



TE URU HOLIDAY ACTIVITY: Imagination Station

Tane's Magical Forest

Create a mixed media painting of your favourite native tree and bird

Suitable for pre-schoolers (with assistance) through to age 14

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YOU WILL NEED:

- A4 thick paper or light card
- Extra A4 paper for a warm-up drawing
- Pencil
- Black Sharpie or dark felt tip
- Paint brushes
- Non toxic dye: either blue, black, green or use diluted food colouring (a few drops in a half cup of water, for resist dyeing)
- Pastels, earthy tones
- Crayons – orange, green and white
- Coloured pencils
- Assorted coloured paper, newspaper, magazines or pictures of native birds
- Glue stick or PVA

Online resources

- [National Library Māori Myths and Legends](#)
- [NZ Tree App](#)
- [DOC photographs of birds](#)



Tane's Magical Forest

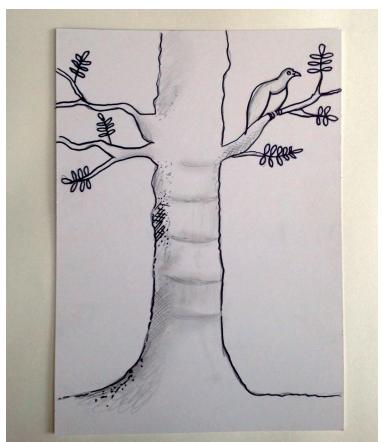
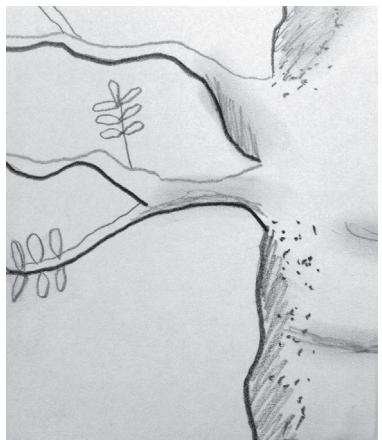
GUIDE

Explore the Māori creation myth of gods Ranginui (sky father) and Papatūānuku (Earth mother) and their son, Tāne, god of the forests and birds. Take a walk in your backyard or in your neighbourhood to find native trees and birds (take an adult with you). Or search online for images of Aotearoa native trees and birds like pōhutakawa, kōwhai, kauri, nikau, kiwi, tui and kererū. The approximate activity time is 1-2 hours. Don't forget to take a break!

First, create a safe space to work in, perhaps put some newspaper down.

- 1. CHOOSE** your favourite Aotearoa native tree and bird
- 2. PRACTICE** drawing your tree and bird on A4 paper. Make your tree tall to fill up the space on your page. Think about the parts of a tree; the trunk, branches and leaves. Is your bird walking on the ground, asleep in a nest or flying? (Hint: keep your scale big, so you have room to colour in your details later)
- 3. SKETCH** using the A4 card, make an outline of your tree. Use your warm-up drawing as reference, fill up the space, stretch the branches to the edges of the card. Have fun and be inventive to create an interesting composition
- 4. DRAW** your bird. Make it big so you can colour it in
- 5. TRACE** your outline of the tree and bird with a dark felt tip or Sharpie pen so it stands out
- 6. ADD** details with an HB pencil, starting with the trunk and branches. Is the bark smooth, rough or filled with patterns? Try shading, smudging areas and crosshatching to create and layer tones and texture
- 7. COLOUR** in your leaves with coloured pencils, adding leaf veins and pattern
- 8. COLOUR** in your bird. Think about the different textures for beaks, eyes, feathers and wings

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9. **USE** crayons to create some interesting, swirling lines around the outside of your tree. You might add grass at the base of your tree too. Use a white crayon to make invisible lines that appear later when you add the dye wash
10. **USE** the pastels to add colour to the tree trunk and branches. Important: do not cover all of your pencil work with the pastel – leave some showing for the dye wash to work over. Use the pastels on their side to give more depth, blend and layer pastels to make new colours
11. **PAINT** the dye wash (with a wide brush) over the area around the tree. Watch as the dye wash resists the crayon lines and the invisible white appears
12. **CAREFULLY** use a smaller brush to paint the dye wash over your tree trunk and branches. Try not to go over your leaves and bird with the dye wash
13. **DRY** it in the sun and have a break
14. **CUT** out leaf shapes from your collage pieces, place on your tree and glue in place. Ask for help to cut them out if too fiddley
15. **GLUE** on pictures of native birds from magazines or newspapers (or print some from the internet). Add them to your tree for a cacophony of songbirds
16. **STAND** back and look at your amazing painting! Have fun finding a special place to hang it up in your house to admire
17. **UPLOAD** your creation to social media (ask your parents) and be sure to tag us in: @teurugallery or #teuru
18. **SEND** us a photo: info@teuru.org.nz



Well done on completing your artwork!

**We'll be uploading new activities regularly
so be sure to keep an eye on our LEARN
page for updates.**

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