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Polynesian expansion across the Pacific (c.700–1756)

Student Research Guide

History | Year 8

Cover: [Easter Island Ahu Tongariki](#), 2011, by Arian Zwegers

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Overview

State Library is a great place to learn about the Polynesian expansion across the Pacific and to find information to complete your research-based assessments.

[State Library's One Search catalogue](#) is the gateway to an extensive suite of national and international journals, databases, eBooks, encyclopedias, newspaper archives, and collections of thousands of historical images, letters, artworks, diaries and artefacts to interrogate as sources.

This guide is designed to help you discover items on the Polynesian expansion across the Pacific that you can access on site, from your school or home.

Before you get started

[Become a member](#) of State Library of Queensland (it's free!).

Once you have joined State Library, [log in](#) to your account in [One Search](#) so you can use the links in this research guide to access the featured collection items.

You can search our catalogue for [all items on the Polynesian expansion across the Pacific](#) or begin exploring by clicking on some of the featured online collection items contained in this research guide.

Featured Databases

The [Britannica Library](#) has articles, images, and videos, created especially for teenagers, on the Polynesian expansion across the Pacific.



The [National Geographic Virtual Library](#) has articles on the Polynesian expansion across the Pacific.

The screenshot shows the top of a web page with a banner image of elephants and the text 'GALE PRESENTS NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC'. Below the banner is a navigation bar with 'Results', 'Prev', 'Next', a search box, and 'Advanced Search'. The main title is 'Discoverers of the Pacific'. Below the title is a navigation bar with '1 - 174 / 173' and 'Go'. The main content area features a large, colorful illustration titled 'DISCOVERERS of the PACIFIC' from National Geographic Magazine. The illustration includes a globe, a map of the Pacific Ocean, and various figures and objects related to Polynesian expansion.

[JSTOR](#) is a great resource for finding primary sources from the Polynesian expansion across the Pacific.

The screenshot shows the JSTOR search results page. On the left is a 'Refine Results' sidebar with filters for 'SEARCH WITHIN RESULTS', 'CONTENT TYPE', 'Primary source content', 'IMAGE RESOLUTION', 'DATE', 'FROM', 'TO', 'CLASSIFICATION', and 'Sculpture and Installations (68)'. The main area displays a grid of search results. The first row includes: 'Map of Pacific Ocean (...)', 'Île aux Bœufs, Loire: ...', 'Pacifical-medailon wi...', 'Pacifical with Resurre...', and 'A Silver-Gilt Pacifica...'. The second row includes: 'Americae sive novi orb...', 'Dutch terrestrial glob...', 'Dutch terrestrial glob...', 'Dutch terrestrial glob...', and 'Dutch terrestrial glob...'. Each result includes a thumbnail image and a download icon.

Featured Map

State Library provides access to maps on the Polynesian expansion across the Pacific.

The screenshot displays the ProQuest Ebook Central interface. On the left, a sidebar shows the book title 'Early Societies of Oceania, 3500 BCE-500 BCE' by Maps.com, published in 1999. Below the title are options for 'Full Download' and 'ONLINE ALLOWANCES' (1 page to copy, 1 page to print). The main content area features a map titled 'Early Societies of Oceania, 3500 BCE-500 BCE'. The map shows the Pacific Ocean region with various island groups labeled, including the Philippines, Micronesia, Polynesia, and New Zealand. Red arrows indicate the routes of Austronesian migrations, starting from Southeast Asia and spreading across the Pacific. The map also shows land areas during the last glaciation (shaded in light blue) and present-day shorelines (dashed lines). A legend in the bottom right corner explains the symbols used. The map is credited to ©2000 maps.com.

More

Search the catalogue

Continue searching for more on the Polynesian expansion across the Pacific using these subject searches:

[Oceania -- History](#)

[Polynesia -- History](#)

[Oceania -- Antiquities](#)

[Māori \(New Zealand people\) -- History](#)

[Islands of the Pacific – History](#)

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