

# The Canoe Is the People

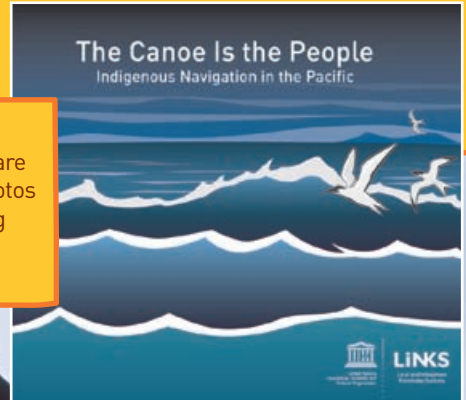
Indigenous Navigation in the Pacific

*“In traditional navigation, you never know if you have enough knowledge.  
**You never know.***

*You never know what the elements will put up in front of you,  
**so you are forever learning.”***

**Cook Islands navigator Tua Pittman**

The CD-ROM includes 77 videos, 41 stories and accounts, and 40 images and diagrams of which 11 are animated. In addition there are numerous maps, photos and texts. It serves as an educational tool illustrating the vitality of indigenous knowledge, know-how, and identity in meaningful ways for Pacific communities.

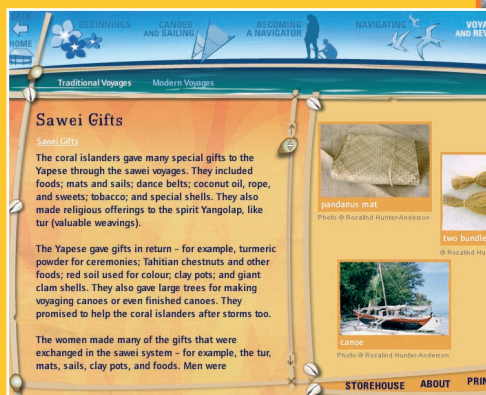
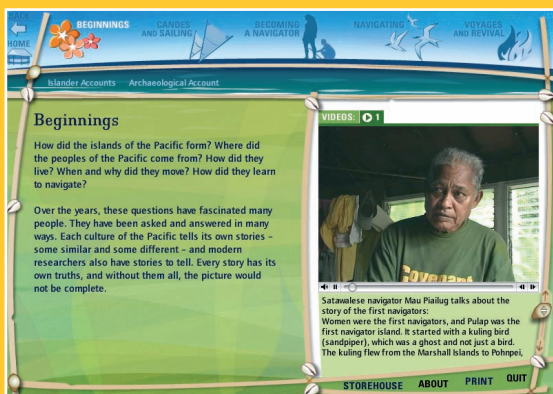


# "I sit and I sit on the beach near And I will set sail..."

The interactive CD-ROM, *The Canoe Is the People*, takes you on a voyage across the open ocean with seabirds, sea swells and stars as your guides. This unique multimedia tool honours and explores the knowledge and skills of traditional Pacific navigation.

Learning about the ocean environment is a life-long process rooted in a web of ecological, social and spiritual relations. The aim of this CD-ROM is not to teach all there is to know about navigation. However, it gives people a taste of the wealth of knowledge still surviving in the Pacific region. It encourages young people to go into their own communities to find out more – to renew ties with elders and, by doing so, to take part in (and pride in) a voyage of revival.

- Witness master navigator Mau Pialug presiding over a pwo initiation ceremony on the island of Satawal in Micronesia.
- Listen to Sir Tom Davis of Cook Islands describe the challenges and achievements of open ocean wayfaring.
- Reflect on the spiritual powers of the sea with navigator Tua Pittman.
- Share ambitions, fears and visions with voyaging Pacific youth.
- Learn how Maori master canoe builder Hekenukumai Busby prepares and selects the right tree to build a canoe.



# ...We will sail west. We will And we will finish our voyage as Satawalese chant

my village.

