

Our Matariki

Celebrating The Māori New Year (A Teacher Resource for Years 1-6)



Overview

Different whānau choose to celebrate Matariki their way, just like any other event that is important to whānau. However, there are common themes that derive from the traditional roots of what Matariki means to many tangata Māori. These can be:

Whānau time – with those who are familiar to you or those who are close to you, enjoying each other's company and aroha. This will include taking time for activities together such as kōrero/conversation, story telling, whakapapa sharing/talking about our origins and family ties, playing games and enjoying a delicious kai/meal together.

New beginnings and new growth – a time for starting something new/development of important areas in our lives; and a time for planting kai that will sustain our whānau.

This resource provides educators (including parents) with practical hands-on activities around Matariki, linking to different Learning Areas of the New Zealand Curriculum.

Be sure to share your creations and your learning with whānau and friends including the team at the Waitangi Treaty Grounds, we would love to feature you on our Education Blog!

Introducing Matariki

Always begin with that students already know about Matariki; any pūrākau, waiata, tākaro etc. they associate with it? Do they celebrate Matariki with their whānau, and if so, how? What other ways of celebrating the beginning of a new year are they aware of?

This time of the year is for whanaungatanga and for spending time with the people close to us.

Contents

1 – Pūrākau - The Six Sisters

Hear about Matariki and the six sisters, then create your own Matariki cluster.

2 – Navigation

Learn about traditional star navigation with a Kāpehu Whetū | Māori star compass, then make a magnetic compass.

3 – Mini Cress Garden

Maramataka, the Māori lunar calendar, shows when to plant and harvest crops; grow your own mini cress garden this Matariki.

4 – Whetū | Star Jar Lamp

Let the stars of Matariki light up your house.

5 – Constellation Viewer

View the stars of Matariki and other constellations with your own Constellation Viewer.

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NZ Curriculum Links

Te Reo Māori

Te Whakatōtanga 1: Kōrero

Social Sciences

Identity, Culture, and Organisation

Place and Environment

Continuity and Change

Science

The planet earth and beyond

Living World

The Arts (Sound Arts and Visual Arts)

Understanding the Arts in Context

Developing Ideas

Communicating and Interpreting

Technology

Technological Practice

English

Making meaning

Useful resources:

[Te Iwa o Matariki / The Nine Stars of Matariki](#) - from Te Wananga o Aoteroa

[The Maramataka](#), [Matariki activity book](#) and [Matariki for Teachers](#) - from Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa

[Your Matariki Kete](#) - from Stardome Observatory Planetarium

[Tuia Matauranga Pukapuka Mahi / Activity Book](#) – from Ministry of Education

[The star compass – kāpehu whetū](#) - from Science Learning Hub

[Matariki](#) - from Ministry of Education

Books and stories:

[Matariki and the six sisters](#)

[Matariki Breakfast](#)

[How Māui slowed the sun](#)

[Celebrating Puanga at Ramanui](#)

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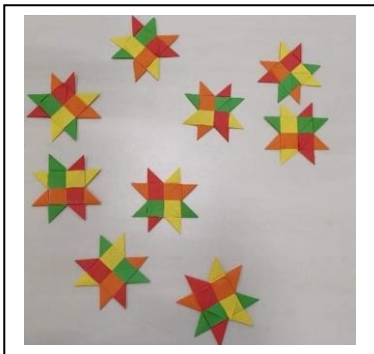
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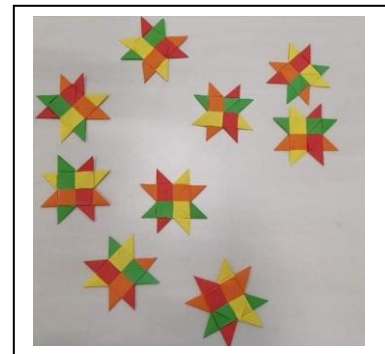
Ngohe Tuatahi / Activity 1: Pūrakau – The Six Sisters

There are many pūrākau (legends) about the star cluster Matariki. One of the most popular is that the star Matariki is the whaea (mother), surrounded by her six daughters, Tupu-ā-nuku, Tupu-ā-rangi, Waipunarangi, Waitī and Waitā, and Ururangi. You can [read this legend on Te Papa's website](#).

