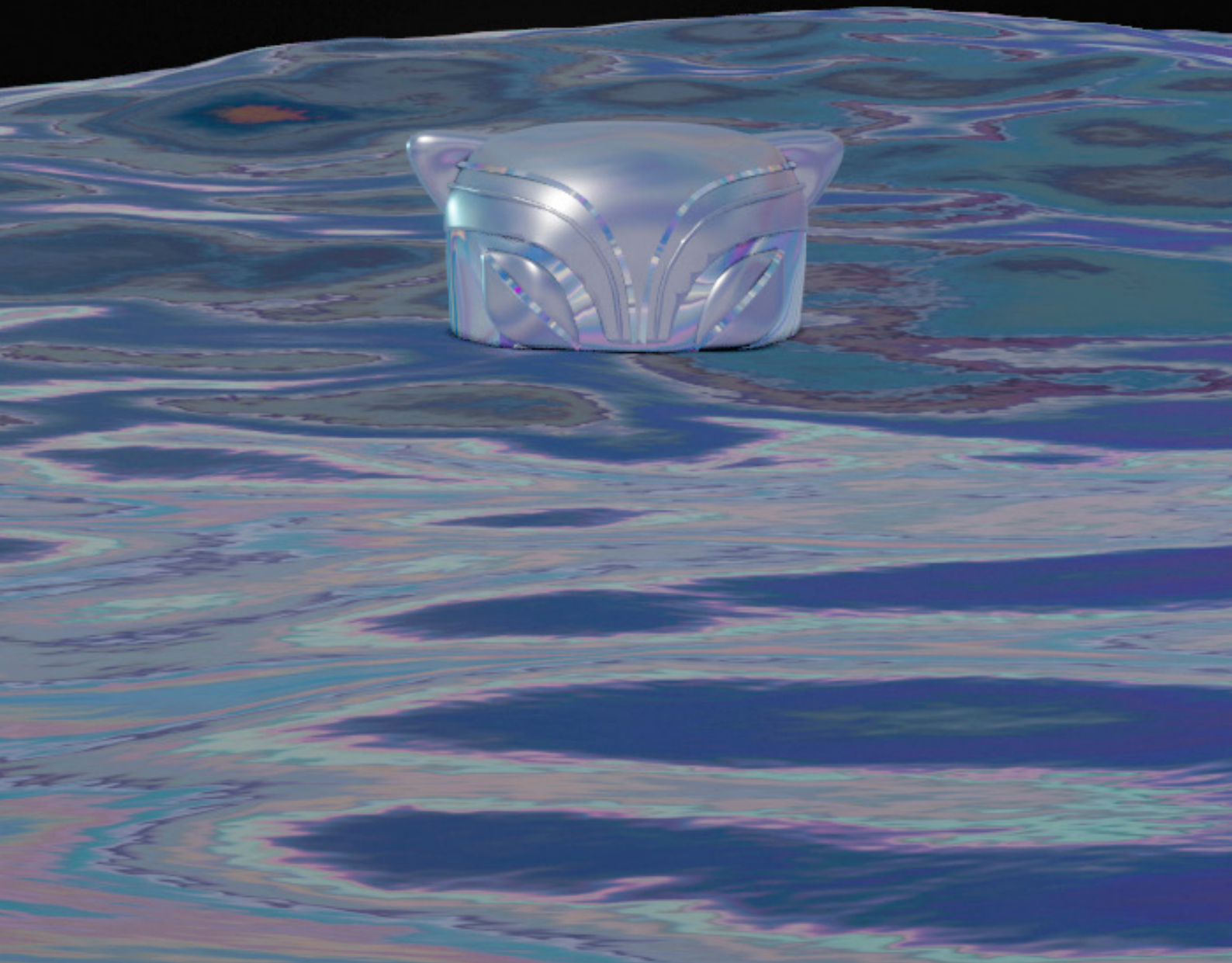


**CHRISTCHURCH
ART GALLERY
TE PUNA O
WAIWHETŪ**

**Student
workbook**

Whāia te Taniwha

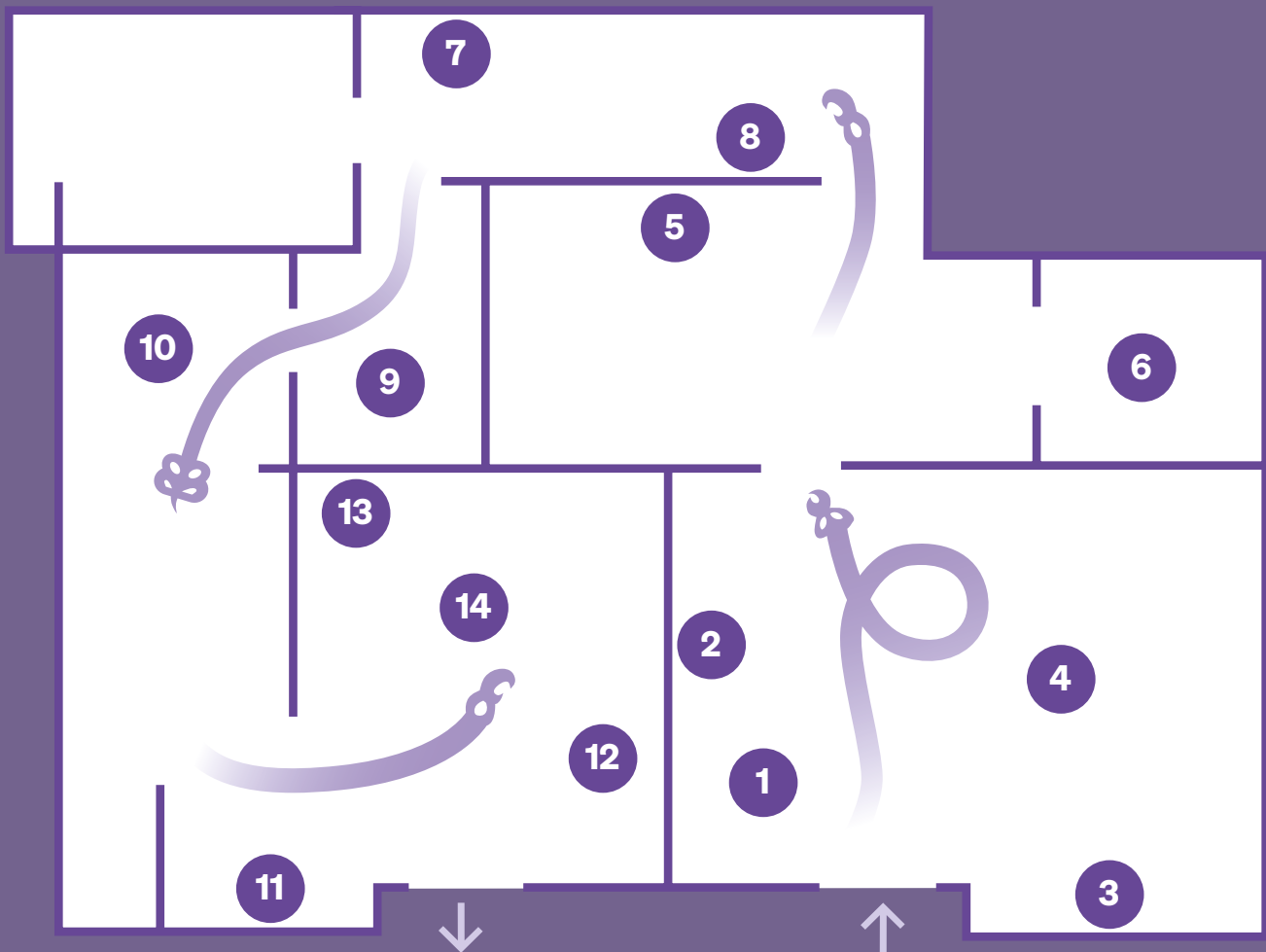


Whāia te Taniwha

Ever-present within the rich stories that have sustained Māori for generations, taniwha are often described as oceanic guides and shape-shifting ancestors as well as adversaries, guardians and tricksters who have left their marks upon the landscape of Aotearoa. This major exhibition of work by Māori artists explores the ways in which taniwha continue to guide and inspire us in an ever-changing world.

