

Traditional Māori and Pākehā Games and Pastimes

Equipment

- > Kites
- > Knucklebones
- > Tops
- > String
- > Hoops
- > Sticks (rolled-up newspaper/magazines)
- > Long skipping rope
- > Music

Achievement objectives

Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:

- > features of the culture and heritage of their own and other groups (Social Studies Level 1)
- > how people interact within their cultural groups and with other cultural groups. (Social Studies Level 2).

Learning outcomes

- > Use an inquiry method to work systematically through an investigation.
- > Demonstrate an understanding of aspects of culture and heritage of Māori and Pākehā communities.

Suggested assessment

Give students an opportunity to reflect on how well they completed various tasks and what would they have done differently. Ask students to:

- > name one traditional game that was played by each – Māori and Pākehā children
- > describe how the game was played by Māori children
- > describe how the game was played by Pākehā children.

Ask them:

- > What similarities were there between the Māori and the Pākehā game?
- > What differences were there between the Māori and the Pākehā game?

Notes

- > Aspects of this lesson have been adapted from *The Berkley Social Studies Programme*, Berkley Publishing 1995.

Before the lesson

Although not necessary, it would be helpful for students to have worked through the inquiry method of learning previously. This includes:

- > focusing and planning
- > information gathering
- > processing and interpreting
- > reporting
- > social action.

Useful resources

Te Ao Kori (www.health.tki.org.nz). This resource has a section on games and pastimes and shows links to other curriculum areas.

- > *School Journals*:
 - The Games of Nanny Miro 1988, Part 2, No 2
 - Making a Spinning Top 1990, Part 4, No 1
 - Tāku the Top Maker 1990, Part 4, No 1
- > General publications:
 - *Games and Dances of the Māori People* by Alan Armstrong
 - *The Traditional Games of England, Scotland and Ireland* by Alice Gomme.



Teaching and learning

Focusing and planning

- > Discuss with students what they already know about traditional Māori and Pākehā games and pastimes, and what they'd like to know. Record their ideas. Possible questions could include:
 - What do we already know about this topic?
 - Give some examples of traditional games.
 - What do we want to find out?
 - What information will we need to help us?
 - Where and how will we get this information?

Information gathering

- > In small groups. Students play some of the games mentioned and complete the first column of the information-gathering sheet (see below).
- > Students use resources such as library books, school journals and the internet to find out about different games traditionally played by both Māori and Pākehā children and to complete the second column of the information-gathering sheet (it already has some information to help them to get started).

What next?

- > Students discuss and share their findings with other groups.
- > Students play some of the games and pastimes again. This time they complete the third column of the information-gathering sheet (see the Tītītōrea activity card).
- > Think about and discuss questions such as:
 - Why were many of the games and pastimes of Māori and Pākehā children the same?
 - How and why did they make their own equipment?
- > Report on findings in various forms such as:
 - a mural of the different games played by Māori and Pākehā children last century
 - a wall story display describing traditional games and pastimes
 - a demonstration of the different types of traditional games and pastimes.
- > Buddy up with other classes and teach others how to play some of the different games.
- > Make some of the games/pastimes such as kites, tops (circle of paper and pencil), stilts and sledges.

Traditional Māori and Pākehā Games and Pastimes

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| <p>Game/Pastime Starter information adapted from <i>The Berkley Social Studies Programme</i>, Berkley Publishing 1995.</p> | <p>Knucklebones This game has been played all over the world.</p> <p>It was known to Māori as 'kōruru' and played with five pebbles. Pākehā often used small bones from the join in the knee of a sheep.</p> <p>The pebbles are placed on the ground in front of the player. To start the game, a single pebble is thrown in the air. The player then snatches a pebble from the ground and holds it while catching the other pebble. The player keeps doing this until all the pebbles have been snatched. Various other movements are also played.</p> |
| <p>Kites</p> <p>Kites were used by adults and children. Māori call kites 'manu' (bird) or 'pākau' (wing). They were sometimes made in the shape of birds with a head, wings, feet and colourful feathers.</p> <p>The frame for the kite was made using stems of rushes and strips of leaves, tied together with flax twine.</p> <p>Pākehā children also made their own square kites with pieces of light wood for the frame, string and brown paper glued over the frame. The tail was made from rolls of paper tied to a long piece of string.</p> | <p>String games String games were popular all over the world, including New Zealand. Māori call string games 'whai' and the figures made were given names and represented places and Māori legends.</p> <p>Children and adults created designs and patterns with a cord stretched between the hands. Sometimes, for complex figures, a helper was needed to hold the loops and sometimes the toes and teeth were used to hold a string.</p> <p>Pākehā children played a game called Cat's Cradle.</p> |
| <p>Sledges</p> <p>Māori children used sledges that were usually made from planks of wood. Sometimes they had carved designs at the front – some with fierce faces and shell eyes.</p> <p>Pākehā children also made sledges – from all sorts of things, including the curved boards from barrels, old planks of wood, roofing iron and sometimes the leaves of nikau palms. Candle grease or lard was rubbed on the bottom of the sledge to make it slide faster and water was poured over the hillside to make a slippery track.</p> | <p>Hoops</p> <p>Māori children made hoops by bending stems of vines into a circle and tying them. They would play a team game called 'porotiti' where they would throw a stick so it bounced over a line. The opposite team would try to stop it crossing the line by hitting it with a stick.</p> <p>Pākehā children would try to keep a hoop rolling for as long as possible by hitting it with a stick.</p> |
| <p>Tops</p> <p>Two types of tops were popular amongst Māori and Pākehā: the whip top and the humming top.</p> <p>The whip top was used with a flax whip wound around the top. Children would make the top spin by quickly pulling the whip away, and keep it spinning by continuing to whip it. The challenge was to see who could keep their top spinning the longest.</p> <p>Humming tops were similar to whip tops except for their handles which were on the top. Some string would be wound around this handle and the children would pull the string quickly away to start the top spinning. It made a humming sound while spinning.</p> <p>Māori children call tops 'pōtaka' and made them from stone or wood. Pākehā children usually made theirs from wood.</p> | <p>Stilts</p> <p>There were many games that Māori and Pākehā played with stilts, including races through puddles and who could stay on the longest.</p> <p>Māori made stilts from forked branches with their feet in the fork of each branch. Pākehā made stilts from long wooden sticks with a block of wood nailed to each for them to stand on.</p> |
| <p>Skipping</p> <p>Skipping was popular amongst Māori and Pakeha. They would skip in groups and by themselves chanting to the beat of the rope. Skipping ropes were made from flax ropes and vines.</p> | |

Information-gathering sheet

| Games/Pastimes | Experiment with the equipment to describe games or activities that you think were played by Māori and Pākehā children. | Use resources (books, internet) to find out what games were played by Māori and Pākehā children. | Play the games and record the similarities and differences between Māori and Pākehā games. |
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| Kites | | | |
| Knucklebones/tops | | | |
| String games | | | |
| Hoops and sticks (could use rulers) | | | |
| Long skipping rope/stilts | | | |