**Ngā Mahi Ā Te Rēhia – Kapa haka**

**Hītori - History**

The history of Aotearoa saw the exclusion of traditional Māori haka and waiata. Māori were agile and began composing their waiata to hymns. Eventually they began performing in groups with the first Māori kapa haka concert group appearing in the 1860’s. With this development came the kapa haka kākahu that we know well.

**Kapa Haka Kākahu - Clothing**

The patterns on the kapa haka kākahu are symbolic of the group, creating a strong sense of belonging. Women wear the classic performing costume of piupiu and tāniko bodice. Men wear similar clothing with the tātua, reflecting a smaller version of the women’s bodice.

**Tamariki Tākaro – Childrens’ Play**

Tamariki have the opportunity to explore te ao kapa haka when wearing the kapa haka kākahu. Poi and tī rākau (or tītī tōrea) are additional taonga that can add value for the tamariki experience.

Kapahaka can promote an appreciation for Māori culture, language, values and beliefs, affirm identity, strengthen whanaungatanga and enhance hauora.

Encourage tamariki to think about what kapahaka looks like and feels like is a good starting point to support learning. Here are some questions to consider:

* Where have you seen these kākahu being worn?
* What were they doing?
* What waiata-a-ringa would you like to perform today?

**Kuputaka – Glossary**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| haka | dance form | tātua | belt |
| hauora | well-being | tāniko | woven border |
| hītori | history | taonga | treasure |
| kākahu | clothing | te ao kapa haka | the world of performance |
| kapa | standing in a row | tī rākau (tītī tōrea) | stick game |
| piupiu | sway to and fro | waiata | song |
| tākaro | play | waiata-ā-ringa | action song |
| tamariki | children | whanaungatanga | relationships |
| ngā mahi ā te rēhia | games & pastimes |  |  |

More information on Kapa Haka: [Kapa Haka – Te Ara Encyclopedia of New Zealand](https://teara.govt.nz/en/kapa-haka-maori-performing-arts)

[Kapa haka / NZC Online blog / Curriculum resources / Kia ora - NZ Curriculum Online (tki.org.nz)](https://nzcurriculum.tki.org.nz/Curriculum-resources/NZC-Online-blog/Kapa-haka)

<https://hpe.tki.org.nz/planning-and-teaching-resources/resource-collections/exploring-te-ao-kori/nga-mahi-a-te-rehia-activity->