Create a Matariki cluster wall hanging with harakeke or with paper.



Matariki Cluster



You will need:

Harakeke/flax
Scissors
Coloured A4 paper strips
String
Wooden stick or dowling

Make your Matariki Star Cluster:

- Use 4 strips of paper or harakeke and follow either [these instructions](#) or [this video tutorial](#) to fold a star.
- Make additional stars until you have enough for your constellation.
- Tie (or tape) different length string to each of your stars.
- Tie the string to your stick or dowling and put your constellation up in your classroom or your home!



Ka pai tō mahi! Good job!

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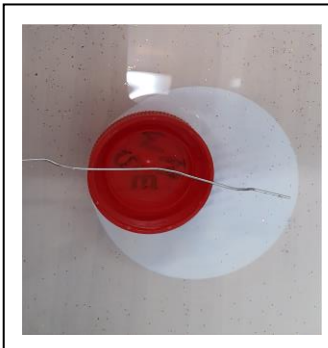
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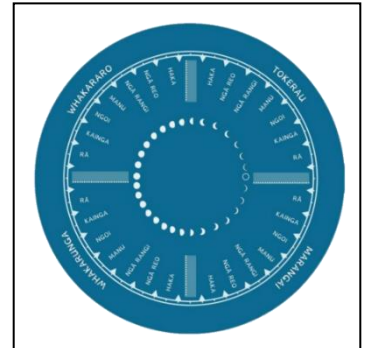
Ngohe Tuarua / Activity 2: Navigation

The Matariki star cluster was used by tohunga kōkōrangi (expert astronomers) to guide voyaging waka great distances across the Pacific Ocean. The rising and setting points of bright, distinctive stars such as Matariki were gauged with the help of a kāpehu whetū (star compass). You can learn more about the star compass [here in the Science Learning Hub](#).

Make a compass and explore Te Kāpehu Whetū | the Māori star compass.



Make a magnetic compass



You will need:

- Small container
- Water
- Milk bottle lid, cork or something else that can float
- Wire, paper clip or needle
- Magnet

Make your Magnetic Compass:

- Place your floating item in a container of water.
- Get the needle, cut a piece of wire, or unwind a paper clip and straighten it.
- Rub it with a magnet x50 times and place it onto the floating item.
- Now watch this move in front of your eyes, it will align itself with magnetic north! If your adult has a smart phone with a compass app, you can check if your magnetic compass is correct 😊.



Ka pai tō mahi! Good job!

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Ngohe Tuatoru / Activity 3: Mini Cress Garden

Use the resources on [The Maramataka](#) from Te Papa to learn more about about the Māori lunar calendar and how it helped Māori decide when to plant and harvest crops.

Grow your own kai and make a mini cress garden.

Mini Cress Garden



You will need:

- Cress seeds
- Cotton wool
- Googly eyes
- Pompoms
- Egg shell
- Egg carton cut-out
- Glue stick
- Felt pens

Make your Mini Cress Garden:

- Decorate your eggshell carefully to make a funky face.
- Put a few balls of cotton wool inside the empty eggshell.
- Dampen them with some water.
- Sprinkle a generous amount of cress seeds onto the cotton wool.
- Place your egghead on a sunny windowsill and water it each day until the seeds sprout (7-10 days).
- When the seedlings are about 5cm high, snip the top part of the stem and enjoy fresh cress in salads, sandwiches or soups.



Ka pai tō mahi! Good job!

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Ngohe Tuawha / Activity 4: Whetū | Star Jar Lamp

Read [Matariki Breakfast](#) together, then follow up with legends like [How Māui slowed the sun](#). Compare the stories with what the children know about the world around them.

Let the stars of Matariki light up your house with your whetū / star jar lamp.

