

Matariki



Waitī

Wai means water in Te Reo Māori.

Waitī is the star connected to fresh water and all the creatures that live in rivers, streams and lakes. Especially the korokoro (lamprey fish).

YouTube video with info on [Waitī](#) (by Ara)

As Waitī relates to our awa (river) this will be the perfect opportunity to visit and learn more about the local awa with your centre whānau.

Ideas for learning through play

1. Make tuna (eels) from newspaper and have fun decorating and painting the tuna to be displayed in your centre or home!
2. Tamariki and whānau can make their own [hīnaki](#) from recyclables like milk bottles, or they could use chicken wire, spare parts from the college table or carpentry area! A [hīnaki](#) is a traditional Māori tool used for catching tuna.
3. Sing the waiata [Kei hea te tuna?](#) ([Lyrics](#) are available online).
4. Add colours or things that sink and float to wai (water).
5. Freeze objects in ice and then use a hammer to break the ice or leave in the sun to melt.

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Waitā

Waitā is a twin to Waitī, shining on sources of salt water and protecting all life sustained within it. A star associated with food harvested from the sea.

This [waiata](#) connects Waitī & Waitā:

Link to a short clip with info on [Waitā](#) (by Ara).

Ideas for learning through play

1. Use fabric, cardboard cut-outs or any recyclables preferred to make ika - fish, tohorā - whale tails, waves, or even shellfish for the tamariki and whānau to paint.
2. Sing the waiata: [Tohorā nui](#)
3. Sing the waiata: [Kina, Kina](#)
4. Make a waka (canoe) out of cardboard box and kōrero (talk) about the great voyages using the stars as a guide.
5. Bring in ika (fish) or kai moana (seafood) caught in the sea and cook it for the tamariki to try. Kōrero about what you might use to catch a fish.
6. Make fishing rods from sticks and string/wool with magnets attached to the end. Cut out ika (fish) shapes from old plastic ice-cream container lids and attach paperclips. Put the ika in a water trough and get tamariki to pretend to catch a fish.
7. Take an excursion to the beach and collect shells (kota) and driftwood (paewai). Use these to make or decorate Matariki stars.

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Waipunarangi

There are two stars within the Matariki cluster which link Matariki to the weather – Waipunarangi and Ururangi. The appearance of these stars at the rise of Matariki would forecast the weather for the new year. Waipunarangi symbolises the relationship water has to our life cycle, how it is evaporated from the rivers, oceans, and lakes to fall again as the rain which we drink, and which nourishes the land. Waipunarangi translates as ‘water that pools in the sky’.

Ideas for learning through play

1. Have whānau bring in some ipu (vessels) to collect rainwater, then use the ua (rain) collected to water the plants and māra (garden) at your centre or at home. Investigate water conservation and water barrels for sustainable water practices.
2. Sing the waiata: [Purea nei](#)
3. Set up a container with holes in it that drips down to simulate ua (rain).
4. Plant a kākano (seed), water it, then cover it with a glass jar, set in a sunny spot and watch the condensation gather on the glass jar.
5. Lie down and look at the clouds, watch them move. Kōrero to tamariki about what they can see when they look at the clouds, what clouds are made of etc.

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Tupuānuku

Tupuānuku is the star connected with everything that grows within the soil to be harvested or gathered for food.

This star can be read as an indication of how well your crops will grow in the next season.

It is positioned at the right of the cluster below Tupuārangi.

Whakatauki (proverb)

E kore te kūmara e kī ake ki a ia ha māngaro,
The kūmara does not announce it is tasty
(be humble)

Kupu whakarite (metaphor/simile)

He ringa tango parahia,
Hands that root out weeds
This kupu whakarite is to
describe a hard worker.

Ideas for learning through play

1. Learn the karakia kai - [E Rongo, e Rongo](#)
2. Do some mahi māra (gardening).
3. Try out some [te reo Maori words and phrases when gardening](#) with the tamariki.
4. If you don't have a garden at your centre, now would be a great time to set one up.
5. Set up a compost bin and or worm farm.
6. Later in the year you could [grow kūmara](#) tipu/shoots and then [plant](#) them.
7. Work towards [zero waste](#) with ParaKore.
8. Up your game with [recycling](#).
9. Find out about/draw/explore Rongo-mā-tane, Haumia-tiketike.
10. Sing the waiata [Manu tiria](#).
11. Read the pukapuka (book) Te Taonga nei te kūmara (The gift of kūmara). This book as well as other [5+ a day resources and seeds](#) can be ordered free of charge.

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Tupuārangi

Tupuārangi is connected to food that comes from the sky, Tupuārangi is the star connected to all elevated food products like berries, fruits harvested from trees and birds. It is positioned at the top right of the cluster.

Whakatauki (proverb)

E koekoe te Tūi, e ketekete te kākā,
e kūkū te kererū,

The tūi chatters, the kākā cackles,
the kererū coos

Kupu whakarite (metaphor/simile)

He poho kererū- the bosom of a kereru.

This kupu whakarite is one which
expresses pride.

This kupu whakarite is to
describe a hard worker.

Ideas for learning through play

1. Learn the karakia kai: Nau mai e ngā hua
2. Talk about/find out about/draw/explore Tane Māhuta.
3. Plant fruit trees, or blackberries, or blueberries.
4. [Mindfulness activity](#): Lie down under trees, close eyes and take note of what you can hear? Maybe you hear bird sounds, rustling leaves for example.
5. Explore [taonga puoro](#) (musical instruments) such as hue (gourd).
6. Go tree climbing.
7. Explore te aitanga pepeke (the insect world).
8. Try out some [te reo Maori words or phrases](#) ki te tēpu kai (at the dinner table).
9. Sing the waiata [E rima ngā manu](#)
10. Read the pukapuka (book) [Ngā Manu i Runga i te Rākau](#)

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Ururangi

Ururangi is the star connected to the winds which determines the nature of the winds for the year.

