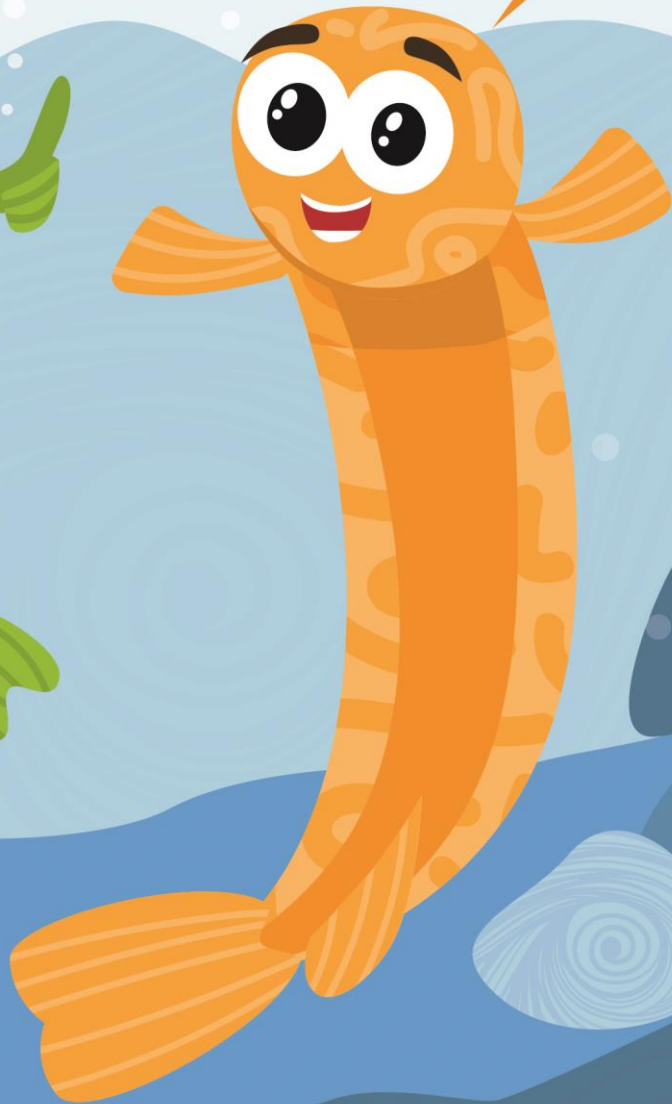


HE PUNA WAI

Hi I'm Ian the
Inanga

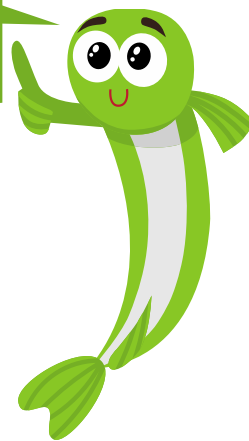


I'm Koro the
Kokopu



Water in Taranaki

Kia ora, I'm Ian the Inanga. Let's learn about water!



Activity	Subject Areas	Inquiry Stage
I	Science and English	I. Rukua: Immerse

Q Overview

This activity introduces the learning context of water. Students learn about the importance of water in their lives and create a pepeha about their connections to water and the land.

Key Concepts	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Water is an important part of our lives and region.• We are connected to water in the environment.

🔗 Curriculum links

New Zealand Curriculum

Learning Areas	Levels	Years
Science: Planet Earth and Beyond	3-4	5-8
English: Speaking, writing and presenting		

🧠 Learning intentions

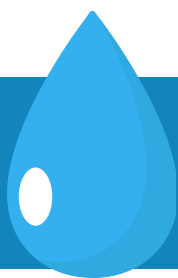
Students are learning to:

- Understand that water is an important part of the wider ecosystem and their lives.
- Express their connections to water and land.

📖 Success criteria

Students can:

- Describe the importance of water in their lives.
- Present a pepeha to describe their connections to water and land.



Wai is water in te reo Māori.

Water is essential for

Background information: Water in Taranaki



Whakatauki
'Taranaki he puna
wai e kore e mimiti,
ka koropupū tonu ka
koropupū tonu'

Taranaki, the source of our water and giver of life to our people. The springs of Taranaki will never be diminished, they will continue to flow and provide sustenance to the people of Taranaki.

