

Effects of Unification

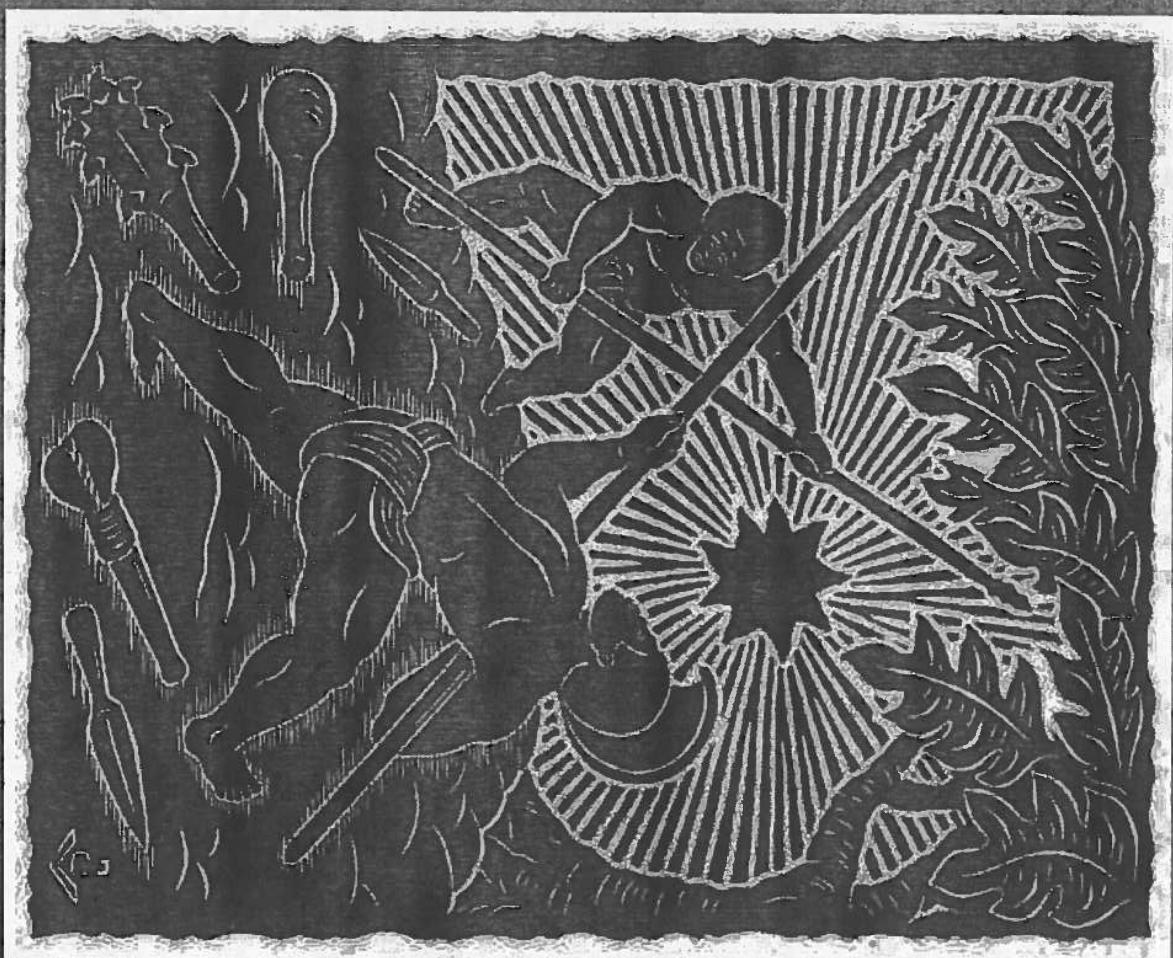
11/11 – 11/14

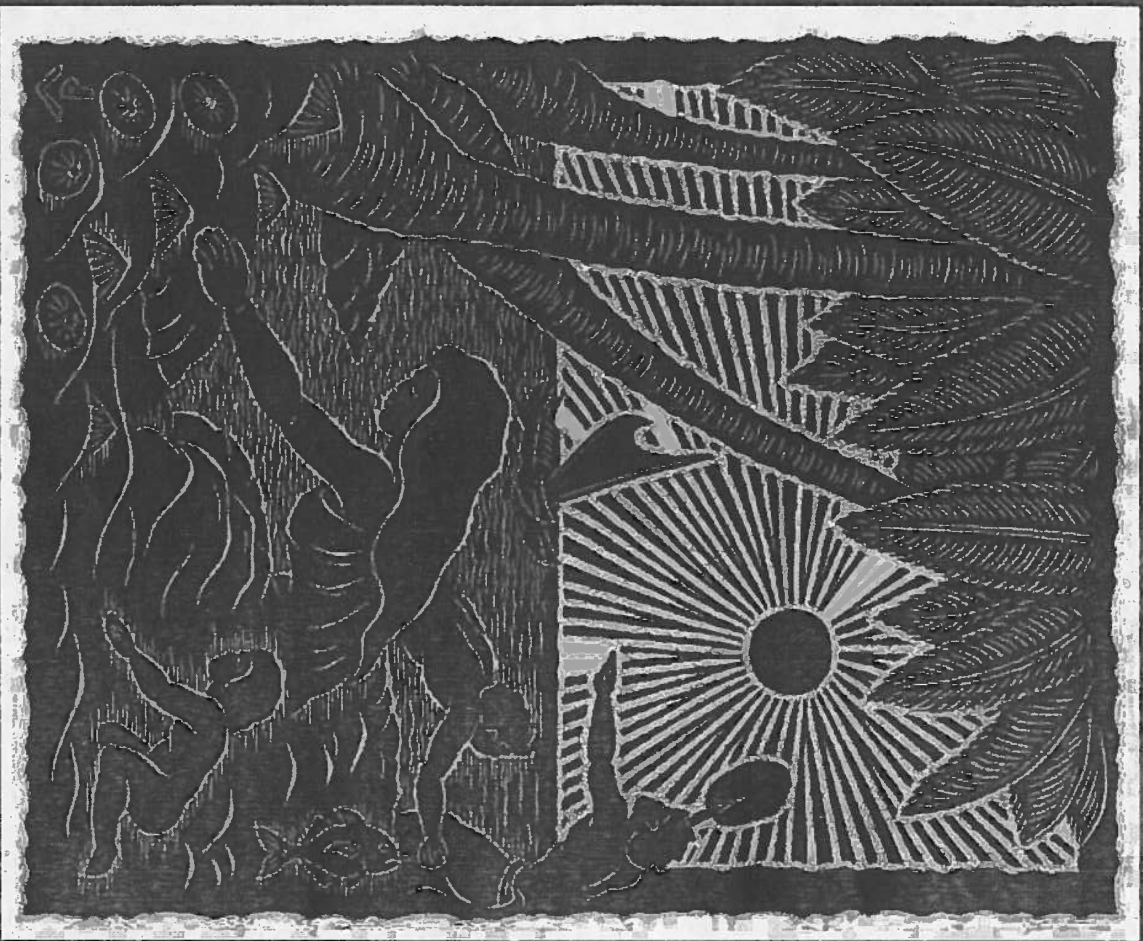


Name: _____

Period: _____

One day on the Puna coast near Hilo, Kamehameha was smarting from a defeat in battle. He had tried to take the Hilo area away from another ali'i and had failed. His pride wounded, he set out in his canoe with his men to get even. His target was a peaceful village on the coast where deep cracks had formed in the hardened lava near the water's edge.





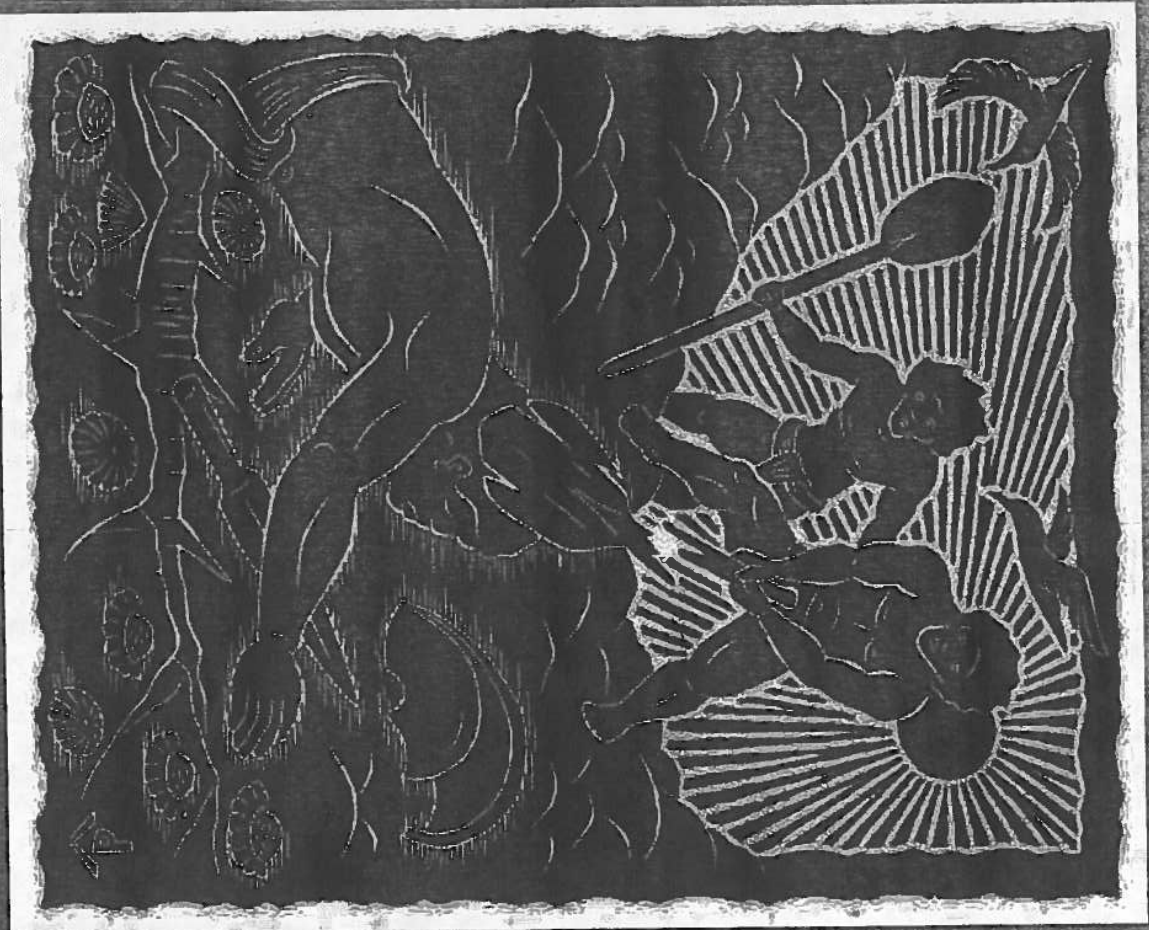
Kamehameha
spotted some
fishermen and their
families on the shore.
While his men waited in
the canoe, he plunged
alone into the surf to
attack them. Most of
the people ran away in
fright, but the menacing
chief quickly closed in
on two fishermen.
Waving his spear, he
was about to overtake
them when his foot
slipped into a crack in
the lava.



Auwē! He was stuck!
The only prisoner in sight
was his own leg, he
thought in disgust. How
dare the lava catch and
hold on to the mighty
Kamehameha.

Seeing a chance to
protect themselves, the
fishermen turned to face
the struggling foe. One of
them struck Kamehameha
over the head with a heavy
wooden canoe paddle.

The blow was so hard it splintered the paddle and knocked the ali'i unconscious. Kamehameha awoke in a daze. The fishermen had fled before finishing the flight. They quit without hitting him again, not knowing that the man they had spared was to be their future mo`i. Kamehameha was rescued by his own men, who wanted to hunt down the fishermen. But Kamehameha said no.



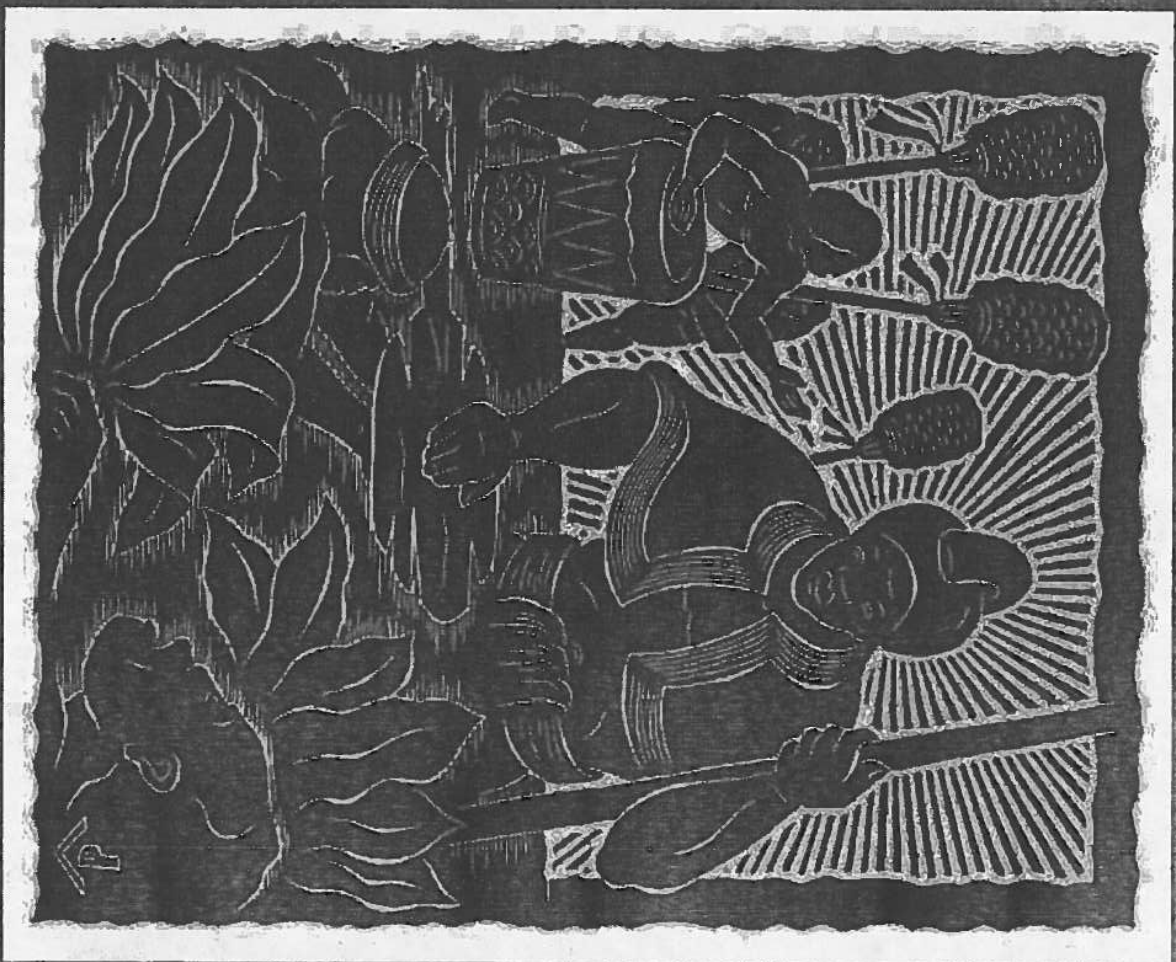


Kamehameha survived the blow and the humiliation, but he also learned something from it. They did not know that their attacker was the high chief Kamehameha. Yet they spared him. He would never have done the same for them, he admitted. He also learned that he was wrong to misuse his power by attacking innocent people, even *maka`ainana*.

A wise ruler learns from his experiences--even at the hands of a common fisherman. Kamehameha was destined to be a great ruler, and that one act of mercy by a man with a paddle helped him become such a leader for Hawaii. He understood that as *mo`i*, he had great power. If he wanted peace in his *aupuni* (nation), he had to listen to and protect the people within it.

After he achieved a unified island nation, Kamehameha the Great had the chance to tell the fishermen he was sorry. According to one story, he sent word throughout that coastal village to summon the two fishermen. When they crawled into his presence--for that is how maka'ainana approached their mo'i--he told them that he had been wrong to assault them. He pardoned them, gave them gifts of land and admitted his own mistake by proclaiming his now famous law.





It was about 1797, that Kamehameha the Great declared that within his aupuni, the innocent and defenseless shall be safe from unprovoked attack, even from his own chiefs. He pledged that from that moment on, his people shall move freely everywhere that was under his control. His people should feel as safe on the road as they did in their 'ohana. Those who attacked, robbed, or murdered his subjects would be put to death.

The Law of the Splintered Paddle

O my people,
Honor they Gods;
Respect alike (the rights of
men) great and humble;
See to it that our aged,
our women, and our children,
Lie down to sleep by the
roadside
without fear of harm;
Disobey, and die.

Kānāwai Māmalahoe

E mā kānaka.
E mālama oukou i ke akua
A e mālama ho i i kānaka nui
A me kānaka ike.
E hele ka elemakule,
ka luahine, a me ke kama
A moe i ke ala
'a'ohē mea nāna e
ho'opilikia.
Heuwa nō, make.

Kamehameha I is remembered for the *Kanawai Māmalahoe* which protects human rights of non-combatants in times of battle. This law is considered the most important royal edict of his reign.

CORNELL NOTES

Name:

Date: 09/10/13

Period:

Topic: Malama Hoe Kanawai (Splintered Paddle Law)

Subject: Hawaiian History

Questions/Main Ideas:

Notes:

What is the Mamala Hoe Kanawai? What does it mean in English?

What does the law do?

How did Kamehameha get the idea for this new law?

What is the purpose of the law?

CORNELL NOTES

Name:

Date:

Period:

Topic:

Subject:

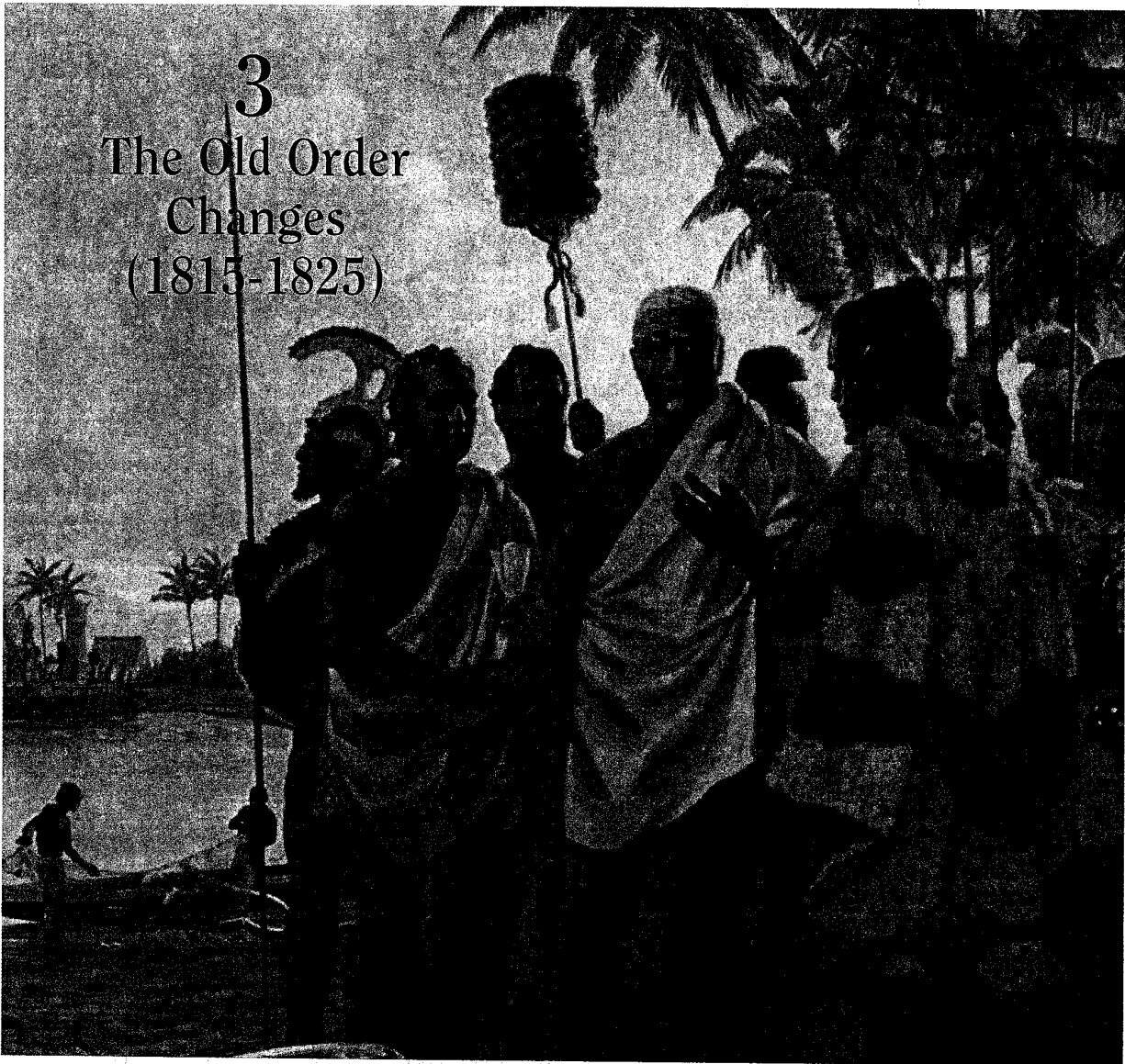
Questions/Main Ideas:

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Notes:

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Four horizontal lines for additional notes or a summary.



3 The Old Order Changes (1815-1825)

After the unification of the islands Kamehameha's next task was to decide what type of government he and his people would abide by. Kamehameha decided on a type of **monarchy**, he had decided on an **absolute monarchy**.

monarchy : a form of government where the monarch (king or queen) has supreme power.

absolute monarchy: a form of government where the monarch has absolute power over the people.

After the battle of Nu‘uanu, Kamehameha’s great task was to unite and improve his new kingdom. He based his government largely on the old Hawaiian land system. He rewarded his main chiefs with grants of land. They collected taxes in the traditional way, receiving food and other gifts from the commoners.

In 1796 Kamehameha gathered his canoes at Wai‘anae and set forth to conquer Kaua‘i. In midchannel a great storm sank many of his canoes and forced him to give up the attempt. Several months later, he quickly smashed a revolt that broke out on the island of Hawai‘i.

This was Kamehameha’s last important military action. Now he was free to take on his new role as an administrator. He kept some of the more restless chiefs near his court. He made others, whom he trusted completely, governors of the various islands. John Young became governor of the island of Hawai‘i. Ke‘eaumoku became governor of Maui. At court, Kamehameha depended greatly on the powerful Kona chiefs and their sons and on Kalanimōkū, “the iron cable of Hawai‘i.” Kalanimōkū’s ability led admiring English sailors to name him after their own prime minister, William Pitt. They called Kalanimōkū “Billy Pitt.”

The king strictly enforced the *kapu* system, believing that it strengthened his control. One of his first projects was to rebuild his war-torn land. He set his people to work terracing hills, banking up taro patches, digging long irrigation ditches, and building fishponds. The king himself took an active part in these public works. Captain Archibald Campbell, in his description of Hawai‘i about 1810, mentions seeing Kamehameha deep in the mud of a taro patch:

This mode of culture is particularly laborious, and in all the operations those engaged are almost constantly up to the middle in mud. . . . I have often seen the king working hard in a taro patch. I know not whether this was done with a view of setting an example of industry to his subjects. Such exertion could scarcely be thought necessary among these islanders who are certainly the most industrious people I ever saw.

traditional: passed down from generation to generation

commoners: the people who did not have the rank of chiefs; in Hawai‘i they were known as the *maka‘āi-nana*

administrator: someone who manages people and events

kapu system: a set of rules telling Hawaiians what they could and could not do

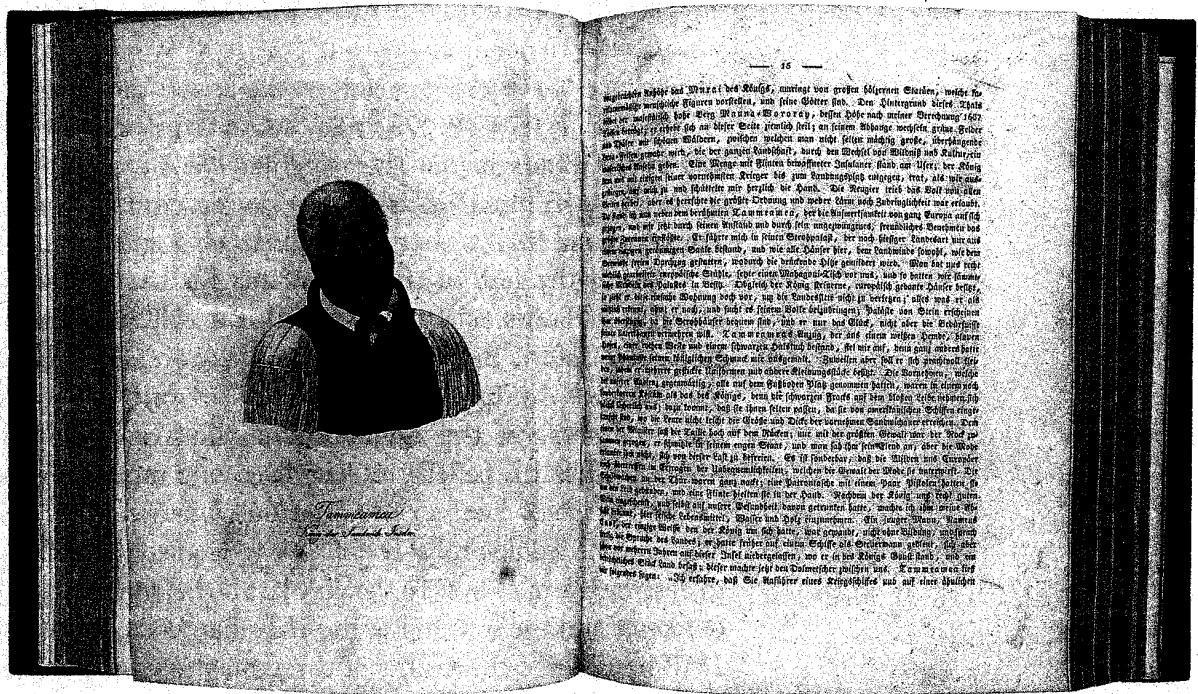


Taro was an important crop to the Hawaiians. After the war, the Hawaiians banked taro patches to rebuild war-torn lands. Island Curio

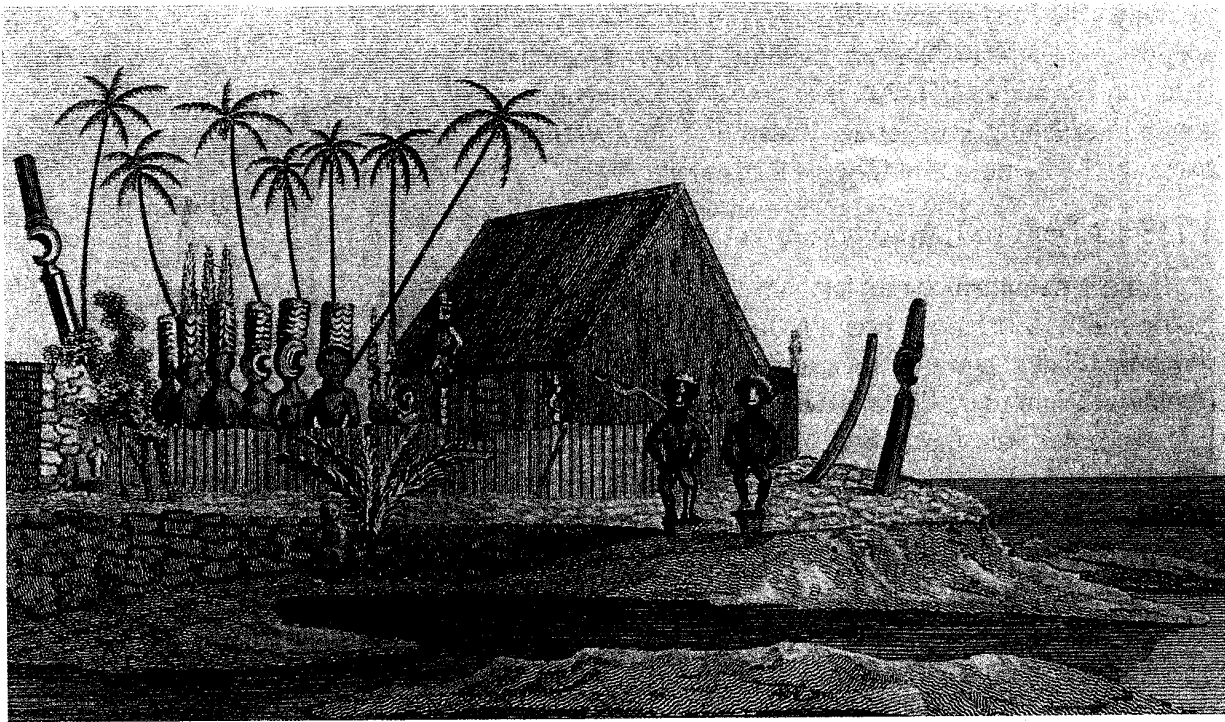
The Last Days of Kamehameha

In 1811 Kamehameha set forth on a tour of his kingdom, starting with the island of Hawai'i. On the way, however, his schooner *Keōua* sprang a leak and had to return to Honolulu. From there Captain Winship took the king on his ship to Kealakekua Bay, where Kamehameha stayed for a short time. He then visited Maui and Moloka'i, where he organized the system of collecting taxes and inspired his subjects to improve their farming methods.

Queen Keōpūolani bore Kamehameha two more children. (Their first child, Liholiho, who would become Kamehameha



During the last years of his life, Kamehameha spent most of his time in Kailua on the Kona coast of the Big Island. He is remembered for uniting the islands and bringing them peace. In this portrait, Kamehameha chose to pose in western clothing, rather than in his traditional Hawaiian dress. This portrait is based on a version that was painted from life in Kailua by the Russian artist Louis Choris. Hawaiian Historical Society



People quit worshipping at *heiau* like this one soon after the death of Kamehameha I. Hawai'i State Archives

II, was born in 1796 or 1797.) The second son, born around 1814, was Kauikeaouli. The daughter, Nāhi'ena'ena, was born in 1815. Kauikeaouli later succeeded Liholiho as Kamehameha III.

During the last seven years of his life, Kamehameha spent most of his time in the settlement at Kailua on the Kona coast of the Big Island. He died there on May 8, 1819.

Although by uniting the Islands and bringing them peace he prepared the way for the missionaries, he knew little of Christian beliefs. Had he lived one more year, he would have met the first group of missionaries from New England. He would probably not have welcomed their efforts to destroy the old ways. To the very last he held firmly to the old *kapu* and the worship of the Hawaiian gods. As late as 1818 he ordered the deaths of three men for minor violations of the *kapu*. Yet, when he was dying, he would not allow priests to perform human sacrifices to speed his recovery.

The funeral rites followed the ancient customs. The

most important part of the ceremony was the disposal of the dead king's bones. This act was called *hūnākele*, which means "to hide in secret." The friend chosen to ensure that Kamehameha's remains would never be touched was Chief Hoapili. He hid them, with the help of Ho'olulu. To this day no one knows where the bones were deposited. There is a story that years later Kamehameha III, on a visit to Kailua, persuaded Ho'olulu to show him the spot. They began their journey to the hills together, but when Ho'olulu saw that they were being followed, he turned back. Today, "only the stars of the heavens know the resting place of Kamehameha."

hūnākele: to hide in secret

Name: _____ Date: _____ Period: _____

King Kamehameha I Questions

For the questions below, answer the questions in at least **ONE** complete sentence using your reading.

1. What is a monarchy?
2. What is an absolute monarchy?
3. What is a monarch?
4. Who was the first monarch of Hawai'i?
5. Why did King Kamehameha think that the Kapu System was so important?
6. How did King Kamehameha spend his last days?
7. Why was it so important to *hūnākele* King Kamehameha's bones?

Opinion Questions: For the questions below, answer the questions in at least **THREE** complete sentences using your reading as a reference.

8. Why do you think Kamehameha decided to start an absolute monarchy? What are some advantages King Kamehameha gained by creating an absolute monarchy?

9. What do you think would have happened if King Kamehameha had decided to create a different form of government?

10. What kind of king was Kamehameha? Make sure to use creative adjectives to describe his reign.

You're the reporter. As a reporter, you're given a short news briefing based on which you will be participating in a press conference with King Kamehameha. Ask "hard-hitting" questions if you are called on (questions that will pressure King Kamehameha). Be sure to focus on his intentions or purposes for making the decisions that he did. You want to peek inside the mind of King Kamehameha and then inform newspaper readers of what you discover. Read the news briefing below, and then brainstorm some questions you'd like to ask once the news conference begins.

News Briefing:

After he unified the islands, Kamehameha strengthened his control by strictly enforcing the kapu system. Kamehameha also began to organize his government to maintain the peace.

He made captured chiefs part of his government. By making them a part of the government, the chiefs would keep their power and help make sure the people followed the kapu. Kamehameha kept some of the restless chiefs near his court.

He made people he trusted complete governors of the various islands. For example, John Young became governor of Hawai'i and Ke`eaumoku became governor of Maui. The governors watched over the chiefs and regularly reported back to Kamehameha to get orders or give progress reports.

All of these decisions helped Kamehameha rule his entire kingdom from one place. Even though he couldn't be on all the islands at once, he was still able to make sure people followed the kapu and obeyed the commands of the ali'i.

Possible Questions: What questions will you ask King Kamehameha in order to figure out his decision-making process?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.

