

WĀHI

AO L1 Understand how places in New Zealand are significant for individuals and groups.

AO L2 Understand how places influence people and people influence places.

This sits alongside the guideline Te Takanga o te Wā with the connected theme Mana Whenua.

Start out with a discussion with the class about your local community. Record ideas about important landmarks or people. Make a timeline of your local area and see how places and people have changed over time. In what different ways has the land been used? Who made changes? What effects did the changes have on the people living in the area?

Compare old maps and aerial photographs both old and new using Google Earth to give an idea of what has changed over time. Aerial photographs from 1935 can be seen on www.linz.govt.nz/topography/aerial-images or <http://www.vcbrowne.com>. Older (non-aerial) photos can be found in local or national libraries or the New Zealand Archives.

Use old records to track changes in ownership, and potential land use issues. you can try something like the New Zealand Yearbooks.

http://www3.stats.govt.nz/New_Zealand_Official_Yearbooks/1900/NZOYB_1900.html

This kind of information can give your students a real insight into historical information like land use, occupations, living and family situations and the changing ethnic profile of your local area.

Take a visit

Take the children to visit places in your local area that are of historical significance to Māori. Taking the children out of the classroom takes history out of books and makes it more alive, putting classroom learning into a real life context. Ask local Māori and historical experts to meet you there and show you around. Let the children explore the area thoroughly – ask questions, take photos, sketch, video, role play.

Create a tour

Make your class knowledge accessible for the rest of the local community by creating a tour of a local historical landmark. This could be a podcast or virtual web site tour. Include a basic map, instructions about how to get there and a walking plan for navigating the site. Describe what the significance of the site is, for Māori and for the local community, both historically and in the present day. Find old photos of these places to include. You can also interview local people to find out more about place names and local history. What role did this landmark play in the economic or social life of the community? What was happening in history when it was built or first used?

Now what?

As a conclusion to all this knowledge gathering, children can take part in some kind of social action that shows that they can create history in their local area too. This may be by creating a space to honour a local leader or cleaning up a landmark that is significant. Other ideas include lobbying local politicians for more recognition for a place that was a part of important Māori history or creating a resource for the school or local library that honours a leader from the past.