

Vocabulary Bingo

Name:

Date:



Polynesian Seafarers and Wayfinders: Skilled Navigators of the Pacific Ocean

Polynesian seafarers and wayfinders were some of the most skilled navigators in history. These ancient explorers sailed across the vast Pacific Ocean, discovering and settling on many of the islands we know today, such as Hawaii, Samoa, and New Zealand.

The Polynesians used traditional methods of navigation that did not rely on modern technology. Instead, they used their knowledge of the stars, the sun, the ocean currents, and the wind to guide them on their journeys. They also paid close attention to the behavior of birds and other sea life, which could indicate the presence of land nearby.

One of the most impressive things about Polynesian wayfinders is that they could navigate over thousands of miles of open ocean without the use of maps or compasses. They used a system called "**dead reckoning**," which involved keeping track of their direction and speed to estimate their position.

The Polynesians also passed down their knowledge of navigation through oral tradition, with stories and songs that helped to teach the next generation of wayfinders. This knowledge was highly valued, and those who possessed it were considered to be important members of their communities.

Today, there are still people who practice traditional Polynesian navigation, and there are efforts to preserve and celebrate this important part of Polynesian culture. The skills of the ancient Polynesian seafarers and wayfinders continue to inspire and amaze us, and their legacy lives on in the islands they discovered and settled so many years ago.

Hawaii

Wave patterns

Settle

Skilled navigators

Discover

New Zealand

Memorize posi-
tions

Bird behavior

Moon

Thousands of
miles

Deep knowledge

Traditional navi-
gation



Samoa

Open ocean

Wayfinders

Sun

Wind direction

Polynesian sea-
farers

Legacy

Inspiration

Quick decisions

Stars

Pacific Ocean

Sea creatures