

Kūpuna Speak

Overview:

During this activity, students invite kūpuna to their classroom, then listen to (and document) the legends they tell about their island and volcanoes.


Objectives:

The student will learn:

- to identify kūpuna within their community and establish a rapport with them;
- to invite kūpuna to participate in a classroom lesson or other community event;
- to listen patiently and respectfully to kūpuna, value what they have to say and acknowledge this information as an important part of learning about this topic; and
- to recognize and respect legends described by members of their own community.

Materials:

- Colored pencils
- Student Worksheet: “A Story From Kūpuna”
- Student-prepared gift for kūpuna



Cultural Tie

Hawaiians have a saying about how to be good listeners:

*“Nānā ka maka
(focus with your eyes),
ho‘olohe ka pepeiao
(listen with your ears),
pa‘a ka waha (be quiet).”*

Activity Procedure:

1. Explain that kūpuna will be invited to class to talk about mo‘olelo or stories.
2. Help students compile a list of kūpuna from their island. Include their own relatives.
3. On the day kūpuna visit the classroom, make sure students bring food or other gifts for them.
4. Ask kūpuna to share and discuss one or more stories. To show respect, students should remain quiet until or unless the kūpuna invites questions.
5. Distribute Student Worksheet: “A Story From Kūpuna” and ask students to draw scenes from the kūpuna’s mo‘olelo as a storyboard on their worksheets.

Optional Activity: Ask students to break into pairs and retell the Kūpuna’s mo‘olelo to each other. Ask students to reflect upon their retellings by answering the following questions: How close to the original was your retelling of the mo‘olelo? Review your classmate’s retelling of the mo‘olelo. How did the mo‘olelo differ? Why did they differ?

Answers to Student Worksheet:

1. Answers will vary
Any volcano story or legend about Hawai‘i is acceptable.

A Story From Kūpuna

Directions: Draw a storyboard illustrating a mo‘olelo shared by a kūpuna. A storyboard should have four frames: a beginning, two important scenes from the middle of the mo‘olelo, and a conclusion.

