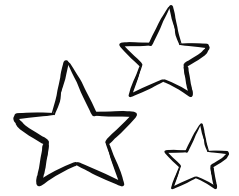


Welcoming Matariki and Te Mātahi o te Tau



Why we love celebrating Matariki

The Matariki stars are a symbol of te Mātahi o te tau (the beginning of the New Year) that is uniquely connected to our people and environment here in Aotearoa. Being connected to your culture and grounded in your environment are ways to strengthen your wellbeing, and these are key ingredients of Matariki.

A bit of background

We've based these activities on the research of Professor Rangi Mātāmua (ONZM) with the goal of helping to revitalise Matariki traditions. We suggest having a read-through these activities to see which best suits your tamariki!

Many cultures around the world consider Matariki to be a significant kāhui whetū (star cluster) associated with the changing of seasons, including ancient Greece from which we get the legend of the Seven Sisters or Pleiades. But iwi Māori have their own mātauranga (knowledge) relating to Matariki, and it's different to the Greek and other kōrero.

The aim of these activities is to better understand beliefs and customs of te ao Māori, in order to better connect with our place here in Aotearoa and better the wellbeing of all.

Please note: Prof. Rangi Matamua recognises his research is one of many interpretations, and that different iwi, hapū, whānau carry different knowledges. Feel free to customise these activities to better suit your whānau.

Kōrero pūrākau / History

Throughout the Pacific, the kāhui whetū is most commonly known as Matariki. To Māori, one understanding of this name is that it is shortened from a longer one, Ngā mata o te ariki Tāwhirimātea (the eyes of the god Tāwhirimātea).

This refers to the story of Tāwhirimātea, the atua of weather, who was deeply saddened and enraged by the separation of his parents Ranginui and Papatūānuku. Tāwhirimātea fought with his siblings, but was beaten by Tūmatauenga (the atua of humanity and conflict). Tūmatauenga defeated Tāwhirimātea. Then, out of love for his father and spite for his brothers, Tāwhirimātea pulled out his eyes and crushed them. He threw them upwards where they stuck to the chest of his father Ranginui – ngā mata o te ariki Tāwhirimātea, now known as Matariki.

This kōrero also accounts for the weather being so wild and unpredictable – Tāwhirimātea is blind, and at times angry.

When is Matariki?

Traditionally, Māori follow signs from the environment such as the marama (moon), rā (sun) and whetū (stars) to know the date and time. Matariki appears to change its date since the maramataka (lunar calendar) is different to the Western calendar...

The best time to look for the rise of Matariki is during winter, in the marama phase of Tangaroa which marks a prosperous time.

The whetū of Matariki

Different iwi have different mātauranga when it comes to Matariki – some count 9 whetū in the Matariki cluster, some count 7 whetū, and some see a different number! How many do you see? These are the 9 stars, Te Iwa o Matariki:

PŌHUTUKAWA – is connected with those who have died in the year – she guides the wairua (spirits) of our loved ones across the night sky.

TUPUĀNUKU – is connected to all the things that grow inside the earth and will determine how well our garden will grow in the upcoming season.

TUPUĀRANGI – is connected to anything that grows above-ground, particularly anything we may harvest like birds, and berries.

WAITĪ – is connected to anything that comes from the rivers or lakes (fresh water).

WAITĀ – is connected to all the animals that come from the moana (sea).

WAIPUNARANGI – is connected to the rain.

URURANGI – is connected to the winds.

HIWA-I-TE-RANGI – is a star where we send our wishes for the year hoping they will come true.

MATARIKI – is a healer and married to Rehua (another bright, shining star). When her star is shining bright and you're sick, or someone you know is sick, this is a sign you or they will get better. The 8 children of Matariki and Rehua each have a bounty for humankind, and Matariki is their guardian.

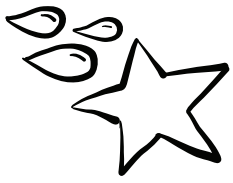
How did our ancestors welcome Matariki and te Mātahi o te tau?

