

Matariki

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What is Matariki?

Matariki is one of the most important Māori celebrations.

Matariki is a celebration of people, culture, language, spirituality and history. Matariki is the Māori New Year.



Matariki can be translated as:
Mata Riki - Tiny Eyes or Mata Arika - the Eyes of God.





◀ Matariki

Te Kāhui o Matariki

Before Māori had calendars, they tracked time using events that happened in the natural world, such as the flowering of plants or the movement of stars in the sky.





Uru-ā-rangi

Naipuna-ā-rangi

Tupu-ā-rangi

Matariki

Tupu-ā-nuki

Waitā

Waitī

Te Kāhui o Matariki

The other six stars are:

Tupu-ā-rangi
(Electra)

Waipuna-ā-rangi
(Taygeta)

Waitī
(Maia)

Uru-ā-rangi
(Pleione)

Tupu-ā-nuku
(Atlas)



Waitā
(Merope)

Māori believed that if the stars in the cluster were clear and bright, then it would be a warm season with a lot of food. If Matariki looked hazy or shimmering, then it would be a cold and difficult season.

Matariki Legends



There are many myths and legends that relate to Matariki.

One tells of Tāwhirimātea, the God of Wind, getting so angry that he throws his eyes into the sky.

Matariki Legends

Another is about a mean fisherman that captures 7 fish. Tāne - the God of Light - rescues them, throwing them into the sky where they become stars.

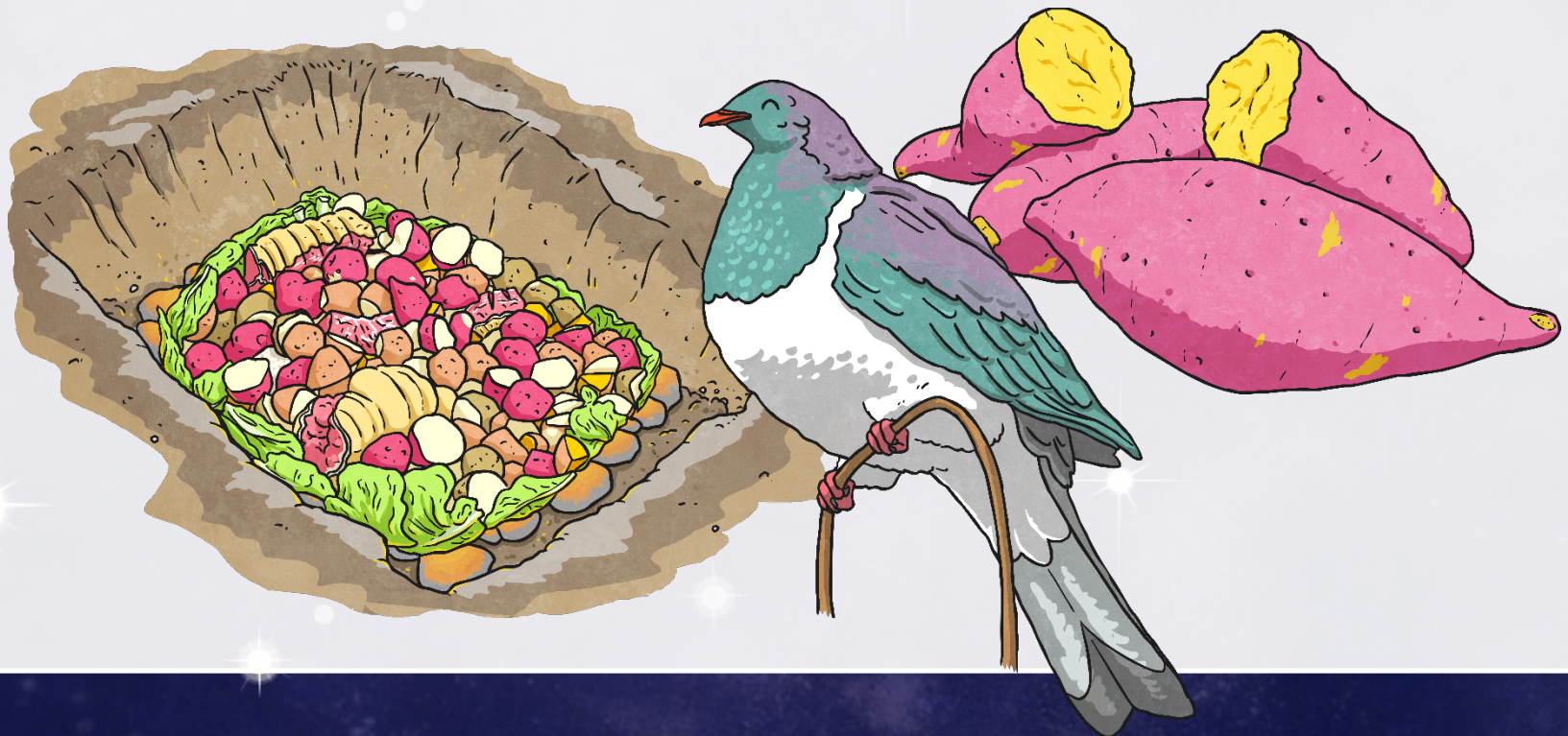
Some also believe that Matariki is a mother star surrounded by her six daughters.



