HULA DANCING IN HAWAIIAN CULTURE

Words

Look for the following words as you read the passage. Match each word with its correct definition.

Words

1. accompany
2. altar
3. benefit
4. celebration
5. discourage
6. elaborate
7. energetic
8. evidence
9. evoke
10. floral
11. garland
12. graceful
13. image
14. influence
15. reign
16. revive
17. ritual
18. stereotype
19. sway
20. tradition

Definitions

A. n., a decorative rope of flowers or leaves
B. n., a set of actions used as part of a ceremony
C. adj., having a lot of energy
D. v., to move back and forth
E. n., a fixed idea people have, especially one that is wrong
F. v., to bring to mind
G. adj., related to flowers
H. v., to try to stop or prevent something
I. adj., having beauty of movement
J. n., a table or similar structure for religious ceremonies
K. n., a mental picture
L. n., a social event to mark a special day or occasion
M. n., the period of time that a king or queen is in power
N. n., a custom or belief of a group of people
O. n., the use, advantage of
P. adj., having a lot of detail and decoration
Q. v., to bring back to life
R. v., to go with, happen at the same time
S. n., signs, proof something is or is not true
T. n., an effect, power

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Reading

Hula Dancing in Hawaiian Culture

Many people dream of visiting the beautiful Hawaiian Islands. Mention of this Pacific paradise evokes images of women in grass skirts swaying their hips as they perform graceful island dances for the benefit of tourists. Although this image is a common stereotype of Hawaii, it has its roots in a real tradition that continues to play an important role in Hawaiian culture.

Hula dancing has always been part of Hawaiian life. Hawaiian mythology includes various stories that explain the origins of hula, each story attributing its creation to a different god or goddess and its first appearance to a different location. In reality, hula dancing is such an ancient tradition that it is impossible to say when or where it first appeared. It was most likely originally performed in front of an altar in honor of gods and accompanied by great ritual. It is a common belief that the ancient hula was danced only by men, but some scholars point to evidence suggesting that hula was traditionally danced by both men and women.

The English explorer Captain James Cook's visit to the islands in the eighteenth century caused many changes to Hawaiian society as a result of the contact with European culture. Although hula did not completely disappear after contact, it was discouraged. King David Kalakaua is credited with reviving hula dancing during his reign in the late nineteenth century. He was interested in reestablishing lost traditions, and hula was performed at celebrations held in his honor[1].

In the 1960s, a Hawaiian cultural festival was established as part of an effort to attract more tourists to the islands. A major part of this festival consisted of hula competitions, which were organized into categories of *hula kahiko*, or hula danced in the ancient style, and *hula auana*, or modern hula. This festival, called the Merrie Monarch Festival in honor of King David Kalakaua, has become a major annual cultural event. The hula competition is a central part of the festival and has had a significant influence on modern hula dancing.

Hula continues to be danced in both the ancient and modern styles. Traditional hula is an energetic dance performed to the accompaniment of chants and the beating of drums. The dancers wear traditional costumes consisting of garlands of leaves, skirts of tapa (a type of bark), and anklets made of animal bone. Many of the movements of modern hula are based on the ancient hula, but the modern style is slower and more graceful. It is danced to flowing guitar and ukulele music, and the dancers wear elaborate costumes, including the famous Hawaiian floral garlands known as leis.

[1]BrE: honour

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Hula has attracted the interest of people outside the islands, and hula schools can be found in many parts of the world. Although people of other nationalities learn to dance some form of hula, it is also danced by Hawaiians who live away from the islands, on the mainland United States, in Europe, and elsewhere. It has become a way for native Hawaiians to maintain their cultural identity even while living away from their island homeland. What was once a religious ritual has become a form of entertainment, not only for tourists, but also for native Hawaiians who seek to maintain connections with their cultural heritage.

Answer the questions about **Hula Dancing in Hawaiian Culture.**

Questions 1–4

Choose the correct letter, ***A****,* ***B****,* ***C****, or* ***D****.*

1. Originally, hula was danced
   - **A** by dancers wearing floral garlands.
   - **B** for the benefit of kings.
   - **C** in competitions.
   - **D** near an altar.

2. Hula dancing was discouraged
   - **A** in certain ancient rituals.
   - **B** after contact with Europeans.
   - **C** in the 1960s.
   - **D** during traditional celebrations.

3. Hula was revived in the nineteenth century by
   - **A** a Hawaiian king.
   - **B** an English explorer.
   - **C** Hawaiians in Europe.
   - **D** the tourist industry.

4. Modern hula dances are accompanied by
   - **A** drums.
   - **B** guitars.
   - **C** chants.
   - **D** violins.

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Questions 5–7

Complete the summary using words from the list below.

Hula dancing has been part of Hawaiian culture since ancient times, although the styles of dancing have changed over time. The traditional style of hula dancing, which is still performed, is fast, whereas modern hula is more **5**..... and flowing. Dancers of modern hula wear costumes that are **6**....., and dancers of ancient hula wear simpler traditional costumes. People everywhere are interested in hula, including Hawaiians living in other parts of the world. The fact that hula is danced by Hawaiians living away from their homeland is **7**..... of its importance to Hawaiian culture.

elaborate	evidence	influence
energetic	graceful	reign

My Words

Write the words that are new to you. Look them up in the dictionary and write their definitions.

Words	Definitions
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

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