

Where the heart lives: the enduring homesteads tying Māori to their heritage

Level: Intermediate – Teacher's notes

Article summary: Māori in New Zealand are reclaiming, or returning to, the traditional homes of their ancestors and discovering a great sense of belonging.

Time: 90 minutes

Skills: Reading, speaking, storytelling, writing

Language focus: Vocabulary, speaking, writing

Materials needed: One copy of the worksheet per student

1. Warmer

- a. In this warmer task, students work with a partner or in groups of three and brainstorm what they know about Māori. Ask for their answers and write them on the board. Then students do the Māori language quiz and afterwards find the words in the article where they are either translated, explained, or described clearly from context.

Key:

- | | |
|------|------|
| 1. f | 5. a |
| 2. c | 6. e |
| 3. g | 7. b |
| 4. d | |

2. Key words

- a. Students write the correct word from the wordpool next to the definitions on the lines provided. Then students find them in the article to read them in context.

Key:

- | | |
|--------------|-----------------|
| 1. ancestor | 6. colonization |
| 2. homestead | 7. effort |
| 3. nurture | 8. determined |
| 4. remote | 9. yearning |
| 5. enclaves | 10. abandoned |

- b. Before reading the article carefully, students use some of the key words to fill the gaps in the sentences to ensure that they understand and know how the words are used in other contexts.

Key:

1. abandoned
2. yearning
3. remote
4. ancestor(s)
5. determined
6. homestead
7. effort

3. Understanding the article

- a. Students read the statements and decide whether they are true or false according to the article. They should correct any that are false.

Key:

1. True
2. False. They buried it in the ground.
3. False. They are rebuilding their house on the homestead.
4. False. They were driven off their land by colonization and drifted to cities to look for work.
5. False. She says that many Māori have lost their connection to the land through colonization and people moving to cities.
6. True
7. False. She was born in the house on her Ponga homestead.
8. True

4. Key language

- a. Students complete the comparative phrase from the article and then create similar ones of their own.

Key:

"A homestead is like a mother – it looks after the family. It protects, feeds, and nurtures the family."

5. Discussion

- a. Students discuss the photos that accompany the article and then the questions that are related to the topic of home and belonging.

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6. In your own words

- a. The website contains a huge amount of information about Māori customs, heritage, traditions and myths. To honour the traditional art of storytelling, students read a few stories – set a time limit that is appropriate for your lesson planning – and then sit in small groups and retell some stories to each other.