storytime™

PLAY & LEARN

ISSUE 142

MYTHS AND LEGENDS:

THE BIRTH OF MAUI

The Birth of Maui is a story about the childhood of the famous Polynesian hero. This pack is about trickster heroes who use cleverness to change the world! Pupils will find out about Polynesia – and the cool designs used in Polynesian cloth and tattoos!



LESSON IDEAS THIS MONTH!

1. LITERACY LESSON IDEAS

- If your pupils encounter a word or phrase they don't recognise in this month's magazine, encourage them to look it up in the **Storytime Glossary**. This helps them build their vocabulary and become familiar with using reference resources at the same time. Ask them to write down their favourite new words and expressions and try using them in a sentence.

- The **Class Discussion Sheet** has questions about heroes! What is a hero, and what makes them special? Remember, heroes can come in many different shapes and sizes. Who are your pupils' heroes, and why do they admire them?

- The **Reading Comprehension Sheet** includes an extract from the tale of Maui's first adventure. Can your pupils find the proper nouns and adjectives in it? There is also a rhetorical question in the text. This might be a good opportunity to introduce the concept of rhetorical questions to your class and discuss how they are used.

- The events of Maui's adventure have been jumbled up on the **Story Sequencing Sheet**, and your pupils should number them to show the order in which they should be read. Children should check the original story if they're not sure about the order in which things happened!

- Pupils should write down their own notes about what happened in Maui's myth on the **Storyboard** page. They could use single words, phrases or complete sentences and add them underneath the colourful pictures!

- Maui is a most popular and important hero in Polynesian mythology, and there are lots of fun legends about him. Luckily, we have told many of these tales in ***Storytime***! The sheet entitled **The Many Tales of Maui!** has a list of these stories for your pupils to check out! We encourage them to read these stories (in the magazines or online if your school has a **Storytime Hub** subscription) and write a review of the tale that was their favourite. What made it special?

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1. LITERACY LESSON IDEAS CONTINUED

- Trickster heroes like Maui can be found in stories from around the world. Tricksters don't have to be strong or brave like many other heroes – they use cleverness and magical powers to win! They can also be troublemakers who break the rules and change the world along the way!

  The **Terrific Tricksters!** page lists some other mythical tricksters who can be found in ***Storytime*** tales. We encourage children to read as many of these stories as they can. What do these heroes have in common, and how did they change the world? What lessons do they have to teach us about curiosity and using cleverness instead of might?

- Once your pupils have read about Maui and other amazing mythical tricksters, they should come up with a trickster legend of their own! On the **Making a Hero Tale!** page are a series of questions that will help children to create their own trickster and a myth about them. Pupils should note down an answer to each question, being as creative as they can. What powers should their trickster have? What do they want, and what problems should they face?

- Once pupils have answered all the questions on the previous page, they should write the story of their trickster on the **My Trickster Myth!** page. As part of this exercise, they should mention what the hero wants, the obstacles that stand in their way, the problems they face and how they change the world along the way (on purpose *or* by accident!)

  Remember that legends get retold in many different ways! Your pupils could tell their myth in text, with illustrations, in comic book form or even as a play in which they act out the tale they have created!

2. GEOGRAPHY LESSON IDEA

- Maui is a hero who is very popular in Polynesian cultures, and Polynesia is a fascinating and unique part of the world! Your pupils can find out more about it from the **Amazing Polynesia!** fact sheet. It has a map of the region and information about its geography and cultures.

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3. MATHS LESSON IDEA

- Patterns made up of interlocking shapes are very popular in Polynesia, and the **Polynesian Pattern-Making!** sheet discusses this idea – also known as tessellation. There is a pattern of tessellating triangles for pupils to complete, and then they can try to fit squares, circles and other shapes together, too. Which ones work best?

4. ART LESSON IDEAS

- The **Complete the Pattern!** sheet has some more patterns inspired by Polynesian cloth and tattoo design. Can your pupils complete the patterns and even come up with new ones of their own? Where might they want to use these patterns?

- In this month's myth, Maui transforms himself into a kererū, or New Zealand wood pigeon! These beautiful birds have a unique colour scheme and have a special place in Maori culture. The **Colour a Kererū!** page has a pigeon for you to colour in – you could look up what a real kererū is like online and copy it, or come up with your own cool colour scheme!

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STORYTIME GLOSSARY

Look up any words you don't know in this handy reference guide!

