

6.13 Rangi's tears

Topic: Conservation

Subtopic: Water conservation

Activity type/skill: Recognising pronouns

Literacy focus: Reading

Genre: Information reports

Objective

- Identify pronouns.

What you need

- Student worksheet (see next page)

What to do

1. Look at the student worksheet and talk about the spiritual importance of water for Māori and in other cultures.
2. Read the story aloud to the students.
3. Have them draw a line from the underlined pronouns to the word(s) they refer to.
4. Read the story aloud again.
5. Talk about the Māori words that are used to describe water. Ask students about the words that are used to describe water in their language and compare them.

Extending the activity

- Find Māori place names on a map of New Zealand and identify any links with water.

Rangi's tears



In the beginning there were Rangi (the sky) and Papa (the earth). Everything was in darkness.

Rangi and Papa, his wife, lay closely together. Their children were caught between them. They needed space and light and struggled hopelessly.

Finally, Tāne-Māhuta, the strongest of their children, pushed against Rangi with his powerful legs. He pushed him up and away from Papa.

After they were separated, Rangi cried for his wife. His tears are said to be the rain and dew which fall on her forever.

Water is so important in Māori tradition that there are different ways to describe it:

wai	water
waiora	the purest form of water, the source of life and health
waimāori	ordinary clean fresh water
waikino	polluted water
waitai	the sea, salt water, the surf and the tide.