

Hawaiians in the Pacific Northwest and on Salt Spring Island

Discussion questions:

1. Why was Hawaii important to the trans-Pacific trade?
2. Why did the islanders come to the Pacific Northwest? Why did the Fur trading Companies need them? Why were so many forts built for the fur trade? What do we know about the rivalry between the three trading companies? How did this play into the development of the west coast?
3. How did they get here? Who brought them?
4. What skills did they possess that made them desirable employees?
5. Could they read and write?
6. Did they come as settlers or was it just as temporary workers? What was the length of the average contract? Why did some choose to stay?
7. What would be some of the differences between the Hawaii and the Pacific Northwest? (Weather, language, lifestyle, work, living conditions –was there any housing, did they have to build houses?) See comparison/contrast organizer.
8. What is the distance from Hawaii to SaltSpring? (You may use a map to calculate this information or use a website such as <http://distances.com/> to calculate the distance from the port of Honolulu to Victoria or to Saturna Island.) Using a local map, calculate the distance between Victoria or Saturna and Salt Spring Island.
9. How long does it take to sail between Victoria and Maui today? How long does it take to fly to Hawaii?
10. How long did it take to travel from Hawaii to Fort Vancouver in the 1820's?
11. Did they come directly to Salt Spring Island from Hawaii? What events took place that lead to them migrating from Fort Vancouver to the north. Why did the Kanaka settlers in the San Juan Islands leave? How did the Americans and the British treat them? Was it differently? How did this play into their resettlement here?
12. Try to visualize the lives of these people, what they went through, etc. Write a journal of a Kanaka sailor or one of the members of the early pioneer Kanaka families on Salt Spring Island. See diary/journal organizer.