

Whakapapa research guide

Introduction to whakapapa research

Kupu whakataki ki te rangahau whakapapa

Whakapapa is about people: it is a link to tūpuna, to heritage, to identity. For Māori it is a taonga, and for many it is also tapu.

Why people search for whakapapa

There are many reasons why people search for whakapapa today:

- to find out about their identity
- to pass on to the whānau
- for succession to whenua
- for scholarship grants.

Traditionally whakapapa was entrusted orally to a member of the whānau selected to be its caretaker.



Snapshots of Māori attending a sitting of the Māori Land Court - Lake Taupō, 1914

How to start

Me pēhea te tīmata

Start with yourself and the whakapapa you already know, then speak with as many whānau as you can and write down dates of births, marriages, deaths, baptisms and places.

Often whānau can provide:

- whakapapa charts
- personal records
- family reunion books
- christening records
- military records
- family letters
- family bibles
- Māori land schedules
- photographs of tūpuna
- interesting stories.

Record your research

Download and print the [Ko tōku whānau workbook](#) to start recording your whakapapa research.

Keep note of references and sources, and include dates: that way you can always go back and make further enquiries

Tikanga Māori tips

- You might want to start and end your search with a karakia.
- Be sure not to view whakapapa near food or water, even at the kitchen table.
- Wash your hands when you finish working with whakapapa.

[Read more about tikanga Māori.](#)

Researching iwi

Te rangahau ā-iwi

Māori connect to a waka, whānau, hapū and iwi.

Identify your iwi

When researching your whakapapa, it's helpful to find out from your whānau what your iwi affiliations are.

Here are some additional sources that you might like to try:

- Māori electoral rolls – from 1872 to 1969 they recorded iwi and hapū names
- Māori birth and death certificates – recorded iwi and hapū names
- Military records - can provide iwi, hapū, next of kin, and sometimes a will. Be aware that ages recorded on military records were not always correct
- Māori Land Court minute books (MLCMB) - contain detailed information about Māori history, whakapapa and land. [View the index to the MLCMB.](#)

