

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

Level: Elementary – 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, 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 the context.

Key:

1. c
2. d
3. b
4. a

b. Key words

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

Key:

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. bury | 6. generations |
| 2. ancestor | 7. colonization |
| 3. homestead | 8. wonder |
| 4. remote | 9. condition |
| 5. inaccessible | 10. emotional |

- 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. remote
2. ancestor(s)
3. bury
4. condition
5. homestead

3. Understanding the article

- a. Students match the sentence halves to summarize the article.

Key:

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

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 takes care of 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.

6. In your own words

- a. Students do the tasks and share the three new pieces of information (that they did not mention in task 1) with the rest of the class.