

# Pepeha

by Pātaka and Monique Moore



Ko  
Pareraukawa  
tōku ingoa.

Ko Misha  
tōku ingoa.

Ko Hope  
tōku ingoa.

Ko Yoshi  
tōku ingoa.

## WHAT IS A PEPEHA?

A pepeha is a way to introduce yourself. It tells other people who you are and where you come from. A pepeha can be written, but usually, you will stand up and say your pepeha in front of everyone at a formal occasion.\*

A pepeha includes names, places, and events that explain where you are from, which family you belong to, and where you fit within your larger family.

A pepeha also explains how your family is connected to your local environment. We value the environment because it provides food, water, and shelter – the things that all people need to live. A pepeha is a way of *showing* that you value the local environment and the important connection you have with the natural world.

\*A formal occasion could be a school assembly or a time when visitors are arriving from another school.

# WHAT'S IN A PEPEHA?

Most pepeha include:

## waka - canoe

For Māori, pepeha tell the story of how their tūpuna (ancestors) came to Aotearoa in large waka. Each waka had a name, and Māori can still track their family history back to those waka.



## maunga - mountain

### awa, roto, moana - river, lake, sea

When Māori set up their homes in this new land, they took note of the important landmarks (such as mountains) and waterways (rivers, lakes, and seas) in their environment. They soon came to feel closely connected to these maunga, awa, roto, and moana.



## īwi - large family grouping

Each waka carried people that belonged to the same large extended family, or iwi.



## hapū - smaller family grouping

The smaller family groupings within iwi are called hapū. Your hapū includes your parents, your grandparents, your cousins, and even your grandparents' cousins!

## marae - gathering place

Most hapū have a marae, or traditional gathering place. They are special places where family members come together for hui (meetings) and other important events.



## kaumātua

- grandparents or elders

## mātua - parents

Your mātua and kaumātua are an important part of who you are. They also connect you back to your tūpuna.



# NŌ WHEA KOE?

WHERE ARE YOU FROM?



When you meet a person who is Māori, it's likely that one of the first questions they will ask is "Nō whea koe?" (or "Nō hea koe?"). This is an important question. When they know where you come from, who your mother and father are, and who your grandparents and great grandparents are, they can start to make connections with you.

Making connections is a way of building good relationships. In Māori culture, everyone helps out and shares work, food, and day-to-day tasks. It's important to have good relationships with each other when you are working together in a community.

Your pepeha helps to make those connections and build those relationships with others.



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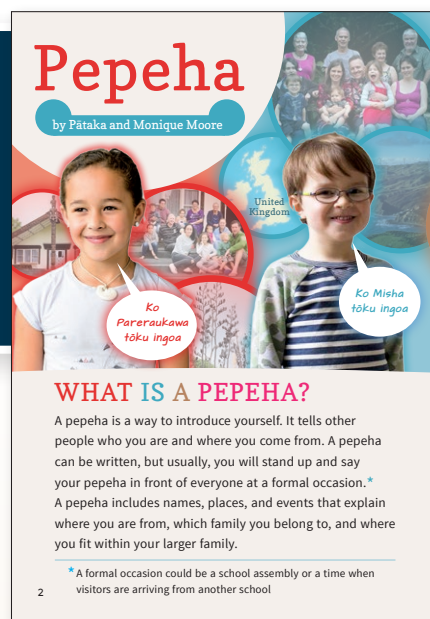
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