

## Task: Meeting House

Approach: One to one

Year: 4 & 8

Focus: Students can name and explain the meaning or significance of structures in a traditional Māori meeting house.

Resources: 4 pictures: meeting house, poutokomanawa, kowhaiwhai, tukutuku.

### Questions / instructions:

Mean Score  
y4 y8



#### Show picture 1.

This is a picture of the meeting house, called Tūkaki, on the East Coast.

You can see that it has many interesting parts.

We'll look at some of the parts inside of the house, and I'll ask you to tell me what you know about them.



#### Show picture 2: Poutokomanawa

This picture shows an important part inside the meeting house.

1. Do you know what this part is called?

named the part "poutokomanawa" 0 0

named the part "a carving" 18 18

2. What do you think this is made from?

identified material as wood 95 98

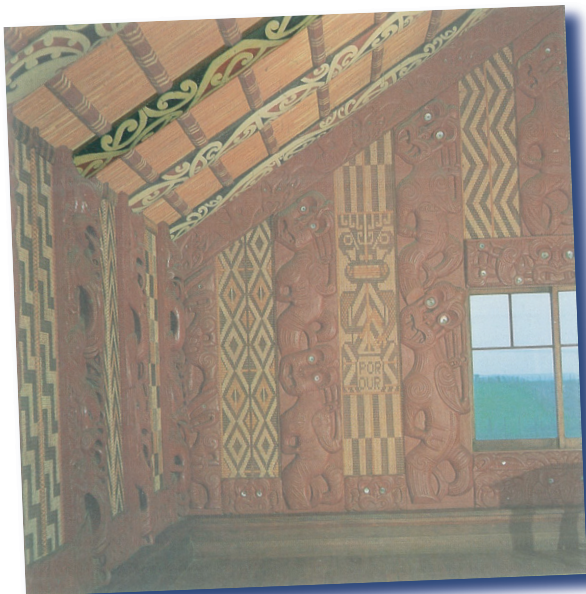
3. Why is this an important part of this meeting house?

represents ancestors  
(and their importance to the community) 16 36

welcomes guests entering the house 3 7

the heart of the meeting house 1 1

central support/post of the house 3 12



**Show picture 3: Kowhaiwhai**

This picture shows another part of the meeting house.

4. Do you know what this is called?

named the part "kowhaiwhai"

1 2

named the part "heke"

3 11

5. What do you think this is made from?

paint/dyes

26 35

wood

82 92

6. Why is this an important part of this meeting house?

genealogy, descent, whakapapa

3 11

ribs of ancestors

13 20

tells a story

1 12

**Show picture 4: Tukutuku**

This picture shows another part of the meeting house.

7. Do you know what this is called?

named the part "tukutuku"

2 2

named the part "a (woven) wall panel"

3 5

named the part "pakiwaitara" (story board)

1 1

8. What do you think this is made from?

traditional materials

(e.g. pingao/sand/sedge, harakeke/flax)

23 55

modern alternative materials

(e.g. wool, leather, plastic, raffia, string)

22 20

9. Why is this an important part of this meeting house?

balances the efforts/contributions of woman and man

0 4

traditionally symbolises working together/relationships

0 1

balances/separates carvings

0 1

embellishment/sign of the industriousness of makers

0 0

tells a story

7 12

		Mean Score	
		y4	y8
1	2		
3	11		
26	35		
82	92		
3	11		
13	20		
1	12		
2	2		
3	5		
1	1		
23	55		
22	20		
0	4		
0	1		
0	1		
0	0		
7	12		

**Commentary:**

Year 4 and year 8 students generally performed similarly on this task. Few were able to name and explain the meaning or significance of some of the main structures in the traditional Māori meeting house.