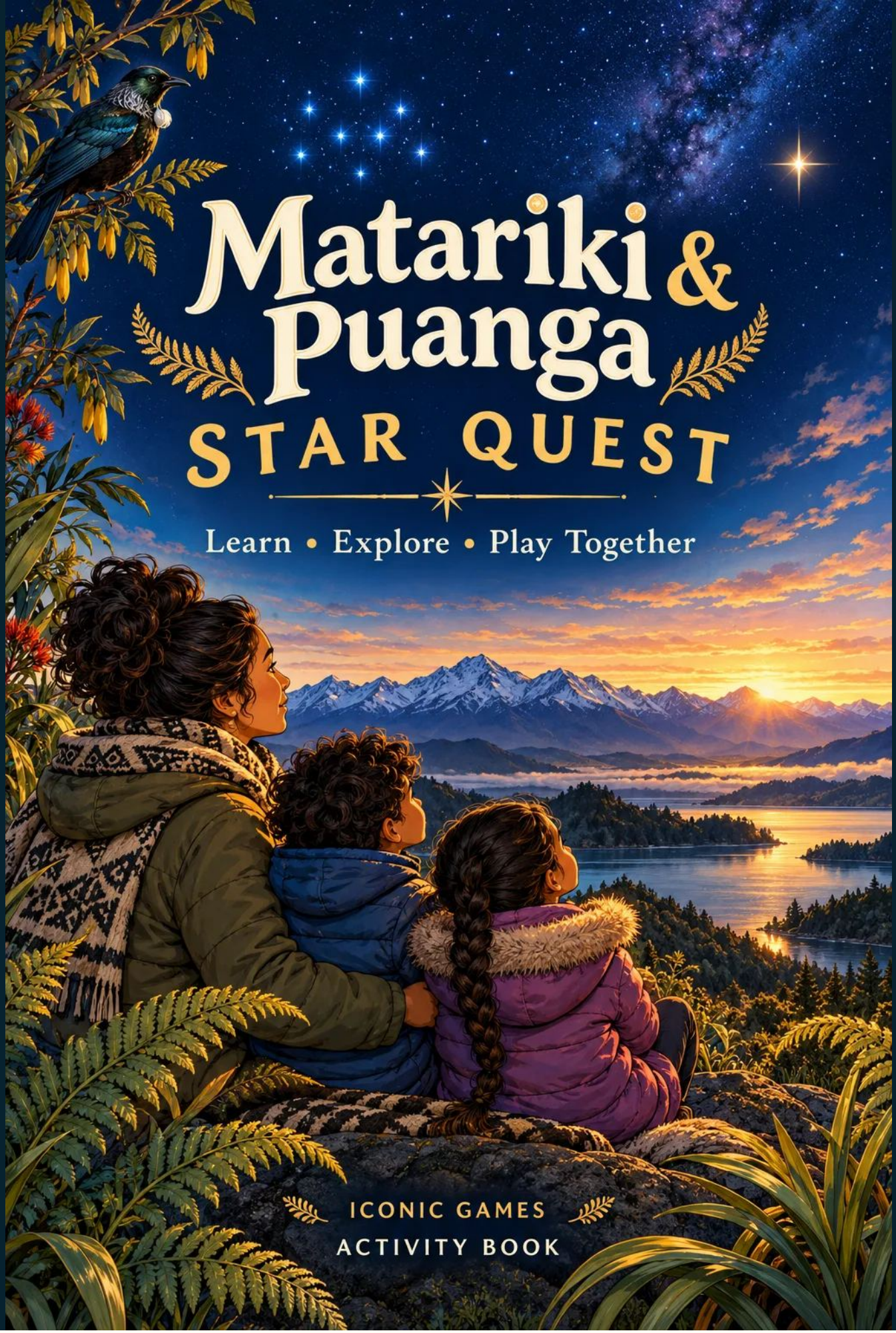


This book belongs to: _____

A Dawn Full of Possibilities

An original fictional story by Iconic Games, informed by the sources on page 40. It is not a traditional iwi pūrākau.



The grass was cold beneath Hana’s boots. Beside her, her little brother Tama tucked his hands into his pockets. Nana had brought blankets, and together they watched the dark sky above the lake.

“Are we looking for one star or lots?” asked Tama. “Both,” said Nana. “Matariki is a cluster of stars. Puanga is a separate star. Different iwi and places have different ways of welcoming the Māori new year.”

Hana looked from the sky to the trees and water around them. Nana explained that learning about the stars could also lead them to learning about the world close to home: gardens, rivers, the sea, rain and wind.

“Will the quest have treasure?” Tama asked. Nana smiled. “You might find a new word, a question to ask, or a way to help someone. Those are treasures too.”

They remembered Koro, who had loved telling stories beside the garden. Hana shared a funny memory. Tama listened. For a little while, no one needed to say anything.

As the sky grew lighter, they talked about the meal they would share later. Hana wanted to help Nana prepare vegetables. Tama wanted to set a place for everyone.

“What do you hope to learn?” asked Nana. “The star names,” said Hana. “And how our whānau celebrates.” Tama thought carefully. “I want to grow something we can share.”