The above whakatauki speaks of the springs of Taranaki that will continue to sustain our people forever. A whakatauki is a Māori proverb which speaks in a poetic way to explain an idea. The language used is often figurative, not literal. There is often more than one way to interpret a whakatauki.

A puna is a spring: an area where water naturally bubbles up from the ground

Water in Taranaki

Taranaki Maunga is an enduring symbol of identity which connects and unites all Taranaki people to Taranaki whenua/land and place. It is a source of life and energy that will always sustain its people.



The legend of Taranaki Maunga tells of the movement of the mountain from the central plateau to Taranaki and with this, the creation of rivers and streams. See other resources (page 5) to hear the legend.

All water in the region comes from Taranaki Maunga. The *awa*, which are living and breathing ancestors, then carry the life-giving water down to the plains and its inhabitants and ultimately to the sea, providing safe passage for the children of Tangaroa.

Water forms vital parts of the Taranaki landscape: the ocean, rivers, streams, wetlands, estuaries and lakes.

The importance of water

Water was here long before humans, and life could not exist without fresh, clean water. Humans and other animals need water to survive: to drink, clean and cook with.

Water ecosystems and biodiversity

All animals and living things rely on water to survive. We have amazing native fish such as *inanga*, eels and *kōkopu* which live in our streams. A wide variety of living things are part of our aquatic ecosystems.

Te mana o te wai

The health and wellbeing of water is of vital importance and must come before other needs. We need to look after water and its sources so it can sustain the life on earth. Water is a *taonga* and should be looked after, protected and treasured. We are protecting the water for future generations. This is a truly sustainable approach. *Mana* in this context could refer to authority, priority and consideration.

Learning experience ideas: Water in Taranaki

These are suggestions only and are intended to be altered to suit your students and their needs.

Q Inquiry Stage I: Rukua Immerse in water

Start your inquiry and immerse yourself in the subject of water in Taranaki. The following resources can help to begin your journey.

Resources

Presentation:	Taranaki: He Puna Wai
Student Activity Sheet I:	Pepeha Page 6 & 7

Introducing the water learning context

- View the Taranaki: He Puna Wai presentation
- After viewing the slideshow, ask students to explain why water is important to them and important for Taranaki.
- Introduce the characters: Ian the inanga and Koro the kōkopu. This slideshow introduces the concepts of water as a taonga, mauri, te mana o te wai, and the importance of water in our lives.

Have fun with water!

Do you have any water play features in your school, such as a water slide, fountain, water troughs or a pool? Or is your school near a water source such as a river, beach, lake, stream or pond? Explore water in or near your school.

Place names in Taranaki

Ask students to think of some local place names with the above kupu/words in them, for example: Rotomanu, Waiwhakaiho.

Your pepeha connections

A pepeha is a formal greeting where people acknowledge where they come from. This includes aspects of the natural environment, for example the waterways/awa (rivers and streams) and mountains/maunga of their home. This introduction can communicate a person's connections to the land and other people.

- Read Tōku Pepeha: a from Junior Journal 53. See: <http://esolonline.tki.org.nz/Media/Instructional-Series/Junior-Journal/JJ53/Toku-Pepeha>
- Discuss how a pepeha can communicate a person's connections to the environment and other people.
- A pepeha can begin to express our connections to water, our environment and our whakapapa. It can remind us of our connections to our atua (such as Papatūānuku (the Earth Mother)).
- Students can then demonstrate their learning by completing the Student Activity Sheet 1: Pepeha on page 7.

Reflection

Students can share their pepeha and discuss how water is important to them.

Have they found anything in common with other students?

Discuss: How does water help to connect people?

Extending learning

Continue learning about water and begin a learning inquiry with Activity 2: Inquiry into water.

Other resources

Jamie Tuuta tells the legend of Taranaki Maunga (Taranaki Mouna project)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sIDRRYUfVvc>

Student Activity Sheet 1

Pepeha

Te reo Māori	English
Wai	Water
Puna	Spring
Awa	River
Maunga	Mountain
Moana	Sea
Roto	Lake
Tō ku ingoa	My name
Ngā Tai a Kupe	Tasman Sea

Kia ora, Ko
lan tōku
ingoa!



_____ 's Pepeha

Tēnā koutou katoa,

Ko _____ te mounga,

Ko _____ te awa,

Ko _____ te iwi,

Ko _____ tōku ingoa,

Nō reira, tēnā koutou katoa.

