

Name: _____

Christmas in Hawaii

By Mikki Sadil

Christmas is coming! Everywhere we look, including our own homes, we see fir trees with lights and ornaments, brightly wrapped gifts, and pictures of Santa Claus and his reindeer. While many people dream of a white blanket of snowfall covering the Christmas landscape, have you ever wondered how Christmas is celebrated in more tropical climates? Is it possible to have Christmas spirit in a land with no snow and no pine trees? For instance, how about Hawaii? Actually, Hawaiians are full of Christmas spirit! They've added their own special traditions to the holiday to make every year special.

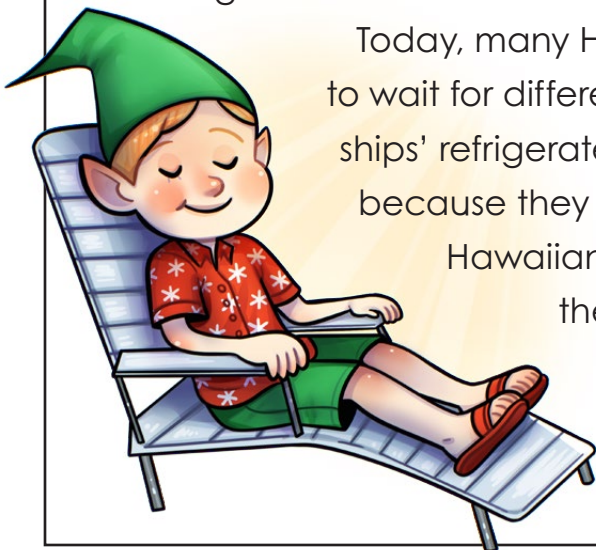
In ancient times, our Christmas season occurred at about the same time as a traditional Hawaiian festival called Makahiki (mah-kah-hee-key). This festival of feasts, games, and prayers lasted for four months, with no wars or conflicts allowed. In 1820, Protestant missionaries came to Hawaii, and introduced the natives to the Christian religion, and in 1858, under King Kamehameha (Kah-may-hah-may-hah), Santa Claus arrived for the first time in the Islands, bearing gifts for the children.

Today, many Hawaiians line up on the docks early in December to wait for different kinds of fir trees to be unloaded from the ships' refrigerated containers. These Christmas trees arrive by ship because they don't grow in Hawaii's tropical climate. When

Hawaiian families can't get a real fir tree for their homes,

they will decorate almost anything and call it a

Christmas tree! Everywhere you go, you will see palm trees strung with bright lights, or outdoor plants hung with shiny ornaments.

