

Tuvalu Language Week

The image features a teal header bar at the top. The main background is a light green gradient. In the corners, there are illustrations of tropical plants, including palm fronds, banana leaves, and white plumeria flowers with yellow centers. The text 'Tuvalu Language Week' is centered in the teal bar in a white serif font.

Pacific Pride

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Theme

This year's theme for Vaiaso o te
Gana Tuvalu – Tuvalu Language
Week is Fakaakoigina tou iloga
kae tukeli ke magoi mote ataeao
which means,
embracing our culture and a more
secure, vibrant future.



History behind Tuvalu

Tuvalu is a small Pacific island nation that lies midway between Australia and Hawaii. “Tuvalu” means eight islands although there are actually nine inhabited islands.

Tuvaluan people are the seventh largest Pacific ethnic group in New Zealand, making up 1 percent of New Zealand's Pacific population. In the 2018 New Zealand census 4653 people identified as being part of the Tuvaluan ethnic group.



Phrases

(You can say these beautiful easy phrases to your friends and family)

Hello - Tālofa

How are you ? - E ā koe?

Thank you - Fakafetai

Your Welcome - E´ Lei

Please - Fakamolemole!

Excuse Me - Tulou!

Have a good day - Manuia te Aso

Resources about Tuvalu

(Explore these sites as they can tell you more about the culture)

- [List of Tuvalu general resources](#)
- [All resources about Tuvalu in our collection](#)
- [Tuvalu in Britannica Library Adults](#)
- [Eight things you should know about Tuvalu from Te Papa's blog](#)

Tuvalu Traditions

Tuvaluans are famous for their dancing, this can be seen most prominently in dance performances and the traditional styles of *fatele*, *fakanau*, and *fakaseasea*. *Fatele* is the traditional dance performed to celebrate leaders, and was performed when Prince William and his wife, the Duchess of Cambridge, officially visited Tuvalu in 2012. They are also known for their music and handcrafts, which are highly regarded in the Pacific. Women wear a distinctive traditional dress made from hand-dyed pandanus leaf strips using traditional patterns and colours.

Feasts, featuring traditional dancing and music, are often held at the Maneapas (meeting houses), which are the focal point of the community. Each Maneapa is unique, and some are highly ornate.

Tuvalu Flag

It has a light blue field that proudly **displays the Union Jack of the British Empire in the canton and a set of nine yellow stars in the fly**. The stars represent the islands of Tuvalu, and their arrangement on the flag mirrors their arrangement in the Pacific Ocean.

