This Asian American Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Heritage Month, we selected objects that highlight the legends and stories important to AANHPI cultures and the locations and symbols to which they are tied.

UPPER LEVEL
This Maori meeting house is still used in the spirit of its original purpose, welcoming diverse groups from across Chicago and around the world. Gatherings held on the marae bring people together for events, ranging from dance performances to local community celebrations. This particular structure was built in 1881 on Tokomaru Bay.

This is one of only three wharenui (FAH-reh-new-EE) located outside of what Pacific country?

Hawaiian legends tell of Pele, the Fire Goddess, who melted rocks, destroyed forests, and made mountains trying to dig a pit deep enough to house her family in their spirit forms of fire and steam. She finally succeeded on the Big Island of Hawai`i, where they now live.

Which volcano does this legend describe?

In Sanskrit, the term for this type of statue translates to “enlightened one.” This particular statue is of Maitreya (Jampa in Tibetan), which represents the future as the one who will be reborn on earth to teach enlightenment in the next age.

What is the term for “enlightened one”?