

## Rākaihautū and the Uruao waka

This is the story of how the first people came to live in Te Waipounamu. A long time ago, in a place called Hawaiki, lived a chief named Taitewhenua. He had a big waka called the Uruao. Taitewhenua decided to give his waka to a famous star reader named Matiti.

Matiti gave the waka to a brave explorer named Rākaihautū. He told Rākaihautū to go and find new lands. Rākaihautū and his family and friends, the people of Te Kāhui Tipua, Te Kāhui Roko, and Te Kāhui Waitaha, all got on the Uruao and sailed to a new place called Te Waipounamu.

They first landed in a place called Nelson. Then, they split into two groups. Rākaihautū led one group and walked all the way to Foveaux Strait. His son, Rakihouia, took the other group and explored the coastline. They found lots of good places to get food. Rakihouia called the coastline Kā Poupou o Rakihouia, which means "the Eel Weirs of Rakihouia".

Rākaihautū had a kō, a special digging stick, called Tūwhakarōria. Some people say it had magic powers. Every time Rākaihautū dug it into the ground, water would appear and turn into lakes and rivers. Others say that he found lakes and rivers that were already there, like Te Waihora and Wairewa.

Rākaihautū travelled through the land and finally met his son Rakihouia on the East Coast. Rakihouia told his father about two lakes, Te Waihora and Wairewa. At Te Waihora, there was lots of yummy food like inanga (whitebait), pātiki (flounder), tuna (eel), aua (yellow-eyed mullet), kanakana (lamprey), and pūtangitangi (paradise duck). Rākaihautū and Rakihouia decided this lake would be their special food place and called it Te Kete-Ika-a-Rākaihautū, which means "the Fish Basket of Rākaihautū".

Rākaihautū saw so much food and resources in the area that he decided to claim the Banks Peninsula and named it Te Pātaka o Rākaihautū, which means "the Storehouse of Rākaihautū".

When Rākaihautū finished exploring, he let Tūwhakarōria rest. He placed the kō on a mauka/maunga (mountain) above Wainui and renamed it Tuhiraki. Many years later, the mountain is still known as Tuhiraki or Mount Bossu, after a French explorer.

## Reading comprehension questions

After reading the story of Rākaihautū and the Uruao waka, answer each question below by writing a full sentence. The first one has been done for you.

1. Who was the chief in Hawaiki who had a big waka?

Taitewhenua was the chief in Hawaiki who had a big waka.

2. What was the name of the waka?

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3. Who did Taitewhenua give the waka to?

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4. What was the name of the brave explorer who sailed to find new lands?

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5. What were the names of the groups of people who sailed with Rākaihautū?

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6. Where did Rākaihautū and his people first land?

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7. What did Rākaihautū's son Rakihouia do after their landed?

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8. What special name did Rakihouia give to the coastline?

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9. What was the name of the special digging stick Rākaihautū had?

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10. What happened when Rākaihautū used his special digging stick?

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11. What kinds of food did Rākaihautū and Rakihouia find at Te Waihora?

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12. What did Rākaihautū and Rakihouia decide to call Te Waihora?

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13. What name did Rākaihautū give to Banks Peninsula?

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14. Where did Rākaihautū place his special digging stick when he finished exploring?

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15. What is the mountain called today where Rākaihautū placed his digging stick?

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