

Character Study

The key characters from the pūrākau, Pūharakeketapu are identified below.

Work independently, in groups or as a whole class to match the character's name and description to the image in the left column.

How do the characters connect with one another?

Who is from which iwi or hapū?

Who is married to whom?

What did they do?

What happened to them?

Have you watched He Iti Matā, Makō i Ōpōkihi or Tapatapawhenua? Some of these characters appear in these pūrākau too.

Who are your favourite characters?

Names



Maru's Whānau

Kahumataroa &
Marainaka

Marukaitātea

Te Rākaitauheke

Maru's pononga

Hikaraeroa

Te Waipūhā
& Rongomaiwhāia

Tapu

Tūmapuhiārangi

Tūhiku

Descriptions



They are Maru's wives and the daughters of Hikaraeroa.

He went with Maru to the Wairarapa to reunite him with his whānau.

Maru's uncle. He killed Tapu in the pūrākau, He Iti Matā.

Maru reunites with his whānau at the pā in the Wairarapa.

He is a tohunga matakite. He is Te Rākaitauheke's tuakana. The night before the battle he was asked if he could predict the outcome.

He is a prominent Ngāti Kahungunu chief. His daughters are Te Waipūhā and Rongomaiwhāia. His son is Tūmapuhiārangi.

He is Hikaraeroa's son who helped to protect Maru when he returned to his whānau.

He is a chief from Ngāti Kahungunu. He had an amazing waka and was killed by Te Rākaitauheke in the pūrākau, He Iti Matā.

These two young Ngāi Tūhaitara chiefs were identified by the tohunga as the two people who will die in battle from their side. They are the men of the titirei.

Famous Ngāti Kurī chief whose wives were from Ngāti Kahungunu. He was determined to reunite with his family after the fight between his uncle and Tapu.

Character

Names

Description



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Marukaitātea

Famous Ngāti Kurī Chief who's wives were from Ngāti Kahungunu. He was determined to reunite with his family after the fight between his uncle and Tapu.



Te Rākaitauheke

Maru's uncle. He killed Tapu in the pūrākau, He Iti Matā.



Hikaraeroa

He is a prominent Ngāti Kahungunu Chief. His daughters are Te Waipūhā and Rongomaiwhāia. His son is Tūmapuhiārangi.



Tapu

He is a chief from Ngāti Kahungunu. He had an amazing waka and was killed by Te Rākaitauheke in the Pūrākau, He Iti Matā.



Te Waipūhā
& Rongomaiwhāia

They are Maru's wives and the daughters of Hikaraeroa.

Character



Names

Tūhiku

Description

He is a tohunga matakite. He is Te Rākaitauheke's tuakana. The night before the battle he was asked if he could predict the outcome.



Tūmapuhiārangi

He is Hikaraeroa's son who helped to protect Maru when he returned to his whānau.



Kahumataroa &
Marainaka

These two young Ngāi Tūhaitara chiefs were identified by the tohunga as the two people who will die in battle from their side. They are the men of the titirei.



Maru's Whānau

Maru reunites with his whānau at the pā in the Wairarapa.



Maru's pononga

He went with Maru to the Wairarapa to reunite him with his whānau.