Nana opened a notebook. “Then your Star Quest has already begun: remember, enjoy what we have together, and think about what comes next.” Hana drew a small star at the top of the page. There was room beneath it for many discoveries.

What Did You Discover?

Look back at the story. Choose an answer, then add your own idea.

1. Who brought the blankets? (Hana / Nana / Tama)

2. Which is a separate star? (Puanga / Matariki)

3. What did Hana want to learn? (Star names and whānau traditions / How to fly a kite)

4. Number these events: talking about hopes / arriving at the lake / remembering Koro.

5. What was a treasure in this story? Explain your idea.

Draw a moment you would like to remember.

Matariki and Puanga

Matariki is a star cluster. Puanga is the star also called Rigel, outside that cluster. Both can be important signs of the Māori new year. Kōrero and timing vary between iwi, hapū and places.

1. A star cluster (Matariki / Puanga / Both)

---

2. Also called Rigel (Matariki / Puanga / Both)

---

3. A time to learn and gather (Matariki / Puanga / Both)

---

4. A separate bright star (Matariki / Puanga / Both)

---

5. Includes the named star Waitī (Matariki / Puanga / Both)

---

6. Connected with local traditions (Matariki / Puanga / Both)

Look Towards the Stars

Plan a winter sky watch with a trusted adult. Look for guidance from your local community and a reliable sky guide: visibility depends on location, weather, date and time.



- [ ] Dress warmly.
- [ ] Choose a safe place away from traffic and water edges.
- [ ] Check the weather and local viewing advice.
- [ ] Look before sunrise when locally advised; never look at the Sun.

1. Which is a group of stars? (Matariki / Puanga)

2. Which is one star also known as Rigel? (Matariki / Puanga)

3. My safe viewing place and trusted adult:

4. A question for a local star guide:

Draw what you observed, or imagine a safe sky-watch scene. Artwork in this book is illustrative, not a sky chart.

Meet the Stars

This book introduces a nine-star account of Matariki. Other kōrero recognise seven named stars. Puanga is introduced separately; it is not a tenth star in the cluster.

✦ Matariki
Wellbeing and being together

✦ Tupuānuku
Kai grown in the ground

✦ Tupuārangi
Birds and foods from trees

✦ Waitī
Freshwater and its life

✦ Waitā
The ocean and its life

✦ Waipunarangi
Rain

✦ Ururangi
Winds

✦ Pōhutukawa
Remembering people who have died

✦ Hiwa-i-te-rangi
Hopes and aspirations

> Puanga / Rigel is a separate star, honoured in its own regional traditions.

1. How many named Matariki stars are introduced in this book? (7 / 9 / 10)

2. Is Puanga part of the Matariki cluster? (Yes / No)

Matariki: Wellbeing and Togetherness

Matariki connects with wellbeing and people coming together. Small caring actions can help a whānau feel welcome.



1. Circle or choose the caring action. (Invite someone to join in / Leave someone out)

2. A way I can help at a gathering:

3. Someone I can spend time with:

4. Three things that help me feel well:

Puanga: A Different View

Some iwi and communities give Puanga special prominence in marking the new year. Preparing gardens, gathering kai and sharing knowledge can be part of local traditions. Ask your whānau or local iwi about their own practices.



1. Puanga is also known as… (Rigel / Venus / The Moon)

2. Choose the order: share kai / tend a garden / gather ready crops.

3. What could help food last longer? (Leave it in the sun / Store it safely)

4. Who could help me learn about local Puanga or Matariki traditions?

Tupuānuku: Kai from the Ground

Tupuānuku connects with food grown in the ground. Trace from the gardener’s START dot through the māra kai to FINISH beside the kūmara basket. Use a finger, stylus or mouse online, or a pencil on paper.



1. Kūmara belongs with… (Ground-grown kai / Foods from trees)

---

2. Carrots belong with… (Ground-grown kai / Foods from trees)

---

3. Tree berries belong with… (Ground-grown kai / Foods from trees)

Tupuārangi: Above the Ground

Tupuārangi connects with birds and foods from trees. Look closely at the illustration before answering.



1. Find the bird with a white throat tuft. (Tūī / Kererū / Pīwakawaka)

2. Find the bird with a spread fan-shaped tail. (Tūī / Kererū / Pīwakawaka)

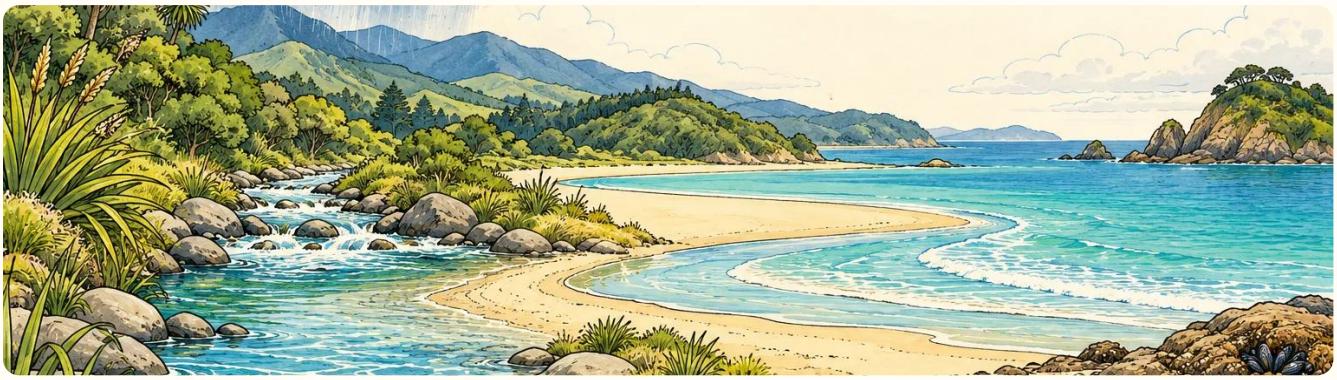
3. Which grows on a tree? (Berries / Carrots)

