

Title Slide

Tuia 250
Mātauranga
Voyagers

Cathy Wall, Kidsfirst Kindergarten, voice only

My name's Cathy Wall. I work at Kidsfirst Kindergarten. We are in Lyttelton, which is in Te Waipounamou, the South Island, and we're in a busy port town.

Tamatea-pokai-whenua is a Māori Voyager adventurer from the 1300s who travelled around Aotearoa. We were first introduced to the story by a colleague who created a book about his adventures in Whakaraupō, Lyttelton harbour. So there are several different versions out there about Tamatea's adventure. So we were able to consult with our local iwi and really make sure that we were doing the version of the pakiwaitara that they were happy with. Initially we started with the picture book and once they had started to retell the story themselves with the picture book we moved on to making a model of Te Poho o Tamatea which is the maunga, the mountain in the story.

They then used this model along with props to retell the story. Then we noticed that they were taking elements and concepts from this pakiwaitara and using it in their own play and we wanted them to really think about what it would have felt like to be Tamatea and his whānau out on whakaraupō. So we supported them to reenact the story and to make a backdrop and resources that they needed. So they're now retelling the story through drama.

Some of the resources we've created have included silhouettes that we've used on overhead projectors and on light boxes. Our children are now at the point where they know this pakiwaitara so well that they can even make and illustrate their own books. We have one child who has retold me the whole story and then done all the illustrations. And she now shares that book with her peers and her whānau. She is very proud of herself. So her being able to tell this story and create the book tells me that she has a very in-depth understanding about this pakiwaitara and how it affects people around them and her own whānau. She's added elements on that really are important to her.

Most of the tamariki were involved in the reenactment but some were still observing. So we wanted to ensure that these children had another means of retelling the story and deepening their understanding. So we introduced a storytelling app that they were able to use quietly by themselves to really express what they understood. Then we were able to share this digital platform with peers and whānau.

The children also use paintings, drawing utensils and clay to represent their understandings. And we've made books and we celebrate all their artwork throughout the kindergarten. So this really in-depth look at this one pakiwaitara has given the children the opportunity to really explore their understandings. They think a lot and talk a lot about what it would have been like to live in Aotearoa hundreds of years ago. What the clothing would have been like, what the food would have been like, what the means of transport were, even what the family structure was like.

So we've really been able to explore the story and unpack it with them. We've now discovered that the children are going home and telling their whānau members about Tamatea; where he's been and what his adventures have included. And also where our landmarks in our local community have come from.

As kaiako we have really come to understand how important it is for children to value their place in the community and have a feeling of belonging. Through this pakiwaitara they've been able to have an understanding of this and make links with the local landforms, the local iwi, just the whole local community.

And that's really strengthened their sense of identity.

End titles

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