

TOGETHER FOR OUR MOANA - WE'RE SHAPING OUR FUTURE

OCEAN EXPLORER ANCESTORS

Overview

Learn about the amazing ocean voyages that many of our ancestors made to get to Aotearoa / New Zealand.

Learning intention

Tamariki are learning about the importance of ocean voyaging to our country, and some of the technologies used to navigate.

Success criteria

Children understand how early Māori journeyed across the Pacific Ocean / Te Moana-nui-a-Kiwa.

NZ CURRICULUM LINKS:

Learning areas:	Achievement objectives:
<p>Aotearoa NZ Histories Origins, voyaging and adaptation Whakapapa me te Whanaungatanga</p>	<p>The stories of groups of people from different periods in our history convey their reasons for and experiences of migration. These stories have shaped their culture and identity in Aotearoa New Zealand.</p>
<p>Te Ao Maori Te reo (language), tikanga (customs and traditional values)</p>	<p>By learning te reo Māori, students can participate with understanding and confidence in situations where te reo and tikanga Māori predominate, and integrate language and cultural understandings into their lives, strengthening Aotearoa New Zealand's identity in the world.</p>
<p>English</p>	<p>Listening, Reading, Viewing</p>
<p>Social Science</p>	<p>Understand how places influence people and people influence places...understand that people have social, cultural and economic roles and rights and responsibilities.</p>

LEARNING SEQUENCE

Based on the Inquiry model



Inspire

Provoke curiosity
and wonder



Explore/Educate

Gather information
Use / apply
learning



Activate

Reflect and act

Background information for teachers:

People arrived in Aotearoa after a great adventure across the ocean using many navigational skills.

Ancestors of Māori journeyed from South East Asia across the Pacific about 4000 years ago - an amazing migration story from the time when the Egyptians were still building the pyramids! They used the sun, stars, clouds, wind, currents and observation of animals to help them navigate. According to the people of Ngāpuhi (the tribe of the Far North), the first explorer to reach New Zealand was the intrepid ancestor [Kupe](#). Using the stars and ocean currents as his navigational guides, he ventured across the Pacific on his waka hourua (voyaging canoe) from his ancestral Polynesian homeland of Hawaiki. It is said that Kupe made landfall at the Hokianga Harbour in Northland around 1000 years ago.

European ancestors sailed on tall ships across the world, many years later, using a variety of navigational aids and observing the world around them, as Māori did. On board the Endeavour in 1769 with James Cook was [Tupaia](#), a Tahitian navigator who could speak English and helped communicate with Māori when they arrived in Aotearoa.

Sailing remains important to many New Zealanders. As an island nation with approximately 15,000km of coastline, most people living in Aotearoa are never far from the ocean. New Zealand has shown itself to be a competitive and innovative country in sailing, with success and challenges at the international level in the Olympics, America's Cup, [SailGP](#), and many other competitions.

LESSON PLAN

Ocean explorer ancestors

Teachers are encouraged to choose and adjust activities to suit the learning needs and interests of their tamariki.



Inspire



Allow approximately 5 mins

Look at the amazing exploration and voyaging skills of our ancestors.

- **Watch** - this video from Sir Ian Taylor - Land of Voyagers (from the Mātauranga website) [A nation born of sailors.](#) What questions do you have?



Video is 4:37 minutes



Educate

Allow approximately 35 mins

Find connections to travelling on the ocean, and find out more about technology used to navigate and sail.

- **List** - different types of vessels that can travel on the water. Think about ancient forms of water travel, and more recent ways of moving across the sea such as hydro foiling boats. *You could take this further by sorting the list into a timeline of when each vessel was first invented / created.*
- **Watch** - [Young Ocean Explorers video - Whai and navigation](#). Think - how do the stars help people find where they are? How do people learn to navigate this way?



Video is 5:32 mins

- **Learn more about waka hourua.** What helped them sail so well? [Here is a good video from 'Land of Voyagers' explaining waka hourua.](#)
- **Watch** - [learn about hydrofoiling boats used in Sail GP](#). What are the differences to traditional yachts that help them sail faster? *The video is 12 mins long - the first minute explains what Sail GP is, and then it goes into detail about how the boats work. Teachers can best gauge how much is relevant for their tamariki's interest level.*





Activate

Timing will vary

DAILY ACTION



MAKE A DIFFERENCE for our moana – pick up at least 1 piece of kirihou / plastic each day. [Log how many pieces your class picks up on the Young Ocean Explorers website.](#)

- **Find** North.
- **Make** [your own compass](#)



- **Use** [the sun](#) (this experiment requires at least 30 mins and the use of an outside area on a day with enough sunshine to make shadows).
- **Graph** – Survey your class and [make a graph](#) of all the different ways they have travelled on the sea.

NOTES: **WATER**
Items on this page can be used to make a model of a waka hourua. Find out how many different ways you can use them to make a model of a waka hourua.

Water transport type	Tally	%

- **Create** a model of a waka hourua or other sailing boat. Try making one that could sail. Test it.

EXTRA LEARNING IDEAS AND RESOURCES

Watch

- Hear from some of NZ's current competitive sailors. [Blair Tuke and Peter Burling talk about their experiences in this interview with Young Ocean Explorers in 2020. \(15 mins\)](#)



Video is 15:22 mins

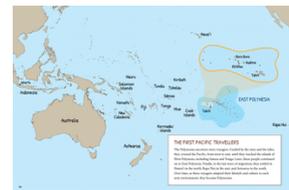
- [TED Ed talk - how did Polynesian wayfinders navigate the Pacific Ocean?](#)



Video is 5:31 mins

Read

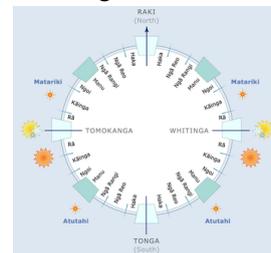
- [Tupaia - master navigator - School Journal level 3](#)
- [Hui te Rangiora - the navigator - School journal Level 2](#)



EXTRA LEARNING IDEAS AND RESOURCES

Research

- Find out more about the [star compass](#) used for navigation.



- Learn [how to find South using the Southern Cross star constellation](#).
- [Take a look at this infographic](#) about European ships and exploration. Make a list of what you think would be the five most difficult things about being an explorer on one of those ships.

Take this learning further

- [Explore the website 'Matauranga' - Land of voyagers](#). There are some great lessons and videos on there to help you understand voyaging history more.

