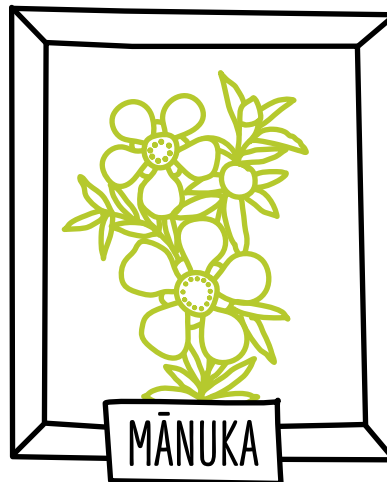
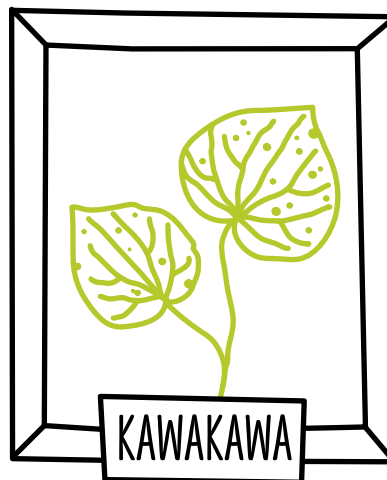


LEARNING IN YOUR LIVING ROOM

HE AKORANGA KEI TŌ RŪMA NOHO

In the last resource we asked you to brainstorm the places that make up your **hapori**, now it's time to explore them! In this activity we want you to search for native plants from **Aotearoa**. Head outside with your **whānau** to discover which of these examples are in your community. This is a great opportunity to connect with the bush walks, local parks and green areas in your neighbourhood.

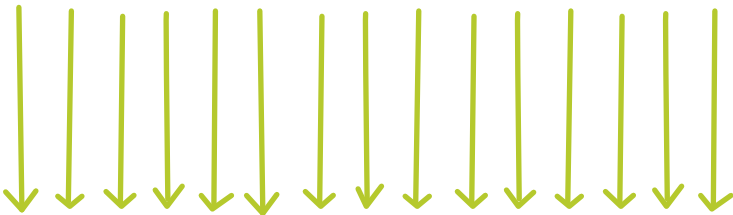
Here are some examples of native plants to look out for, head to the bottom of the activity sheet to read their descriptions!



ACTIVITIES



We love connecting with our community at Wellington Museum! That is why we are asking you to go on an adventure with your whānau to discover what plants native to Aotearoa you can find. Follow the activities to get active, adventurous and creative!



Do you recognise these words? Practice your Te Reo Māori at home!

Hapori = Community
Whānau = Family
Toru = Three
Kotahi = One
Kakara = Smell
Kara = Colour
Rahi = Size
Aotearoa = New Zealand

1. Time to go outside!

Go on an adventure with your family, to find some native plants in your community. Write down what native plants you have found here:

A large empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for writing down the names of native plants found in the community.

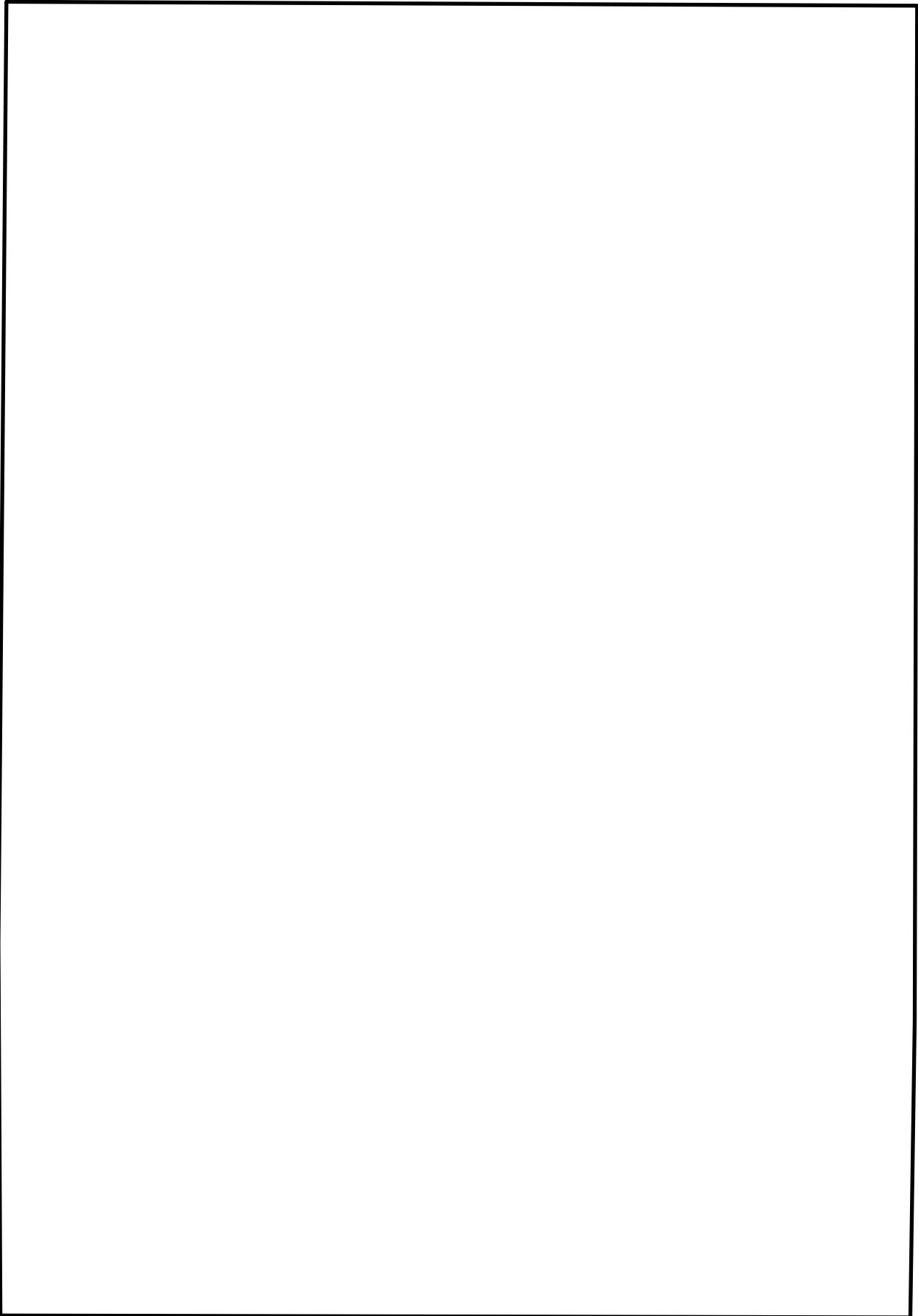
2. What were your toru favourite native plants and why?