Use this workbook as a guide to explore some of the artists and ideas as you move through the exhibition or as a guide in your classroom to dive deeper into the world of taniwha.

Gallery map



No touching!

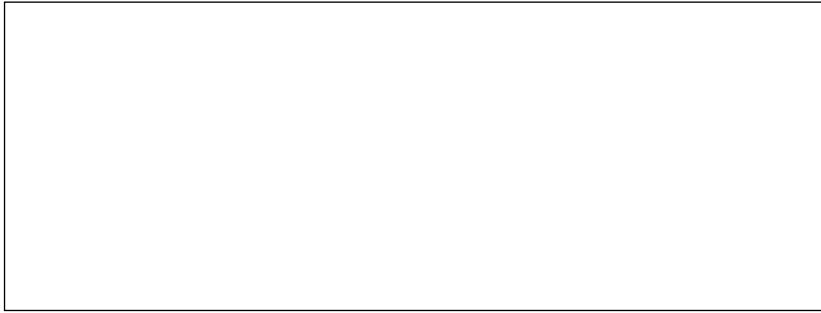
Art can be fragile. Please remember not to touch or lean your clipboard on artworks.

Cover: Kahurangiariki Smith *Ride or Die* (still)
2024. Digital animation. Courtesy of the artist

1 Tauihu

This amazing whakairo is a tauihu – the prow, or front, of a waka. It was carved hundreds of years ago and found buried in sand at Te Oneroa Mason Bay on Rakiura Stewart Island in 1996.

Look closely. Draw some of the patterns and shapes you see in the whakairo.



