

# MAORI EXERCISES

## A - exercises

1. Look at a map of the world. Where do the Maori originally come from? Where do they live today? Make a little map showing this migration.
2. What two gods existed in the beginning? Could you consider them the creators of heaven and earth? Explain your answer.
3. What gods were involved in the creation of the Maori world and what role did each one of them play?
4. How did the different gods feel about the separation of their parents? Explain your answers.
5. What made Tawhiri so angry? Why did he cause hurricanes and tsunami?
6. The Maori creation myth also explains how other natural phenomena have come into existence. What natural phenomena were these and explain what roles the different gods played in these phenomena.
7. What two things were there at the beginning of the world, before there were gods or people?
8. How are the Maori gods like human beings?
9. What have you learned about how animals and humans came into existence, according to Maori mythology?

## B- exercises

Look at a few websites that deal with this culture and choose one or two that have images, sounds or text that you think are useful for preparing your presentation. Make a summary or a sketch of the Maori creation myth on a piece of flip chart paper. As much as possible, try to use the illustrations and images you found on the internet.

Choose one of the following exercises:

1. You are a group of Maori people who have come together in the "marae" to make and recite a poem to honor Tane. You are thankful to him for bringing light to the earth. Of course it is important to think about movement and music when reciting a Maori poem. Find examples of Maori music on the internet (if possible) and try to integrate this musical style into your recital.

or

2. Create an "action song" in which you try to explain as clearly as possible the Maori creation myth. Make it clear in your song how the different gods felt, and how they viewed the feelings that Rangi and Papa had.

or

3. Creation stories usually have many versions, since they are so ancient and have been passed down orally. Read the attached story – "Footprints of the Gods" by Hana Hiraina Erlbeck – compare it with the animated story of creation. Write a third version of the Maori creation story that is a poem, that tells the story in a different way.

## C- exercises

How is the Maori creation story different from other myths you have studied? How is it the same?