How was Matariki Celebrated?

Matariki was celebrated at the end of the harvest season. It was a time when the pātaka kai (storage house) was full of food. There was kūmara, kererū and fish such as moki and korokoro.

During the celebration, there were big Hākari (feasts).

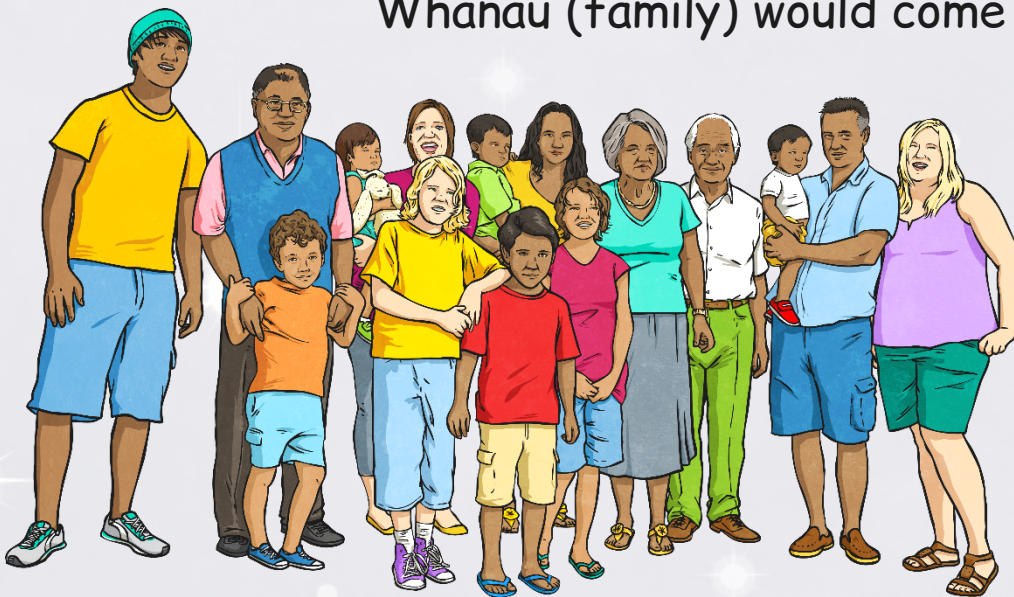


How was Matariki Celebrated?

People came together to remember the past, their ancestors and to learn about their whakapapa (ancestry).

Māori would plan for the future and prepare the whenua (land) for planting.

Whanau (family) would come together and share songs, traditions and stories.



How is Matariki Celebrated Now?

Matariki is now a time to celebrate Aotearoa and everything Māori. We can learn about our land and our whakapapa (ancestry).

Matariki is celebrated through education, remembrance and the planting of new trees and crops. It is a sign of new beginnings.



Lots of celebrations focus on music, songs, dance, food and family.

How is Matariki Celebrated Now?

You can celebrate in traditional Māori ways or choose your own way to celebrate. You could:



Try some
Māori arts
or crafts

Set new
goals for
the future

Have a
hangi

Learn
some new
songs or
dances



How is Matariki Celebrated Now?

Learn
about stars
and their
constellations

Learn about
Māori myths
and legends

Hold a
whanau
(family)
day

Plant
vegetables



How is Matariki Celebrated Now?

Have a
school
performance

Learn about
how Matariki is
celebrated on
other Pacific
Islands

Learn
about
harvesting
crops

Learn about
your
whakapapa
and complete
a family tree





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