

Māori Art & Carving — Knowledge Organiser

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Key facts

- Māori have rich art traditions, including carving (whakairo) and weaving.
- Carvings decorate meeting houses, canoes and gateways.
- Patterns and figures tell stories and honour ancestors.
- Each design carries meaning and belongs to a tradition.

Key vocabulary

- Whakairo — Māori carving.
- Marae — a Māori meeting ground.
- Pattern — a repeated design.
- Ancestor — a family member from long ago.

Stories in wood

Māori carvings are not just decoration — they record ancestors, stories and identity, especially on the marae.

Respect, don't copy

We admire and learn about Māori art respectfully, understanding it belongs to a living culture.