

Name: _____

Date: _____

Birth Date: _____

Zip Code: _____

School: _____

Not Even Phased

Lesson 1. Farming in Old Hawai'i

Māla

Hawai'i is naturally made for farming because of its fertile soil, abundance of water, and sunny climate. Farming in old Hawai'i was not for those afraid of hard work. The work was labor intensive and done without the modern tools we are used to. A person's hands and feet were the best tools. Mahi'ai, or farmers, would use their hands to clear soil and rake leaves, while their feet worked as spades move earth for new crops. Some examples of tools that were available were the 'o'o stick used for digging holes and trenches, the ko'i, or adze, used to cut down trees, and 'opihi shells used for weeding and working dry, compacted soil.

Agriculture played a very significant role in native Hawaiian culture. It is by these means that a person can provide for themselves, their family, friends, and animals. Baby boys were dedicated to Lono, the Hawaiian god of agriculture, rather than Kū, the god of war. In the days of old Hawai'i, farming was not done on a large scale. The amount of land in each ahupua'a was limited, so the allotment of land in each family's 'ili, or subdivision, only left enough room for planting or gardening. This also meant that mahi'ai could devote their time and energy to their individual crops. The practice of kilo, or close observation, was an important skill for mahi'ai to have. They used this skill to find plants with unique genetic differences that could be cultivated in the future. Mahi'ai understood the importance of conserving resources so everyone has what they need and being grateful to the 'āina, or land, for providing those resources. They also expressed their gratitude to Lono, after successful harvests and celebrated him during the season of Makahiki.

When planting crops, mahi'ai practiced kilo in a different way. They would use the phases of the Moon, or helu pō when deciding what to plant and when to plant it. This determined the best planting and harvesting conditions. Understanding helu pō and their meanings was necessary for many aspects of life including farming, fishing, and building. The phrase below refers to a person who can't answer a simple question and compares them to a child who doesn't know the Moon phases.

"Kamali'i 'ike 'ole i ka helu pō."
Children who not know the Moon phases



Mahope O Ke Kula Ke A'o Mau Ana Program

“Kamali‘i ‘ike ‘ole i ka helu pō.”
Children who not know the Moon phases

Respond to Reading

Directions

Respond to the questions below. Underline and identify specific lines from the passage that support your claim.

What is the context of this phrase? If someone said it to you, would you see it as something positive?

The passage describes kilo, or close observation, as an important skill for mahi'ai. What are some ways mahi'ai could use kilo in farming?

Helu Pō

Hawaiian Vocabulary

(From Ho'okua'āina)

Helu Pō: Moon calendar

Mahina: Moon

Malama: Month

Anahulu: Period of ten days

Ho'onui: Enlarging, first anahulu

Poepoe: Rounding, second anahulu

Ho'ēmi: Diminishing, third anahulu

Ho'onui (or Mua): Increasing Waxing Phase



PoePoe: Full or Rounded Phase



Emi (or Hope): Decreasing Waning Phase



(Image by Liz Dacus)

A Hawaiian malama is broken into three anahulu named ho'onui, poepoe, and ho'ēmi. In ho'onui, the Moon is getting larger or waxing. The phases seen in ho'onui are Hilo, Hoaka, Kūkahi, Kūlua, Kūkolu, Kūpau, 'Olekūkahi, 'Olekūlua, 'Olekūkolu, and 'Olepau. In poepoe, the Moon is beginning to round and becomes a full Moon. The phases seen in this anahulu are Huna, Mōhala, Hua, Akua, Hoku ili, Hoku palemo, Māhealani, Kulu, Lā'aukūkahi, Lā'aukūlua, and Lā'aupau. In ho'ēmi, the Moon is decreasing in size and is waning. The phases seen in the final anahulu are 'Olekūkahi, 'Olekūlua, 'Olepau, Kāloakūkahi, Kāloakūlua, Kāloapau, Kāne, Lono, Maui, and Muku. It is important to note that 'ole Moons reflect their name. 'Ole means "without or lacking" and these Moon phases are typically bad times for planting and fishing. The best Moons for planting are any phases from Hua to Māhealani. Plants grown during this time are typically taller and healthier. The phases Hoku ili and Hoku palemo refer to the period of time when the Moon is still visible as the sun rises (Hoku ili) and when the Moon disappears as the sun rises (Hoku palemo).

(Information collected from Ho'okua'āina)

Respond to Reading

Directions

Respond to the questions below. Underline and identify specific lines from the passage that support your claim.

How do the names of the Moon phases indicate that they are good for planting?