

## **Week 9**

### **History of Fiji**

#### **Pre- Contact Period**

- Period before the arrival of Europeans to Fiji.

Before the arrival of the Europeans, Pacific Islanders have already settled in the Pacific at least for 40 000 years. They established themselves and created a social structure and organization. Many theories have been put forward to explain the way in which the Pacific was settled.

#### **2.1 EARLY SETTLERS**

- There were three periods of early voyaging:

##### **a. 1st Period: 50,000 – 60, 000 years ago.**

Movements of people from South China and the first Aboriginal people moved to Continent Australia and New Guinea.

##### **b. 2nd Period: 30,000 – 40,000 years ago.**

People continued to move into South East Asia, Australia and mainland New Guinea islands and nearly Solomon Island.

##### **c. 3rd Period : 3500 – 3000 years**

People moved quickly through voyaging from Melanesia out into the South Pacific, and into the North Pacific from Philippines/Taiwan into the atolls of Micronesia.

### **Short Answers**

**What do you understand by the term pre- contact period?**

**Comparing pre-contact with the present time, what are some of the differences and similarities that you can think of?**

## **THE SOCIETY OF THE EARLY FIJIANS**

### **SETTLEMENTS**

- First settlements in Fiji- started by voyaging traders and settlers from Melanesia about 3500 years ago.
- Early travelers were using Fiji as a transit so therefore it has both a history of settlement and mobility.
- Due to the fact that Lapita potteries have been found in Lakeba, Beqa, Natunuka, Naigani and other parts of Fiji, it suggested that the first Fijians shared common cultural aspects with the people of the Western Pacific or Melanesia.
- Stone adzes found in Samoa and Fiji suggested that Fijian culture has a link to Samoans culture.
- Huge canoes made from Fiji trees were found in Tonga and also some of the words used by the people of Lau were similar and this suggested that there was also a link between Fiji and Tonga. Marriage linked many Fijian and Tongan families.

### **Short Answers**

**Identify some similarities and differences of the ancient ways of settlement compared to present settlements in Fiji?**

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### **SOCIAL ORGANISATION**

- The i-Taukei ( taukei ni qele) settled and worked the land
- The first settlers' society was made up of many different people, some staying while others moved on to the other new districts.
- People cleared the bush, levelled land and made gardens in different ways.
- New settlers introduced new patterns or designs in Lapita pottery.

### **Short Answers**

**Identify importance of social structure in our society?**

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