The Matariki stars are acknowledged with an offering, te whāngai i te hautapu – a sacred kai ceremony feeding the stars (as they brought the previous year's bounty) to feed the weary, hard-working chiefs of the sky.

It is also a time to 'release' our loved ones who have passed away during the year. Their names are said aloud for Pōhutukawa to carry their wairua as part of Te Waka o Rangi, another cluster of whetū forming a waka that gathers and carries the wairua of all those who passed in the year, eventually to be shown in the sky as whetū.

TE IWA O MATARIKI

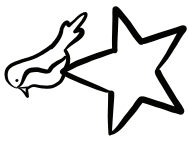
THE NINE STARS OF MATARIKI



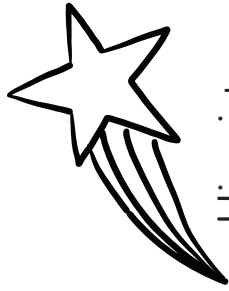
Waipunarangi



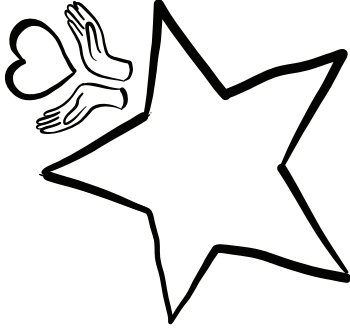
Ururangi



Tupuārangi



Hiwa-i-te-rangi



Matariki



Tupuānuku



Waiti



Waitā



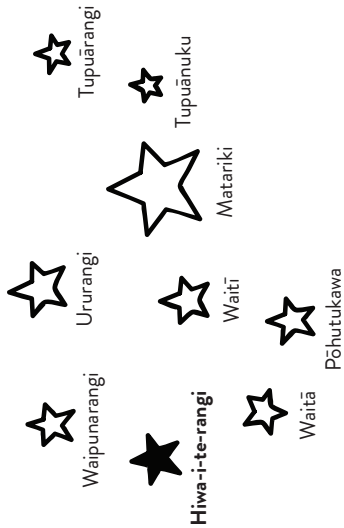
Pōhutukawa

Hiwa-i-te-rangi

Sparklers

Te Iwa o Matariki

The nine stars of Matariki



The Youngest Whetū

Hiwa-i-te-rangi is the youngest whetū of the Matariki cluster, and is connected to the promise of a prosperous season. "Hiwa" means "vigorous of growth" and "i te rangi" means "in the sky". It is to Hiwa-i-te-rangi that we can send our moemoeā (wishes).

He aha tō moemoeā?
What is your moemoeā (wish)?

Why is this moemoeā important to me?

How likely is it that my moemoeā will come true?

What are three things I can do to help my moemoeā come true?

What is your **intrinsic** wish?

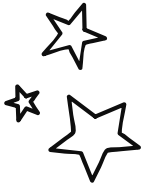
Why is this moemoeā important to me?

How likely is it that my moemoeā will come true?

What are three things I can do to help my moemoeā come true?

Intrinsic vs. Extrinsic

Some moemoeā, like getting a Playstation or a pony are 'extrinsic' - they are 'things' that usually cost money. Intrinsic wishes on the other hand are 'inside of ourselves', like becoming braver or kinder or getting better at something.



MAKE A MANU TUKUTUKU (KITE)

Learning outcomes

Tamariki know the significance of manu tututuku and its connections in the world.

He aha ai? – Why we love it

We've read that such great things about the significance of manu tukutuku. We especially love that traditionally they were used to welcome Matariki - this is because they sail close to the whetū and connect us and Papatūānuku (the earth) to those that have passed on.

Instructions:

Watch this video youtu.be/mPNut0hVHWY

Please note:

Our manu tukutuku design is not traditional because we wanted to make it really easy for everyone! We did find that there are traditional designs available online and you may want to give these a try too!

MAKE YOUR OWN MANU TUKUTUKU (KITE)

Manu tukutuku are used to celebrate Matariki and te Mātahi o te tau.

