

## Polynesian Maps

The tides create swells (currents) and the winds create waves.

Waves take new shape when they strike an island and bounces back.

Polynesian navigators can detect 'Bounce-back' waves 50 km away from small islands, and up to 300 km away from big islands like New Zealand.

Wave patterns divide and curl around an island. Polynesian Navigators can detect this confused wave before the island is in sight.

To read the currents and swells the navigators would watch the angles of trailing ropes in the water behind their Sailing Waka.

Polynesian Maps of the oceans show wind, currents, swells, the position of islands and positions when islands appear on the horizon.

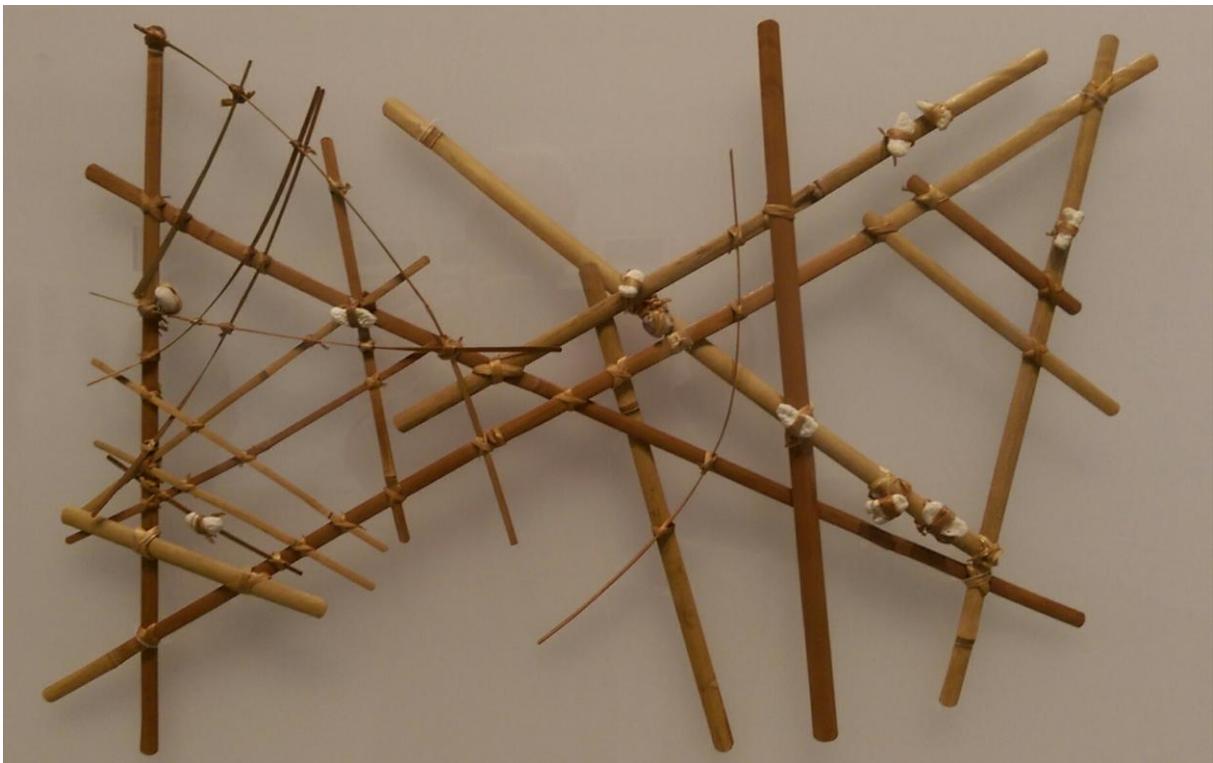
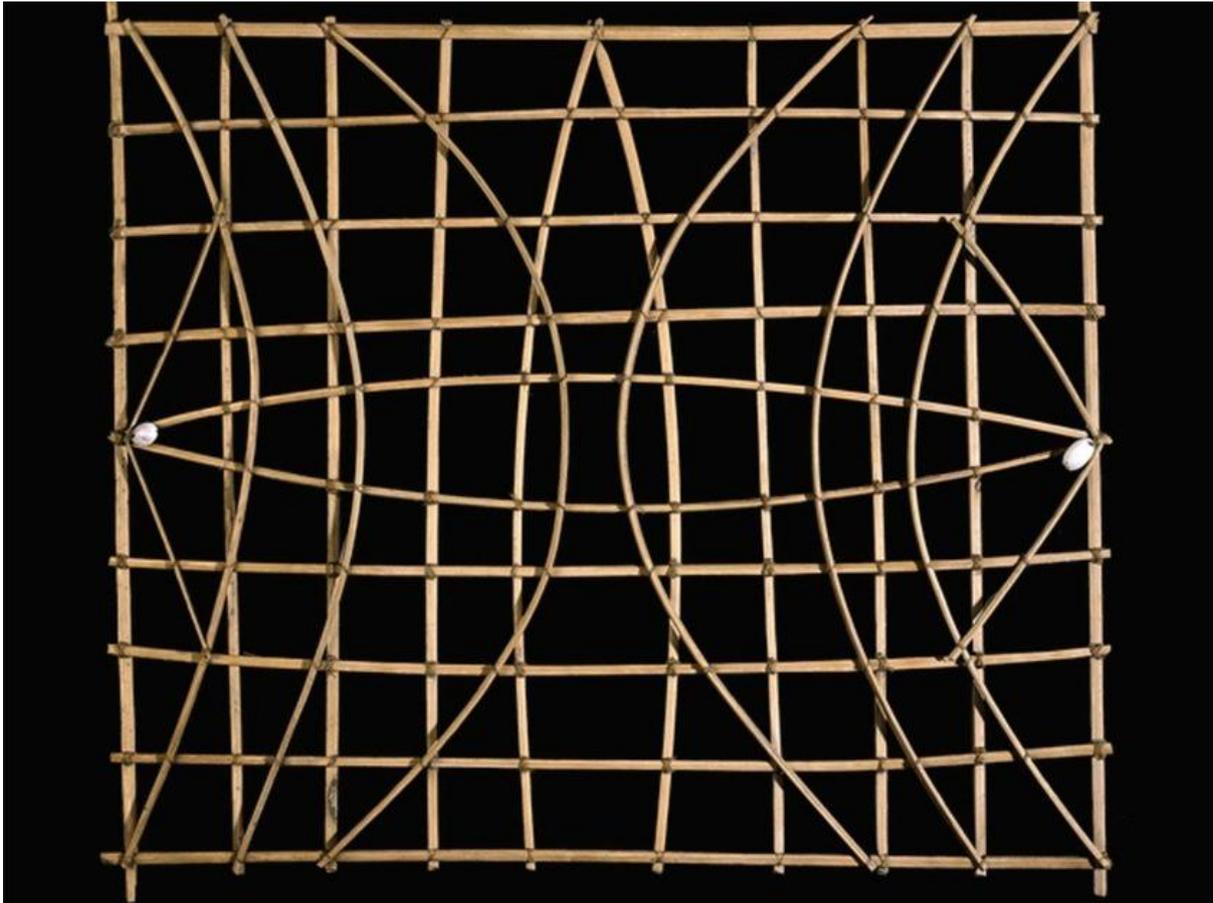
Label the two Polynesian Island Maps on the next page with what you think each part of the map represents?

- Currents
- Winds
- Islands
- Positions where an island comes into view

Why didn't these Polynesians draw a map on paper?

**Answer.**

**Extension activity** - Use a map of your school and plot how some teachers and pupils move around the school at lunch time.



**MARK ON THE MAP** - Currents [ ] Winds [ ] Islands [ ]  
Positions where an island comes into view [ ]