4. Name or draw something you notice above the ground.

Design a bird-friendly garden corner.

Waitī: Freshwater Connections

Waitī connects with freshwater and the life it supports. Rivers, lakes and streams are freshwater habitats.



1. A lake (Freshwater / Saltwater)

2. The open ocean (Freshwater / Saltwater)

3. A stream (Freshwater / Saltwater)

4. A coastal bay (Freshwater / Saltwater)

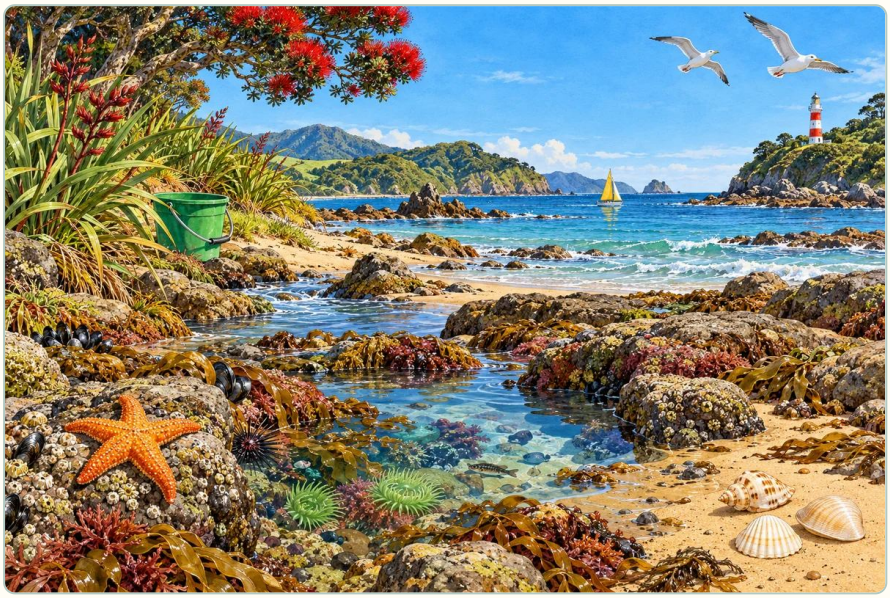
5. Which action protects a stream? (Keep rubbish out / Tip paint into a drain)

6. Follow the stream with your finger. Where does it meet the sea?

Waitā: Our Moana

Waitā connects with the ocean and its life. Compare the coastal scenes: find eight changes to real objects in the picture. Tap a change in either picture online, or circle it on paper.

Picture A



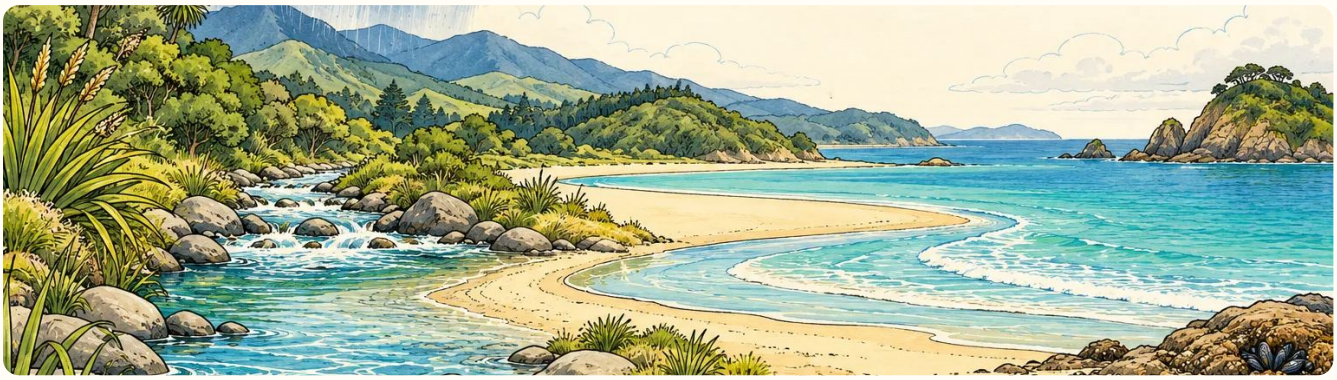
Picture B



1. One way I can care for the moana:

Waipunarangi: The Rain

Waipunarangi connects with rain. Water moves between the sky, land and waterways.