Carved by tipuna *Tauihu* pre-nineteenth century. Matai (black pine). Custodian: Te Kupeka Tiaki Taoka Southern Regional Collections Trust for Manatū Taonga Ministry for Culture and Heritage

Taniwha are often described as guides for those travelling across the moana. There is a lot of kōrero about the designs in this tauihu. Kaumātua Harold Ashwell described the long mouth and rows of teeth as a representation of Hākuwai, a taniwha in bird form who was thought to give protection against the huge southerly swell. Others think it could be a manaia, or marine kaitiaki taniwha in the form of a shark or sperm whale. What do you think it could be?

What do you think the rest of the waka might have looked like? Draw your ideas below:



Mahi ki te kura / At School

Hai Pānui / Read

Read more about this ancient tauihu that was found in Rakiura in the 1980s.



Source: *Te Karaka*, raumati/summer 1996, p. 33–7

Hai Tuhi / Write

What adventures do you think the waka went on? Write a story about your waka and where it might have gone, and who might have sailed it.

Hai Rakahau / Research

Many ancestral narratives explain how taniwha guided tīpuna as they ventured across the vast expanse of Te Moana-nui-a-Kiwa. Other kōrero describe their presence in, and guardianship of, various bodies of water around Aotearoa. Do you know of any taniwha from your iwi who are kaitiaki?





Edna Pahewa, Sam Pahewa and Miria Heavey Niho Taniwha

This tukutuku panel uses a pattern called Niho Taniwha.

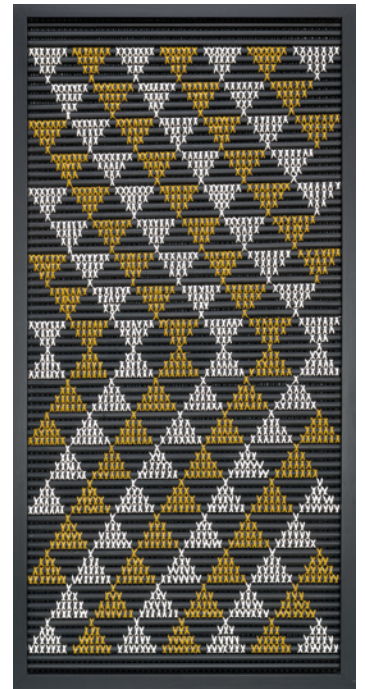
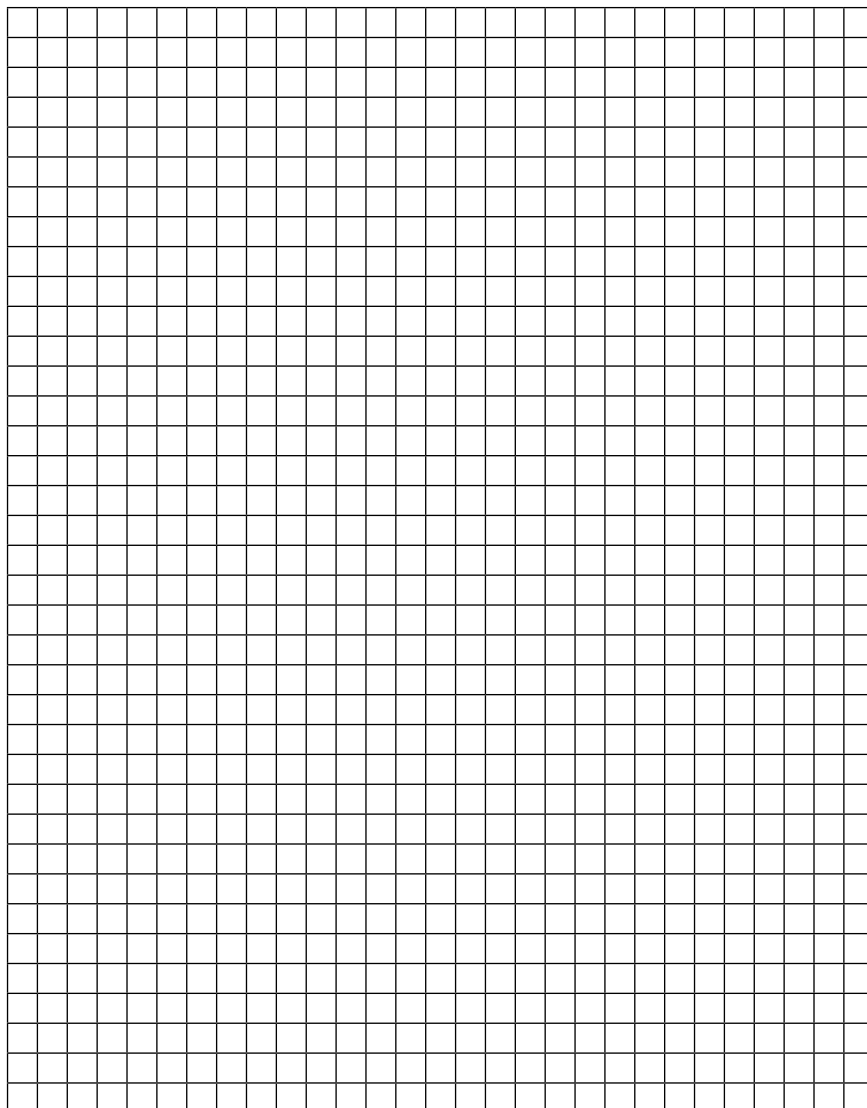
Why do you think it is called that?

