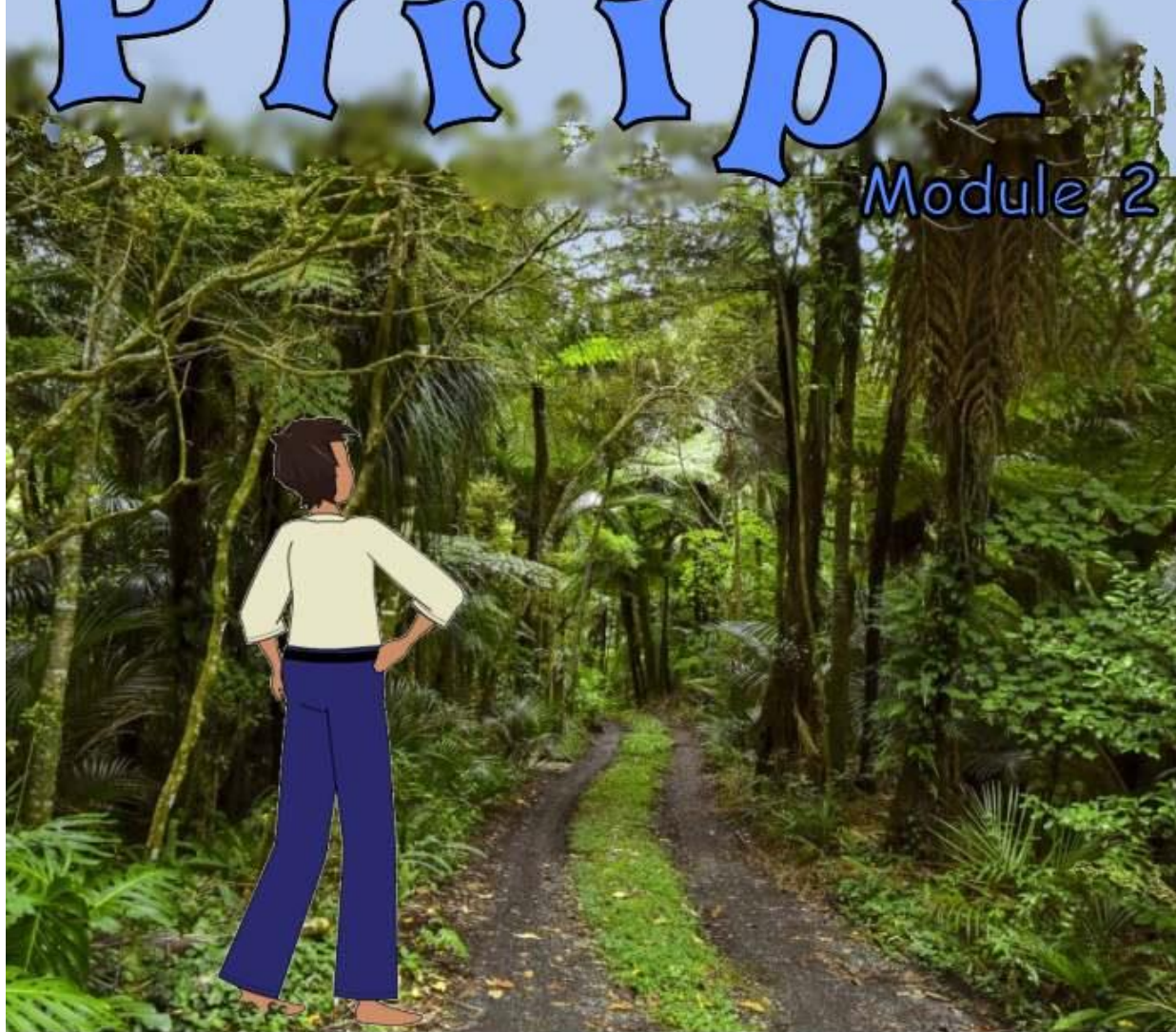


project



Piripiri

Module 2



LITERACY, CULTURE, MUSIC
ART, INQUIRY

integrated in a New Zealand setting



PROJECT PIRIPI
Module 2





“Yeah. We are just unbeatable!” Piripi cheered as the All Black fullback dived over the line to score the team’s fifth try, and there was still 10 minutes’ play remaining. It was true, the All Black team did seem unbeatable this season. They hadn't lost a game all year. In fact, the opposition struggled to score tries against them. Just kicked a few penalties.

