

**Early Peoples Activity Sheet:  
The Maori**

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**The Polynesian expansion across the Pacific (c.700-1756)**

**Origin and spread of Polynesians in the Pacific:**

1. When do scholars believe the Maori first arrived in New Zealand?  
   Where did the Maori migrate from?
2. What does Aotearoa mean?
3. What religious beliefs and customs did the Maori share with other Polynesian culture?
4. Where does the name Maori originate from?
5. How did Polynesians travel hundreds of kilometres across the Pacific Ocean?
6. How long ago did Polynesian voyagers reach the Society Islands?
7. What types of supplies did they pack and what was the purpose of their voyage?
8. How did the Polynesians make the double canoes used in long voyages?
9. How did the Polynesians navigate their way across the ocean?
10. Name the different types of canoes that the Polynesians used?
11. According to Maori tradition, who was the first Polynesian man to travel by canoe to New Zealand?
12. What has the remains of Pacific rat found in New Zealand told archaeologists about the settlement of New Zealand by Polynesians?
13. According to legend, why did the first group of Polynesians settle in New Zealand?
14. On which island did the first settlers settle?
15. Polynesian way of life: Social, cultural, economic and political features:
16. What was taonga?
17. What is an iwi?
18. Who was at the head of each iwi?
19. How was the title of each ariki passed on?
20. What was the role of the ariki?
21. Who had the most say over how people lived their daily lives?

**Warfare:**

1. How did Maori fortify their villages?
2. Why were wars fought amongst Maori clans?
3. When was the season for war?
4. What advantages did this time of year have for battle?
5. How many fighters would a hapu have?
6. What coded message was used to recruit the help of other clans for battles?
7. What was the chief Maori battle tactic?
8. How long did battles generally take?
9. What would become of the losing side in a battle?
10. What type of weapon did the Maoris fight with prior to European arrival?
11. What was the short club used for in battle?
12. What was the kotaha and what was it used for?
13. What happened in 1843 between Chief Te Rauparaha and British colonists?

**Roles in society:**

1. In what ways were men and women equals?
2. What was the primary role of women?
3. What tasks did men perform?
4. What tasks did women perform?
5. Who was a tohunga?
6. Who was allowed to carve wood?
7. What type of wood was used for many of the Maori’s carvings?
8. What type of tools were used for carving?
9. Look at the pendant on page 21. What was the pendant used for and what was it made from? How were slaves treated?
10. What tasks did slaves perform?
11. Why did slavery increase after European contact?

**Society, culture and beliefs:**

1. How were disputes resolved in Maori society?
2. What pattern shaped the Maori view of life?
3. Why would the heads of dead chiefs be preserved?
4. How did the Maori believe the world began?
5. How did the Maori turn things that were tapu (set apart or godly) into things that were noa (commonplace)?
6. Who were Ranginui and Papatuanuku?
7. Who was Tane and what was his contribution to Earth?
8. What was the powhiri ritual?
9. What is the hongi?
10. What was the tangihanga?
11. What religious and cultural beliefs were connected with Maori art?
12. How do historians and archaeologists know about Maori’s earliest carvings?

**Ta moko:**

1. What was ta moko?
2. How were moko colours created?
3. What type of patterns were used in ta moko?
4. On a woman, what did having moko around the lips and chin mean?
5. Look at the artefact on page 35. What was this used for?

**Village life:**

1. What was the marae and what role did it play in village life?
2. What did the carvings in the meeting house represent and what cultural significance did it play?
3. Who arranged marriages in Maori culture?
4. What rituals were involved in childbirth?
5. Name the two kinds of settlements Maori lived in and what the differences were?
6. How was food cooked?
7. Describe the styles of houses lived in by Maori?
8. What did the Maori do with their houses to protect them from the cold?
9. What type of clothing did Maori men and women wear?
10. What did the cloak worn by a Maori say about their position in society?
11. What types of food did the Maori eat?
12. What happened to the Moa bird?
13. Who were the primary teachers of children?
14. Which children were given advanced education?
15. Name popular games played by Maori children?
16. What type of sports and games did adults play?
17. What did Maori use kites for?
18. What is the haka?
19. What is often considered the most impressive type of haka?
20. When did Maori’s play music?
21. What type of interests did they play and what were they made from?

**Life after European contact:**

1. List the changes to traditional Maori life as a result of European contact?
2. What was the Treaty of Waitangi?
3. What problems did the treaty create?