Have you seen this pattern before? Where?

Niho taniwha often feature in woven kete and tukutuku panels as well as in whakairo and tā moko. This pattern is often used to represent whakapapa, leadership and self-determination.

Edna Pahewa (Te Arawa), Sam Pahewa (Te Whānau-a-Apanui) and Miria Heavey (Te Whānau-a-Apanui)
Niho Taniwha 2021. Plastic, wood; niho taniwha pattern. Collection of Te Roopu Raranga Whatu o Aotearoa

Use the grid below to plan your own tukutuku design inspired by Niho Taniwha.



Mahi ki te Kura / At School

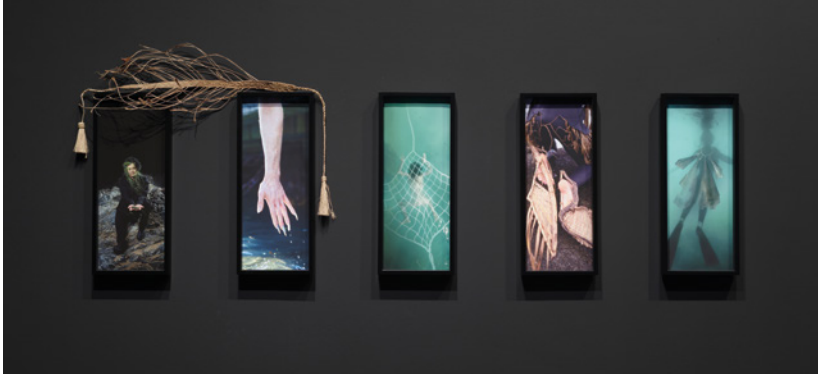
Hai Tūhura / Explore

Using coloured shapes in the classroom, what patterns can you make using niho taniwha?

Hai Waihaka / Create

Using wool and a homemade tukutuku panel (cardboard with holes), can you make a niho taniwha pattern? This is a great resource from Ākau Studio that you could use:





Louie Zalk-Neale (Ngāi Te Rangi, Pākehā) *Ti-kore-ngoi-oro—The fizzing potential, Maikukuroaroa—I sharpen my femininity, He whai tea—Skeleton, Takarure—Hidden transgender limbs, Ponaturi—Collecting seaweed to share 2024*. Digital photographs. Commissioned by Wellington City Council. *Tatua Ti Kōuka 2023*. Whā tī kōuka (cabbage tree leaf), muka tī kōuka (cabbage tree leaf fibre). courtesy of the artist

Louie Zalk-Neale draws upon the pūrākau of two taniwha from Te Whanganui-a-Tara Wellington Harbour, Ngake and Whātaimai, in which traces of transgender whakapapa provide a touchstone for the artist. After attempting to follow Ngake into the moana, Whātaimai undergoes a series of transformations – first growing bigger, then trying to leave home, dying, turning into stone – and eventually his wairua takes the form of a female bird.

We all go through many transformations as we grow up and who we are develops and changes. As you continue to grow, what are three skills that you hope to develop:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Louie has woven objects from tī kōuka which sit alongside the photographs and video. **Find and draw the objects. What do you think they might be?**



Mahi ki te Kura / At School

Hai Pānui / Read

Read the pūrākau of Ngake and Whātaimai.



Source: Te Kete Ipurangi

Hai Takirua / Retell

Retell the pūrākau through drama or dance.

Hai Rakahau / Research

Research pūrākau about your local landscape and how it was created.

Hai Hoahoa / Design

Make a comic or write a story about what you find out about your local landscape.

4 Mataaho Collective

This mahi toi is called *Kiko Moana*. *Kiko* means body and *moana* means ocean. *Kiko moana* is a physical embodiment of water, so perhaps it is a taniwha that both lives in and is embodied by water.

Look carefully. What material have the artists used?

What does it usually get used for?

Why do you think they chose it?

What pattern have they created with the material? Draw it below.

What does the pattern remind you of?

Why do you think the artists chose to hang the work like this?

kete basket



Mataaho Collective (Te Ātiawa ki Whakarongotai, Ngāti Toa Rangatira, Ngāti Awa, Ngāi Tūhoe, Ngāti Ranginui, Ngāi Te Rangi, Rangitāne ki Wairarapa) *Kiko Moana* 2017. Polyethene tarpaulin, cotton thread. Collection of Te Papa Tongarewa Museum of New Zealand

Mahi ki te Kura / At School

Hai Waihaka / Create

Mataaho Collective use everyday materials to make their work. Collect your own kete of scraps and materials to cut into strips and weave together.

Hai Pānui / Read

Visit the *Taniwha Tales* website and read about different people's interactions and knowledge about taniwha.