1. What falls from rain clouds? (Rain / Pebbles / Leaves)

2. Number the journey: water runs to streams / rain falls / water warms and evaporates.

3. A plant receives 2 cups of rainwater on Monday and 3 on Tuesday. How many cups altogether?

4. Where could rainwater go near your home?

Draw a cloud, rain, a stream and the sea. Add arrows to show a water journey.

Ururangi: Follow the Wind

Ururangi connects with winds. Look at the bending tree, windsock, blowing leaves and kite. Follow the arrows one place at a time from START. Tap the places online or draw the route on paper. This is a movement puzzle, not a weather forecast.

→ → ↓ ← ↓ →



1. Start at row 1, column 1. Follow the arrows. Which row do you finish in? (1 / 2 / 3 / 4)

2. Which column do you finish in? (1 / 2 / 3 / 4)

3. What could show that wind is blowing? (Leaves moving / A still stone)

4. Describe or draw a gentle wind and a strong wind.

Design a windsock using repeated shapes.

Pōhutukawa: Remembering

Pōhutukawa connects with remembering people who have died. You may share a memory, keep it private, or skip this page. You can also choose a treasured whānau memory.

1. A person or memory I would like to honour:

2. Something special I remember:

3. A story, place, song or kindness connected with this memory:

Draw something that represents your memory. You do not have to draw a person.

Hiwa-i-te-rangi: Hopes Ahead

Hiwa-i-te-rangi connects with hopes and aspirations. A hope can become a small, achievable first step.

1. Something I hope to learn:

2. Something I hope to try:

3. A kindness I hope to share:

4. My first step will be:

5. Someone who could help:

Who Am I? Star Riddles

Use the word bank to solve ten original riddles. Each answer is used once.

Word bank: Matariki · Puanga · Tupuānuku · Tupuārangi · Waitī · Waitā · Waipunarangi · Ururangi · Pōhutukawa · Hiwa-i-te-rangi

1. I am a cluster, not one light. Families learn my names when they look up at the winter sky.

2. Another name for me is Rigel. I am separate from the cluster.

3. Think of carrots, kūmara and gardens when you think of me.

4. Think of tree berries and birds when you think of me.

5. Streams and lakes help you remember my name.

6. The ocean is my clue.

7. Raindrops are my clue.

8. A breeze or a gust is my clue.

9. A quiet memory of someone who has died belongs with me.

10. A dream and a first step for the future belong with me.

First Star Wordfind

Find eight words. They run left to right or top to bottom. Tap the first and last letter online, or circle each word on paper.

P	O	O	I	O	O	I	M	W	O
U	W	N	I	N	N	W	T	M	I
O	S	E	A	W	R	A	T	O	I
I	T	W	P	S	R	A	I	N	U
W	O	A	U	T	R	R	W	R	M
I	P	R	A	A	E	A	H	T	O
N	M	O	N	R	W	O	Ā	P	O
D	T	R	G	P	O	I	N	K	N
I	I	N	A	W	U	M	A	P	A
E	N	R	W	K	A	I	U	I	R

PUANGA · WHĀNAU · STAR · RAIN · WIND · MOON · KAI · SEA

Star Quest Wordfind Challenge

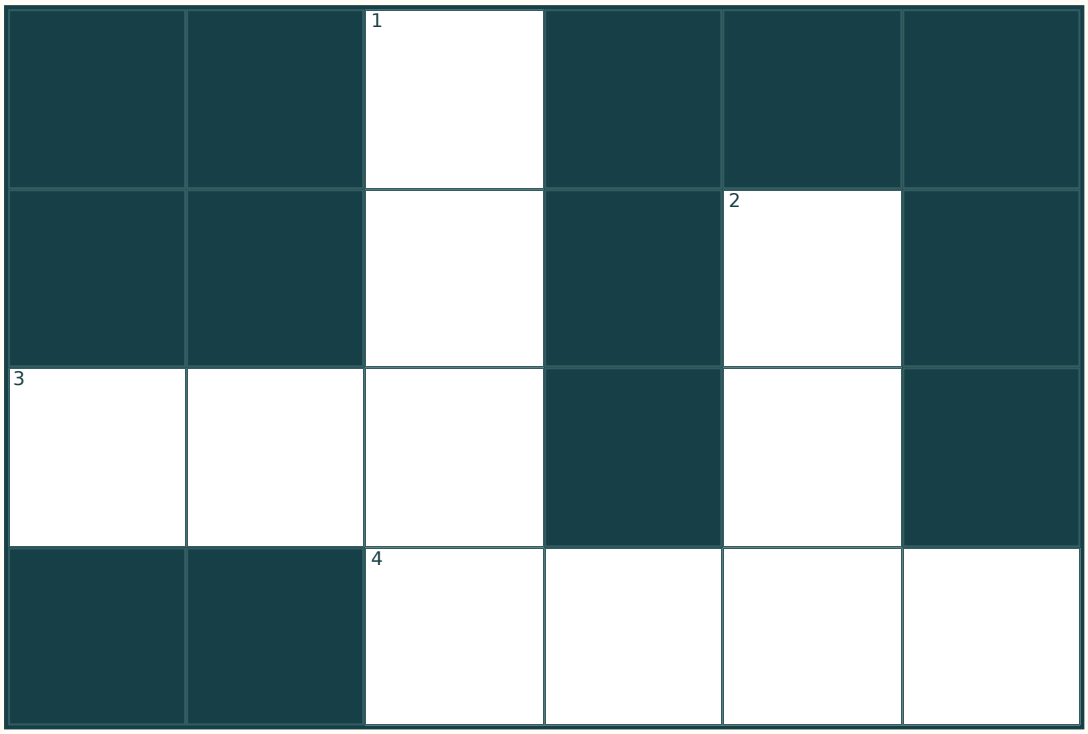
Find the nine Matariki star names and Puanga. Words may run diagonally or backwards. HIWA is the shortened puzzle form of Hiwa-i-te-rangi.