Māori have always maintained a keen interest in the wind. Manu Aute or traditional Māori kites played an important role in traditional times in understanding the wind and its behavior. It is positioned at the top of the cluster.

Sing waiata

1. [Purea nei](#)
2. [Tāwhirimātea blow winds blow](#)
3. [Porotiti](#)
4. [Pūrerehua](#)

Whakatauki (proverb)

Hoki atu ki tōu maunga kia purea
e koe ki ngā hau o Tāwhirimātea
Return to your mountain to be cleansed
by the winds of Tāwhirimātea

Kupu whakarite (metaphor/simile)

He rā kōpanipani, a cloudy day
Used for days when the sun doesn't
shine or can sometimes be used to
describe times of gloominess.

Ideas for learning through play

1. Learn the karakia [Whakataka te hau](#).
2. Talk about/find out about/draw/explore [Tāwhirimātea](#).
3. Read the pukapuka (book) Tāwhirimātea. Read and sing along to this catchy Matariki song celebrating Earth, sky, seasons and whanau.
4. Make and fly a manu tukutuku (kite).
5. Give tamariki a straw and a tray of sand and objects of different weights to discover that wind, like their breath can move objects around without being seen. Objects move differently - quickly, slowly, or not at all.
6. Blow bubbles (mirumiru).
7. Make a tornado (Āwhiowhio) in a jar. Fill jar almost to the brim with cold water. Add a few squirts of soap and a cap full of vinegar. Put lid back on then shake/swirl jar. These jars can also be used to calm (kia mauri tau).
8. Lie down and look at the clouds watch them move.
9. Discuss the relationship between Ururangi and Waipunarangi both stars relate to the weather, male and female.
10. Make paper planes and fly them.
11. Explore taonga puroro (musical instruments) such as [Porotiti and Pūrerehua](#).

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Pōhutukawa

Pōhutukawa holds on to our memories of treasured people who have passed on.

He whakairo (some thoughts):

How will you remember someone special who have passed away in your whānau, in your community?

How can you support people who may be vulnerable in your whānau or your community?

Whakatauki (proverb)

Ko Matariki te kaitō i te hunga pākeke ki te pō.

Matariki draws the frail into the night.

Ideas for learning through play

1. Make kites. [Little Family Fun: Easy Kite Craft for Kids!](#)
Māori kites are known as manu tukutuku or manu aute. Manu is the word for both bird and kite. Tukutuku refers to the winding out of the line as the kite climbs and aute is a type of bark used to make kites. Kites were flown for many occasions including Matariki. They were a way of sending messages to people who lived far away, and to people who had died.
2. Read the pukapuka (book): The seven kites of Matariki or [watch the story](#) of the seven kites being read by Shayne.
3. Light a candle to remember someone special or to farewell unwanted memories.
4. Allow tamariki to invite a special guest to session (eg. whānau, grandparents, etc).

Waiata

Te Aroha, Te Whakaponu, Te Rangimāriē. Tātou tātou e.
Love, faith and peace be amongst all of us.

[Sing-a-long with Ngā Pihi](#)

Matariki



Hiwa-i-te-rangi

Hiwa-i-te-rangi is a wishing star, who helps us to recognise our hopes, dreams, and aspirations for the coming year.

Some reflective thoughts

What has worked well for you and your whānau over the last year?

What are your hopes and dreams for the coming new year!

Whakatauki (proverb)

Ka mahuta a Matariki i te pae, ka mahuta ō tātou tūmanako ki te tau

When Matariki rises above the horizon, our aspirations rise to the year ahead

Ideas for learning through play

1. Make a [Matariki star bunting](#).
2. Collect twigs, branches, driftwood and make star shape or mobiles.
3. Make a solar system from papier mache balloons of different sizes.
4. Enjoy a mid-winter feast with whānau and your Playcentre village/community.
5. Invite tamariki to bring in a special toy from home. Kōrero with them about their special toy.

Waiata

[Tīrama, tīrama, ngā whetū](#) (Twinkle twinkle little star).
[Sing along with Loopy Tunes](#)

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Matariki

Matariki is the mother of the kāhui (cluster). She is associated with health and wellbeing of people. She also is a sign of hope, reflection, our connection to the environment and people gathering.

Whakatauki (proverb)

Matariki, te whetū tapu o te tau, te whetū ora mō te ao.

Matariki, the sacred star of the year, the star of wellbeing for the world.

Ideas for learning through play

1. Bake some Māori bread together. Process cooking, where tamariki make individual loaves. They can be shaped and baked on trays, or you can also use a cleaned standard tin (eg baked beans tin) lined with baking paper.
2. Celebrate Matariki by having shared kai together. Create an event in the early evening and gather your Playcentre village or community together.
3. Learn some [karakia kai](#) (food blessings).
4. Do some of the activities in this [Matariki Activity Book](#).
5. Bake some bread and easy chicken soup with [Uncle Pare! Uncle Pare's kai: Matariki recipes and kōrero | Te Papa](#).
6. Sing the waiata [Ngā Whetū a Matariki](#). Actions and waiata by Loopy Tunes Preschool Music.
7. Read the pukapuka (book) Daniel's Matariki Feast by Linley Wellington and Rebecca Beyer. You can also [watch](#) it or listen to it being read [Daniel's Matariki Feast on Storytime by RNZ](#).