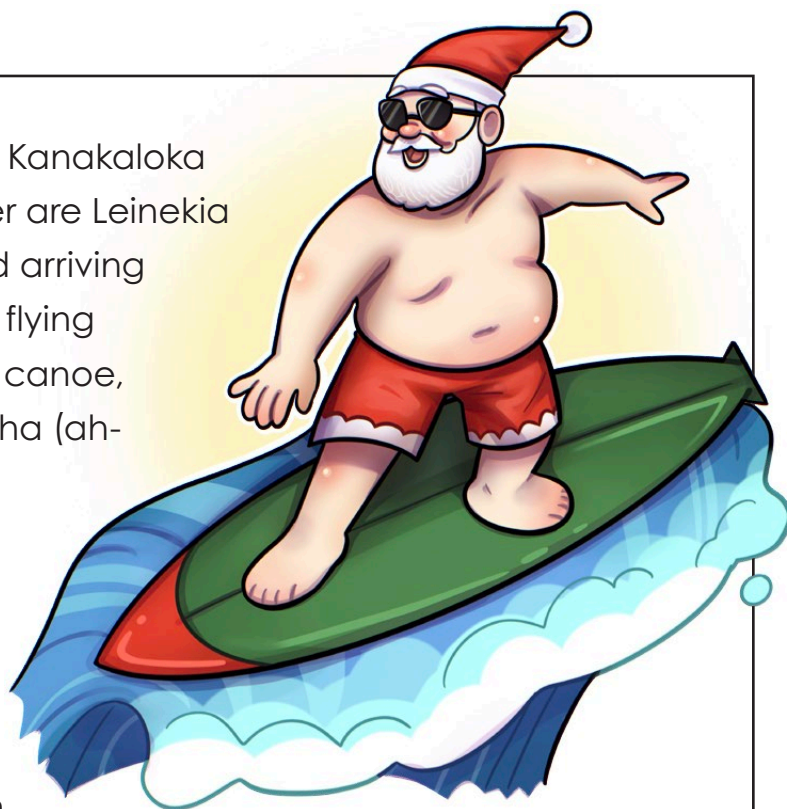


To Hawaiians, Santa Claus is called Kanakaloka (Kah-NAH-kah-lo-kah) and his reindeer are Leinekia (lay-ee-neh-KEE-ah). However, instead arriving to the islands on a sleigh pulled by his flying reindeer, Santa arrives in an outrigger canoe, often paddled by elves dressed in aloha (ah-LOWhah) shirts. Sometimes he even rides a surf board into Hawaii, drawn through the waves by dolphins.

Because it's warm in Hawaii year-round, most Hawaiian homes don't have fireplaces, so kids hang their stockings anywhere Mom will let them.

Santa always manages to find them and leave candy or Kanake (kah-NAH-key). And of course, he always leaves you presents or makanas (mah-KAH-nahs)!

Don't forget to tell your teacher Mele Kalikimaka (may-lay kah-lee-key-mah-kah) and Hau'oli Makahiki Hou (how-oh-lee mah-kah-hee-key ho) which means, of course, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Oh, and you might want to sing a new Christmas song: "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Dolphin!"



Speak Hawaiian: Christmas Words and Phrases

English Word	Hawaiian Word
angel	anela
candy	kanake
Christmas Eve	Ahiahī Kalikimaka
Christmas tree	la'au Kalikimaka
elf	menehune
gift	makana
gingerbread boy	keiki kāne 'awakeke
gingerbread girl	kaikamahine 'awakeke
Happy New Year	Hau'oli Makahiki Hou
joy	hau'oli

English Word	Hawaiian Word
Merry Christmas	Mele Kalikimaka
mistletoe	kaumahana
ornament	wehi
peace	malu
reindeer	leinekia
Santa Claus	Kanakaloka
snowball	popohau
snowflake	hau puehuehu
star	hōkū
wreath	lei

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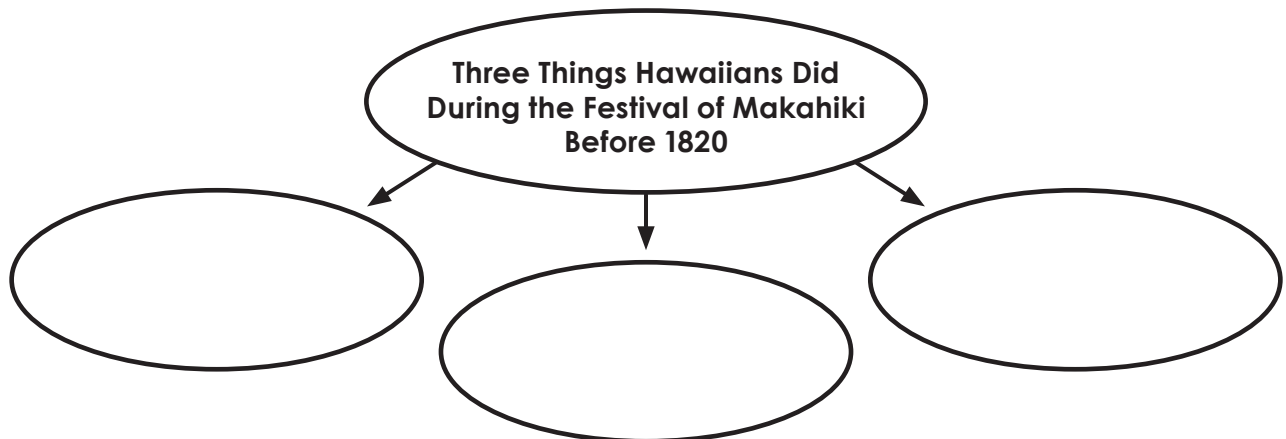
By Mikki Sadil



1. Which fact about Hawaiian Christmas trees is not true?
 - a. Hawaiians don't put real fir trees in their homes.
 - b. Hawaiians will sometimes put lights on palm trees.
 - c. Many Hawaiian families cut down a live Christmas tree in the woods.
 - d. Hawaiians sometimes decorate outdoor plants with ornaments.
2. Describe the two different ways Santa arrives in Hawaii.