Mataaho Collective
Taniwha Tales

Hai Rakahau / Research

Find out about your own or whānau experiences or knowledge about taniwha. Write them down, share as a group, or make a drawing or video diary.

5

Brett Graham Manukau

Taramainuku is a taniwha that lives in the Manukau harbour; his kupenga is set across the bar and has claimed many lives. In the artwork we can see the remains of the *HMS Orpheus*, which was wrecked in 1863, carrying supplies to sustain troops at the Waikato war front.

Brett Graham (Ngāti Korokī Kahukura, Tainui) *Manukau* 2020.
Single-channel digital animation synthesised from offshore aerial drone footage. Courtesy of the artist



Can you imagine what this net might look like in the moana?

Use the space below to draw te kupenga a Taramainuku (the net of Taramainuku).

Is it tightly woven or large loops? What is it made from? _____

You might have heard of *Te Kupenga a Taramainuku* before but in another context.

Do you remember when?

Mahi ki te Kura / At School

Hai Rakahau / Research

Find out about Te Kupenga a Taramainuku (Te Waka o Rangi) and Te kupenga a Taramainuku (the taniwha). Are there any links between the two?

Hai Tūhura / Explore

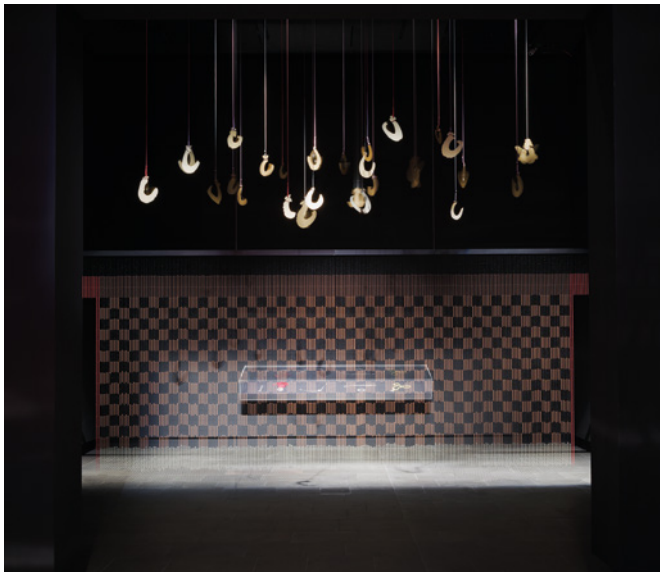
Use different materials like paper and string to make some kupenga. Watch these two YouTube videos if you need ideas.



6

Turumeke Harrington and Kommi Tamati-Elliffe

Ruawharo (whatever sucks you in babe)



Turumeke Harrington (Kāi Tahu, Rangitāne) and Kommi Tamati-Elliffe (Kāi Te Pahi, Kāti Moki, Kāti Ruahikihiki, Puketapu, Ngāti Moeahu, Uenuku, Manutahi, Ngāti Manukōrihi) *Ruawharo (whatever sucks you in babe)* 2025. Steel, nylon, shell, muka, silk, sterling silver, freshwater pearl, polyester, wool, cashmere, cotton, sound. Courtesy of the artists

Matuku Takotako is described in kōrero all over the Pacific. Different narrators say he is a taniwha, shape shifter, hybrid and an ogre-like creature who could also take the form of a matuku and loved treasure. In some versions of the story, Matuku Takotako killed Wahia-roa, son of Tāwhaki, after he entered his hunting grounds looking for tūi at the request of his pregnant companion, Matokarau-tāwhiri. Years later Rata, the son of Wahia-roa (of waka-building fame) sought revenge for his father's death. Using his love of treasure against him, he lured Matuku Takotako into a trap set atop his own cave!

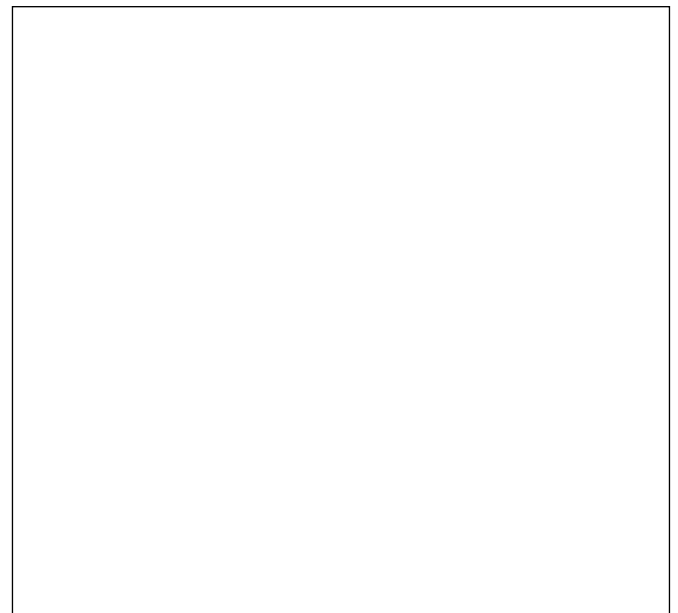
Stand at the entrance. What do you hear?

