

Mātauranga Pūrau Category

Bringing Together Mātauranga Māori and Science

Kia ora! This special category is all about combining mātauranga Māori (Māori knowledge) and pūtaiao (science) to explore and explain the world around us. You can choose any science or engineering topic, just make sure it connects to a Māori kaupapa (theme) or includes mātauranga Māori.

You can write your project in te reo Māori, English, or both!

Ideas to Inspire You

Anything is cool! We want you to really embrace this new Kaupapa however below are some ideas you may want to explore:

- How maramataka (the Māori lunar calendar) affects planting or fishing.
- The strength and uses of harakeke (flax) in weaving or rope-making.
- How waka navigators used stars, wind, and ocean currents to travel.
- Testing how traditional kai preservation methods keep food fresh.
- Exploring rongoā (traditional Māori medicine) and the healing properties of native plants.
- Comparing kaitiakitanga (guardianship of the environment) with modern sustainability science.
- You can even use traditional Māori music instruments to show how they have been a part of Maoridom.

What to Include on Your Display Board

1. Title – a short, catchy name for your project.
2. Kaupapa / Idea – what are you studying and why?
3. Mātauranga Māori Connection – how Māori knowledge or values are part of your project.
4. Question or Hypothesis – what did you want to find out?
5. Method – what you did and how you did it.
6. Results – what you discovered.
7. Conclusion – what your results mean and how they connect back to mātauranga Māori.
8. Reflection – what you learned from both science and Māori perspectives.

How Your Project Will Be Judged

- Mātauranga Integration – shows understanding of Māori knowledge and values.
- Scientific Inquiry – uses science methods like observing, testing, and explaining.
- Presentation Quality – clear, colourful, and engaging display.
- Creativity & Originality – unique ideas and your own personal touch.

Tips for Success

- Use te reo Māori words and concepts where you can.
- Talk to whānau, kuia, koroua, or local iwi who may share mātauranga about your topic.
- Add photos, drawings, or graphs to make your board look great.
- Keep your explanations simple and clear so everyone can understand.
- Show how mātauranga Māori and science work together – two ways of learning about one world.

Kia kaha, kia māia, kia manawanui! Have fun exploring, creating, and sharing your mātauranga pūrau project!