

Task: Coconuts and Harakeke

Approach: Station
 Focus: Understanding the value of a resource
 Resources: Picture, information card

Year: 4 & 8

The coconut tree

The leaves are woven into mats for roofs and walls.

The leaves can be woven into baskets.

Dried leaves provide the first layer of flooring for a house.

The dry parts that hold the bunch of coconuts on the tree are used as kindling for fires.

When tied together in long bundles, the dried leaves are used as torches.

The ends of the coconut shells without the holes in them are polished inside and out to make small bowls for drinking kava.

The fronds are used to make brooms for sweeping inside and outside the house.

The trunk is used for the framework of houses.

The roots of a coconut tree can be cleaned, plaited and made into a fishtrap.

When split into halves, the mature coconut contains white meat that can be eaten or scraped and squeezed to get the cream out for cooking and for making fragrant coconut oil.

Coconut trees are very important to Tongans. Every part of the tree has a use.



Questions / instructions:

- Look at the information about the coconut tree and how it is used in Tonga.
- Now think about the harakeke / flax plant. It has many uses in New Zealand and is special to Māori. Think about why it is important, then write your ideas on the diagram below.

| | % responses | |
|---|-------------|----|
| | y4 | y8 |
| used for making baskets | 57 | 71 |
| used for making nets/snares/other traps | 12 | 16 |
| used for making string/ropes | 8 | 16 |
| used for making flowers/display objects/tourist items | 17 | 29 |
| used for building/shelters/houses (walls/roofs) | 39 | 44 |
| used for making clothes | 23 | 30 |
| used as a food source | 6 | 11 |
| used for medicinal purposes | 4 | 3 |
| symbol of family | 2 | 5 |
| habitat for animals | 0 | 3 |
| used for making mats | 28 | 46 |
| used for making torches | 12 | 14 |

| | % responses | |
|---------------------|-------------|-------|
| | y4 | y8 |
| Total score: | 5-12 | 5 13 |
| | 4 | 12 23 |
| | 3 | 22 26 |
| | 2 | 24 19 |
| | 1 | 21 12 |
| | 0 | 16 7 |

Commentary:

Twenty-three percent more year 8 than year 4 students identified three or more of the uses for harakeke/flax.