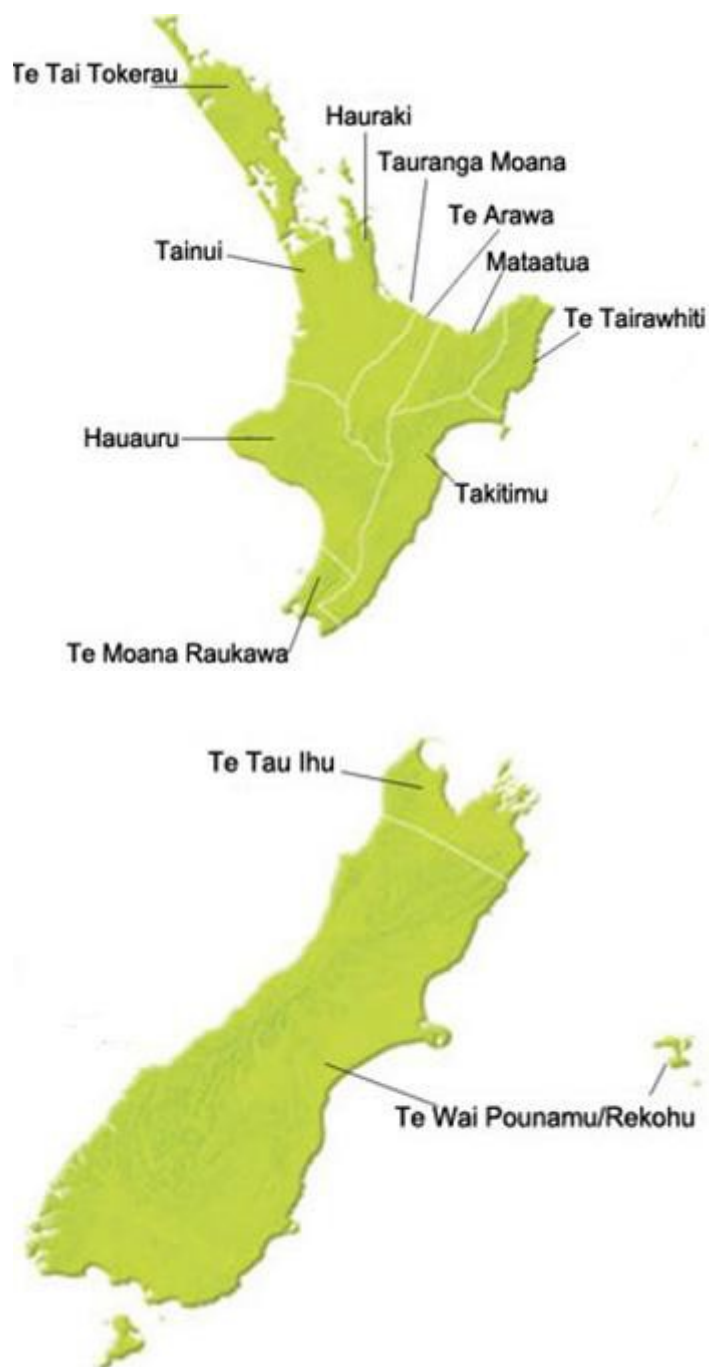
Research your iwi

Once you know your iwi affiliations you can search:

- tribal books
- iwi and rūnanga websites
- Māori Trust Board records
- [Māori Land Court minute books](#)
- [Iwidex.](#)

Tip

Visiting iwi marae can help provide further information and whakapapa.



Iwi maps

Select your iwi or hapū below and find related books in the library catalogue.

North Island

Te Tai Tokerau

- [Te Tai Tokerau](#)
- [Ngai Takoto](#)
- [Ngāti Kuri](#)

- [Te Aupouri](#)
- [Te Rarawa](#)
- [Ngāti Kahu](#)
- [Te Paatu](#)
- [Nga Puhi](#)
- [Te Roroa](#)
- [Ngati Whatua](#)

Tainui

- [Tainui](#)
- [Te Kawerau a Maki](#)
- [Ngati Paoa](#)
- [Ngati Maniapoto](#)
- [Ngāti Raukawa](#)
- [Ngati Hikairo](#)

Hauraki

- [Ngati Paoa](#)

Tauranga Moana

- [Ngati te Rangi](#)
- [Ngati Pukenga](#)
- [Ngati Ranginui](#)

Te Arawa

- [Te Arawa](#)
- [Ngati Rangiteaorere](#)
- [Ngati Tarawhai](#)
- [Ngati Tuwharetoa](#)
- [Tuhourangi](#)

Mataatua

- [Mataatua](#)
- [Ngai te Rangi](#)
- [Ngati Awa](#)
- [Ngati Ranginui](#)
- [Tuhoe](#)
- [Whakatohea](#)
- [Te Whānau a Apanui](#)

Te Tairāwhiti

- [Ngāti Porou](#)
- [Te Aitanga A Hauiti](#)
- [Ngai Tamanuhiri](#)
- [Ngati Kahungunu](#)

Takitimu

- [Takitimu](#)
- [Rangitāne](#)
- [Rongowhakaata](#)
- [Te Aitanga A Mahiki](#)
- [Ngai Tamanuhiri](#)

Te Moana Raukawa

- [Ngāti Kuia](#)
- [Ngāti Tama](#)
- [Ngati Toa](#)
- [Rangitāne](#)
- [Te Atiawa](#)

Hauauru

- [Ngā Rauru](#)
- [Nga Ruahine](#)
- [Ngāti Maru](#)
- [Ngāti Ruanui](#)
- [Ngati Tama](#)
- [Te Atiawa](#)

South Island

Te Tua Ihu

- [Rangitane](#)
- [Te Atiawa](#)
- [Ngati Kuia](#)
- [Ngati Tama](#)
- [Ngati Toa](#)

Te Wai Pounamu/Rekohu

- [Moriōri](#)
- [Ngāti Tahu](#)
- [Ngati mamoe](#)

- [Ngāti Mutunga](#)
- [Waitaha](#)

Related Link

[Māori maps](#)

Ask an expert

Pātai atu ki tētahi mātanga

Once you've gathered and recorded as much information as you can, you can [contact a research librarian](#) to ask a question.

You can also come and see one of our specialist research librarians at one of our research centres:

- [Research Central](#)
 - [Research South](#)
 - [Research North](#)
 - [Research West](#)
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