What do you see?

How does the space make you feel?

Enter the den of Matuku Takotako through the red doorway to find some of the taoka linked to this pūrākau. **Which is your favourite? Why?**

We can't see Matuku Takotako, but what do you think he looks like? Draw him below.



Mahi ki te Kura / At School

Hai Rakahau / Research

Explore some of the different kōrero of Matuku Takotako, this is the kōrero the artists reference in their work.



Matiaha Tiramōrehu
Te Waitatanga mai o te Atua, p. 33–43



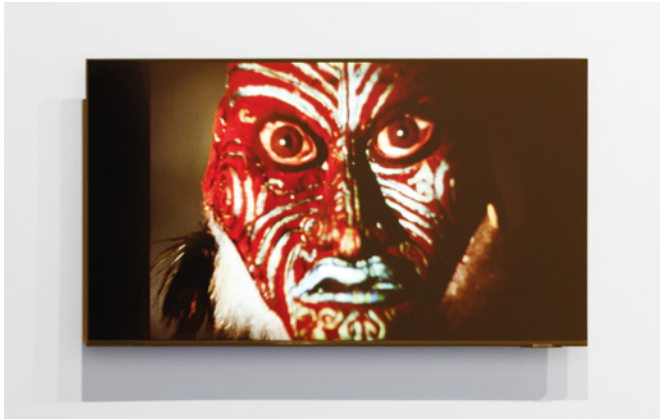
Teone Taare Tikao
Tikao Talks, p. 54–5

Hai Waihaka / Create

Create your own interpretation of Matuku Takotako. Use old magazines, posters, newspapers and other printed material to cut and collage the creature or use recycled materials to construct your version of his ana.



7 Lisa Reihana A Māori Dragon Story



Lisa Reihana (Ngāpuhi, Ngāti Hine, Ngāi Tūteauru, Ngāi Tūpoto)
A Māori Dragon Story (still) 1995. 16mm animation transferred to digital.
Collection of Christchurch Art Gallery Te Puna o Waiwhetū, purchased 2021

This animation by artist Lisa Reihana is a story of jealousy and revenge that took place at Ōhikuparuparu Sumner.

Which characters did you see?



Hine Ao



Tūrakipō



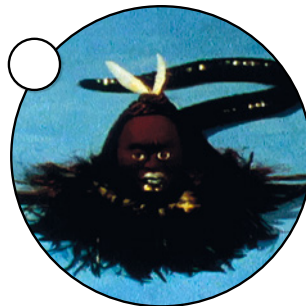
Te Ake



Irirangi



Tautini



Te Wahine-maru-kore

What happened in the story?

Write or draw a brief plot below:

Mahi ki te Kura / At School

Hai Rakahau / Research

Find out about a local taniwha or a taniwha that is important to your whānau.

Hai Waihaka / Create

Make your own animations to retell your pakiwaitara taniwha – use a stop-motion app and any materials you have handy; collage puppets, modelling clay and Lego all work well but you could dress up and be in the animation too!



Piri Cowie

Aro Hā series and Aoraki Matatū

Taniwha can take many forms and are well known for guiding ancestral waka on migratory journeys and as kaitiaki who keep people safe in local harbours and waterways. These works by Piri Cowie honour the shared migration histories and visual language of Aotearoa and the wider pacific, greeting her whanauka across Te Moana-nui-a-Kiwa.

Piri Cowie (Kāi Tahu, Ngāpuhi, Ngāti Kahu) *Aro Hā series* (Te Wheke, Okea Ururoatia, Mocomoko, He mahi kai takata, he mahi kai hōaka and Tuna Heke) 2024. Bronze, karā (basalt), kōhatu (rock), muka, pounamu. *Aoraki Matatū* 2025. Bronze. All courtesy of the artist



Look inside the case. What forms has the artist created to describe these taniwha tīpuna?

What other forms have you heard of taniwha taking? _____

On a recent visit to Aoraki, Piri Cowie was reminded of the extraordinary accomplishments of her tīpuna Kāi Tahu, who traversed Kā Tiritiri-o-te-Moana Southern Alps many generations ago. In this work Cowie celebrates her tīpuna as taniwha hikuroa – ancestors with long tails of influence – who provide ongoing guidance and inspiration for their descendants.

Write a mihi for a taniwha hikuroa in your life. What have they taught you?

What are you thankful for? How has their influence changed your actions or understanding?



Mahi ki te Kura / At School

Hai Mātaki / Watch

Watch the Kāi Tahu documentary on Piri Cowie's work.



Source: Ngā Ringa
Toi o Tahu series

Hai Waihaka / Create

Use clay to sculpt your own tuna, mokomoko, wheke or makōpare. Use swishes of ink or dye to create tuna forms on cardboard or thick paper – cut them out to create an installation of tuna for your akomaka



Hai Tūhura / Explore Go on a hīkoi around the city.