E	M	W	P	W	O	U	N	N	N	I	P	N	W	E
U	U	P	U	A	N	G	A	U	U	R	P	O	T	A
R	Ī	T	I	A	W	N	E	N	O	N	P	T	W	N
U	A	M	I	G	N	A	R	A	N	U	P	I	A	W
R	M	M	E	K	O	Ā	T	I	A	W	A	I	I	P
A	U	W	R	E	W	T	R	E	A	T	O	A	W	U
N	I	T	N	K	R	W	R	A	M	K	I	K	M	E
G	T	P	I	E	W	I	K	I	R	A	T	A	M	P
I	M	R	O	T	K	N	W	E	H	I	W	A	U	K
M	I	N	U	K	U	N	Ā	U	P	U	T	P	R	K
R	P	M	A	T	P	E	K	T	E	P	I	O	R	M
P	N	P	A	R	O	A	T	K	U	M	R	K	E	O
O	P	Ō	H	U	T	U	K	A	W	A	U	I	W	R
K	I	P	I	W	T	P	E	M	O	P	T	E	T	U
A	W	K	T	U	P	U	Ā	R	A	N	G	I	E	M

WAIPUNARANGI · TUPUĀRANGI · PŌHUTUKAWA · TUPUĀNUKU · MATARIKI · URURANGI · PUANGA · WAITĪ · WAITĀ · HIWA

Picture-Clue Crossword

Use the word bank and clues. Write one letter in each white square. The little numbers show where answers begin.



Across

3. ≈ Another English word for the ocean. (3)

4. ☂ Water falling from clouds. (4)

Down

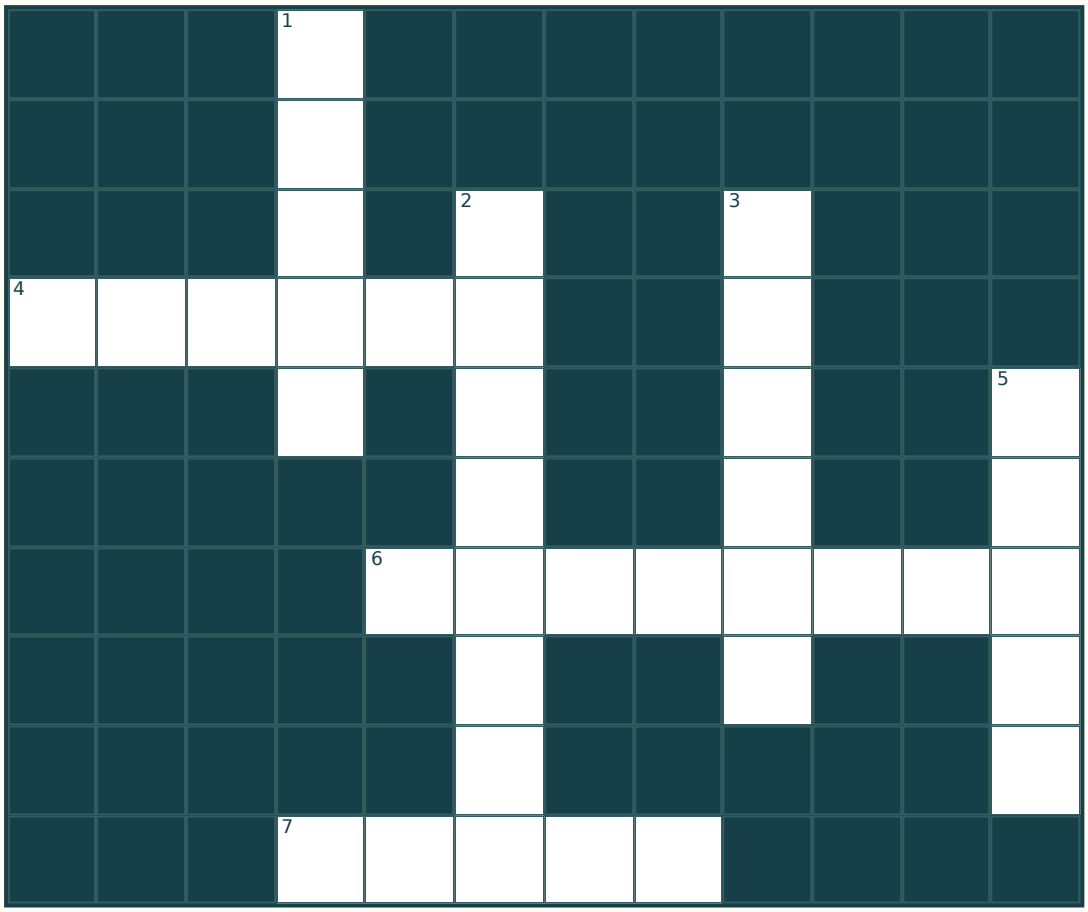
1. ★ A light far away in the night sky. (4)

2. ◡ A Māori word for food. (3)

Word bank: STAR · RAIN · KAI · SEA

Crossword Challenge

Use your learning pages to solve the clues. Macrons belong to their letters: Ā takes one square. Plain-letter typing is accepted online and the answer key shows correct spelling.



