

In Hawaiki there once lived a chief called Uenuku, who had seventy-one sons. Seventy of these sons were chiefs, for their mothers were of noble birth. But Uenuku had one wife who was a slave, and because of this, her son Ruatapu was of no importance.

One day Uenuku decided to build a great canoe. A tall tree was cut down and his men worked at hollowing, smoothing and carving it. When it was finished it was painted red and hung with strings of feathers.

Then Uenuku brought together all his sons, so that their hair might be combed and oiled and tied into top-knots. This was so that they would look well when they sailed for the first time in the great canoe. Uenuku himself combed and oiled and tied their hair, for this was tapu (a sacred thing). When all but Ruatapu were ready, Ruatapu said to his father, "Are you not going to comb my hair as well?"

But his father said, "Where could I find a comb for your hair? These combs are sacred. They cannot be used on the hair of people of no importance."

Then Ruatapu said, "But I thought I was your son."

His father said to him, "Yes, you are my son. But your mother is only a slave woman, so you are not a chief like your brothers. I cannot comb your hair."

Then Ruatapu was very ashamed, and ran away and planned his revenge. He went down to the canoe and cut a hole in its bottom. Then he filled the hole in again with chips of wood.

In the morning they launched the beautiful canoe for the first time, and Ruatapu went with them. They paddled a long way out to sea. When they were out of sight of land, Ruatapu pushed away the chips from the hole and water rushed into the canoe.

"Quickly, bail out the water, or we are lost!" his brothers yelled.

But Ruatapu had hidden the bailer, and the canoe filled with water and sank. Then Ruatapu had his revenge, for all his noble brothers were drowned, except one. Ruatapu swam after his last brother, whose name was Paikea, but he could not catch him. Then Ruatapu said to Paikea, "Which one of us will carry back this news to land?" "I will," Paikea said. "I will not drown. I am descended from Tangaroa, the god of the sea, and he will help me."

Tangaroa heard Paikea, and sent a whale to take him to land. So Paikea escaped from Ruatapu on the back of the whale.

Then Ruatapu recited a magic karakia (prayer), and sent five great waves rolling across the ocean after Paikea. But Paikea was too far away, and he came to land just before the waves reached him. The waves hit the shore and bounced off again, and went back across the ocean. They rushed over Ruatapu, who was still in the sea, and Ruatapu was drowned through his own magic.

But Paikea was safe. The whale brought him to the East Coast of the North Island of New Zealand and his children's children still live there. The whale became an island, and you can see it there today.

Remember

Recall and Make Inferences

1. How many sons did Chief Uenuku have?

2. Why was Ruatapu not considered of noble birth?*

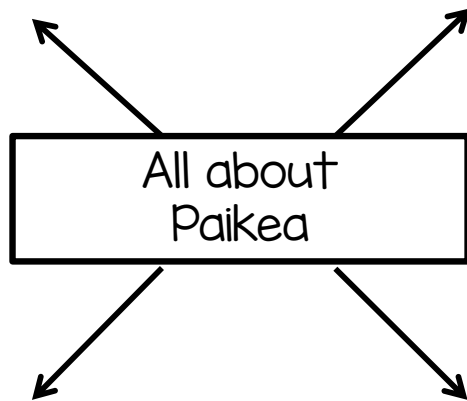
* Answer in a complete sentence

3. What is the God of the Sea's name?

4. Which country did the whale bring Paikea to?

5. Write a character map to show what you know about Paikea. Describe at least four things you know about him from the story.

Draw Paikea in the photo frame below.



1. Summarise the story in your own words.*

* Answer in a complete sentence

2. List three adjectives you can find in the text.

Understand Explain Ideas and Concepts

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3. Choose two words from the story that are new, difficult, or interesting to you. Write a sentence for each one showing that you understand what the word means.

4. What lesson can you learn from the story?

Apply Use What You Read

* Answer in a complete sentence

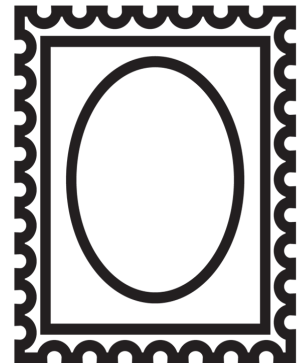
1. Explain why you think Ruatapu acted the way he did.*

2. If you could ask Paikea one question, what would it be?

3. Imagine you are Paikea and you have just arrived in New Zealand. Write a short postcard to your family to let them know you are safe, and explain how you got to New Zealand.

POST CARD

The address is to be written on this side.



Analyse Show How the Story Works

Create a story plot mountain to show your understanding of the story. A story plot mountain shows your understanding of the plot of a story.

Title:

3. Climax

2. Rising Action

4. Falling Action

1. Introduction

5. Resolution

Evaluate Form An Opinion Using Evidence

1. "Ruatapu made the right choice by making a hole in the canoe."
List your reasons for agreeing AND disagreeing with this statement.

I agree with this statement because.....	I disagree with this statement because.....

2. Was this the best solution to the problem? What other ways of gaining his father's respect could Ruatapu have tried?*

* Answer in a complete sentence

create Come Up With New Ideas

Create a billboard to celebrate the whale that saved Paikea.
A billboard should have a bold title and illustrations.



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Planning Space