Visit a nearby sculpture '**Kirihao – Resilience**' by **Piri Cowie** at **Pita Te Hori Centre** (48 Hereford Street). Look for the small tuna sculptures. How many can you find? Look closely at the shape of the tuna, feel them with your hands, take photos or sketches of them. What other designs can you find around the courtyard? Read the information about the importance of the area to Kāi Tahu.



Visit the live tuna at the **Ōtākaro Avon** near the **Bridge of Remembrance**. Think about the artworks of tuna, talk about how they move and interact with each other. Discuss what sort of kai they eat.

Follow the Ōtākaro Avon to the Story Arc at **Tākaro ā Poi (Margaret Mahy Playground)**. Find the artworks by Piri Cowie about Kāi Tahu migration stories, pūrākau, mahika kai and the flora and fauna of the local area. The painted splash under the fountains includes tuna as well as other ika including pātiki and inaka. Have a scavenger hunt and see what you can find on the Arc. Take photos or do rubbings of some of your favourite images. Discuss what Piri Cowie has selected to put in the Story Arc... or just have a play!



We acknowledge the kaumatua and cultural advisors from Ngāi Tūāhuriri who collaborated with Piri Cowie in the development of these works.

9

Madison Kelly Moko speaks the cave

Matamata was a loyal kaitiaki for Kāti Māmoe chief Te Rakitauneke. When Te Rakitauneke left for battle, Matamata went looking for him, creating the Taiari awa, Ōtākou harbour and the surrounding hills with his sharp claws and strong tail.

Quietly and carefully walk through the space. What happens?

How would you describe the sound?

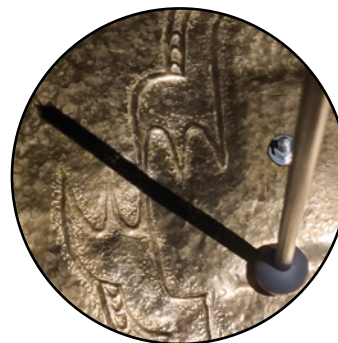
How does it make you feel?

What does it make you think about?

Did you notice the designs embossed into the bronze cymbals as you walked through? Here are some of them. What do you think they mean?











Madison Kelly (Kāi Tahu, Kāti Māmoe, Pākehā) *Moko speaks the cave* 2025. Brass, steel, felt, lead, mallets, brushes. Courtesy of the artist



Mahi ki te Kura / At School

Hai Takirua / Retell

Retell pūrākau through drama and movement. Create a soundscape to go with the retelling using found objects and natural items such as harakeke, shells, rākau, newspaper, taoka puoro.

10 Francine Spencer Taniwha o te Awa



Francine Spencer (Taranaki, Waitaha, Kāti Māmoe, Rapuwai, Ngāi Tahu)
Taniwha o te Awa 2025. Aluminium mesh, copper. Courtesy of the artist

This hīnaki has been woven using copper wire – an element from Papatūānuku – to remind us that our wellbeing is connected to the health of the taiao.

What other materials has the artist used?

What do they remind you of?

Whaea Francine Spencer lives in a small fishing hāpori south of Arowhenua in South Canterbury. She has an intimate understanding of relationships between tuna and taniwha: both have a sense of mystery around their lives and movements, both provide signals as to the health of our waterways, and both can represent what is at stake with the continued widespread exploitation of our environment.

What do you notice about the shape of this hīnaki and the form entering or investigating it? Draw what you see.

Mahi ki te Kura / At School



Hai Rakahau / Research

Discover the pūrākau about Tunaroa.

Source: Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu



Hai Tūhura / Explore

Visit one of the waterways in your area. Observe the flora and fauna of the area. Take photos, make drawings and collect samples of fallen leaves and debris to study in the classroom.

Hai Waihaka / Create

Make your own hīnaki. This example is from Newton Central School, Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland.

Source: Tāhūrangi – New Zealand Curriculum



11

Kahurangiariki Smith

What if my best friend was a taniwha?

Kahurangiariki Smith has made a video game about improving her hauora on a journey with her taniwha bestie.

**If your best friend was a taniwha,
where would they live?**

What would they eat?

What would make them happy?



Kahurangiariki Smith (Tainui, Te Arawa, Horouta, Takitimu and Mataatuaawaka)
What if my best friend was a taniwha? (still) 2023. Video game. Courtesy of the artist



Mahi ki te Kura / At School

Hai Waihaka / Create

Use Minecraft or another creative builder app on the computer or ipad in your class to design a digital world for your taniwha.

Write about your Taniwha

Use this space and the sentence starters below as a guide to tell us about your taniwha and what you would do together.

Ko tāku taniwha tēnei. (This is my taniwha.)

E ... kā hiku. (It has ... tails.)

E ... kā kamo. (It has ... eyes)

E ... kā waewae. (It has ... legs.)

E noho ana ia i (It lives in)

Ko ... tōna ikoa. (Its name is)

**What special places would your
taniwha take you?**

What treasures might you find?

What does your taniwha do?

