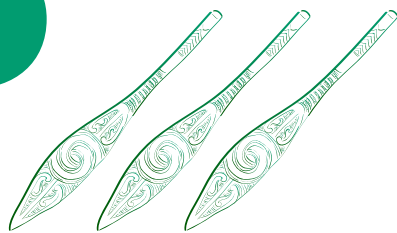


6 Our Migration Story



All over the planet, throughout history, people have migrated to other parts of the world. There are many reasons for this migration but the most common one is because of the difficulties that were being experienced at the time. Other reasons include love, or the hope of a promising future in a new land. For many whānau, it has been the migration to the towns for work that took them away from their whānau homelands or whenua.

Whatever the case, for many generations whānau have been migrating from their ancestral lands and in most cases have had to reset their genealogical tables or whakapapa. For some whānau, they can recite their whakapapa for up to 70 generations, some more recently to twenty-odd generations, but most recently some can only go back to their grandparents' generation. The thing is, if a whānau does not have access to its whakapapa, it can begin again with what it has got and, through research, it can add to it over the years to come. This activity gives you a way to begin to record your whakapapa.

1. Start by asking the whānau to talk about how and when they came to live in their home town. When was that and why did they move?
2. Ask whānau members to retell the journey and what it was like when they first arrived.
 - a. What were some of the things they had to adapt to at that time?
 - b. What did they miss most about leaving home?
 - c. What exciting new things did they discover?
 - d. What disappointments and struggles did they have to endure?
3. Write the story of the whānau migration in the whānau scrapbook and have the children decorate it with drawings and pictures.
4. Get the whānau to then draw up a 'Family Tree' and over the coming decades they can add to it.