

Māori Life Before Europeans — Knowledge Organiser

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Key facts

- Before Europeans came, Māori lived across Aotearoa in tribes called iwi.
- They fished, hunted, gathered and grew crops like kūmara.
- They built fortified villages called pā.
- They had rich traditions of storytelling, carving and song.

Key vocabulary

- Iwi — a Māori tribe.
- Pā — a fortified Māori village.
- Kūmara — sweet potato, an important food.
- Tribe — a group of related families.

A settled way of life

Māori built villages, grew and gathered food, and developed rich arts and traditions long before Europeans arrived.

Connected to the land

Māori had a deep connection to the land and sea, with detailed knowledge of how to live from them.