To make your manu tukutuku, we recommend following the video, and use this sheet as extra guidance. To get ready, you'll need:

What you'll need:

- A full sheet of newspaper
- Two pieces of bamboo or two sticks approx. 6mm round
The length of the two sticks or bamboo should be 60cm and 50cm – you could ask a DIY shop to cut this for you, otherwise get the help of an adult – they will need a small handsaw.
- Scissors
- A pencil
- Lots of string
- Some thick tape
- A ruler
- Wool, ribbon, feathers – light things to decorate the tail.

Step 1: Ask an adult to help you cut the bamboo sticks to the correct lengths - 60cm and 50cm and make notches in both ends.

Step 2: Lay the 60cm stick flat on the ground and measure 15cm from the top. Mark it with a pencil. Centre the smaller stick across this mark to form a 't' shape. Rotate the dowels so the notches are parallel with the floor (this is important for the next step!) Use your string to wrap the sticks together where they meet. Place some tape over the string to secure everything.

Step 3: In this step, you will be creating the shape of the kite. Starting at the top of 't', extend the string to the next notch and continue this process till you're back to where you started. Make sure the string is fitted securely into each notch. Tie the string at the top, keeping it super tight!

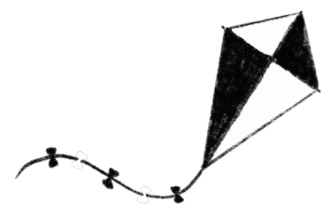
Step 4: Now that your frame is done, it's time to add your newspaper. Place a large sheet of newspaper on the floor and your frame on top of it. Cut the kite shape using the frame as a guide and leave a 2.5cm border.

Step 5: Fold this border of the newspaper over the string and tape it down securely.

Step 6: Cut a piece of string 70cm long. Poke hole into the top and bottom points of the kite. Tie one end of the string into the top hole and one end into the bottom hole - use tape to keep it secure. This is the bridle of your kite. Tie your flying string about 1/3 of the way down the bridle string to fly your kite.

Step 7: Now for the tail of your manu tukutuku. Cut a piece of string 100cm long (or longer if you want!). Tie some bows with your ribbon or feathers down the length of string, roughly 15cm apart. Attach the tail to your kite by taping it to its end.

Step 8: Now you're ready to go fly your manu tukutuku and welcome Matariki and te Mātahi o te tau!





MAKE MATARIKI WHETŪ (STAR) BUNTING

He aha ai? – Why we love it

Matariki is a cluster of stars and signals te Mātahi o te tau in line with the maramataka.

Whetū bunting is a way to welcome Matariki and te Mātahi o te tau. Making the Matariki whetū as part of this activity will also reveal seven to nine special whānau adventures to acknowledge each star's importance.

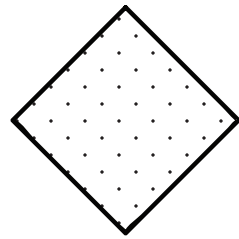
What you'll need:

- The printed worksheets.
- Scissors
- String
- Tape
- Hole punch

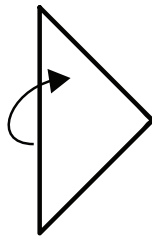
Instructions:

Watch this video youtu.be/-r7J94Jkwrl or follow the instructions on the next page

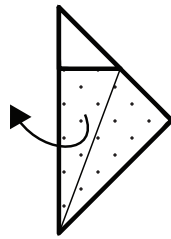
How to make Matariki whetū (star) Bunting



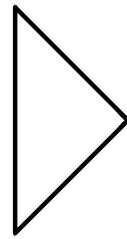
Step 1
Cut out your first star. Starting with the square sheet of paper with the star name rotate it like a diamond.



Step 2
Fold the paper in half by folding top to bottom.



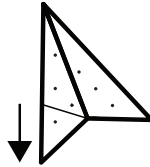
Step 3
Using just one layer of paper, bring the left edge of the triangle to the top edge.



