

Polynesian Cultural Connection Project

Tatau (traditional Polynesian tattooing) is a deeply spiritual, ancient art form originating from divine, mythical sources, serving as a rite of passage, a mark of genealogy, and a connection to ancestors. It represents mana (power), social status, and protection, with specific designs representing stories of bravery, identity, and personal history.

For this unit's cultural project, we will be honoring this tradition, so you will be creating a **tatau**.

Requirements

- A black ink design of your tatau drawn on one of the body part templates supplied by the teacher
- A 10-15 sentence description of what you have created

Guidelines

Creative Component:

- Create your tatau using a black pen, black fine tip marker, black pencil or regular pencil.
- You will draw your tatau on one of the premade body part outlines supplied by the teacher.
*If you are confident in your artistic ability, you can draw the body part as well. Please let the teacher know beforehand if you go this route.
- While parts of your tatau will be improvised, the vast majority of your design must be grounded in Polynesian tatau symbolism and design (i.e. I don't want to see a sword, dragon and rose design with the word "GRANDMOTHER" written in English inside of a heart because it "looks cool" even though that would be true).

Written Component:

A typed 10-15 sentence summary of the meaning of your tatau

- This will be a quick summary explaining what your tatau is for the observer
- Be sure to explain what the specific characters in your design mean / represent

Project Suggestion:

- Browse some of the examples of Polynesian tatau symbolism and meaning on my page AND feel free to do some searching of your own on the internet.

***Some Examples**

