

Knowledge Through Canoes

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Story-Navigational Idol

“Navigators from the outer islands of Yap used this idol as they sailed off on a voyage. The idol freshly adorned with young coconut fronds is held up to the four winds as chants sung by the navigator ask for safe passage, good weather, good fishing, and protection from any black magic that may have been inflicted upon the voyagers by enemies. The idol carved from wood has a double face image front and back on a single body. Arm like projections open between the body and arm allows young coconut fronds to be wrapped around and tied. Originally coral sand was adhered to the underside of the base above four leg-like projections made from stingray spines, which were lethal if used to inflict a wound. No one other than the navigator was allowed to touch or work with the power of the idol on land or water under the curse of death.

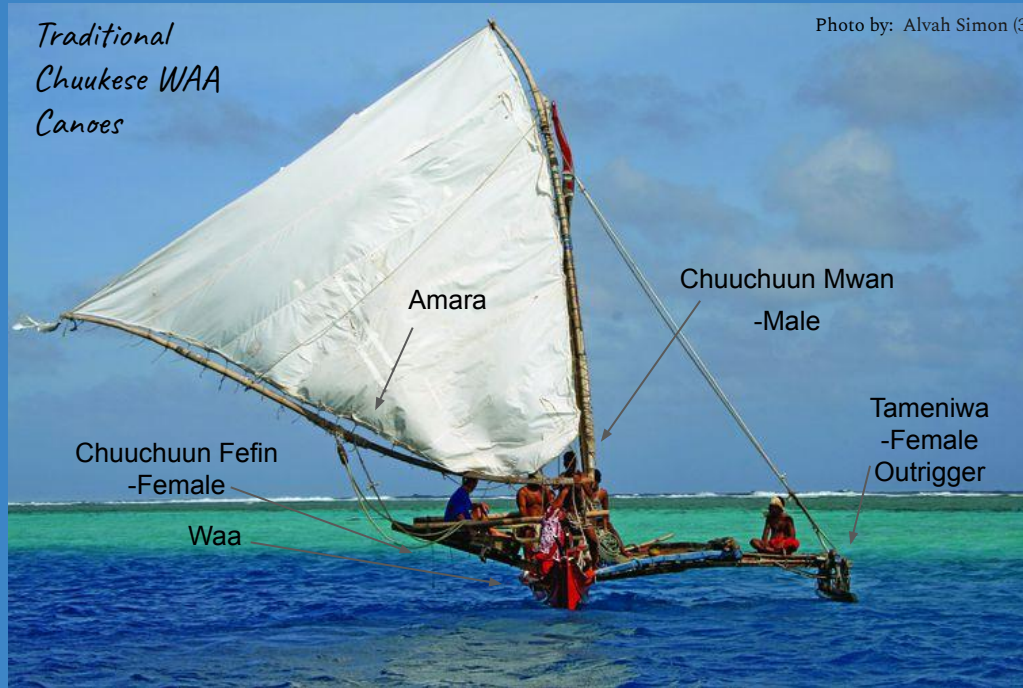


(5)

The idol while sailing is placed on the rope that the main mast handy for the navigator to reach and when not in use place under the outrigger below the navigator. Upon the return to the island the idol is stored, hung high in the men's canoe house, where it is safe from any harm.” (2)

Photo by: Alvah Simon (3)

Traditional Chuukese WAA Canoes

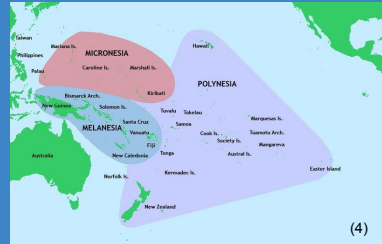


The Importance Of Harmony Between Men And Women

In the Chuukese community canoes symbolizes the harmony between men and women. The canoe wouldn't work without the feminine piece. Both men and women must work together and be seen as equal in order for the canoe to work and sail smoothly.

Supporting STEM to STEAM

We recognize our Indigenous and traditional forms of knowledge embodied in canoes that amplify the scientific and intellectual contributions of Pacific Islanders in Western “STEM” academia.



(4)

The Canoe

– pliant and beautifully organic – binds the sea to the land.

“Powered only by plaited leaf sails and human sinew, guided by the winds of trade and the timeless maps of the firmament and ocean depths, it is perhaps the single most important symbol of the Pacific and its islands. In Yap, the image of the central role of the majestic and ancient craft held in keeping the Yapese empire intact.” (1)

Work Cited: 1) <https://www.vanagon.com/culture/history-of-yap/the-canoe/>
 2) <https://www.museums.com/steampunk/>
 3) <https://www.vanagon.com/culture/history-of-yap/the-canoe/>
 4) <https://www.vanagon.com/culture/history-of-yap/the-canoe/>
 5) <https://www.vanagon.com/culture/history-of-yap/the-canoe/>
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 12) <https://www.vanagon.com/culture/history-of-yap/the-canoe/>
 13) <https://www.vanagon.com/culture/history-of-yap/the-canoe/>
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 19) <https://www.vanagon.com/culture/history-of-yap/the-canoe/>
 20) <https://www.vanagon.com/culture/history-of-yap/the-canoe/>