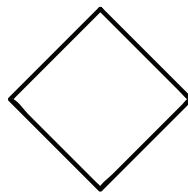
Step 4
Turn the paper over.



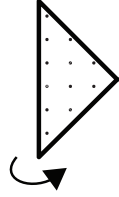
Step 5
Fold the triangle in half by bringing the left corner over to the right corner. Your origami should now look like this.



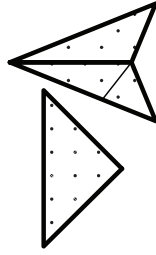
Step 6
Pull the top flap out and squash down. Try to keep the right corner pointy as you make the crease, and keep the edges aligned at the top.



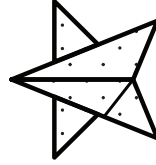
Step 7
Get the other square sheet of paper.



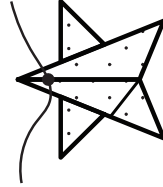
Step 10
Rotate the the triangle so that it looks like an arrow pointing down.



Step 11
Bring in the piece you completed earlier and rotate like in the picture, like an arrow pointing up.



Step 12
Slip the triangle on the left in between the flaps of the arrow. Tape the two pieces together and there you have it.



Step 13
Punch a hole in the top of your star, then tread through a piece of string. Once you have completed your other stars add them to your string.

Mat
Whā
Adve
Show aroh
someone you
having a chal

ariki
nau
nture
ia (care) to
I know who is
lenging time.

