

## Glossary

**Aroha** — compassion, tenderness, sustaining love

**Awa** — river

**Hapū** — clan, tribe, independent section of a people (modern usage: sub-tribe); pregnant

**Ihi** — power, authority, essential force

**Iwi** — people, nation (modern usage: tribe); bones

**Kai** — in a place name, this signifies a place where a particular food source was plentiful

**Kaumātua** — elder or elders, senior people in a kin group

**Mana** — authority, power; secondary meaning: reputation, influence

**Manaakitanga** — respect for hosts or kindness to guests, to entertain, to look after

**Maunga** — mountain

**Mauri** — hidden essential life force or a symbol of this

**Moana** — sea, or large inland 'sea', e.g., Taupō

**Motu** — island

**Pepeha** — formulaic expression of ancestors and where you come from

**Taihoa** — to delay, to wait, to hold off to allow maturation of plans, etc.

**Tangata Whenua** — original people belonging to a place, local people, hosts

**Taonga** — treasured possession or cultural item, anything precious

**Tiaki** — to care for, look after, guard (kaitiaki: guardian, trustee)

**Tipuna/Tupuna** — ancestor

**Whakapapa** — genealogy, to recite genealogy, to establish kin connections

**Whenua** — land, homeland, country (also afterbirth, placenta)

THE DOWSE  
EDUCATION TEAM

# Nuku Tewhatewha

Estimated Time: 1.5 hours



Contact our education team:  
T 04 560 1260 | [dowse.org.nz](https://dowse.org.nz)  
[education@dowse.org.nz](mailto:education@dowse.org.nz)



## **BACKGROUND INFO**

This nationally significant pātaka (Māori store house, usually for food) was built in 1856. The pātaka was carved for Wi Tako Ngatata of Te Atiawa, Ngati Ruanui and Taranaki iwi. It is the last of seven pātaka known as Ngā Pou o te Kīngitanga that were carved across the North Island as symbols of support for the Kīngitanga (Māori King Movement).

Nuku Tewhatewha has been on display at The Dowse since 1982, when it was returned to Wellington after a 70 year absence. It is no ordinary food store, but has a long symbolic history linked to the history of Māori leadership throughout Aotearoa.

## **THE SESSION**

### **Focus could include**

- Kīngitanga
- Myths and Legends
- Māori Art Forms
- Matariki
- Oral Tradition and Whakaiiro
- Tangata Whenua
- Social Change
- Connect with Petone Settlers Museum's Treaty of Waitangi Programme

### **Learning Experience**

Students will explore their chosen focus through the stories of Nuku Tewhatewha.

### **Curriculum Links**

**Social Science: Continuity and Change**

### **Achievement Objective:**

Understand how cultural practices vary but reflect similar purposes.

**Cross-Curricular Links:** Social Science, Visual Arts, Te Reo, Health, Drama

### **Key Competency**

Relating to Others / Using Language, Symbols and Texts

### **Key Concepts**

We are learning how tangata whenua share their stories, values and ideas and the influence that still has today.

### **Lesson Sequence**

- Discover the secrets hidden in Nuku Tewhatewha's whakaiiro.
- Use the lessons from Nuku Tewhatewha to explore our chosen focus.

### **Pre-Visit Activities**

- Think about the place you call home. If all the houses, buildings and signs were taken away, how would you know it was your home? Mountains? Trees? Flowers? Animals that belong? Familiar people?

- See which other cultures use carving as a way to preserve and share stories. Pin pictures of the examples on a world map.
- Explore the different koru shapes and their meanings.

### **Post-Visit Activities**

- Share your pepeha and connections with friends and whanau.
- Learn about the tangata whenua in the place that your grandparents were born or somewhere you visit on holiday.

*Contact our Educators for pre and post-visit ideas for your specific focus.*

### **Further Resources**

**Web:** "Technology to Take Kīngitanga into the Future" video on [maoritelevision.com](http://maoritelevision.com)