

Pakiwaitara

The 3 kete of knowledge

Long ago, Tāne Mahuta decided to climb up to the heavens to seek the baskets of knowledge. His brother Whiro was angry. Whiro thought he had more right to the baskets than Tāne because he was the older brother.

But Tāne, with the help of the winds, was able to climb up until he reached the summit of all the heavens. Here, at Te Toi-o-ngā-rangi, he reached the 3 baskets of knowledge and the 2 sacred stones. The baskets were:

Te kete aronui. This kete held all the knowledge that could help humankind.

Te kete tuauri. This kete held the knowledge of ritual, memory and prayer.

Te kete tuatea. This kete contained the knowledge of mākutu (evil) that was harmful to humans.



When Tāne finally reached earth again, he placed the baskets and stones in a special house called wharekura, which he had built before his journey to the heavens.

From that day on, he was known as Tāne-te-wānanga, Tāne bringer of knowledge from the sky, and it was his mahi to look after the Earth.

What might this pakiwaitara remind us about?

- Learning can happen in different ways, in different places, and at any time.
- Knowledge is power.
- Learning is lifelong, no matter how young or old we are.

