

Matariki

Ngā mata o te ariki Tāwhirimātea

The eyes of the god, Tāwhirimātea

Matariki is a cluster of stars that marks the Māori new year.

Tipuna Māori used them to help predict the year ahead.



The pūrākau of Matariki

Way back in the beginning when Tāne separated his parents Ranginui and Papatūānuku, he pushed them apart and this left his brother, Tāwhirimātea, furious.

Tāwhirimātea wasn't happy that Tāne had separated his parents and in his anger and his fury, Tāwhirimātea tore out his eyes, crushed them and threw them into the sky. They landed on the chest of his father, Ranginui, and there they have stayed as the cluster of whetū, Matariki.

Activity

How to make your special whetū and ideas to play.

You'll need: scissors and colouring pencils or crayons.

Optional: rākau, kōhatu, string, sticky tape and glue.

1. Colour in your whetū and add your wishes to Hiwa-i-te-rangi
2. Carefully cut out each whetū

Idea 1:

Stick your whetū to rākau using sticky tape and use them to tell your whānau the pūrākau of Matariki.

Idea 2:

Glue your whetū to kōhatu, you can arrange them in different ways to create your own Matariki scene.

Idea 3:

Hang your whetū up by threading some string through the top of each one.





This whetū looks after our wishes and hopes for the year ahead.

Write or draw your wish on this whetū.



Hiwa-i-te-rangi
the wishing whetū



Waipuna-ā-rangi
is connected to the rain

Ururangi
is connected to the winds

Matariki
the māmā at the centre of the whetū cluster

Waiti
is connected to fresh water and kai in the rivers, streams, and lakes



Waitā
is connected with moana, and the kai that live in it.

Pōhutukawa
is connected with those that have passed on, we can send them our aroha



Tupuārangi
looks after the manu and everything that grows in rākau

Tupuānuku
looks after all the kai that grows in the whenua

If this star shines very brightly we know that next year's harvest will be good.



Draw or write the names of your tipuna