

CURRICULUM AREA: Years 7–8

Block Play and Construction

Ākonga explore Māori knowledge systems, such as navigation, astronomy, or science, integrating research into presentations or creative projects. Ākonga analyse how knowledge was applied historically and today. Mātauranga is demonstrated as ākonga critically engage with and share cultural knowledge.

Tikanga Practices: Mātauranga can be seen through:

- **Rangatiratanga:** Ākonga lead research and presentations, showing confidence and respect in sharing mātauranga with integrity and responsibility.
- **Wānanga:** Discussion and debate help ākonga think critically, reflecting how mātauranga is deepened through collective exploration and shared insight.
- **Mātauranga:** Ākonga connect navigation or astronomy with modern science, recognising that Māori knowledge continues to shape innovation and understanding today.

Kaiako: Questions for Reflection

1. How do you encourage ākonga to see the continuity between ancestral knowledge and today's innovations?
2. How can research and creative outputs show critical thinking and respect for cultural sources?
3. What role can mātauranga Māori play in shaping ākonga worldviews and inquiry approaches?



WAIATA: NGĀ ATUA MĀORI

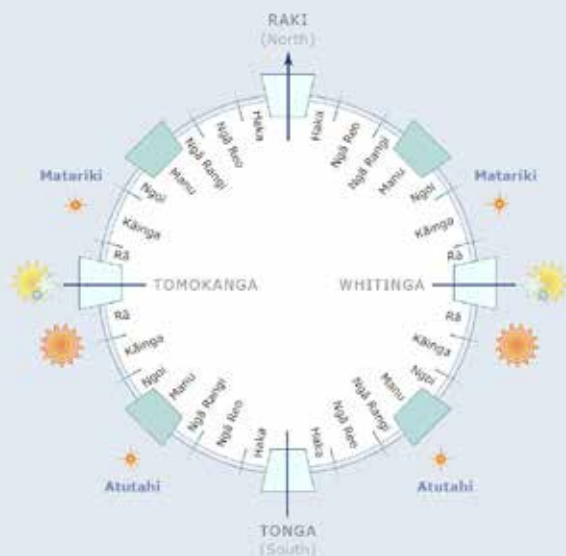
(Kaitito: Rotu Mihaka)

Ranginui
Tangaroa
Tāne Mahuta
Tawhirimātea
Tūmataunga
Haumietiketike
Rongomātāne
Ruaumoko
Papatūānuku e x2.

Skyfather, Guardians of the sea, forest, weather,
man/war, uncultivated foods, cultivated foods,
earthquakes/volcanoes, Mother Earth.



Scan for link to waiata



Te Kāpehu Whetū – Māori Star Compass (Science Learning Hub)

Ngā Taonga Whakaako

Tikanga Māori – Theory and Practice

Primary School Contexts



MĀTAURANGA

WAYS OF KNOWING

UC
UNIVERSITY OF
CANTERBURY

Te Kāhui Pā Harakeke
Child Well-being
Research Institute

Ako
AOTEAROA

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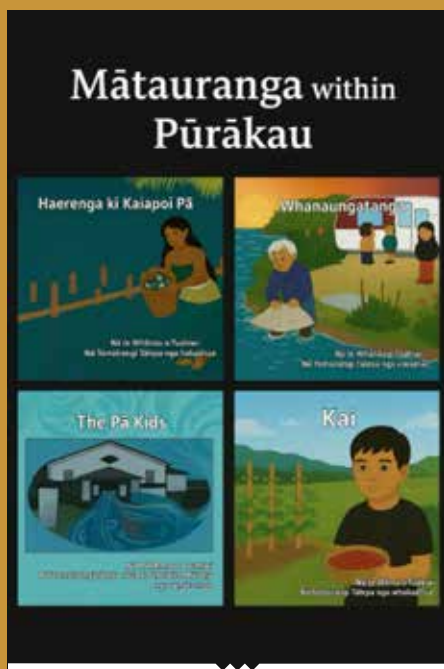
MĀTAURANGA

WAYS OF KNOWING

Mātauranga refers to knowledge, wisdom, and understanding that is both inherited and developed through lived experience, observation, and reflection. In teaching and learning, mātauranga represents the rich, holistic knowledge system of Māori that encompasses physical, spiritual, environmental, and cultural dimensions. Mātauranga is not limited to facts or skills; it weaves together values, relationships, histories, and practices that guide how knowledge is applied in everyday life. It is dynamic and continuously shaped by interactions between people, their environments, and the changing world. In the classroom, mātauranga fosters learning that is contextual, relevant, and grounded in te ao Māori, empowering learners to honour and apply Indigenous knowledge responsibly.



Scan to find out more about these resources



CURRICULUM ACTIVITY: Years 1–3

Pūrākau and Storytelling

Tamariki listen to and retell simple pūrākau, identifying characters and main events. Tamariki illustrate key parts of the story. Mātauranga is applied as tamariki learn and share knowledge embedded in cultural narratives.

Tikanga Practices: Mātauranga can be viewed as:

- **Whakarongo:** Tamariki listen carefully to pūrākau, learning that stories hold ancestral wisdom. Deep listening helps them understand values and lessons within cultural knowledge.
- **Manaakitanga:** Retelling stories respectfully shows care for the knowledge shared. Tamariki learn that pūrākau carry mana and must be spoken with integrity.
- **Ako:** Through drawing and retelling, tamariki learn and teach each other. Mātauranga grows through shared experience, not just from words but through doing.

Kaiako: Questions for Reflection

1. How do you make pūrākau engaging so tamariki connect emotionally and intellectually?
2. How do you assess whether the tamariki are grasping the key messages and values of the stories?
3. In what ways can you include whānau knowledge to enrich classroom learning?

CURRICULUM AREA: Years 4–6

Knowledge and Learning

Tamariki research traditional Māori practices, such as fishing or gardening techniques, and present findings in small groups. They discuss how knowledge has been passed down through generations. Mātauranga is enacted as tamariki connect learning with cultural and practical understanding.

Tikanga Practices: Mātauranga can be seen here through:

- **Kaitiakitanga:** Exploring fishing or gardening teaches tamariki how caring for the environment passes down knowledge of balance, respect, and sustainability.
- **Whanaungatanga:** Working together to research traditional practices strengthens relationships. Tamariki learn that knowledge grows through collaboration and mutual respect.
- **Māramatanga:** Comparing old and new techniques helps tamariki reflect on how Māori knowledge adapts, showing learning as an evolving, lived experience.

Kaiako: Questions for Reflection

1. How do you help tamariki recognise mātauranga Māori as a valid and living knowledge system?
2. What opportunities can you create for tamariki to compare traditional and modern ways of knowing?
3. How can you strengthen collaboration and presentation skills as tamariki share findings?



Rakiwhiua making pōhā werawera (oven bags) for the hāngī.