Make a Jar Lamp



You will need:

Jar
Aluminium foil (cut to size of jar)
Matariki cluster template
PVA glue
Paint brush
Plastic sewing needle
Cardboard
Scissors

Make your Jar Lamp:

- Choose your jar and keep aside.
- Place your ready cut piece of foil on a piece of cardboard in front of you. You will need a plastic needle and a Matariki cluster template.
- Place your Matariki cluster template in the middle of your foil and using your needle, poke holes into the stars so that your needle goes right through to the cardboard. You may need to make your holes a little bigger by pushing your needle through until it almost reaches the needle eye.
- Next, if you like, you can make more stars on the rest of your foil – be sure to leave room for your Matariki stars 😊.
- Use the glue stick to put glue onto the jar.
- Place your foil around the outside of your jar, leaving some spare foil at the top. Fold this over the lip of the jar and press, then put some tape along the place on the jar where the ends meet.
- Brush some PVA all over your foil around your jar to seal.



Ka pai tō mahi! Good job!

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Ngohe Tuarima / Activity 5 – Constellation Viewer

Read [Celebrating Puanga at Ramanui](#) and learn about another constellation that shows the beginning of the Māori New Year.

Create your own hand made Constellation Viewer.



Constellation Viewer

You will need:

Coloured A4 card
Dark coloured paper squares
Glue stick
Rubber bands
[Constellation templates](#)
Plastic sewing needle
Cardboard
Masking tape
Scissors



Make your Constellation Viewer:

- Choose an A4 piece of coloured card and roll it lengthwise to create a tube. Use a glue stick to glue the end of the coloured card to itself. For extra support, use cellotape on each end of the tube and along the middle.
- Decorate your tube with coloured pens or cut strips of a different coloured paper and glue onto your tube, using a glue stick (see example on other side).
- Choose a constellation template and glue onto a piece of dark coloured paper. Place your constellation template onto a cardboard piece and use a plastic needle to poke through the holes.
- Fix onto one end of your tube with a rubber band.



Ka pai tō mahi! Good job!

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Websites and Links

New Zealand Curriculum

<http://nzcurriculum.tki.org.nz/>

Te Iwa o Matariki / The Nine Stars of Matariki

<https://www.twoa.ac.nz/hononga-stay-connected/te-iwa-o-matariki/matariki-colouring-book>

The Maramataka

<https://www.tepapa.govt.nz/discover-collections/read-watch-play/maori/matariki-maori-new-year/maramataka>

Matariki activity book

<https://www.tepapa.govt.nz/learn/for-educators/free-downloadable-activity-books/matariki-activity-book>

Matariki for Teachers

<https://www.tepapa.govt.nz/learn/matariki-maori-new-year/matariki-for-teachers>

Your Matariki Kete

https://www.stardome.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/MED-RES_Stardome_Education_Matariki-Booklet-2019_PRIMARY-1.pdf

Tuia Matauranga Pukapuka Mahi / Activity Book

<https://www.tuiaeducation.org.nz/s/Tuia-Activity-Book-English.pdf>

The star compass – kāpehu whetū

<https://www.sciencelearn.org.nz/resources/622-the-star-compass-kapehu-whetu>

Matariki

<https://nzcurriculum.tki.org.nz/Curriculum-resources/National-events-and-the-NZC/Matariki>

Books and stories:

Matariki and the six sisters: <https://www.tepapa.govt.nz/discover-collections/read-watch-play/maori/matariki-maori-new-year/whare-tapere/six-sisters>

Matariki Breakfast: <https://instructionalseries.tki.org.nz/Instructional-Series/Ready-to-Read/Matariki-Breakfast>

How Māui slowed the sun: <http://eng.mataurangamaori.tki.org.nz/Support-materials/Te-Reo-Maori/Maori-Myths-Legends-and-Contemporary-Stories/How-Maui-slowed-the-sun>

Celebrating Puanga at Ramanui: <https://instructionalseries.tki.org.nz/Instructional-Series/School-Journal/School-Journal-Level-2-November-2017/Celebrating-Puanga-at-Ramanui>