

Māori Culture

Māori oral history names Kupe as the first explorer to discover New Zealand. He and his companion, Ngahue, captained two sea-going waka (canoes), Matahorua and Tawiri-rangi, and sailed south from Hawaiki to see what lay beyond the horizon.

The first sign of a major land mass was a build up of white cloud in the distance. Kupe's wife, Hine-te-aparangi, called out "He ao he ao! He aotea! He aotearoa" ("A cloud, a cloud! A white cloud! A long white cloud!"), and so the land was named Aotearoa - 'Land of the long white cloud'. After circumnavigating the North and South Islands of Aotearoa, Kupe and his crew returned to Hawaiki with treasures such as preserved moa flesh and pounamu (greenstone).

The story of Kupe's remarkable voyage, and other such endeavours, were passed on from one generation to the next through storytelling and song. Today Māori people live throughout New Zealand, and many are actively involved with keeping their culture and language alive. Within any Māori community, the marae provides a focus for social, cultural and spiritual life. The term marae describes a communal 'plaza' area that includes a whareniui (meeting house) and wharekai (dining room).

The tradition of oral history - the telling of ancient stories, myths and legends - continues today. On many marae, elders teach tribal lore, etiquette and genealogy. They also retell the stories that form the basis of Māori beliefs, including the story of how Maui fished up the North Island and how the saddleback got its name.

Traditional carvers also help to keep Māori culture alive by creating intricate works that pay respect to the past. Every piece carved tells a story, which

毛利文化

毛利人口述的历史把库佩称为发现新西兰的首位探险家。库佩和同伴纳胡伊指挥玛塔赫罗瓦号和塔维里让伊号两艘航海独木舟，从哈瓦基向南航行，探索地平线以外的世界。

他们所见到的陆地的第一个迹象是远处的一团白云。库佩的妻子看到后便大喊起来：“云，云，白云，长长的白云！”，这块陆地由此被称为奥蒂罗阿，也就是“长白云之乡”。库佩和他的船员们绕新西兰的北岛和南岛航行一圈后，满载腌制的恐鸟肉和绿玉等财宝返回哈瓦基。

人们通过故事和歌曲的形式，把库佩这次非凡的航行以及其他类似的航海事迹一代代传了下来。目前毛利人居住于新西兰各地，许多人都积极地参与延续毛利文化和语言的活动。每个毛利社区都设有一个以提供社交、文化和精神活动为主的场所，毛利语称为‘Marae’。Marae 指的是一个公共的“小广场”以及附属的会议室和饭厅。

毛利人口述历史的传统，也就是讲述古代的故事、神话、传说的传统一直延续至今。许多会堂有毛利长者教授知识、礼仪、宗谱，讲述形成毛利人信仰基础的故事，比如毛伊钓起北岛的故事，‘鞍背鸟’名字的由来等等。

传统的雕刻艺人也通过精雕细刻的工艺品为保留毛利文化尽一份力。这些作品通常以缅怀过去为主题。每件作品讲述

can be read by those who know how. The shape of the heads, position of the body as well as the surface patterns work together to record and remember events.

The ancient beliefs of Māori culture are recognised and respected by New Zealand's leaders today. Recently, a North Island roading project was modified to avoid disturbing a taniwha (water monster). In its original form, the roading project would have encroached on a swamp which is the home of a one-eyed taniwha, Karutahi. The local tribe, Ngati Naho, believes the taniwha spends half the year in the swamp. It has a second home in the Waikato River, to which it swims during floods. To ensure that the swamp is undisturbed, Transit New Zealand has altered its plans so that this historic site is preserved.

一个故事，那些知道这些故事由来的人都能看懂。头的形状、身体的姿势，加上工艺品表面的图案，就能记录那些过往的事件，供后人追忆。

毛利文化中的古代信仰也得到了现今新西兰领导人的认可和尊重。最近，为了避免打搅一个水兽，对一项道路修建计划进行了修改。根据原来的修建计划，这条公路要穿过一个沼泽地，而这个沼泽地是一个独眼水兽的住所。当地部落中一位名叫纳提·纳侯的人相信，这个水兽要在沼泽地居住半年，在洪水泛滥季节才游到怀卡托河的另一个家。为保证沼泽地不受干扰，新西兰交通局修改了修建方案，以保护这个历史遗址。