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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. At the top left, it says 'GALE PRESENTS NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC'. Below this is a navigation bar with 'Results', 'Prev', 'Next', a search box, and 'Advanced Search'. On the right, there are icons for 'Cite', 'Print', and 'Get Link'. The main title of the article is 'Discoverers of the Pacific'. Below the title is a large, colorful illustration. The illustration features a central globe with the Pacific Ocean highlighted in yellow and pink. To the left of the globe are several portraits of indigenous Pacific islanders in traditional attire. To the right are various diagrams and smaller illustrations, including a ship, a map, and a globe. The text 'DISCOVERERS of the PACIFIC' is written in large, bold letters at the top left of the illustration. Below the globe, there are several columns of text, some with small images and diagrams. The overall layout is educational and visually rich.

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

The screenshot shows a JSTOR search results page. On the left side, there is a 'Refine Results' sidebar with various filters: 'SEARCH WITHIN RESULTS', 'CONTENT TYPE', 'Primary source content' (with a checkbox for 'Images (190)'), 'IMAGE RESOLUTION', 'DATE' (with 'FROM' and 'TO' fields set to 700 and 1756), 'CLASSIFICATION' (with a search box for 'Find a classification'), and checkboxes for 'Sculpture and Installations (68)' and 'Architecture and City'. The main area of the page displays a grid of search results. Each result includes a thumbnail image, a title, and a download icon. The results shown are: 'Map of Pacific Ocean (...)', 'Île aux Bœufs, Loire: ...', 'Pacifical-medailon wi...', 'Pacifical with Resurre...', 'A Silver-Gilt Pacifica...', 'Americae sive novi orb...', 'Dutch terrestrial glob...', 'Dutch terrestrial glob...', 'Dutch terrestrial glob...', and 'Dutch terrestrial glob...'. Each result also includes a brief description and the source collection it belongs to, such as 'Part of Binghamton University Art Museum Collection' or 'Part of Open: The Metropolitan Museum of Art'.

## Featured Map

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

The screenshot shows the ProQuest Ebook Central interface. The main content area displays a map titled "Early Societies of Oceania, 3500 BCE-500 BCE". The map shows the Pacific Ocean region with various island groups and migration routes. Key locations labeled include the Philippines, Indonesia, Melanesia, Polynesia, and Easter Island. Migration routes are marked with arrows and dates: "Early centuries B.C.E." (Philippines), "Late centuries B.C.E." (Polynesia), "First century B.C.E." (Hawaii), and "400 C.E." (Easter Island). A legend in the bottom right corner identifies "Land area during last glaciation" (orange), "Present-day shorelines" (blue), and "Routes of Austronesian migrations" (red arrows). The map is credited to "©2000 maps.com". The sidebar on the left contains metadata for the map, including the publisher "Maps.com", the date "1999-02-01", and options for "Full Download", "Online Allowances", and "Download Allowances".

## 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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