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Our Kaumātua

Our relationships with our kaumātua help to make us feel that we are part of something bigger. They help us to understand where we've come from, who we are, where we're going, and why we're going there. Our Te Ao Māori is kept strong by love, stories, traditions, memories, hopes, and dreams shared with us by our respected and revered kaumātua. We know that we are a part of the traditions passed down from those who came before us and the traditions we pass down to those who come after us.

A woman tells the story of visits to her grand aunt's house in Nelson when she was little and the cut crystals she had on her bedside lamp. Her aunt would take the crystals off, hang them on a string, and put them in the window so that the sunlight would catch them and there would be a rainbow in the room. Her grand aunt gave her the bedside lamp as a gift. Ever since, she has kept the lamp on her bedside table. Today she is a grand aunt herself and delights in taking the crystals off to "make rainbows in the room." And that's a tradition she's teaching her grand nieces and nephews, a tradition she got from her grand aunt. It means that you can always find a rainbow when you need one.

In these two activities whānau members can share stories of their traditions and kaumātua.



Taonga

1. Start by arranging a whānau get together – it could be a hui or you could meet up online. Ask each member of the whānau to select a special whānau heirloom, artefact or keepsake to bring. Tell them to keep it hidden until it's their turn to present their special taonga to the whānau.
2. When the time is right, ask each member of the whānau to present what they have chosen and tell their story behind it.
3. Afterwards, you can talk about the different stories and how they make the whānau stronger and more united.



Kōrero Tukuiho

1. Start by asking each member to draw a picture of a favourite memory they have of their kaumātua. Kaumātua can share a memory of their own kaumātua.
2. When everyone is finished, get each whānau member to share their memory including why it is their favourite memory.

