

Strand: My Place in the World

A History of Aotearoa

Curriculum Level: 4

The **History of Aotearoa New Zealand** module is designed to support the learning of key ideas within the Social Sciences curriculum.

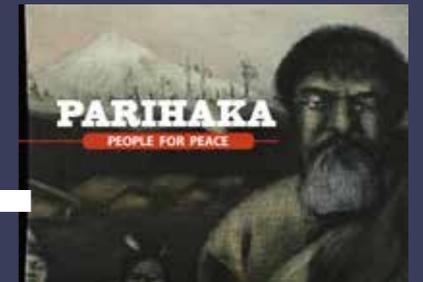


Through reading these texts, students will learn about some of Aotearoa new Zealand's history. Students will be see case studies, examples and real life accounts, and begin to relate these ideas to their own lives within the multi-cultural society has become.

After completing this module, it would be expected that students have developed some of the knowledge and skills required to demonstrate success at level 4 of the curriculum.



Instructional levelled non fiction



Instructional levelled non fiction



Instructional levelled fiction



Short Story

Poster

TE TIRITI O WAITANGI
An inquiry into the Treaty of Waitangi

A NOTABLE KIWI
An inquiry into Famous New Zealanders

MĀORI MYTHOLOGY
An inquiry into traditional tales

These forms of expression prominent in Māori oral literature are genealogical recital, poetry, and narrative prose.

Genealogical recital
The recital of whakapapa was particularly well developed in Māori oral literature, where it served several functions in the recounting of tradition. Firstly it served to provide a kind of time scale which united all Māori with tradition, and history from the distant past to the present. It linked living people to the gods and the legendary heroes. By quoting appropriate genealogical lines, a narrator emphasised his or her connection with the characters whose deeds were being described, and their connection also proved that the narrator had the right to speak of them in the cosmogenic genealogies, to be described later. Genealogical recital is revealed as a true literary form. What appears at first sight to be a mere listing of names, is in fact a cyclic account of the evolution of the universe.

Poetry and song
Māori poetry was always sung or chanted. Musical rhythms rather than linguistic devices served to distinguish it from prose. Rhyme or assonance were not devices used by the Māori, only when a great task was being carried out the metre became apparent. The lines are indicated by features of the music. The language of poetry tends to differ stylistically from prose. Typical features of poetic diction are the use of metaphors or comparative adjectives, the repetition of key words, rhetorical words are common, including many which have lost any specific meaning and assumed a religious mythical. Abbreviated, sometimes cyclic utterances and the use of certain grammatical constructions not found in prose are also common.

Prose narrative
Prose narrative forms the great bulk of Māori legendary material. Some appears to have been recorded or written, but many of the legends were well known stories told as entertainment in the long nights of winter. Nevertheless, they should not be regarded simply as fairy tales to be enjoyed only as stories. The Māori wish, for example, was important not only as entertainment but also because it embodied the beliefs of the people concerning such things as the origin of life, of death and of the land which they lived. Their customs concerning the making, telling, and so on made reference to Māui and served their power from such reference.

You will find a traditional Māori myth to retell. You will retell it in your own words. You will need to decide how you will publish your story.

You might also look at the natural phenomena or history the story attempts to explain.

When you have published your story, you will need to choose an audience to share it with.

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Inquiry-based learning journeys

Agnes Hill's Story

By Sir Skenealdan, Drissey Hicadōrce

Skilled Tradesmen Wanted
In 1840, the Treaty of Waitangi was signed in New Zealand, paving the way for settlement. To really fulfil its task of becoming a British colony, New Zealand needed more settlers. It especially needed those with skills. Six farm servants, labourers, gardeners, blacksmiths, carpenters, joiners, millwrights, masons and bricklayers - and their families.

Scotland was in the middle of a depression and times were very tough, so tradesmen were encouraged to immigrate to New Zealand. It wasn't easy to get people to step forward - everyone knew that a new life in an uncharted part of the world would be very hard and very different. It was a big decision to make.

The following story comes from records based on conversations with Agnes Hill. However, it should be noted that John Hill's side of the story is not recorded as he died many years before Agnes.

Agnes Hill's Story
John Hill, a Scottish carpenter, was married to Agnes, and they had a baby called Ann. John was keen to go to New Zealand, but Agnes did not want to go. In fact, she wasn't keen at all. They had many heated arguments about this. Eventually, John refused and gave in, saying that they would stay in Scotland. But it turned out that John was quite determined and also quite a trickster.