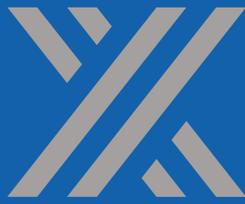


# Matariki

Science and Drama



# L3

**Manaaki whenua,  
manaaki tangata,  
haere whakamua**

**Care for the land,  
care for people,  
go forward.**

In this activity, students will discuss and reflect upon the concept of Kaitiakitanga with reference to the advent of Matariki.

① In groups of seven, students read the attached play.

They, in the same groups, discuss the ideas represented in the play. Perhaps this would be a good time for some scaffolding around the idea of traditional Māori concepts of stewardship.

② As a class

Students brainstorm ways in which humans can act as stewards for each of the natural ecosystems represented by Matariki's daughters.

- Fresh water
- Oceans
- The water cycle:  
Precipitation —  
Rain, hail, snow, fog.
- Soil biomes
- Fruit bearing plants  
— Plants, trees, bushes,  
birds of the forests.

# Method

# Matariki

# Play

Written by Nick Clothier on the occasion of  
the inaugural Matariki Day, 24 June 2022

For the public programme in Tokoroa

## Cast

### **Matariki:**

Mother of Waiti, Waita, Tupuanuku,  
Tupuarangi, Waipunarangi and Ururangi.

### **Waiti:**

Kaitiaki of creatures and plants that live in  
fresh water — lakes, rivers, streams, geysers.

### **Waitā:**

Kaitiaki of all living creatures living in  
Te Moana — all the oceans and seas.

### **Waipuna-ā-rangi:**

Kaitiaki of all forms of water that forms in  
the heavens, mist, rain, snow, hail and fog.

### **Tupuānuku:**

Kaitiaki of all plant life that grow in the soil  
of Papatuaanuku.

### **Tupuārangi:**

Kaitiaki of all plants, trees, bushes that  
bear fruit, berries, and house nga manu  
and other creatures that fly.

### **Ururangi:**

Kaitiaki of ngaa hau e wha and all the  
different kinds of winds and breezes.

## Scene

The backdrop is a shimmering sky and Matariki appears — rising from the floor. She begins to speak and talks in a loving voice to her daughters.

### Matariki

Gather together my daughters! The time has rolled around again when we must shine bright for all dwellers of the earth. Gather together my daughters and light the heavens.

### Waitī

Mother, I come. Waitī bringing plenty to the streams, rivers and lakes of the motu! My aroha makes the tuna throng the fresh waters!

### Waitā

Mother here I am! Waitā bringing the abundance of the oceans to the people. The fish team and leap under my care!

### Waipuna-ā-rangi

Mother, I Waipuna-ā-rangi cause the rain to dance upon the soil! Without me there is no growth and plenty!

### Tupu-ā-nuku

Mother, without me, Tupu-ā-nuku nothing would grow within the soil. The kumara would not sustain the people of the Earth without my presence.

### Tupu-ā-rangi

Here I am Mother! Here to awhi the beauty and plenty of the trees of the Ngahere! Fruits, berries and birds grow plentiful under my hands.

### Ururangi

I, Ururangi, am the mistress of the winds that caress the land. I join with aroha in my heart. It has been too long since I saw my whānau!

### All Daughters

We are here to shine bright in the sky. We show the way to all the inhabitants of the Earth! We start our mahi to signal to the people.

## **Matariki**

Welcome, welcome, thrice welcome my beautiful daughters. Now is the time for planting, cultivating, harvesting, celebrating and saving up. Now is the time for celebration of the plenty of the planet and we are here to ensure that this cycle of planting, harvesting, gathering and feasting continues into another year.

## **All Daughters**

We are here to shine bright in the sky. We show the way to all the inhabitants of the Earth! We start our mahi to signal to the people.

## **Matariki**

Now is a time of reflection. We are a signal that the time of farewell is upon us. The people who have passed are free now to join us in the heavens as stars. Their whānau can unshoulder the burdens of grief and with hearts full of aroha, give their loved ones back to the universe from whence they came.

## **All Daughters**

We dwell here to welcome the mātē. Their journeys are over. They dwell with us forever. Tell us their names and give them to us for their safe-keeping. (people to write names on the window or cards)

## **Matariki**

Celebrate, oh dwellers of the earth. Feast of the plenty that we bestow upon you. But be mindful. We give you these koha freely but remind you that there is hard work ahead in the next year!

## **Waitī**

The tuna will not crawl across the land to you! You need to mend your hinaki. You need to ensure that you take only enough and not too much for you are the stewards of the lakes, rivers and streams!

## **Waitā**

The fish of the sea will not leap into your waka tētē unbidden! You must mend your nets, hone your fish-hooks and make your craft watertight. But do not over-fish as you are the stewards of the moana!

## Waipuna-ā-rangi

Remember people of the Earth that the rains sustain but the kākano need to be planted.

## Tupu-ā-nuku

I give the abundance of the soils to you but Kāheru, Timo and Kō do not wield themselves. Make calloused your hands with the mahi of planting.

## Tupu-ā-rangi

I offer to you the plenty of the forests but the kereru will not fly into your bellies. The work is hard as well as the responsibility. Without birds there are no eggs. Without eggs there are no birds. Harvest these taunga but do not plunder for you are the stewards of the Ngāhere.

## Ururangi

And I will shake the seeds from the trees. I will ensure that life in the forest will continue but it is under your stewardship to tend and protect the koha I bring to you.

## Matariki

I, the mother of you all will be here, watching and ensuring your wellbeing, even when you can't see me. Look upon me now and celebrate my presence as your yearly omen of good fortune and health!

My beloved daughters bestow upon you gifts beyond price. You are both benefactors and givers. By the force of your hands and the sweat of your brows, you work with us to bring plenty to the Earth.

## ALL

We give our gifts freely. Take them. Use them freely. But care for them and share them. For you are not the owners but the caretakers of this world.



## Extra Resources

See below for an excellent resource regarding Mātauranga Māori and science!

 [www.sciencelearn.org.nz/topics/m%C4%81tauranga-m%C4%81ori](http://www.sciencelearn.org.nz/topics/m%C4%81tauranga-m%C4%81ori)

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If a summative assessment opportunity is needed for this activity, the following could be undertaken:

- Prepared speeches covering the ecological aspects of this activity
- Prepared 'public service' posters

See link below for creative ways to gain insight of learning through formative assessment.

 <http://blog.futurefocusedlearning.net/15-assessment-activities-fast-formative>

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# Curriculum links

## The Arts — Drama

### Understanding drama in context

Investigate the functions and purposes of drama in cultural and historical contexts.

### Developing practical knowledge

Use techniques and relevant technologies to explore drama elements and conventions.

### Developing ideas

Initiate and develop ideas with others to create drama.

### Communicating and interpreting

Present and respond to drama, identifying ways in which elements, techniques, conventions, and technologies combine to create meaning in their own and others' work.

## Science

### Participating and contributing

Use their growing science knowledge when considering issues of concern to them.

### Earth systems

Appreciate that water, air, rocks and soil, and life forms make up our planet and recognise that these are also Earth's resources.

### Astronomical systems

Investigate the components of the solar system, developing an appreciation of the distances between them.