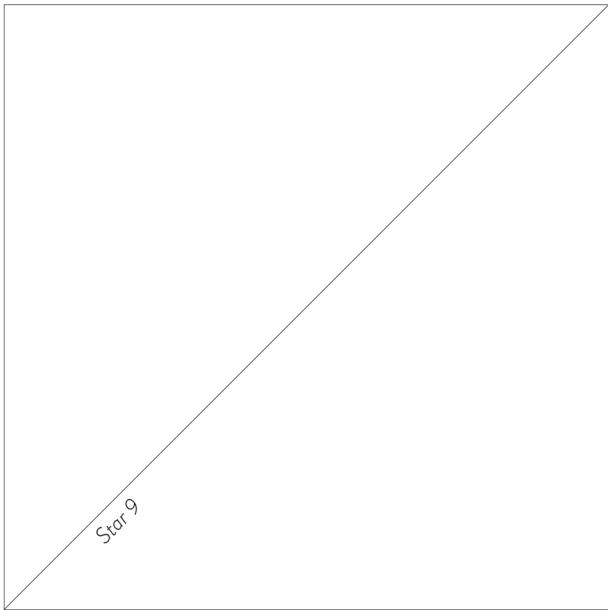
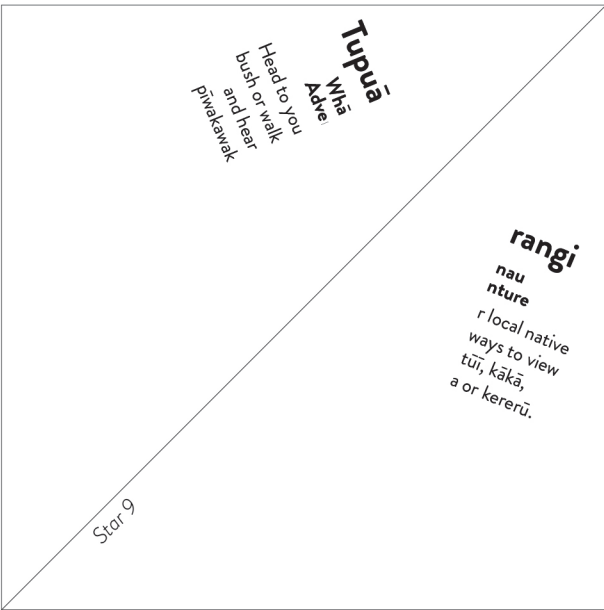
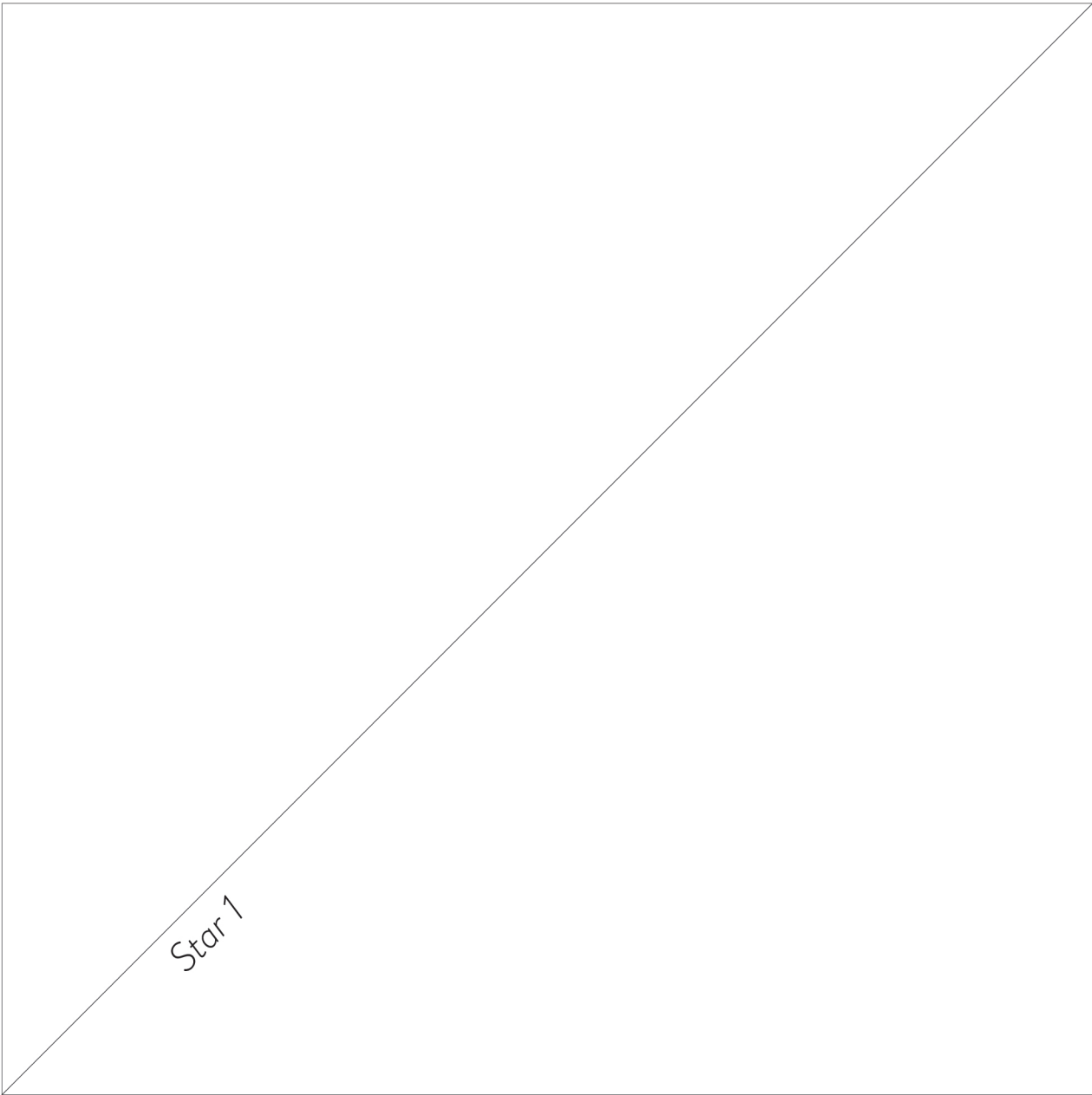
Star 1

Tupu:
Nurture a s
a vegetabl
garden and
Adve
Whā

inuku
nau
nture
eed, or plant
e or flower
make a start.

