'eau #580 - Mary Kawena Pukui

Steps:

1. Ask students if they know what hō'ailona means. Introduce the definition as needed and invite students to share about any experiences or stories from family and friends about hō'ailona.
2. Add any background information you think is relevant and personal experiences you've had with hō'ailona or signs.
3. Introduce the idea that some people have personal signs or symbols that represent them. Some examples include family crests or emblems, or family 'aumakua.

Definition of 'aumakua: "Family or personal gods, deified ancestors who might assume the shape of sharks (all islands except Kaua'i), owls, hawks, 'elepaio, 'iwi, mudhens, octopuses, eels, mice, rats, dogs, caterpillars, rocks, cowries, clouds or plants. A symbiotic relationship existed; mortals did not harm or eat 'aumakua, and 'aumakua warned or reprimanded mortals in dreams, visions, and calls."

Page 32 - Hawaiian Dictionary, Mary Kawena Pukui

4. Tell students that this activity encourages them to look closely at nature as well as themselves to find important relationships that exist between them and the natural world. Their end product will be an image they create that represents them.
5. Share an example of a personal ho'ailona, or symbol that represents someone. (See examples provided below from middle school students or create your own example.) Discuss what students see and read the information provided to explain the images.
6. Distribute the Think Sheet and discuss that this form can help them figure out their Ku'u Hō'ailona or personal representation. Talk about character traits and encourage students to write down positive and important words that best describes them. Encourage students to talk to their families to see if they have any family 'aumakua or special locations their family is connected to. Ask students to find something in nature that they closely relate to, something that has some similar character traits.
7. Share any resources available (l.e.: character trait information; Hawaiian symbols information (See below); websites listed below to research astrological signs, etc.)
8. Tell students that this is a process that takes time and thinking. Encourage students to continue work on their Ku'u Ho'ailona when they can and to save their design. The teacher is encouraged to return to this project when possible to encourage completion.

Reflection Questions:

What did you learn about yourself?

What did you learn about the world around you?

Resources:

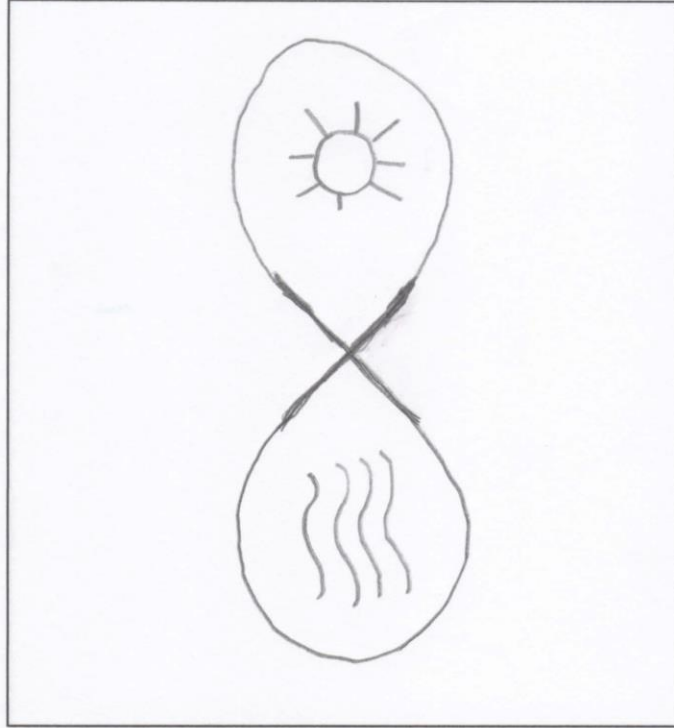
- Astrology online: About the Signs of the Zodiac: <http://www.astrology-online.com/persn.htm>

