Task: Te Wharenui — Meeting House

Approach: One to one

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:





Whakaaturia te pikitia tuatahi.

Ko Tūkākī tēnei, tētahi o ngā wharenui e tū ana i Te Kaha, i te rohe o Te Whānau a Apanui.

E kite ana koe i ona wahanga maha.

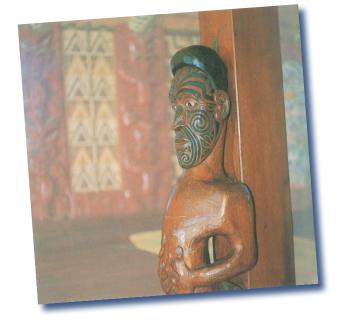
Ka tirohia ētahi wāhanga o te wharenui hei kōrerorero māu.

Show picture 1.

This is a picture of the meeting house, called $T\bar{u}kaki$, 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.



Whakaaturia te pikitia tuarua.

He pikitia tēnei o tētahi tino wāhanga o roto i te wharenui.

Show picture 2: Poutokomanawa

This picture shows an important part inside the meeting house.

1. E mōhio ana koe ki te ingoa o tēnei wāhanga?

Do you know what this part is called?

named the part "poutokomanawa" named the part "a carving"

2. Ki tōu whakaaro, i mahia mai i te aha?

What do you think this is made from?

identified material as wood

90

21

45

3. He tino wāhanga tēnei o te wharenui. He aha ai?

Why is this an important part of this meeting house?

represents ancestors
(and their importance to the community)
welcomes guests entering the house
the heart of the meeting house
central support/post of the house

48

29

26

Whakaaturia te pikitia tuatoru.

He pikitia tēnei o tētahi wāhanga anō o te wharenui.

Show picture 3: Kowhaiwhai

This picture shows another part of the meeting house.



4. E mōhio ana koe ki te ingoa o tēnei wāhanga?

Do you know what this is called?

named the part "kowhaiwhai" named the part "heke"3

5. Ki tōu whakaaro, i mahia mai i te aha? What do you think this is made from?

> paint/dyes wood

% responses

94

6. He tino wāhanga tēnei o te wharenui. He aha ai?

Why is this an important part of this meeting house?

genealogy, descent, whakapapa ribs of ancestors

tells a story

Whakaaturia te pikitia tuawhā.

He pikitia tēnei o tētahi wāhanga anō o te wharenui.

Show picture 4: Tukutuku

This picture shows another part of the meeting house.



7. E mōhio ana koe ki te ingoa o tēnei wāhanga?

Do you know what this is called?

named the part "tukutuku"

named the part "a (woven) wall panel"

named the part "pakiwaitara" (story board)

8. Ki tōu whakaaro, i mahia mai i te aha?

What do you think this is made from?

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

modern alternative materials

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

9. He tino wāhanga tēnei o te wharenui. He aha ai?

Why is this an important part of this meeting house?

balances the efforts/contributions

of woman and man traditionally symbolises working

together/relationships

balances/separates carvings

embellishment/sign of the industriousness of makers

tells a story

Commentary:

The results provide useful information about the extent of students' knowledge of the meaning or significance of structures in a traditional Māori meeting house.