Across

4. The star also called Rigel. (6)

6. The star connected with winds. (8)

7. The star connected with the ocean. (5)

Down

1. A Māori word for ocean. (5)

2. The star cluster in this book’s title. (8)

3. A Māori word for family. (6)

5. The star connected with freshwater. (5)

Spot the Difference: Whānau Gathering

Compare the whānau gathering scenes. Find ten changes in the actual kai, garden objects and scene details. Tap a change in either picture online, or circle it on paper.

Picture A



Picture B



Hidden Treasures of the Picture

Search the ngahere for twelve treasures: some are tucked among leaves and logs, and others are natural features. Match the picture checklist. Tap each find online or circle it on paper.




Feather


Kite


Notebook


Spiral shell


Red bottle


Woven basket


Backpack


Mossy log


Waterfall


White flowers


Koru fronds

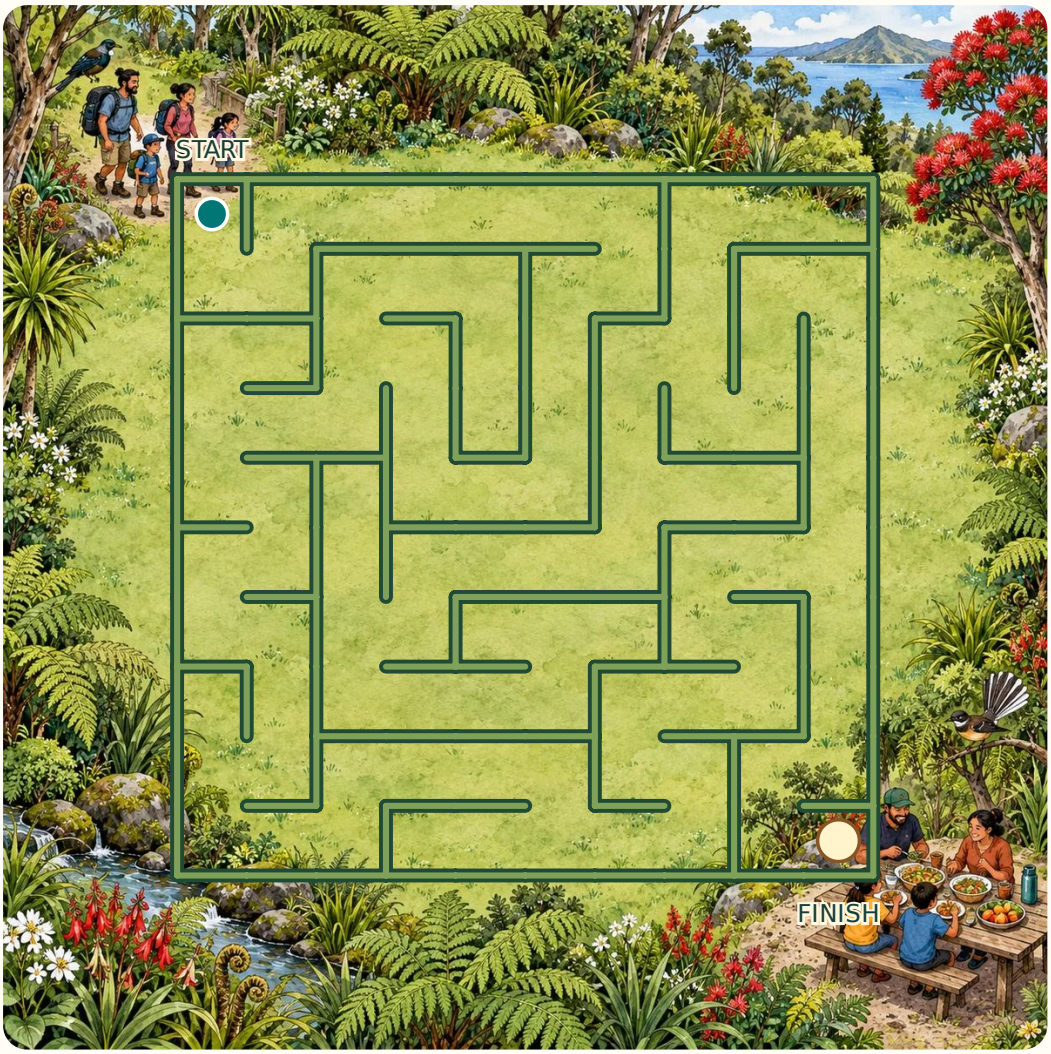

Red flowers

1. Choose one found object that belongs with nature:

2. Choose one object connected with learning:

Journey to the Gathering

Help the whānau follow the paths through the clearing to the shared kai. Trace from START to FINISH with a finger, stylus or mouse online, or a pencil on paper.