WORDS THAT DESCRIBE CHARACTER

abrupt, absent minded, accomplished, active, adaptable, adventurous, affectionate, agreeable, aggressive, ambitious, amicable, amusing, anxious, artistic, athletic, awkward, blunt, boastful, bold, brassy, brave, bright, broad-minded, calculating, calm, carefree, careful, careless, cautious, changeable, charming, clever, communicative, compassionate, competent, confident, confused, considerate, content, cooperative, conscientious, consistent, courageous, creative, critical, cunning, curious, daring, demanding, decisive, dependable, determined, diligent, diplomatic, discreet, dreamer, dynamic, easy-going, eccentric, emotional, energetic, enthusiastic, extroverted, exuberant, fair, faithful, fierce, forceful, forgetful, forgiving, friendly, funny, fun-loving, fussy, generous, gentle, good, gregarious, gullible, happy, hard-working, helpful, honest, humble, humorous, imaginative, impatient, indecisive, independent, inflexible, intelligent, introverted, inventive, jolly, just, kind, leader, loud, loving, loyal, meek, methodical, mischievous, modest, moody, neat, nervous, obedient, obstinate, open-minded, organized, out-going, outrageous, outspoken, patient, persistent, playful, pleasant, polite, powerful, practical, pro-active, proud, quick-tempered, quiet, reasonable, reckless, relaxed, reliable, resourceful, respectful, responsible, restless, romantic, rough, sad, sarcastic, scatterbrained, secretive, self-conscious, self-disciplined, sensitive, sentimental, serious, sharp-witted, shiftless, shrewd, sly, sneaky, soft-hearted, sophisticated, spontaneous, spunky, stern, stingy, stubborn, studious, superstitious, suspicious, tactful, talkative, thoughtful, timid, tough, truthful, trusting, trustworthy, uncertain, understanding, unfriendly, uninhibited, unpredictable, warm-hearted, wild, wise, withdrawn, willing, witty, zany

KU'U HO'AILONA (My Symbol)

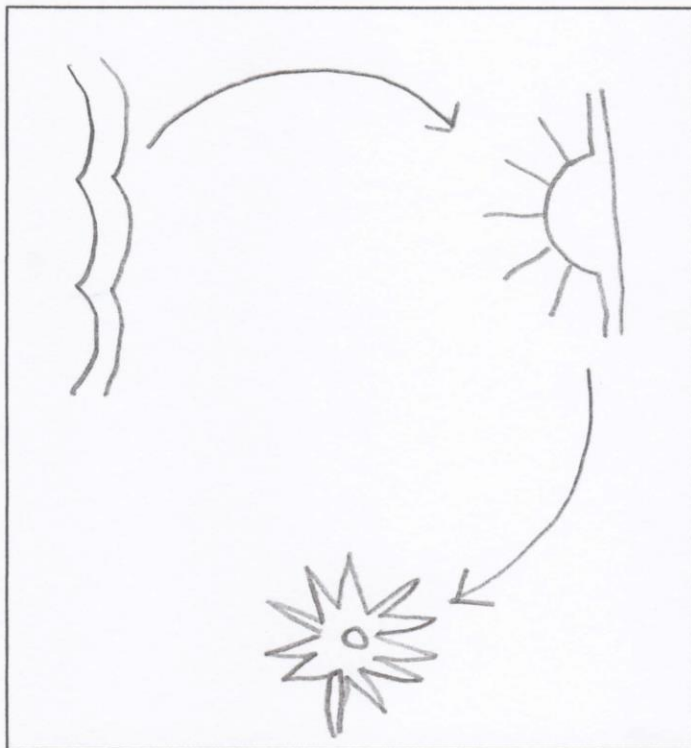
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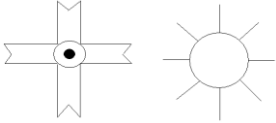






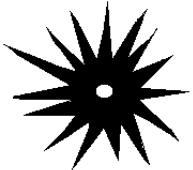
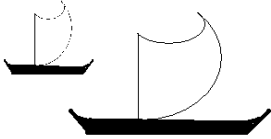

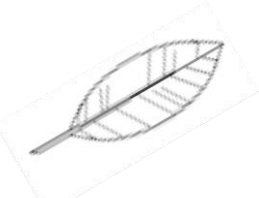

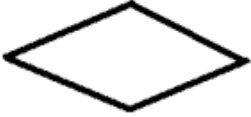
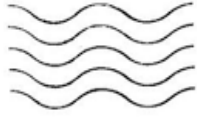




"Infinity sign to represent that life is ongoing... The cross in the middle to show that through life I have to work with others... Waves to show that in my life I have many downfalls and tears, but the sun is there too, because with the downfall, there is always something good that comes in the end, too."

KU'U HO'AILONA (My Symbol)

Name _____ Date _____



"The Wana represents the challenges in life. The waves represent strength and calmness. The sun rising represents new beginnings. I drew them in a cycle because starting with the Wana, you have challenges in life and you have the strength to overcome them. Then you will have a new beginning. Then the cycle starts over. Challenges and problems are good for you because you learn from them."

