

The Haka & Māori Traditions — Knowledge Organiser

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Key facts

- The haka is a powerful Māori ceremonial dance with chanting, stamping and strong gestures.
- There are many different haka, performed to welcome guests, honour people, or show strength and unity.
- New Zealand's rugby team, the All Blacks, perform a haka before matches.
- A hongi is a traditional Māori greeting, pressing noses and foreheads together.

Key vocabulary

- Haka — a Māori ceremonial dance.
- Marae — a Māori meeting ground and sacred community space.
- Hongi — a traditional greeting, pressing noses together.
- Te reo Māori — the Māori language.

More than a dance

A haka is not just entertainment — it carries deep meaning, expressing emotion, respect, welcome or challenge. Each has its own words and story.

Learning respectfully

We learn about the haka and Māori customs with respect, understanding they are part of a living culture — not copying sacred elements as if they were just a game.