When the final whistle went, the All Black captain was talking to an interviewer on the television. Pride in the silver fern was one of the things he was talking about.

“Hey Koro.” Piripi called out to his grandfather. “How come we have the silver fern on the All Black jersey?”

“Not just the All Blacks.” Koro explained. “Many of our sports people cricketers, Olympic runners, throwers, jumpers, swimmers, sailors, rowers and lots more have used the silver fern.”

“Why didn’t we use something uniquely New Zealand?” Piripi asked. “Heaps of countries have ferns in their bush. Even Australia. They don’t have kiwis for example.”

“The silver fern that the All Blacks have been wearing since the early 1900s is based on a silver fern that is in the New Zealand native bush.” Koro went on. “These ferns have the silver side facing the ground. In the old days our ancestors used to hunt at night, and they would turn the leaves up the other way to reflect the moonlight, making their track for the way home. Also, my grandfather told me to respect the ponga in the bush, because it was a lesson in life.”

“How could a ponga be a lesson in life?” Piripi asked. “It's just a fern, or a tree, or a tree fern or something.”





“Come over here Piripi.” his grandfather asked. “Pass me that sheet of paper and those coloured pencils that you were using for your homework please. “

In a minute or two Koro had skillfully sketched a ponga. At the top, koru, looking like wound up furry monkey tails. Below them the big open green fern fronds, and below them some older brown fronds, hanging down. The trunk was textured with the stumps of fronds that had broken and fallen to the ground.

And on the ground, there were stems, but the remains of the fronds had decayed away completely.

“Where are you on that tree?” Koro asked Piripi.

“Huh? I am not on that tree. I am here on our sofa, wanting to watch TV.!”

Piripi was wondering what the heck his Koro was on about.

“Piripi, listen to me.” responded Koro. “This ponga is a symbol for a whanau and it’s whakapapa.”

“How can family history be represented by a tree?” asked Piripi doubtfully.

“The koru at the top,” grandfather indicated with his finger to the curled up young fronds in his drawing. “They are the new and young generation. They are invisible to start with, like an unborn baby, then when they are first seen, they are rolled up in tight curls. Newly born babies spend a lot of time being curled up in much the same way.”

“OK” offered Piripi, starting to understand.

“Then that frond opens and grows, just like children. But look below the koru. What do you see?” asked Koro.

“That’s obvious” Piripi replied impatiently. “Fully grown leaves.”

“Fronds.” his grandfather corrected. “Leaves are not divided up in the same way.”



“How do you mean?” Piripi asked. “What way”

“A full frond has a stem. And off the stem area whole lot of smaller frond shapes.

Larger at the base and smaller at the tip.” Koro was sketching the shapes of a frond as he was explaining.

“Yeah, I’ve seen that,” said Piripi, “but never really thought about it.”

“And look at what makes up those smaller frond-like shapes” continued Koro as he sketched an enlargement on the paper. It is more of the same. The pattern repeats but on a smaller scale.”

“True?” asked Piripi.

“Sure. Check it out next time you are in the bush near a ponga.”

“I will. That will be interesting.”

“What is also interesting Piripi, is to think about what those fully-grown fronds do for the plant. Any ideas?” continued Koro.

“Well, I guess because they are the big green part they keep the plant alive by contact with the air and the sun.” replied Piripi. “I remember the science teacher saying something about that at school. I think he said they breathe in the carbon dioxide that we breathe out, or something like that.”

“Yes, something like that” agreed Koro. “Perhaps you can get more details from your science teacher next time you are in class.”

