The art of Polynesia

The people of the sea
The migration path of the Polynesians
About Polynesia
TIKI

- Hawaiian Tiki statues represent the many Tiki gods in Hawaiian and Polynesian mythology. They are carved from wood or stone and are most common in Central Eastern Polynesia. The original Tiki statues were carved by skilled artisans in the Maori tribe, which inhabited the islands until the early 1800s. The statues each have a distinct look that relates to the symbolic meaning and mythological importance of a particular deity.
History and Significance

• Tiki statues were originally carved by members of the Maori tribe as boundary markers for sacred grounds. The name of the statues is derived from the Maori name for the first human male, though the statues most often represent deities. With the introduction of missionaries into Hawaiian society in the early 1800s, Christianity became the dominant religion. Tiki statues have since lost much of their original meaning aside from their historical significance.
Representations

• The statues most commonly represent one of the four significant gods in Hawaiian culture: Kane, Ku, Lono and Kanaloa. Kane is considered the creator of the universe and the ruler of the natural world. Ku is the Hawaiian god of war. His mouth is rendered open as if to suggest the devouring of enemies. Human sacrifices were often made to statues of Ku. Lono is the god of rain and fertility, as well as music and peace. Kanaloa is the god of the sea.
Appearance

- Kane's statue is an amalgamation of many aspects of the **natural world**. He is rendered with a human body, a fishlike mouth and leaflike hair. Ku's statue is the most dominating in appearance, with broad shoulders and a large, menacing head. A Lono statue is identified by its large, “fertile” belly and jovial smile. A Kanaloa statue is easily identified by its squidlike dreadlocks.
Websites and information

• Many of the Tiki Masks are designed based on the four main gods. Kane is the god of sunlight, and natural life; Ku is the god of war; Lono is the god of peace, winds, rain, sports and fertility; Kanaloa is the god of the ocean. Each Tiki God holds a different meaning.

• Tiki Masks come in various sizes from 8 inches to over 5 feet tall.

• http://www.mythichawaii.com/hawaiian-warriors.htm
Tiki Masks
What do you notice about all of the Tiki Masks?

Think about:

• Colour
  – how many are used
  – what kind of colours?

• Shape (of the masks and in the masks)

• Lines

• Characteristics in common
  – Big eyes
  – Big mouths (often showing teeth)

• How are facial features defined?
• Tikis are spiritual figures who use their big, scary mouths and menacing expressions to frighten away evil spirits. Hawaiian tiki statues have various headdresses, each with different meanings.

• Tiki Sculptures (ignore the pricing, just look at the designs):

http://www.webetiki.com/hast.html
How to draw a Tiki Head!
Step 1: Draw out a simple 2x4 grid.
Step 2: Draw the nose just above the center of the grid.
Step 3: Add in the eyes
Step 4: Add the mouth
Step 5: Add the eyebrows
Step 6: Add the forehead
Step 7: Add in any other optionals. Here I have just added hands
Pick out a nose, eyes, eyebrows and a forehead from the following pics. These are essential features. Then pick out any other optional features, tongues, hands, feet, chests, etc.
tiki eyebrows

tiki foreheads
tiki mouths

[Several drawings of Tiki mouths of different shapes and expressions]

tiki tongues

[Several drawings of Tiki tongues of different shapes]
tiki hands

tiki chests

tiki feet