Matariki

Pukapuka mahi

Activity book
Traditionally, Māori celebrate the start of a new year in mid-winter (May-June).

The new year begins on the first new moon after the star cluster Matariki rises in the eastern sky. That’s why the Māori new year is called Matariki.

Matariki is a time to gather with whānau (family) and friends to reflect on the past, celebrate the present, and plan for the future.

This activity book will focus on six themes important during this time of year.

1. whetū  stars
2. maramataka  the lunar calendar
3. kōrero  stories
4. kai  food
5. whenua  land
6. whānau  family
1. The star cluster Matariki takes its name from the central star. One of the most popular *iwi* (tribe) stories is that the central star represents a *whaea* (mother) surrounded by her six daughters.

Fill in the crossword with the names of the seven stars.

Matariki  
Waitī  
Ururangi  
Waipunarangi  
Tupu-ā-nuku  
Tupu-ā-rangi  
Waitā
The Matariki star cluster rises in the eastern sky.
2. The Māori calendar year is guided by the stars and the moon. As Matariki rises to start the new year, the new lunar (moon) calendar begins. This is called the Maramatāka (the turning of the moon).

Time to gather and store food for winter. Traditionally food would be kept in a pātaka – a store house with legs. Draw where you would store all this food.

The sun is warm and birds are now nesting in flowering trees. Draw your special summer spot.
It’s really cold. Draw a picture of you and your whānau (family) gathered around a fire telling stories.

Time to prepare the garden. Draw your favourite fruits and vegetables.
One day I decided to go to the ___________. I invited my good friends the ___________ and the ___________.

“That sounds fun!” they said.

It was a long way so we travelled by ___________. By the time we got there ___________ was very hungry so he ate ___________!

I felt ___________ so I decided to go to the ___________.

I saw a ___________ there which was very cool.

On my next trip I think I’ll visit ___________ and take ___________.

3. Matariki is a time to have fun with your whānau (family) and share stories.

Use the kupu (words) opposite and fill in the blanks to make your own story.
hipi
pāpaka
tohorā
taika
mokonui
āporo
aihikirīmi
hanawīti
whare hokohoko
marama

maunga
tātahi
waka
pahikara
rererangi
riri
harikoa
hiamoe
Pātaka were built on stilts so rats couldn’t climb in and eat the food.
4. Kai (food) is an important part of Matariki. Winter is a time to share kai from the pātaka (storehouses), harvested from past seasons.

Colour in the pictures to see what kai was stored in the pātaka.
5. Because the pātaka (storehouses) are full, this frees up time to spend with whānau (family). Matariki is a time to think about those who support you and the land that sustains us.

Find the words that relate to these themes in the word search.

awa
waka
maunga
moana
tamanuiterā
rangī
whare
rākau
whānau
ika
manu
kūmara

| kākāwai | oēārr | upūiörngēkhrar | rāmēprākauwān | whoawāakawākig | āerakengrmatiti | nwakaurkitem | aiwaaakrāi | uhamwnakawhen | ōipoakōwhkōrp | ngheowkrtūūu | tamanuiterrān | wētkeakerera | reoaïtarmōngm |
6. Thinking about the land around you and your **whānau** (family). Fill in the gaps so that it relates to you.
7. Matariki is about having fun. Learn how to play Mū Tōrere with your whānau (family).

You may need a pakeke (grown up) to help you learn to play.

The aim of this two-player game is to block your opponent so they can’t move.
Cut out the 8 squares to use as counters to play Mū Tōrere.

How to play

Place the pango (black) and mā (white) playing pieces on the board as shown.

The pūtahi (middle) starts empty.

In option one, a black counter in one of the red rings moves to the middle first. In option two, any counter can move to the middle first. Players then take turns making their move.

Ways to move

1. You can move your counter to an empty space either side of the counter or to the middle.
2. Pieces can’t leap over each other.
3. There are no captures in this game.

Winner

The game ends when one player is blocked and can’t move.

You should swap colours for the next game so that you both get a chance to move first.