

Matariki Trail – Aparima / Riverton

This challenge is a trail you can enjoy with whānau or friends, at any time of day/night, and will help you learn about the significance of each star of Matariki.

Read the clue, which will give you ideas for places to look for each of the 9 stars which have been placed around town. When you find each star, write its name under the clue.

Correct answers dropped off to Te Hikoī before 27 June 2022 will go in the draw to win a prize!

Matariki traditionally heralds the new year for Māori, which is a time to plan for the future.

If you were looking to get a calendar or diary to help plan your year, where might you go?

Write the star name of the star found here.

If you were looking to buy seafood to cook up, where might you find it?

Write the star name of the star found here.

Sharing kai (food) with whānau and friends is a common way to celebrate Matariki.

Matariki is also a time to celebrate new life and to remember those who've passed.

If you were feeling a bit blown away with struggles in life, and wanted to know what community support might be available to help you, where might you go?

Write the star name of the star found here.

If you wanted to use the cycles of the moon to guide when you plan your crops, where could you find something to help you, that you'd only have to buy once and use forever?

Write the star name of the star found here.

Tūpuna (ancestors) would look to when the stars of Matariki disappeared in April/May to preserve crops for winter, and when they reappeared in June/July some could read them to predict the upcoming season.

Matariki celebrations occur mid-Winter, between late May and early July, because it follows the Māori lunar calendar, not the European calendar, the dates for Matariki change every year.

If you wanted to know what time Matariki was to occur in future years, where might you ask?

Write the star name of the star found here.

If you were having trouble seeing all the stars, and you were concerned about your health, where might you visit?

Write the star name of the star found here.

Matariki is the Māori name for a group of about 500 stars known also as the Pleiades, which rise in mid-winter. Between six to nine are visible without a telescope, depending on where you are looking from, which is why different iwi have different korero/narratives about Matariki.

The god of wind, Tawhirimatea, was the son of Ranginui (the sky father) and Papatuanuku (the earth mother). He became so angry when his siblings separated their parents, he tore out his eyes, throwing them into the heavens, creating a group of stars which Māori call Matariki.

If you had become disconnected from your family history, but wanted to research it, where might you go for help?

Write the star name of the star found here.

If you needed to do some work on your whare (home) to prepare for a bleak winter, where might you get supplies?

Write the star name of the star found here.

When reading the stars of Matariki to predict the upcoming season, clear and bright stars promised a warm and abundant winter while hazy stars warned of a bleak winter.

Local belief is that the great waka of Matariki sweeps across the sky to collect the spirits of those who have passed in the year.

If you were planning to write a letter to someone to invite them to spend Matariki with you during this time, where would you buy a stamp to post a letter?

Write the star name of the star found here.

Your details

Ingoa / Name

Tau waea / Phone