

Maku Ra Pea
3rd grade
Social Studies/Music
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Blackridge Elementary

**Core Curriculum,
Social Studies, 3.2.1.b, c**

- b. Describe how...music and artistic creations serve as an expression of culture.
- c. Compare elements of the local community with communities from different parts of the world.

**Art Area, Standard #
Music, 3.M.P.4**

Sing folk, traditional, and call and response songs in tune, with good vocal tone

Objective: Students will learn about the Polynesia through New Zealand and its music. We will discuss geography, history, and of course the music from the region.

Materials:

Map or globe

Images of New Zealand (cities, natural features, film locations, animals) in a PowerPoint

Videos or recordings of: God Defend New Zealand, Haka, Hula, Maku Ra Pea (all can be found on YouTube)

Give your students some background on New Zealand in general (geography, Polynesian settlement, colonial past, native culture, animals) as this information will give more meaning to the music you share with them. Since I teach America's national anthem to my students, I like to compare and contrast it with New Zealand's, which is sung both in English and Maori.

The native peoples of New Zealand are the Maori, a Polynesian people. They share cultural elements with other Polynesian peoples such as native Hawaiians. The Haka is a traditional war dance performed by the Maori. In New Zealand today, it is performed to celebrate Maori culture. It is also used by Kiwi sports teams, like the All Blacks, New Zealand's rugby team at the start of matches to intimidate the rival team. **Compare the Maori Haka to Hawaiian Hula.** Hula is most often perceived as a dance for women, but there are also hulas performed by men. In ancient Hawaii, warriors were selected from the best hula dancers. If possible, show videos of both.

Maku Ra Pea is a *waiata*, or wisdom song, sung by the Maoris. There are 3 types of *waiatas*: lullabies, love songs, or laments. Maori uses pure vowels, just like Spanish, and each letter is pronounced. There is a digraph that makes a different sound than in English. The digraph "wh" makes an "f" sound; "awhi" is pronounced "afi".

Sing the song to your students, have them echo the text, and then echo the song until they can sing it with you. Once the song is learned, read the text translation in English, ask them what kind of *waiata* they think it is. It is a lullaby about learning. Maku Ra Pea, makes a great warm up song to start a class.

Extensions:

E Papa Waiari is a lament waiata, and also a Maori stick game.

Compare and contrast Polynesian instruments.


How does what we learned today connect to them?

Māku rā pea

Māori Folk song

Traditional


F B♭ F C7 F



Mā - ku rā pea, Mā - ku rā pea, Mā - ku ko - e e a - whi e, Ki te

B♭ F C7 F

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a - ra, a - ra Tu - pu Mā - ku ko - e e a - whi e

Māku rā pea
 Māku rā pea
 Māku koe e awhi e
 Ki te ara, ara Tupu
 Māku koe e awhi e x 2

I will perhaps
 I will perhaps
 I will help you
 Upon the pathway, of progress
 I will indeed help you

