

Pakiwaitara

Te Ika-a-Māui

Māui longed to go fishing but was never allowed to join his brothers, as they left early each day. One day Māui decided he would hide in the bottom of his brothers' waka so he could go out fishing with them. He secretly made a matau from a magical jawbone and crept into his brothers' waka and hid.

It wasn't until the brothers had paddled far out to sea that Māui showed himself. His brothers were angry and tried to ignore him. But Māui took out his magic fishhook and threw it over the side of the waka, reciting karakia to Tangaroa as he did so.

The hook went deeper and deeper into the moana until Māui felt the hook touch something. He tugged gently, and the hook caught fast. Together with his brothers he brought a huge fish to the surface.

Māui cautioned his brothers to wait until he had given thanks to Tangaroa before they cut into the fish. But they were impatient and began to carve out pieces for themselves.

This fish is the North Island, known as Te Ika-a-Māui, and the pieces the brothers cut out became its many valleys, mountains and lakes.

What might this pakiwaitara remind us of?

- Being inquisitive can lead to new understanding.
- Tuakana and teina each have their own gifts to share with each other.
- Give thanks to those who guide and support us.