

Art in Social Contexts

Approach: One to One Interview

Level: Year 4 & year 8

Resources: Colour photographs of Maori and Pacific Island art used in social contexts:

Year 4 picture set

Pictures 1 & 2	Maori cloaks
Picture 3	tivaevae (bedspread)
Picture 4	toga (fine mats)
Picture 5	skirts

Year 8 picture set

picture 1	kete (Maori woven basket)	picture 5	hats
pictures 2 & 3	Maori cloaks	picture 6	toga (fine mats)
picture 4	tivaevae (bedspread)	picture 7	skirts

Description & instructions

The student was shown one picture or pair of pictures (Maori cloaks) at a time, followed by a sequence of interview questions to investigate their knowledge, understandings and ideas about each item. Prompts (in italics) were given only when it was considered necessary to seek or encourage clarification from the student.

Although the assessment procedures, interview questions and marking scheme were the same, the number of stimulus pictures differed from year 4 to year 8. Accordingly, the results should be read separately.

The following questions were asked:

I am going to show you some pictures of things that people make and use, and ask you some questions about them. The pictures will show some Maori, Cook Island, Tongan and Samoan people. I'll show you one picture at a time.

- 1 Have you seen these before?
Where did you see them?
- 2 Try to describe to me what you see (happening) in this picture.
Describe the things you see in the picture.
Do you know what they are called?
- 3 Who do you think would make these?
How do you think they are made? What are they made from?
Do you think they would be easy or hard to make? Why?
How do people learn to make them? Why would they want to learn to make them?
- 4 Do you know what these are used for?
Who would use them?
When would they be used?
Are they still used nowadays?
What are they used for nowadays?
- 5 We have lots of choices about the things we use. Why might someone choose to use these?
Who might like to have one of these?
Why do you think they would like to have one of these?

Year 4

In none of the pictures was more than 1 per cent of students rated as knowledgeable.

Year 8

Only two pictures had more than 2 per cent of students rated as knowledgeable about them: picture 1: 8%; pictures 2 & 3: 10%

Key attributes (1 low – 4 high)	Qualities	Mean score	
		year 4	year 8
description	identification of images; detail of description; art making information (relevance of colour, significance of dimensions, use of pattern, etc.)	0.2	1.1
responsiveness	sense of engagement; curiosity; confidence; feelings, empathy.	0.8	1.7
interpretation	cultural dimensions of value, purpose, possession and use.	0.5	1.2