

Amorangi AND Millie's Trip THROUGH Time

LAUREN KEENAN

TEACHERS' RESOURCE KIT



RECOMMENDED AGE RANGE:
7-12



SUMMARY

*Ko Taranaki Maunga,
ko Waiwhakaiho awa,
nō Ngāti Te Whiti o Te Ātiawa ki Taranaki au.*

Ko Lauren Keenan taku ingoa.

I wrote *Amorangi and Millie's Trip Through Time* because I wanted children to have the chance to read an enjoyable, exciting story that would foster an interest in Aotearoa New Zealand's history. It's a time travel adventure, but it's also a story about whānau, whakapapa and whenua – about the ancestors whose stories and knowledge guide us and about the land we take care of for our descendants.

This book is set in New Plymouth, where my iwi Te Ātiawa ki Taranaki are from, but the themes are universal. The past shapes our present by giving us our context and identity – whether we are new arrivals in Aotearoa, whether our ancestors saw the hōkioi fly hundreds of years ago, or whether we identify as something in between.

I hope your students enjoy this book. Most of all, I hope it inspires them to learn more about Aotearoa New Zealand's past and the lives of their ancestors – wherever they lived.

WHAT'S IN THIS KIT?

This kit includes ideas for activities and suggested questions designed to spark discussion among your students, all structured around the key themes of the book. The kit was written with the New Zealand social sciences and history curricula in mind.

ACTIVITIES

TE WHENUA (LAND)

What are some ways the landscape changes during the story?

(See pages 9–10, 37, 56, 58, 87–88, 92, 122–123, 125–126, 142, 162–163, 197)

Find a tree, hill or river near your house. Write a short story about it, imagining something that it might have seen long before you were born.

NGĀ TĪPUNA (ANCESTORS)

There is a Māori whakataukī, or proverb, about history.

Kia whakatōmuri te haere whakamua:

'I walk backwards into the future with my eyes fixed on my past.'

– What do you think this means?

Draw a family tree for yourself or someone famous. How many generations back can you go trace?

Talk to someone a generation or two older than you (such as a parent, grandparent or caregiver).

Ask them to tell you a story about their childhood, then answer these questions:

- What has changed since they were your age?
- What is the same?
- What was most interesting to you?

Write a timeline of major events in your family history.

Write a poem about, or a letter to, one of your ancestors. What would you tell them about life in Aotearoa New Zealand today? What do you wish you knew about their time?

Imagine you're a news reporter. Based on your own research, write an article about a significant event in your family history.

Find an object from the past, or a picture of one, that your ancestors would have used and share it with someone else. You might find the object through older people you know, your museum or library.

Draw a picture of what you think one of your ancestors (e.g., your great-great-grandmother or grandfather) would have looked like and how they would have dressed.

The author dedicates this book to two of her grandmothers, who she never met. Do you have any ancestors you would like to meet?

PEPEHA

The pepeha links all of these themes together. It tells others who your family is and what other things – like natural features – are important to you. Write your pepeha to acknowledge your whānau, whakapapa and whenua.

AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND HISTORY

If you could travel back in time, what time and place in Aotearoa New Zealand's past would you go to? Write a short story about your adventure.

The women with red hair wear different clothes in different time periods. Find or draw some pictures of people wearing those types of clothes.

Mrs Florence left her home in England and travelled all the way to New Zealand on a wooden ship – a journey that took months.

- What do you think the journey was like?
- Why do you think people made those journeys?
- Would you have liked to do that?

British people, including some of Millie and Amorangi's ancestors, colonised Aotearoa New Zealand.

- What does colonisation mean?
 - How do you think colonisation affected what this country is like today?
 - What are some other countries that were colonised?
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Amorangi and Millie's Māori ancestors lost their land after the invasion of Parihaka.

- How do you think that affected those people?
 - How do you think it affected their descendants' lives?
-

Barrett's Store and other shops sell different things at different times

(see pages 37–38, 57, 122–123, 142, 162).

- Can you list some of the things they sold?
- What are some things sold in the past that are not sold now?
- What are some things sold now that were not sold in the past?

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE BOOK

Write a word or phrase you could use to describe these characters:

- Amorangi
 - Millie
 - Ria
 - Mr Salisbury
 - Mrs Florence.
-

Write a phrase to describe how you felt about these scenes:

- Millie and Amorangi's mother goes missing and the writing appears on the tree
- The children meet the giant eagle
- The volcano erupts
- Mr Salisbury appears
- The children meet their mother in the past.

OTHER READING AND RESOURCES

Hökioi/Haast's eagle images and simulated cry: nzbirdsonline.org.nz/species/haasts-eagle

Painting of New Plymouth in 1860: natlib.govt.nz/records/22769400

Picture of Parihaka: collection.pukeariki.com/objects/28704/parihaka

For the women with red hair's changing fashion, search online for images of:

- 1980s jazzercise (see pp. 36)
- 1960s beehive (see pp. 56)
- 1930s women's fashion (see pp. 82)
- 1900 plaid dress (pp. 121–122)
- 1880s dress (pp. 141)
- 1850s bonnet dress (pp. 163).

If you would like to expand on the history explored in *Amorangi and Millie's Trip Through Time*, some other useful sources are:

The National Library's website: natlib.govt.nz/schools/teaching-and-learning-resources/resources-for-learning/resources-for-teaching-nz-history-topics

Te Ara, the online New Zealand encyclopedia: teara.govt.nz – especially the sections on Māori (teara.govt.nz/en/maori-new-zealanders) and immigration (teara.govt.nz/en/history-of-immigration)

Te Akomanga, the New Zealand history website: nzhistory.govt.nz/te-akomanga.

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