3. If someone says, "Hau'oli Makahiki Hou" during the holidays, what are they saying?

4. Why don't most Hawaiian homes have fireplaces?
 - a. There isn't much wood to burn on Hawaii.
 - b. The climate is so warm, they wouldn't use them.
 - c. Fireplaces are too dangerous to have inside of homes.
 - d. Hawaiians don't hang stockings for Santa.
5. Complete the graphic organizer.



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Match each vocabulary word on the left with its definition on the right.



- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| 1. _____ landscape | a. places where boats tie up to the land |
| 2. _____ drawn | b. bringing |
| 3. _____ natives | c. pulled |
| 4. _____ bearing | d. a long, thin float that is attached parallel to a canoe to keep it from turning over |
| 5. _____ docks | e. large wood or plastic board that is used to ride ocean waves |
| 6. _____ outrigger | f. scenery; view of the land |
| 7. _____ surf board | g. people who originally lived in a place |

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In the article, "Christmas in Hawaii," you learned about some of the unique Christmas traditions of Hawaiians.

Write a made-up story about a Christmas party in Hawaii.

Use at least five of the Hawaiian words and phrases listed at the end of the article.



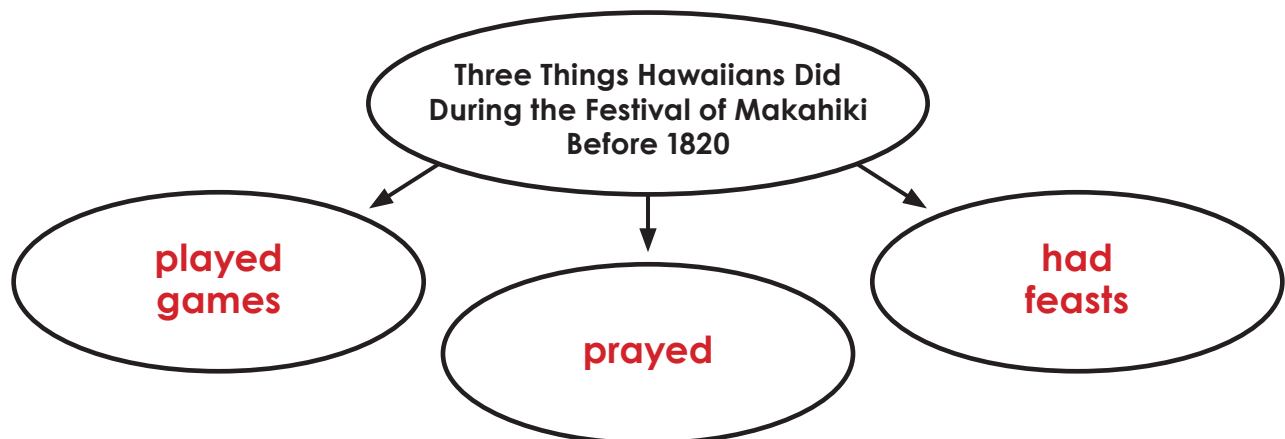
ANSWER KEY

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 - Many Hawaiian families cut down a live Christmas tree in the woods.**
 - Hawaiians sometimes decorate outdoor plants with ornaments.
- Describe the two different ways Santa arrives in Hawaii.
Sometimes he arrives in an outrigger canoe. Other times he rides a surf board that is pulled by dolphins.
- If someone says, "Hau'oli Makahiki Hou" during the holidays, what are they saying?
"Happy New Year"
- Why don't most Hawaiian homes have fireplaces?
 - There isn't much wood to burn on Hawaii.
 - The climate is so warm, they wouldn't use them.**
 - Fireplaces are too dangerous to have inside of homes.
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- Complete the graphic organizer.



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