Star 8

Star 8



Choose a wh
represents so
who has pass
them

Pōhut
Whā
Ade

ukawa
nau
nture
etū (star) that
meone special
ed, and send
aroha.

Star 2

Star 2

Plan to go
(rain)—stom
and watch th
listen to th
roof whi.

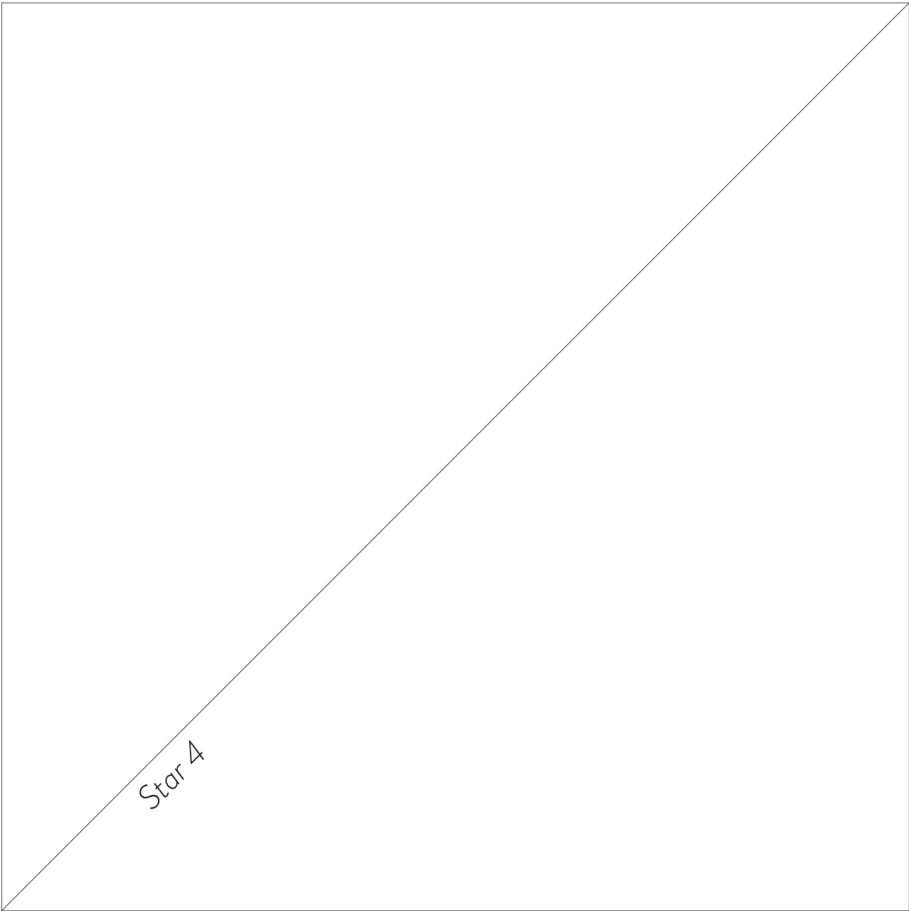
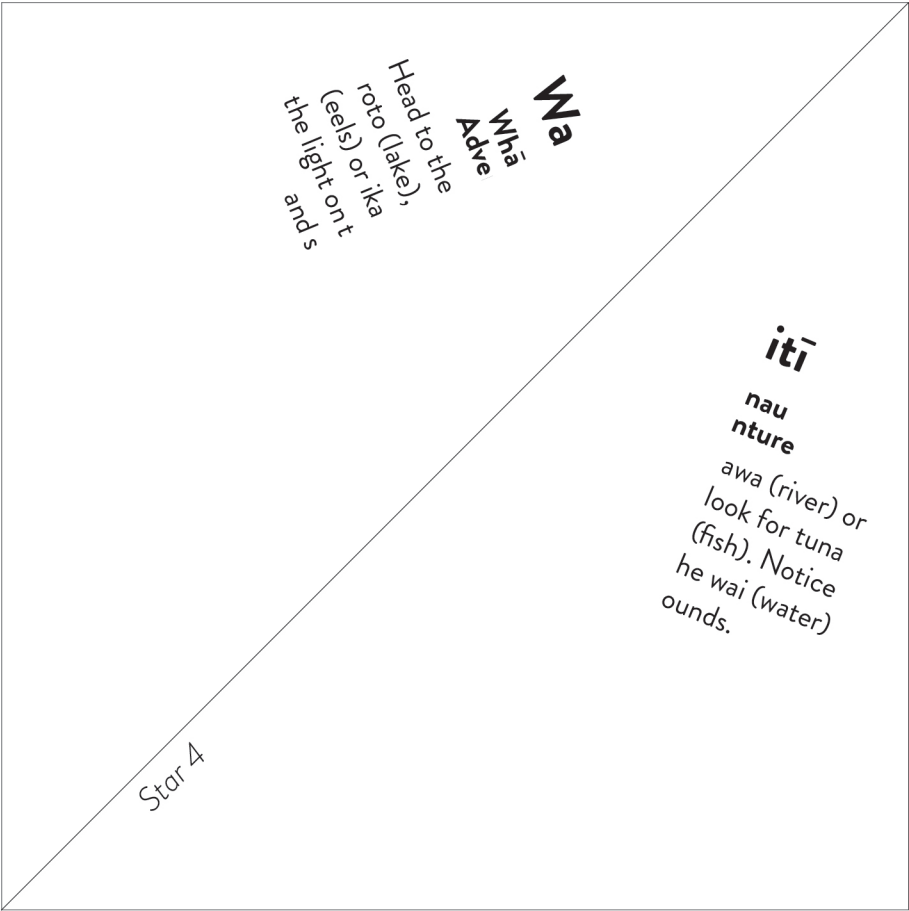
Waipu
Whā
Ave

