

8 Our Whakapapa

Hundreds of millions of people around the globe are involved in researching their whakapapa or whānau history. One of the main reasons why people wish to know their whakapapa is to get a sense of who they are and where they belong.



1. Get a large sheet of cardboard/paper and with your children, write down the names of everyone in your whānau. Add any birth dates, deaths and marriages that you know.
2. Go back through as many generations as you can. Ask about, or search for, the ones you don't know by asking grandparents and older whānau members.
3. If possible, add photos to your whakapapa sheet. Talk about whānau resemblances or mannerisms.
4. Encourage your children to talk to their grandparents and great grandparents about the 'olden days' so those memories are not lost.
5. Perhaps all of this might inspire you to organise a whānau reunion sometime in the near future.