1. Before leaving, what could you bring to share?

2. What could you say to welcome someone new?

Crack the Star Code

Use A=1, B=2, …, Z=26. A slash marks a new word. Decode the message, then make a short code for someone else.

3–1–18–5 / 1–14–4 / 19–8–1–18–5

A=1 · B=2 · C=3 · D=4 · E=5 · F=6 · G=7 · H=8 · I=9 · J=10 · K=11 · L=12 · M=13 · N=14 · O=15 · P=16 · Q=17 · R=18 · S=19 · T=20 · U=21 · V=22 · W=23 · X=24 · Y=25 · Z=26

1. The secret message is:

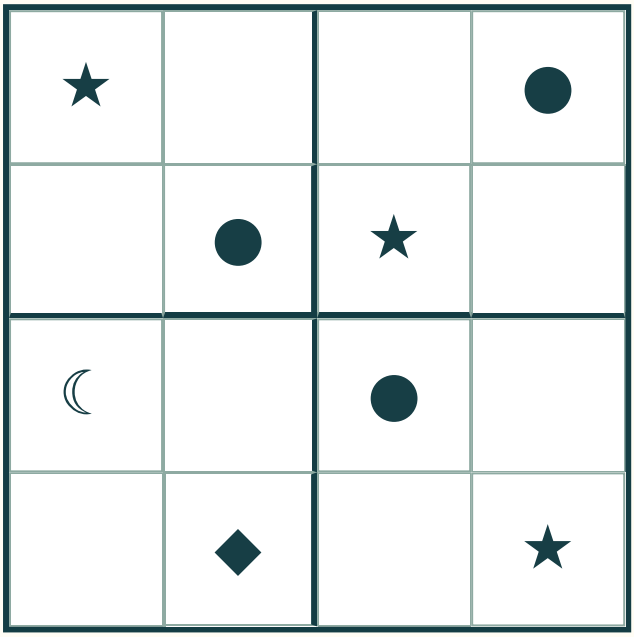
2. My own coded message:

3. My message means:

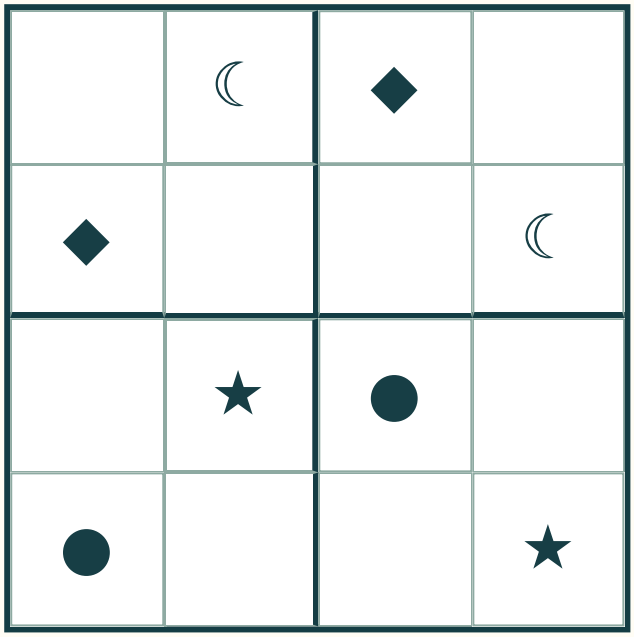
Star Sudoku

Use the four symbols: ★ star, ☾ moon, ◆ diamond, ● circle. Each row, column and outlined 2 × 2 box must contain all four once.

Puzzle 1



Puzzle 2



Who Brought the Kai?

Hana, Tama and Nana each brought one different item: bread, soup or apples. Read all three clues, then solve the table.

1. Nana brought the soup.
2. Tama did not bring bread.
3. Hana did not bring apples.

1. Hana brought… (Bread / Soup / Apples)

---

2. Tama brought… (Bread / Soup / Apples)

---

3. Nana brought… (Bread / Soup / Apples)

Our Changing Sky

A maramataka connects observations of the moon and natural world with local knowledge. Calendars and practices vary. This diary records what YOU notice; it is not a universal maramataka.

1. My place and the adult helping me observe:

2. What local seasonal knowledge would I like to learn?

Day / date	Moon or sky	Weather	Something in nature

Plan a Whānau Kai

Plan a meal to share. Think about what is available, what people enjoy and any food needs. A vegetarian meal is welcome too.