narangi
nau
nture

out in the ua
p in puddles
e splashes orr
e ua on your
le inside.

Star 3

Star 3



Urur
Whā
Adre
Make a wind
a manu tukutu
a way to enjoy
watch it in the
and kapu

Star 5

angi
nau
nture
chime or make
uku (kite) – find
the hau (wind),
a rākau (trees),
a (clouds).

Star 5

Hiwa-i-
Whā
Adre
Make a w
coming year
towards Hiw

Star 6

te-rangi
nau
nture
ish for the
as a whānau
a-i-te-rangi.

Star 6

Wa
Whā
Adre
Head to the
low tide and
the rockpools
pāpaka (C
angaanga

Star 7

itā
nau
nture
beach – go
take a look at
searching for
rabs) and
(shells).

Star 7



Ō TĀTOU MANAKO OUR HOPES AND ASPIRATIONS

HE KAIKŌHAU

AN EXPRESSION OF HOPE TO WELCOME MATARIKI

Before we close this pukapuka, we invite you to join us in saying a kaikōhau – an expression of hopes and desires. Learn it with the family in any language or have a go at writing your own kaikōhau for Matariki!

Nau mai ngā hua	Welcome all things that have grown
Nau mai ngā pai	Welcome all things that are good
Nau mai kia nui	May they be plentiful and abundant
Kia hāwere ai	

Source: www.reomaori.co.nz/learn-kaikohau

HE KARAKIA

A KARAKIA TO WELCOME MATARIKI

The karakia to close our pukapuka is to welcome Matariki and te Mātahi o te tau. Our hopes and aspirations are with you, as we revitalise these traditions for the wellbeing of all of Aotearoa.

Matariki atua ka eke ki runga	Matariki has risen
Nau mai ngā hua	Welcome the fruits of the year
Nau mai ngā taonga	Welcome the many treasures
Nau mai te Mātahi o te tau.	Welcome the New Year
Tūturu whakamaua kia tīna! Tīna!	
Haumi e, hui e, tāiki e!	

Source: the full version of this karakia for the hautapu ceremony was published by Te Wānanga o Aotearoa here: <https://matariki.twoa.ac.nz/resources-and-activities/>