Describe what the plants looked like! What made them stand out to you? It could be **kakara, kara, rahi.**

A large empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for describing the appearance and characteristics of the three favourite native plants.

3. Let's get creative!

Choose **kotahi** of your favourite plants. Draw it here, showing all the details you talked about in question 2!



NATIVE PLANTS



Learn more about the native plants in your local area.

KAWAKAWA (*Piper excelsum*), will thrive throughout most of New Zealand as long as it is sheltered from the worst of the frost. It is a small, aromatic tree with large green heart-shaped leaves. It is prone to being eaten by insects and equally prone to soil fungi in wet conditions. Māori use the leaves for medicinal purposes. Traditionally used to treat cuts, wounds, toothaches and skin conditions. The name “Kawakawa” refers to the bitter taste of the leaves.

HARAKEKE (Flax) is commonly noticed throughout the country, especially in wet areas, while the Wharariki (Mountain Flax) is found at higher altitudes and along coastlines. Within the two flax species, there are many other varieties of flax, some with droopy leaves and some that grow like upright spears. The common flax grows up to three metres high and its flower stalks can reach up to four metres, the leaves are long and strip-like and grow in bunches. The korimako (bellbird) and the tui both love to feed off the harakeke flowers.

MĀNUKA (*Leptospermum Scoparium*) varies in height from ground-hugging shrubs to tall trees measuring up to 10 meters tall. All forms of this plant are identified by their sharp-tipped leaves and white or pink flowers. Mānuka flowers have a sweet aroma and they provide an important source of pollen and nectar for native bees, flies, moths, beetles and geckos. The Māori people used the leaves and bark for many different things. The Mānuka tree can be used for sunburns, oily skin, skin irritations, insect bites, aching muscles, body odour and dandruff.

TĪ KŌUKA (*Cordyline australis*) are an integral part of New Zealand’s landscape. They are sculptural and architectural in their form and fast growing, sometimes reaching a height of 12-20 meters. Large cream-coloured flowers open from late spring through to early summer and are an attractive addition to an already outstanding plant. Māori have the belief that if the flowers bloom profusely a hot summer will follow. Māori used the tree for food, fibre and medicine. The root, stem and top are all edible, a good source of starch and sugar.

PŌHUTUKAWA (*Metrosideros excelsa*) naturally occur in the upper half of the North Island, however, it can tolerate warmer pockets of the South Island and can even grow happily in the deep south. The pōhutukawa tree is open, wide sweeping and multi-trunked. The flowers can vary from pink to deep red and all shades in between; there are even some types with yellow flowers. The flower buds can begin bursting in November, but more commonly in December and January. As you move further south flowering is later, usually not until February and March in Dunedin. Māori believe that when the flowers bloom the kina are ripe.

PONGA (Siler fern) is known as our national symbol and is named for the silver underside of its fronds. Ferns are commonly tropical plants, and Aotearoa has an unusually high number of fern species for a temperate country. We have around 200 species, ranging from 20mm to 10m high. Around 40% of these species are native to only Aotearoa, which makes them extra special. The leaves of ferns are called fronds and when they are young, they are tightly coiled into a tight spiral—this can be seen in ponga. This shape is called a ‘koru’ in Māori and is used in many design patterns across Aotearoa.