



NANTUCKET
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

ISLAND EXPLORERS

Printable Activities Book 20

Māori Inspired Bookmarks

- ✦ Print out pages 3 and 4 (using thick paper if possible).
- ✦ Color the bookmark designs. Red and black are traditional colors for the Māori people.
- ✦ Cut out bookmarks and enjoy!

The Māori and Nantucket



The Māori are a Polynesian people from New Zealand. Their history tells us that they arrived on New Zealand in the 1300's from the mythical land of Hawaiki, usually identified as Tahiti.



Model of a Maori Waka, or War Canoe. From the NHA collection.

Whalers were some of the first Europeans to meet the Māori. Contact between Nantucket whalers and the Māori were generally peaceful and often included the exchange of goods.

Many believe that the character Queequeg in Hermin Melville's Moby Dick was based on a Māori man. In 1825, The Inquirer estimated that over 50 Pacific Islanders were employed on Nantucket whaleships, many of whom lived on Nantucket.

Māori art consists of four primary art forms, carving, tattooing, weaving, and painting. Celebrate the beautiful art of the Māori by coloring in the bookmarks on the following pages.



Where is New Zealand?

New Zealand is an island country in the southwestern Pacific Ocean. It sits just east of Australia. New Zealand has two main landmasses, Te Ika-a-Māui and Te Waipounamu.



