

Matariki



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.