Here's a list of kupu to include: **awa (river), kahere (forest), mauka (mountain), moana (ocean),**

12

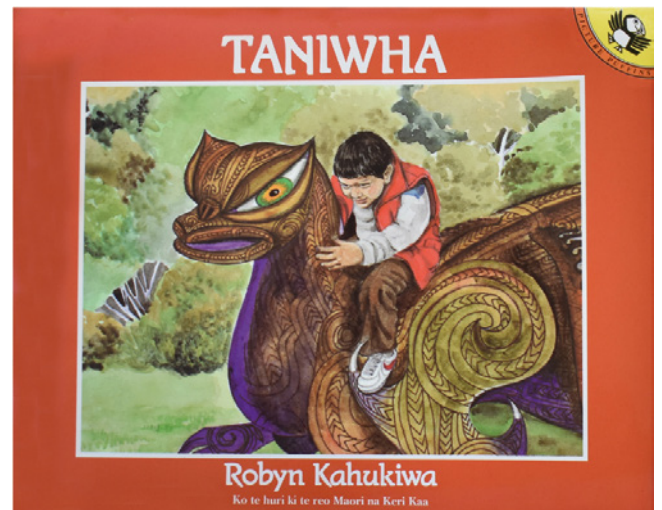
Robyn Kahukiwa Taniwha

These are the original illustrations for Robyn Kahukiwa's famous pukapuka *Taniwha*.

What taoka do the boy and his taniwha find?

Which atua do they meet?

What do you know about these atua?



Robyn Kahukiwa (Ngāti Porou, Te Aitanga-a-Hauiti, Ngāti Konohi, Te Whānau-a-Ruataupare). *Taniwha*, Viking Kestral, Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland, 1986)

Mahi ki te Kura / At School



Hai Pānui / Read

Read *Taniwha* and do the activity on the next page.

raki (sky), repo (swamp), roto (lake), tāone (city), whare (house)

Draw your Taniwha

Taniwha have many forms. Imagine and draw your own taniwha!

Puna auaha means a pool of creativity, like a brainstorm. This page is for your puna auaha. Fill it with lots of options to choose from when you draw your own taniwha!

Kā kamo (eyes) *wide open, sleeping, bloodshot, winking*

Kā waha (mouths) *open or closed, tongue poking out, with or without teeth, curving up or down*

Kā āhuahaka (shapes) *elements from nature, hearts, stars, any other shapes you like*

Kā tauira (patterns) *stripes, niho taniwha, checks*

Kā whakanikoniko (adornments) *scars, jewellery, moko*

Select features from your puna auaha and draw your taniwha on this page.



Sometimes we describe people as taniwha hikuroa – good leaders with a ‘long tail of influence’. This photograph shows an important leader in the artist’s whānau, her Taua Aroha Ruby. Ruby is surrounded by pictures and taoka that are important to her.

Tia Barrett (Ngāi Tahu, Ngāti Maniapoto, Waikato, Ngāti Tamainupō) *A Time Capsule of Aroha* 2023. Digital photograph. Courtesy of the artist

Tia’s photograph tells us a lot about her Taua Aroha. Have a close look at the photograph. What sorts of taoka has she collected? What do they tell us about her?

Who would be a taniwha hikuroa within your whānau, iwi, hapū or friend group?

What qualities make them a good leader?



Mahi ki te Kura / At School

Hai Tuhi / Write

Write a story or speech about someone you think of as a taniwha hikuroa.

Hai Waihaka / Create

Take a photograph or draw a picture of them. Include some things in your picture that tell us about your chosen person.

Maungarongo Te Kawa A Celestial Gateway for Invisible People



This mahi toi shows Hine-Waiapu, the powerful female taniwha of the Waiapu awa. She is returning through a celestial gateway to the earthly realm on her waka taua to help protect the Waiapu awa.

Do you know of an awa near your house, school or somewhere special to you? What is it called?

Maungarongo Te Kawa (Ngāti Porou) *A Celestial Gateway for Invisible People* (detail) 2023–5. Mixed media. Courtesy of the artist

What are some tohu of a healthy awa? Draw your ideas below.

What are three things you and your whānau can do to protect and look after your special awa?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____



Mahi ki te Kura / At School

Hai Waihaka / Create

Make a portrait of yourself in a healthy awa using scrap material or collage. You could be gathering kai, swimming or lying on the river bank. Show how it feels to have a clean and healthy taiao. And make sure to add some sparkle!

During your mahi in this exhibition you have looked at mahi toi and pūrākau surrounding taniwha from all over Aotearoa. Match the taniwha from the mahi toi you have seen here to their location on the map.



Add in any taniwha that are important to you or your whānau, iwi or hapū and any other taniwha you have learnt about.

Wait, there's more! A marakihau is a hybrid human/serpent creature often described as a sea-dwelling taniwha. Artist Kereama Taepa has hidden one on the Gallery forecourt – to find it, scan the QR code. Open the app, select **gallery** then **find**. Now head outside and follow the instructions on your screen.



Google Play



App Store