“That would REALLY surprise her.” Piripi laughed. “I might... maybe. I don’t want her to have a heart attack!”

“Getting back to those fronds.” Koro went on, “Yes they sort of feed the whole plant, but what else?”

“I don’t know! What else?” Piripi was getting impatient.

“What happens in a rain storm?” asked Koro.

“I suppose the fronds stop the water from washing away all the dirt around the ponga’s roots. Sort of like protection.” offered Piripi.”

“You’re onto it!” Koro confirmed, “But some of the rain is still allowed to drip through gently to provide more useful moisture for the plant.”

“Yeah.” agreed Piripi. “Is that it?” wanting to turn Koro off and the TV on.

“Almost,” said Koro. “but not quite. If those adult fronds provide nourishment and shelter, who has that role in a whanau?”



“You, in our family, but in most families, it is the parents.”

“Right. But what are those leaves hanging down under the adult ones?”

“Well” considered Piripi.” They had been the adults once, but they are old and wrinkly, but still hanging on. Like old people.”

“Like me?” questioned Koro.

“Well not like you really. You are still busy looking after me, But maybe like those really old people in the old folks’ home.”

“Exactly, and what happens to them?”

“Well they die.” answered Piripi bluntly.

“They do.” grandfather explained. “They fall to the ground just like those old ponga fronds. Then they decay and become compost. Ashes to ashes, dust to dust is what they say at a funeral service.”

“Yeah. I remember. ” said Piripi thoughtfully.

“But look at the trunk of the ponga,” Koro concluded.” It is actually made up of the remains of

all the previous generations. That is what can make one Ponga the tallest or the strongest in the bush. It is the strength and tradition of all the previous generations. We call that our Whakapapa. When you look at a ponga, it can remind you of who you are in your whanau.”

“I’ve got it Koro, that is me. That koru you drew. And one day I will be a fully open frond and take responsibility for my own family.”

“True, and I may be just hanging about to see it, or I may fall to the ground and leave you to it.”

Koro got up and walked to the window and checked out the clouding over sky. Piripi turned on the TV to find a cartoon program on a different Sky.



LITERACY / INQUIRY

In the word find on the next page are the Maori words for members of the family.

The English words are:

Mother

Father

Grandmother

Grandfather

Uncle

Auntie

Son

Daughter

Younger sibling

Older sibling (same gender)

Grandson

See if you can find them and match them to the English words.

The words maybe on many angles. Even backwards.

Hint:

You could black out all the letters that are not in the Maori alphabet.

WHANAU

R P X L D Y B N H C F R
A R A P A P O W P H O B
Q V Y V R O U A U M A H
Y E N I H I R T O R O K
U P A N I E T M A M A L
X T L A N U P O K O M W
Q S A E A H W Y B Z V Q
K O W H A E A G U G C O
G L O J O A U T A M X G
K U I A M A T U P Y M Y
V P S Z U O C E I O G T
Z Z C L F O J U O U W J

Poupou on paper.

Take a sheet of paper and fold it in half vertically.

Draw a frame and write your name.

Use a pencil to plan half of a bilaterally symmetrical face in the style of Maori carving.

Go over with a dark crayon.

Fold and iron to get a reflected image.

Colour with reds, browns and black, adding some patterns like these.



Blend crayons to make paua shell like eyes.



When finished a class could display these in a column to make a poupou.

MUSIC: Here is a song about the story. (You may have to research a few of the words.)

There is a karaoke video to help you learn it on page

Koru Koru Tenei Ra

Today you're young and growing

Your curl unfurls

You're fresh and strong

New life is what you're showing

Kakariki, brilliant green

Parauri hair there too

In each small curl you hide inside

A mini-me of you.

CHORUS

Koru Koru Tenei Ra, Koru Koru Tenei Ra

Koru Koru Tenei Ra, New life is what you're showing

Koru Koru Tenei Ra, Koru Koru Tenei Ra

Koru Koru Tohu Ki Aotearoa

When matariki dawns next year

Te kau ma toru Marama

Kia kaha you will stand,

A frond amongst the others

You will be spreading, silver, green

No more a koru small

You'll stand against the wind and rain

You'll make this ponga tall

CHORUS

You'll shelter older withered fronds

Attached but hanging low

They've done their time, their kaha gone

And very soon they'll go.