- View videos of the building of a 'vaka' or canoe on Satawal Island.
- Launch animations that show how the reflection and diffraction of ocean swells allow navigators to detect distant islands.
- Read and listen to accounts from across the Pacific about the origin of islands, the origin of sails and how a woman first received the knowledge of navigation from a bird before passing it on to men.
- Use interactive maps to trace the ocean pathways of the ongoing Pacific voyaging revival.

**Voyages and Revival**

In parts of the Pacific, especially Micronesia, much navigational knowledge has been kept alive. In others, it has been lost.

Now, all over the Pacific, there is a growing revival. There are now many voyaging societies, including those in Hawaii, Tahiti, the Cook Islands, Aotearoa, and the Marshall Islands. People are making more and more voyages in traditional canoes – rediscovering the past and carving the way to the future. New schools are being started to teach navigation to young people.

Sometimes, European ways are used – like teaching with books, building canoes with modern tools, navigating with the help of western maps and compasses, and using inboard motors and escort boats for support. People have different opinions

VIDEOS: 0 1 2 3 4 5

Maori master canoe builder, Hekenukumai Busby (New Zealand): In 1985 a Tohoo elder, John Rangihau was overseas. In Hawai'i he met some Hawai'ians thinking about sailing a canoe from Hawai'i to Tahiti onto Rarotonga, but they were unsure about a journey

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**NAVIGATING**

Preparing and Starting Out Steering by the Stars Steering by the Sea, Sun, and Wind Knowing and Adjusting Position Finding Land

VIDEOS: 0 1 2

KEY  
→ Prevailing winds in the South Pacific – December to Nov  
← Prevailing winds in the South Pacific – April to Nov

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2007 Version 1.2

# The Canoe Is the People

## Indigenous Navigation in the Pacific

  
United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Culture Organization

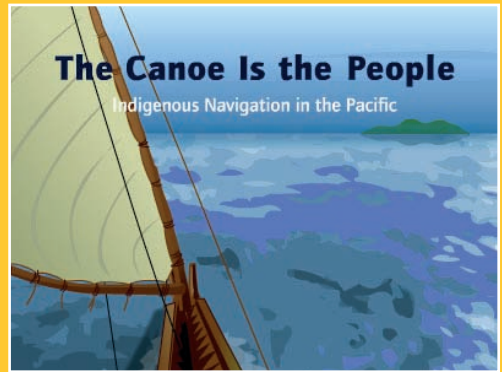
**LiNS**  
Local and Indigenous  
Knowledge Systems

ll hold that course.  
s men.”



As a Cook Islands student  
of navigation Kaiki Tarangi puts it:

**“If my ancestors  
can sail the biggest  
ocean in the world,  
I can take on the whole world.”**



***The Canoe Is the People: Indigenous Navigation in the Pacific*** is the second of a series of interactive CD-ROMs created as part of UNESCO's Local and Indigenous Knowledge Systems (LINKS) programme. The first CD-ROM title in the series is: *Dream trackers: Yapa art and knowledge of the Australian desert.*

**About UNESCO- LINKS:** The LINKS programme integrates local and indigenous knowledge, practice and worldviews into sustainable development and resource management. It also works to strengthen knowledge transmission between elders and youth, and explores pathways to balance community-based knowledge with global knowledge in formal and non-formal education. To find out more, visit: [www.unesco.org/links](http://www.unesco.org/links)

**Minimum specifications:**

PC: Pentium II 200Mhz or greater, Windows 98, ME, 2000, XP.32 MB RAM.

Screen set to 800 x 600 pixels and thousands of colours (16-bit). Soundcard.

Mac: G3 processor or greater. Mac OS X. 256 MB RAM. Screen set to 800 x 600 pixels and thousands of colours (16-bit). Soundcard.

***The Canoe Is the People*** CD-ROM is not for commercial sale and is available free of charge to educational institutions and individuals.

**To order, please contact: [links@unesco.org](mailto:links@unesco.org)**

**Or write to:** UNESCO Office for the Pacific States  
Attention H. Thulstrup – PO BOX 615 – Apia, Samoa  
Tel. +685 24276 – Fax +685 22253/26593

This CD-ROM is also available in Maori.

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