



## TITLE

# QUEEN LILI'UOKALANI AND THE HISTORY OF HAWAII

GRADE LEVEL: ELEMENTARY TO HIGH SCHOOL

**SUBJECT:** History, Social Studies, English

**THEME:** Activism, Bias and Stereotype, Civil Rights, Identity and Culture, Immigration

### OBJECTIVES:

**Students will be able to:**

- Students will become familiar with history of Hawaii and American expansion in Hawaii
- Students will learn how the United States participated in the overthrow of Hawaiian sovereignty.
- Students will gain understanding of the impact of imperialist thinking on the Hawaiians

### ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS:

- What were the reasons why the United States became interested in gaining control of Hawaii and what were the actions it took to do so?

### ACTIVITIES:

**Activity 1: Engage/Hook:**

Begin this lesson by playing a short game of 2 truths and a lie. Share 2 truths and 1 lie about Hawaii -- one of the truths being that Iolani Palace located in Honolulu is the only royal palace in the US.

Sample truths:

- Hawaii is a collection of 8 major islands (an archipelago totalling over 135 islands)
- Measured from the bottom of the sea to its peak, Mauna Kea is earth's tallest mountain, surpassing Mt. Everest.
- The first European to land on the islands was Capt. James Cook of Great Britain
- A statue of King Kamehameha, the first leader to unite Hawaii, is among those in Statuary Hall in the U.S. Capitol representing the State of Hawaii.
- President Barack Obama was born in Honolulu.
- Pearl Harbor is located on the island of Oahu.

Sample lies:

- Honolulu, the capital, is on the "Big Island" of Hawaii.
- Hawaii became the 49th state to join the U.S. followed by Alaska as the 50th.
- The U.S. took over Hawaii from the British in 1898.

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After students make their guesses, reveal to them that Hawaii was a monarchy until about 125 years ago. In July, 1898 Hawai'i was annexed and became part of the US. The last ruler of Hawai'i was Queen Lili'uokalani (image below).

**Activity 2: Guiding questions: to initiate a discussion:**

- What is a monarchy?
- What does annexation mean?
- Why do you think the US annexed Hawai'i? Do you think it was a peaceful process?
- What do you think Hawai'i was like before annexation, and what it was like after? (sugar plantation, arrival and settling of immigrants)

**Activity 3: Explore:**

Where did Princess Lili'uokalani and the royal family live?

Take students on a tour of the Iolani Palace tour

(<https://my.matterport.com/show/?m=E9uDoFAP3SH>) – Scavenger Hunt game online: look for artifacts in the palace. *Need information about the palace to make the game.* The Palace became a government building, the state capitol.

Next, divide the class into groups of 2-3 students. Inform students that they will be working together as a group while looking at different formats of informational videos and articles as they learn more about Princess Lili'uokalani and the history of Hawai'i.

**ACTIVITIES:**



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## ACTIVITIES:

First, ask the student groups to pay close attention to the information shared in the following video, as they will be using facts mentioned about Queen Lili'uokalani to create a character map about her. Introduce Queen Lili'uokalani with this video (<https://youtu.be/gH5TJ5JTTFw>).

Teachers can also use an article by the Smithsonian to introduce Prince Lili'uokalani <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/five-things-know-about-liliuokalani-last-queen-hawaii-180967155/>

Character Map Sheet

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1wy\\_DkrtllhGlk8yOMRmGMSEcr3CuZJqI/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1wy_DkrtllhGlk8yOMRmGMSEcr3CuZJqI/view?usp=sharing)

(Source: Facing History and Ourselves. More information about Facing History's

Character Map activity - <https://www.facinghistory.org/resource-library/teaching-strategies/character-maps>)

Once student groups have finished creating their character map, ask each group to share their maps and notice the similarities, differences, or unique points listed by each group.

### Activity 4: Explain:

Next, ask student groups to work together for the following reading activity. Students will have to work together to read, understand the information, and make notes.

Ask students to read this article by the Constitution Rights Foundation (<https://www.crf-usa.org/bill-of-rights-in-action/bria-18-2-c-the-debate-over-hawaii-and-an-american-overseas-empire>). After students have finished reading, bring their attention to this newspaper article from Aug 16, 1898, (<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83025121/1898-08-16/ed-1/seq-1/>).

**Assessment/Activity:** Once all the groups have finished reading and making notes, lead a discussion about the annexation of Hawaii by the US using the following guiding questions. (A modified worksheet to accompany these questions is at the end of the lesson.)

- What was the Bayonet Constitution?
- Why was a negative portrayal of Queen Lili'uokalani presented in the US media?
- Why was the US interested in annexing Hawaii?
- Who were the main characters involved in the annexation of Hawaii?
- What is the difference between the CRF article and the news article from 1898?
- How did American Imperialism evolve?

## RESOURCES

PBS, American Masters, Unladylike. Queen Liliuokalani  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gH5TJ5JTTFw>

National Geographic, The Bayonet Constitution  
<https://www.nationalgeographic.org/thisday/jul6/bayonet-constitution/>

Jason Daly, Smithsonian Magazine, Nov. 10, 2017  
<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/five-things-know-about-liliuokalani-last-queen-hawaii-180967155/>

Constitutional Rights Association  
<https://www.crf-usa.org/bill-of-rights-in-action/bria-18-2-c-the-debate-over-hawaii-and-an-american-overseas-empire>

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## RESOURCES

Library of Congress, Hawaiian Gazette, Aug. 16, 1898: Newspaper article  
<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83025121/1898-08-16/ed-1/seq-1/>

National Park Service: Teaching with Historic Places  
[https://www.nps.gov/subjects/teachingwithhistoricplaces/lesson-plan\\_iolani-palace.htm](https://www.nps.gov/subjects/teachingwithhistoricplaces/lesson-plan_iolani-palace.htm)

Hawai'i State Public Library System  
<https://www.librarieshawaii.org/2021/09/03/learn-about-hawaiian-history/>

Hawai'i Tourism Authority  
<https://www.gohawaii.com/hawaiian-culture/history>

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