

## STORY 2 — Te Wiki

# TE REO MĀORI AND LITERACY

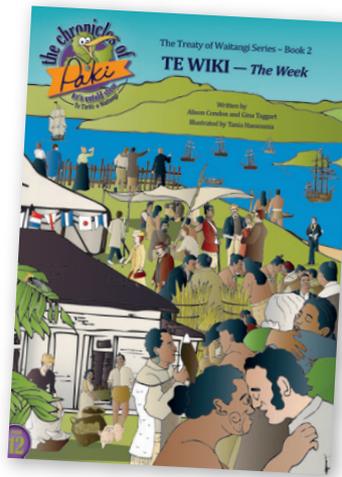
Discuss how in 1814, missionaries came to New Zealand and learned that the people living here had no written language. Te reo Māori was only ever spoken.

The missionaries believed people needed to be able to read so they could get access to information for themselves — to make their own decision on things. They of course also hoped that, with eventual access to the Bible, Māori might choose to follow the teachings of Jesus. (The idea of 'education for all' took hold and spread from the time of John Calvin, who proposed it as a response to abuses of power in the Church. The illiterate public were vulnerable to abuse because they could not read to investigate the truth of a matter for themselves. Calvin therefore proposed education for all — including for the poor).

To create a written language they had to first of all learn te reo Māori themselves.

Then they had to make te reo Māori into a written language. They did this with the help of Hongi Hika who was a powerful Ngāpuhi chief from Northland who (like many other chiefs) had travelled to Britain.

They then began translating various books into te reo Māori — the Bible being one of the first of these. Other books followed to enable education on various topics.



The next step was to teach Māori how to read and write. Māori loved this new way of storing information — by writing it down. Many of them were extremely diligent at learning this. When slaves of Ngāpuhi in Northland were released they travelled home, taking literacy with them. Māori began to teach each other to read. Some learned to read and write in a very short space of time. One very intelligent chief, Chief Wīremu Tāmihana Te Waharoa Tarapīpipi, from Matamata took only six months to learn to read and write!

Finally they established a printing press, so books could be printed.

In summary, the steps in creating a written language for Māori

- 1 Learn te reo Māori
- 2 Create a written language for te reo Māori
- 3 Translate books into te reo Māori
- 4 Teach Māori how to read and write
- 5 Print books

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## ACTIVITIES

Sometimes there was no Māori word for an English word. Discuss with class the meaning of transliteration — where a word from one language is taken and the same word is pronounced in another tongue. For example Queen Victoria = Kuini Wikitoria

Discuss with class the Māori alphabet  
a e wh g h i k m n o p r t u w

Discuss how certain letters that were missing in te reo Māori were linked to the nearest sounding letter in te reo Māori.

- English 's' became an 'h'
- 'b' became 'p' Paipera (Bible)
- 'd' became 'p' Puhipi (Busby)
- 'f' became 'p' Peuere (February)
- 'j' became 'h' Hēni (Jane)
- 'l' became 'r' Wiremu (Williams)
- 'q' became 'ku' Kuini (Queen)
- 's' became 'h' Hemi (Same)
- 'v' became 'w' Wikitoria (Victoria)
- 'x' ?
- 'y' ?
- 'z' ?

Transliterate your name into Māori name!  
eg Gina = Hina or Tina

Explain how a macron over a vowel extends the length of the sound eg:

- 'ā' = 'aah' (car)
- 'ē' = 'eeh' ('airport)
- 'ī' = 'ee' (keep)
- 'ō' = 'oo' (oar)
- 'ū' = 'uu' (you)

It is important to use and pronounce macrons correctly. If they are not pronounced correctly, the whole word can sound like a different word, or not be understood.

## ACTIVITY

Look at the Māori and English versions of Te Tiriti o Waitangi (In the Chronicles of Paki series these can be found in Book 2 of Te Wiki, or in the appendices of the Level 3 and 4 Teachers' Resource).

Find the transliterated Māori words for

- Queen Victoria
  - » *Kuini Wikitoria*
- England
  - » *Ingarangi*
- Queen's Government
  - » *Kāwanatanga a te Kuini*
- Captain William Hobson
  - » *Kāpene Wiremu Hopihana*
- Governor
  - » *Kāwana*
- New Zealand
  - » *Niu Tīreni*
- Queen
  - » *Kuini*
- Paper
  - » *Pepa*
- February
  - » *Pepuere*

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Now see if you can find the Māori words for

- Chiefs
  - » *Rangatira*
- Chieftanship
  - » *Rangatiratanga*
- Land
  - » *Whenua*
- Peace
  - » *Rongo*
- Good Order
  - » *Ngā tikanga*
- Governorship
  - » *Kāwanatanga*
- People
  - » *Tāngata*
- English
  - » *Ingarihi*
- Tribe
  - » *iwi*
- First
  - » *Tuatahi*
- Second
  - » *Tuarua*
- Possessions/Treasure
  - » *Taonga*
- Third
  - » **Tuatoru**
- English People
  - » *Tāngata o Ingarangi*
- Name
  - » *Ingoa*
- Sixth Day
  - » *Ra ono*
- Year of our Lord
  - » *Te tau o to tātou Ariki*

Go online to find the following words

- I
- Friend
- Teacher
- Give
- Gift
- I will give a gift to my friend
- I will give a gift to my teacher