1. Our shared meal could be:

2. Ingredients we already have:

3. Ingredients we need:

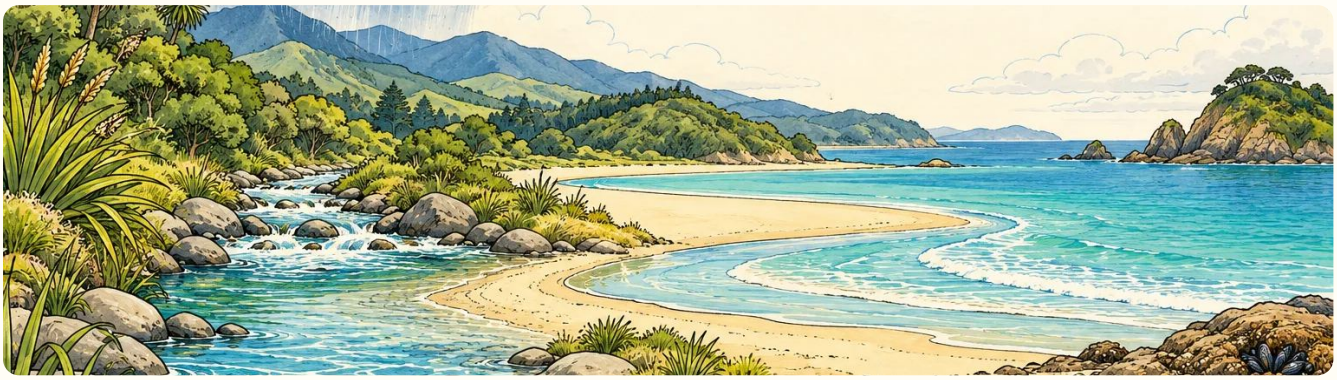
4. A seasonal vegetable or fruit we could include:

5. How can we include everyone’s food needs?

6. My helpful job will be:

Care for Our Place

Looking after land and water is part of caring for the world we share. Choose helpful actions, then plan one you can really do.



1. Take rubbish home (Helpful / Harmful)

2. Pull out native seedlings (Helpful / Harmful)

3. Keep paint and chemicals out of drains (Helpful / Harmful)

4. Leave fishing line on the beach (Helpful / Harmful)

5. Our place-care action:

6. Who can help, and when could we do it?

Kōrero with My Whānau

Invite someone to share a memory or tradition. Listen carefully. They can choose what to share, and you can keep your answers private.

1. The person I spoke with (a name or nickname is enough):

2. A winter or new-year memory they shared:

3. Something they enjoy about gathering together:

4. What do Matariki or Puanga mean to them?

5. Something I would like to ask next:

Draw an object, place or activity from their kōrero.

Create Your Own Quest

Make a small puzzle for someone else. Draw a scene, hide five objects in it, and write a riddle. Keep your answer list so you can help your solver.

1. My five hidden objects:

2. My riddle:

3. The answer to my riddle:

My puzzle scene: hide five objects in your drawing.

The Final Star Quest

Bring your discoveries together. You can look back through the book. Personal reflections have no right or wrong answer.

1. I am separate from the Matariki cluster and also called Rigel. Who am I?

2. Which star connects with freshwater? (Waitī / Waitā / Ururangi)

3. Decode 11–1–9 using A=1 to Z=26.

4. Is every iwi’s new-year tradition exactly the same? (Yes / No)

5. Name the star connected with hopes and aspirations.

6. Something I know now:

7. Something I want to keep learning:

My Star Quest Celebration

Celebrate your discoveries. You do not have to complete private reflection pages to celebrate your learning.

✦ STAR QUEST EXPLORER ✦

I have explored, asked questions and shared in learning about Matariki and Puanga.

1. This certificate belongs to:

2. My favourite activity was:

3. Something I learned about Puanga:

4. A hope I will carry forward:

5. Date:

Sources, Credits and Whānau Guidance

Original learning activities, story, puzzle masters and page design: Iconic Games. Original illustrations generated for this edition using OpenAI image generation. This is a new edition, not the earlier PDF.

Learning notes were checked against the sources below in October 2026. Names and traditions have regional variations. This book uses Tupuānuku and Tupuārangi; some sources use Tipuānuku and Tipuārangi. Learn the forms used by your whānau, hapū and iwi.

Puanga is Rigel, separate from the Matariki cluster. The book introduces a nine-star account without claiming it is the only account. For local tikanga and viewing advice, ask knowledgeable people in your community.

The opening story is original fiction. Artwork is illustrative, not an accurate sky map or a depiction of a named marae or ceremony. No traditional song lyrics, copied source illustrations or recordings are reproduced.

Print pages 1–34 for the activity book; pages 35–40 include solutions and sources. Online answers and drawings are saved only in this browser on this device. No names or reflections are uploaded. A browser reset can remove local work.

Young learners may work with whānau. Reflection is optional; remembering someone can be quiet and private. Sky watching, cooking and outdoor activities need appropriate adult support.

1. Te Papa: stars of Matariki; text credited to Rangi Matamua
   https://www.tepapa.govt.nz/digital-museum/explore-digital-museum/matariki-maori-new-year/what-and-who-matariki/stars-matariki
2. Te Papa: Puanga and regional traditions; kōrero from Che Wilson
   https://www.tepapa.govt.nz/digital-museum/explore-digital-museum/matariki-maori-new-year/matariki-regional-variations/difference
3. Te Papa: seven or nine stars and regional variation
   https://www.tepapa.govt.nz/digital-museum/explore-digital-museum/matariki-maori-new-year/matariki-regional-variations/matariki
4. Matariki.com: principles and values
   https://www.matariki.com/about
5. Te Papa: finding Matariki
   https://www.tepapa.govt.nz/digital-museum/explore-digital-museum/matariki-maori-new-year