They'll fall and join the mother earth

And soon they will decay

Tangi wai mo tupuna

Just memories will stay.

CHORUS

G C D7 G

Ko ru Ko ru Ten ei Ra, To day you're young and grow ing, Your

G C D7 G

curl un furls, You're fresh and strong, New life is what you're show ing,

Em Gm7 Em Gm7

Ka ka ri ki brill iant green, pau rau ri hair there too. In

Em Gm7 D D7 G

each small curl you hide in side a mi ni me of you.

Em G D7 G

Ko ru Ko ru Te nei Ra Ko ru Ko ru Ten ei Ra a

Em G D7 G

, Ko ru Ko ru Te nei ra new life is what you're show ing

Em G D7 G

Ko ru ko ru te ne ra a Ko ru ko ru te nei ra

Em G D7 G

ko ru ko ru To - hu ki, A o te a ro a.

G C D7 Em Gm7 D

HERE IS A KARAOKE VIDEO TO HELP YOU LEARN THE SONG



KORU KORU TENEI RA

Koru Koru Tenei Ra
Today you're young and growing.
Your curl unfurls,
You're fresh and strong,
New life is what you're showing.
Kakariki, brilliant green,
Parauri hair there too,
In each small curl you hide inside
A mini-me of you.

MORE INQUIRY

Words in the song.

Can you find meanings for these Maori words?

Koru tenei ra

Kakariki

Parauri

Tohu ki Aotearoa

Te kau ma te marama

kia kaha

Tangi wai mo tupuna

Research these words as they apply to the story:

Tree fern

Ponga

Punga

Wheki

Mamaku

Dicksonia

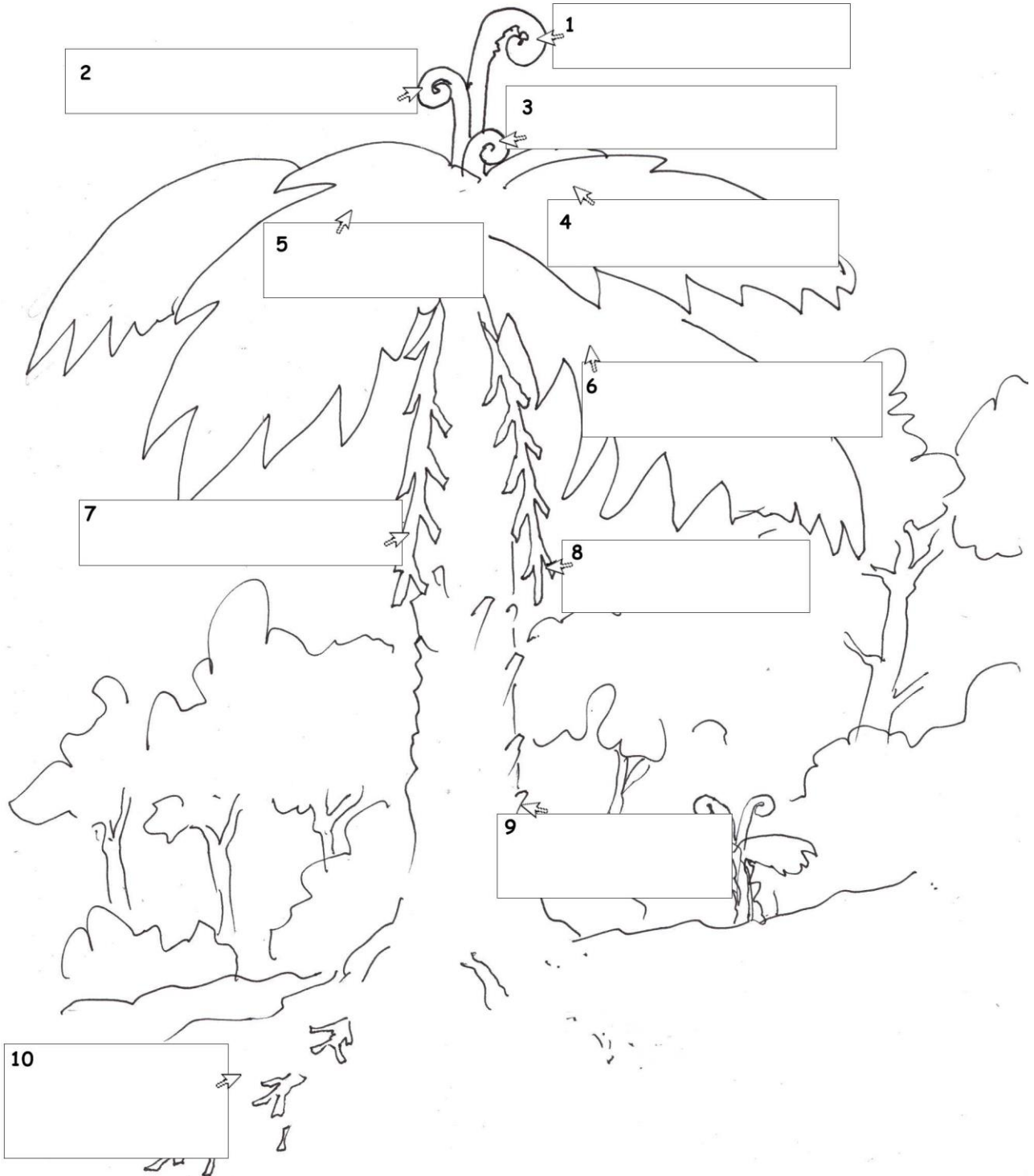
Cyathea

How many different silver fern logos can you find? Can you design a different one of your own?

Make your own version of this family tree, with names in the boxes. Add more boxes if needed.

1-3 = You and your siblings, 4 & 5= parents, 6 = uncles, aunts, 7 & 8 = Grandparents,

9 = Great Grandparents, 10 = Great-Great Grandparents and their ancestors.



MORE PROJECT PIRIPI STORIES

1 Secrets in the Soup.

(Finding gold when Koro was a boy.)

2 Koru.

(This one.)

3 Tahi Rua

(Piripi learns to play ukulele and sings a song about counting in several languages including Maori.)

4 Tuatara

(Piripi finds a lizard and learns about tuatara which may look like a lizard but are living dinosaurs.)

5 ANZAC Day

(25th of April is ANZAC day, on which Australia and New Zealand remember those who lost their lives at war)

6 Matariki

(Koro discusses Matariki, the Maori new year, celebrated when the constellation of Pleides becomes visible.)

7 Energy

(Piripi finds out about alternatives to using petroleum and coal. What are sustainable energy sources?)

8 Kakapo

(The kakapo, a New Zealand parrot is one of the world's strangest and most endangered species.)

9 Elvers

(Piripi and his grandfather are at cross purposes. Piripi is learning about eels. Grandfather thinks it is Elvis.)

10 Magpies

(Koro is bleeding from a gash above his ear. Piripi finds that it was caused by an attacking magpie.)

11 Expressions

(Piripi asks about the expression 'Poker face'. They experiment with conveying feelings with expressions.)

12 My Dog Has Fleas

(Koro teaches Piripi about tuning his ukulele.)

13 KGHYTB (spells fish)

(Piripi contemplates some of the confusing aspects about learning the English language)

14 Wagons

(Piripi and Koro get to ride on an old train.)

15 McCahon Can (so I can)

(Colin McCahon was one of New Zealand's most famous modern artists. But his handwriting wasn't good.)

16 He said went...

(Piripi uses the word 'went' instead of 'said'. It confuses Koro so they consider alternatives to both words.)

Check out Project Piripi on YouTube.

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