 <p>Piko – navel or belly button; connections to family and the past</p>	 <p>Lā – sun, sun heat; daylight; brightness</p>	 <p>Kūkuna – rays of the sun at dawn; new beginnings</p>	 <p>Pouhana – house posts; represents stability, strength; balanced & grounded (pono); sacred #4</p>
 <p>wa – frigate bird; tells of a prophesy; guides us; models survival skills</p>	 <p>Moana/Nalu – ocean and/or waves</p>	 <p>Wai – fresh water; lakes, rivers, puddles; Waiwai = wealth</p>	 <p>'Aumakua – represents ancestors; guardian spirits; previous generations</p>
 <p>Wana – Sea urchin; represents challenges; that which is precious and protected</p>	 <p>Pe'a and/or Wa'a – Sail and/or canoe; represents voyaging, including spiritual journeying</p>	 <p>Paka'awili – Spiral; represents going to and coming from</p>	 <p>Hulu and/or lau – feather and/or leaf; represents truth</p>
 <p>Kīpe'a – to cross sticks; represents unity; sacred; shows direction</p>	 <p>Kaimana – diamond; symbolizes genealogy</p>	 <p>Wai – fresh water; represents rain; waterfall; tears</p>	 <p>Apo – circle; Creator; symbolizes the sun; the moon</p>
 <p>Kū Pololei– vertical lines; one way to show mana</p>	 <p>Pua Pana – arrow; show direction</p>	 <p>Huinahā Kaulike – square; represents earthy domain</p>	

WORDS THAT BEST DESCRIBE ME
(Character Traits*)

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

*Character traits = Defining feature of someone; parts that make up personality. Examples: *Energetic, athletic, calm, aware, hard worker, kind, trustworthy, etc. (Focus on positive traits.)*

KU'U HO'AILONA
(My Symbol or Sign)

Think Sheet

CONNECTIONS
TO NATURE

(Family 'aumakua? Favorite place?
Love the ocean? Thrive in the forest?
Creatures you love?)



MY REPRESENTATION IN NATURE*

(This can be an animal or environmental element... anything that has character traits like you.)

Animal or Element: _____

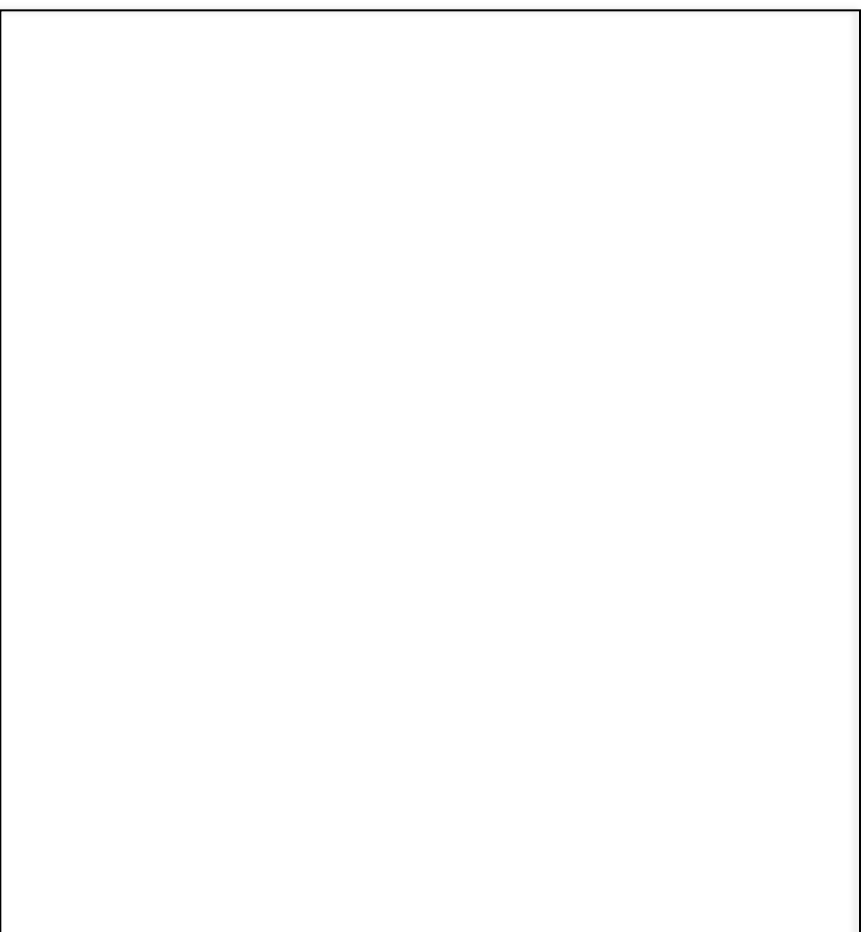
Similar Character Traits: _____

*Not sure about this? Write down a few ideas; then research and observe to get your answer...

Name _____ Date _____

KU'U HO'AILONA (My Symbol)

Name _____ Date _____



Description:

