

PACIFIC ISLANDS

(Fiji, Samoa, Tonga)

Who is a Pacific Islander?

The “Pacific Islands” is how we are described because of our geographic location, “Islands, geographically located in the Pacific Ocean”.

Today, we will talk and share with educators, health experts, and community members of the three dominant Pacific Islander populations who live in San Mateo County, namely, Fijians, Samoans, and Tongans.

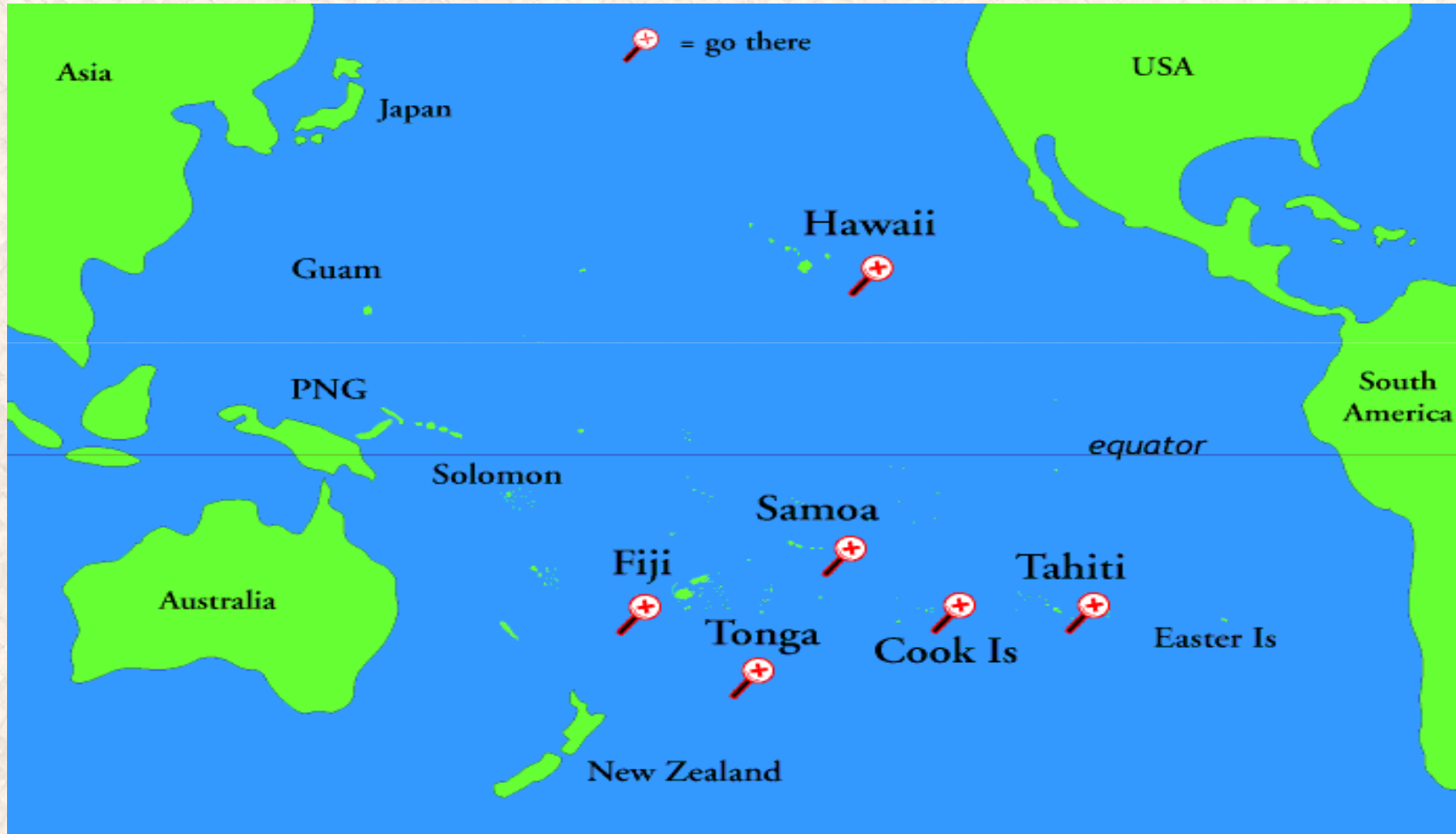
PACIFIC ISLAND NATIONS

- When you talk about the Pacific Islands, you are talking about different Island Nations.
- Different heads of countries, from kings to presidents, etc. Even different forms of government.
- Some are independent countries, yet some are under the rule of a foreign power.

PACIFIC ISLAND NATIONS

- Each Island Nation has their own language.
- There is not one language that is used or understood by all Pacific Islanders.
- There are some similarities but each island nation has it's own unique characteristics.
- Challenge in grouping the islands as just one group, "Pacific Islanders".

ISLANDS OF THE PACIFIC



GREETINGS

- From the Islands of Fiji “Bula Vinaka”
- From the Islands of Samoa “Talofa Lava”
- From the Kingdom of Tonga “Malo e Lelei”
- From Chamorro “Hafa Adai”
- From Tahiti “Ia Orana”
- From Niue “Fakalofa atu”
- From NZ Maoris “Tena Koe”
- From Hawaii “Aloha”

FIJI ISLANDS

- **Group of volcanic islands in the South Pacific, southwest of Honolulu.**
- **Total of 322 islands, just over 100 are inhabited.**
- **Biggest island Viti Levu, is the size of the “Big Island” of Hawaii.**
- **Larger islands contain mountains as high as 4,000 feet.**

PEOPLE OF FIJI

- **Indigenous people are Fijians who are a mixture of Polynesian and Melanesian.**
- **Indo-Fijians are laborers brought from India between 1879 and 1916.**
- **Native Fijians live throughout the country while Indo-Fijians reside primarily near the urban centers and cane-producing areas.**
- **Religion most of indigenous Fijians are Christians (approx. 75% Methodist) and most of the Indo-Fijians are Hindu (approx. 80%).**

PEOPLE OF FIJI

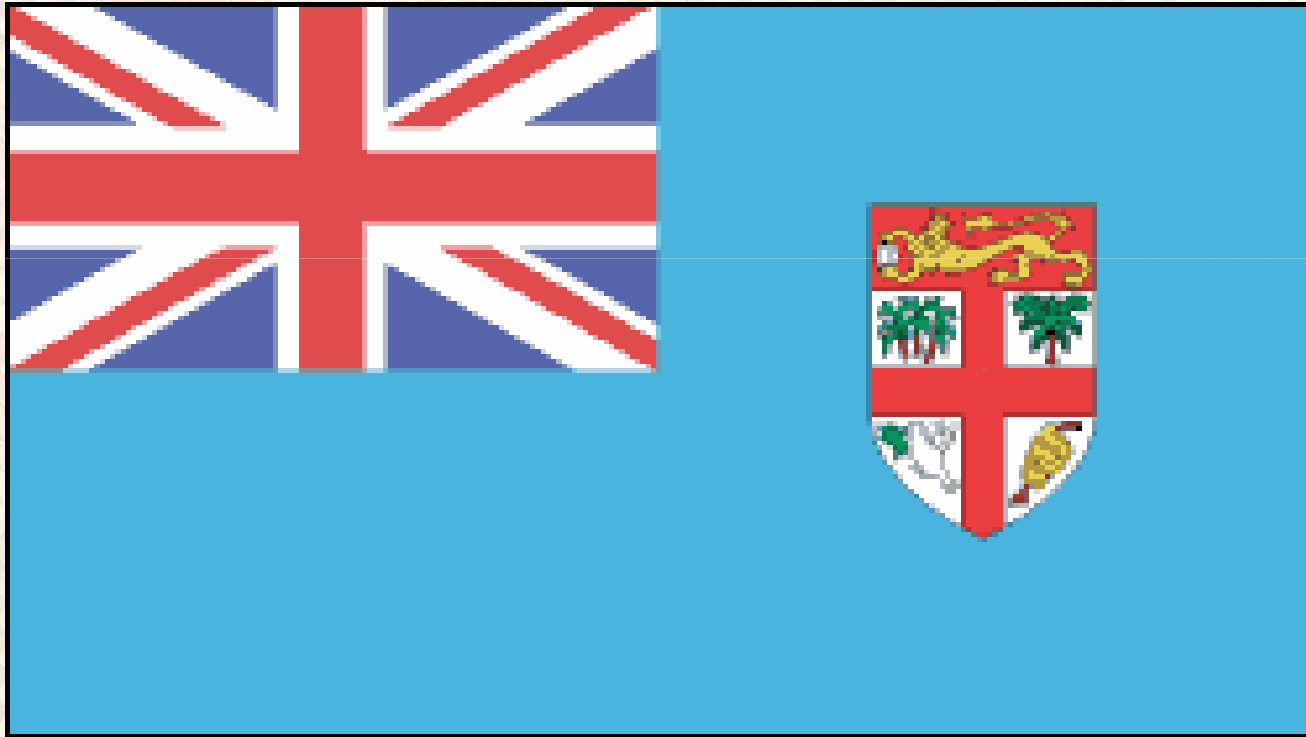
- Population (2007 est.) 918, 675.
- Languages: English (official), Fijian, Hindustani.



YOUNG FIJIAN MAIDENS



FIJI FLAG & COAT OF ARMS



HISTORY OF FIJI

- **Inhabited since second millennium B.C.**
- **Explored by Dutch and British.**
- **Fijian chiefs ceded the islands to the British in 1874, and Fiji became a possession and dependency of the British Crown.**
- **1880's large scale cultivation of sugarcane.**
- **Over next 40 years 60,000 indentured laborers from India were brought to the islands.**

FIJI

- **Ethnicity/race:** Fijian 51%, Indian 44%, other islanders/Chinese 5% (1998).
- **Religions:** Christian 52%, (Methodist 37%, Roman Catholic 9%), Hindu 38%, Islam 8%, other 2%.
- **Agriculture:** Sugarcane, coconuts, cassava, rice, sweet potatoes, bananas, cattle, pigs, horses, goats, fish.
- **Industries:** tourism, sugar, clothing, copra, gold, copper, offshore oil potential.
- **Natural resources:** timber, fish, gold, copper, offshore oil potential.

FIJI

- **Political Climate unstable – 4th coup since the first one in 1987.**
- **This instability is responsible for the great migration of Indo-Fijians out of the country to settle in New Zealand, Australia, and the United States.**
- **Population – (est. 2007) 918,675.**

INDO-FIJIANS

- **Indo-Fijians were brought in between 1879 and 1916, to work the sugarcane fields.**
- **After their five years of work as indentured laborers, they were given the options of whether to return to India or stay on in Fiji. Majority opted to stay.**
- **Name debate followed, Fiji Indian, Indian Fijian or Indo-Fijian.**

INDO-FIJIANS

- **An internet search found 55,900 hits for Indo-Fijian, 20,100 for Fiji Indians, 24,700 for Fijian Indian.**
- **Emigration accelerated following the coups of 1987 and 2000.**
- **Indenture system had two positive effects on subsequent generations.**
 - **- need for different casts to live work and eat together.**
 - **- shortage of females resulted in many marrying outside their caste.**

INDO-FIJIANS

- **Early 1900's, Indians started arriving in Fiji as free agents.**
- **Development of a new language, Fiji Hindi, formed from Hindi dialects of Eastern Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. Enriched by inclusion of many Fijian and English words.**
- **This language is now the mother tongue of almost all Fiji Indians.**

INDO-FIJIAN FAMILY



INDO-FIJIAN





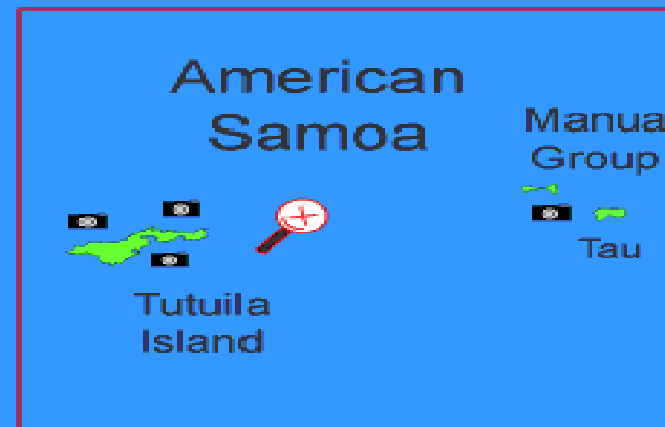
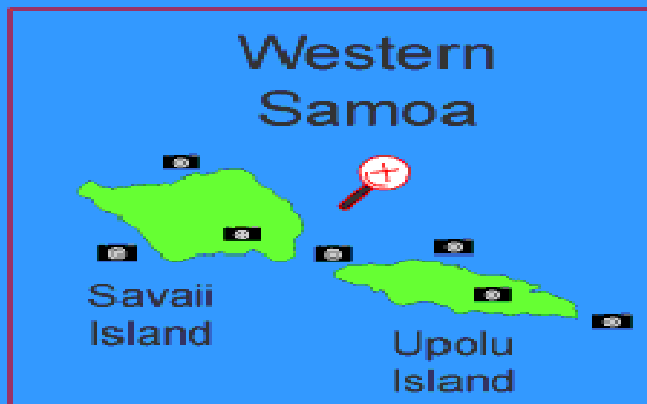
SAMOA



SAMOA ISLANDS

Samoa Islands

 = go there
 = picture



AMERICAN SAMOA

- *Malo Sa'oloto Tuto'atasi o Samoa*
Independent State of Samoa Flag Coat of arms
Motto: *Fa'avae i le Atua Samoa*
(Samoan: "Samoa is founded on God")
- Unincorporated territory of the United States.
- Located west of the Cook Islands, north of Tonga and some 300 miles south of Tokelau.

AMERICAN SAMOA

- **International rivalries settled by 1899 Treaty of Berlin, Germany and the US divided the Samoan archipelago.**
- **US occupied eastern islands with the noted harbor of Pago Pago.**
- **Western Samoa islands are now the independent state of Samoa.**
- **American Samoa's total land area 76.83 square miles – slightly smaller than the District of Columbia.**

AMERICAN SAMOA

- **Persons born in American Samoa are American nationals; but not United States citizens.**
- **Spoken Language – Samoan, English.**
- **Their immigration status has allowed American Samoans to travel freely between American Samoa and the United States.**

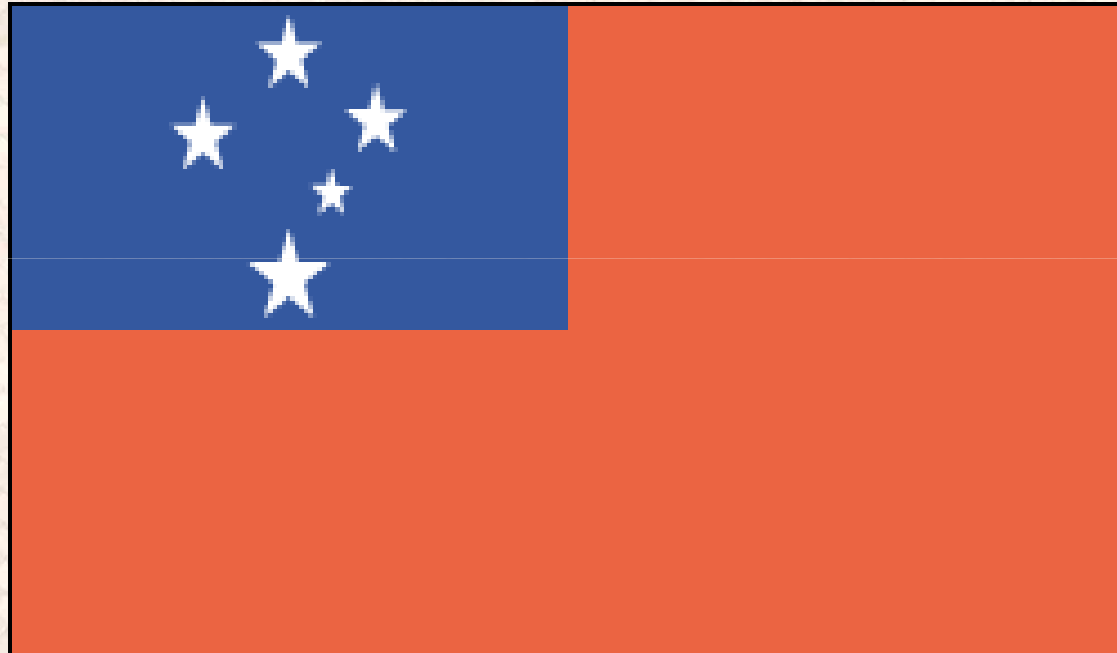
SAMOAN FIRE DANCER



SAMOA

- **Known as the Independent State of Samoa.**
- **Total land area 1,137 square miles.**
- **Population estimated in 2007 to be 176,615.**
- **Constitutional monarchy under a native chief.**
- **Polynesians, possibly from Tonga, settled in Samoa about 1000 B.C.**

SAMOAN FLAG



SAMOA

- **Formerly known as Western Samoa.**
- **Situated in the South Pacific Ocean about 2,200 miles south of Hawaii.**
- **Larger islands in the Samoan chain are Upolu and Savaii, are mountainous and of volcanic origin.**
- **Little level land in the coastal areas, where most cultivation takes place.**

SAMOA

- **Conflicting interests of the U.S., Britain, and Germany resulted in 1899 Treaty of Berlin. This divided the Samoan Islands into American Samoa and Samoa (under Germany first, then under New Zealand and finally independence on January 1, 1962.**
- **Language Samoan, English.**
- **Race - Polynesian**

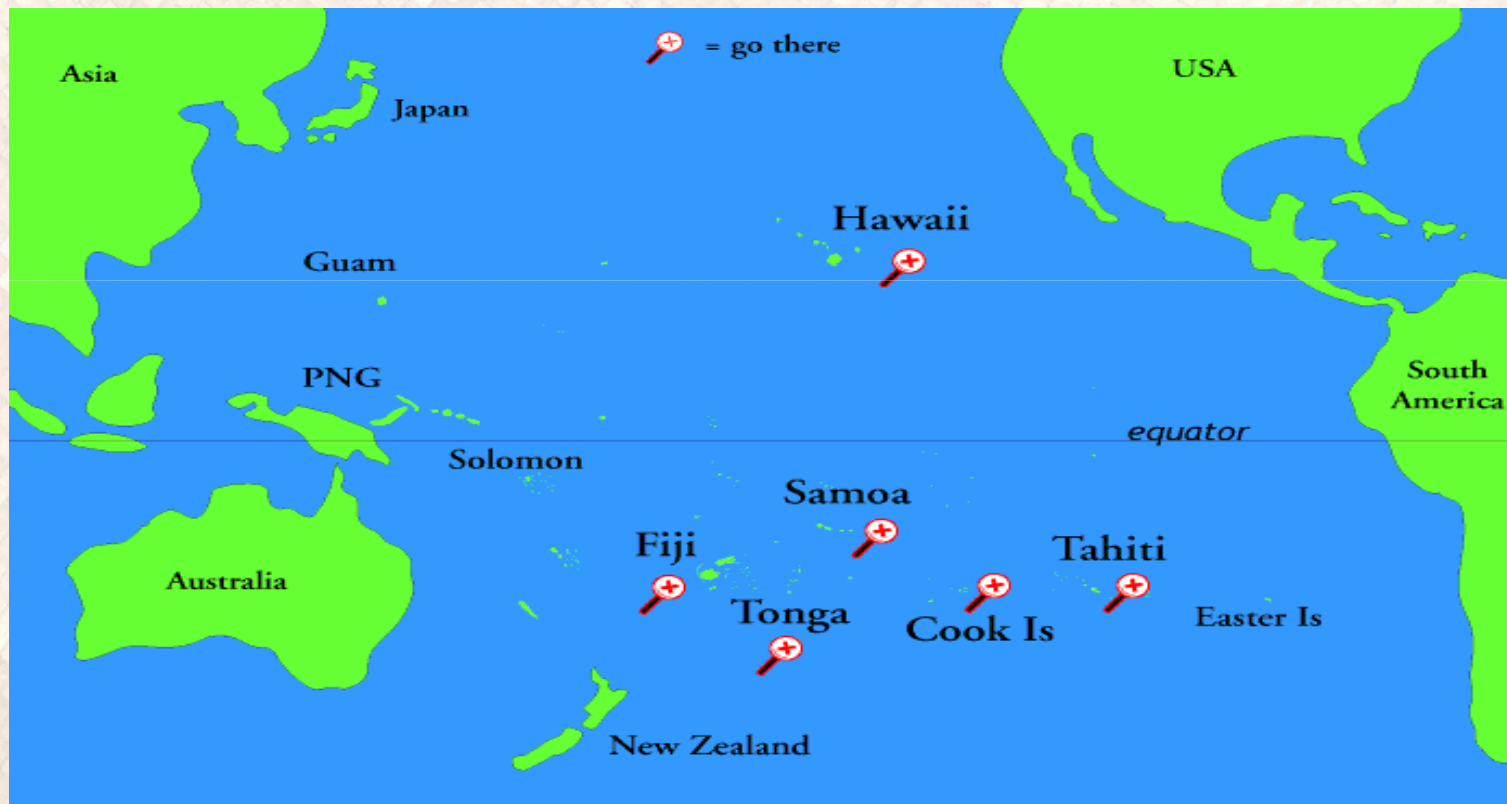
SAMOA

- **People are able to travel freely between Samoa and New Zealand.**
- **The group of people who find their way here are either through marriage, or are able to file for their papers through employment, etc..**
- **Majority of Samoans settle in New Zealand**

SAMOA

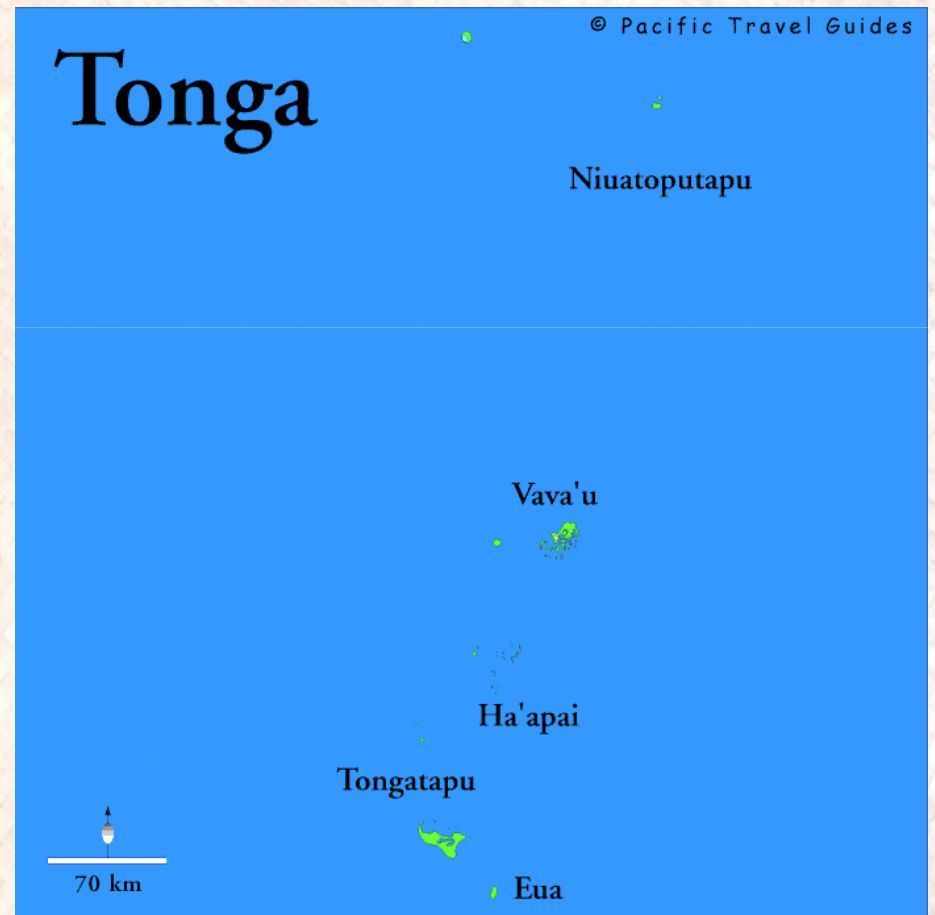
- **Main religion is Congregationalist 34.8%, Roman Catholic 19.6, Methodist 15%.**
- **Export fish, coconut oil and cream, taro, copra, automotive parts, garments, beer.**
- **Barraged regularly by cyclones.**

WHERE IS TONGA?



KINGDOM OF TONGA

- Official Name: Kingdom of Tonga
- Geography: Area 288 square miles
- Terrain: 171 islands, mainly raised coral but some volcanic, 48 islands are inhabited



WHO ARE TONGANS?

- **Nationality:** Tongan
- **Population:** (2006 census) 101,169
- **Age Structure:** 37.1% below 14; 4.2% over 65
- **Ethnic groups:** Tongan 98%, other Polynesians and Europeans
- **Languages:** Tongan, English
- **Education: Literacy (2004)** 98.9%



WHERE DID TONGANS ORIGINATE FROM?

- **Tongans belong to the Polynesian Race, like the Hawaiians, Samoans, Maoris of New Zealand, Tahitians, and Cook Islanders.**
- **Their origin has been lost “in the midst of antiquity.” However, there are two popular beliefs:**
 - **that they originated from South East Asia.**
 - **that they originated from Peru in South America.**

TONGA NOW

- Tonga is the last remaining Polynesian kingdom in the South Pacific. It has an absolute monarchy, present ruler is King George Tupou V.
- Tonga has a three-tier class system, the King, Royalty and Nobles, and the people. For the past twenty years a new class has emerged, the higher educated and higher income class.



TONGANS MIGRATE TO THE US

- Searching for a better life and a chance for an education for their children.
- Mormon church helped to make this possible.
- More relaxed Immigration Policy, enabled people to stay.
- It is estimated that approximately 20,000 Tongans live in San Mateo County.