Jungle Games (Page 6)

- **Suggested:** put forward an idea or plan for consideration
- **Panther:** large wild cat with dark fur
- **Scattered:** moved off in different directions
- **Wriggle:** twist or squirm
- **Crevices:** narrow gaps or cracks
- **Declared:** said in a forceful way
- **Ferns:** leafy plants that grow in damp, shady places
- **Dare:** challenge to do something
- **Bumbled:** moved in a clumsy way
- **Litter:** group of animals born at the same time
- **Banyan:** kind of large, spreading tree

The Two Gems in the Sky (Page 08)

- **Blessing:** something that brings luck or other good things
- **Mischievous:** liking to play tricks or cause harmless trouble
- **Selfish:** caring more about herself than other people
- **Elders:** older people respected for their experience
- **Dandelion:** yellow flower whose seeds drift in the wind
- **Arrogant:** acting as if she was better than other people
- **Shimmered:** shone with a changing light
- **Silvery:** like silver

The Birth of Maui (Page 13)

- **Determined:** not giving up easily
- **Survive:** stay alive or continue living
- **Afloat:** floating on water rather than sinking
- **Shelter:** protect
- **Wisdom:** knowledge and good judgement gained from experience
- **Peculiar:** strange or unusual
- **Mastered:** learned extremely well
- **Albatross:** kind of large seabird that can fly long distances
- **Glided:** moved through air without flapping wings
- **Reveal:** uncover something hidden
- **Tattoos:** designs made by putting ink into the outer layers of the skin

What I Am Not (Page 18)

- **Distinguished:** important-looking or special
- **Velvety:** soft and smooth like velvet fabric
- **Faintest:** the weakest or smallest amount
- **Mistaken:** thought to be something else by accident
- **Definition:** explanation of what a word or idea means
- **Sleek:** smooth, shiny and neat-looking
- **Scurried:** moved quickly with short steps
- **Proportions:** the size and shape of something compared with its parts
- **Currents:** flowing movements of water
- **Threading:** moving carefully around obstacles in the way

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STORYTIME GLOSSARY

The BOOM That Made the Universe (Page 24)

- **Observatory:** place where people use telescopes to look into space
- **Telescope:** device used to look at far-away objects
- **Peered:** looked closely
- **Exploring:** travelling through or studying something new
- **Craters:** bowl-shaped holes on a planet or moon
- **Astronomy:** the study of stars, planets and space
- **Fascinated:** made him extremely interested in something
- **Galaxies:** massive groups of stars and planets in space
- **Contained:** had something inside
- **Compared:** looked at two or more things to see how they are alike or different
- **Nebulas:** giant clouds of dust and gas
- **Stargazers:** people who enjoy looking at the stars
- **Observing:** watching carefully to learn more about something
- **Discovered:** found out something new
- **Exploded:** burst apart with great force
- **Practical:** useful or sensible
- **Adjusted:** changed something slightly to make it work better
- **Focused:** pointed at and adjusted to look at something

The Tempest (Page 30)

- **Overlooking:** looking down on from a high place
- **Fierce:** powerful and dangerous
- **Magician:** a person who uses magic
- **Wispy:** thin, light and feathery
- **Embroidered:** decorated with patterns sewn into fabric
- **Symbols:** pictures or marks which stand for something else
- **Duke:** important ruler and nobleman
- **Govern:** rule or manage
- **Plotted:** made secret plans
- **Conquered:** took control by force
- **Adrift:** floating without control on the water
- **Betrayed:** hurt someone's trust by acting against them
- **Gestured:** made a movement with the hands to communicate something
- **Lightning:** flash of electricity from the sky
- **Buffeted:** hit by strong winds or waves
- **Stranded:** left in a place

The Fairy Fleet (Page 38)

- **Bark:** kind of sailing ship
- **Woven:** made by crossing threads together
- **Shred:** tiny bit torn from something
- **Masts:** tall poles that hold sails on ship
- **Prow:** front part of a boat
- **Fleet:** large group of ships

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STORYTIME GLOSSARY

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Flight to Freedom (Page 40)

- **Surrounded:** with things all around it
- **Property:** land owned by somebody
- **Enslaved:** owned and forced to work by someone
- **Unfair:** not right or not treating people equally
- **Siblings:** brothers and sisters
- **Dutiful:** helpful and responsible
- **Nursemaid:** person who looks after children for others
- **Homesick:** sad and upset because she is away from home
- **Had a terrible temper:** could become angry very easily
- **Pigsty:** place where pigs live
- **Ancestors:** family members who lived long ago
- **Homelands:** places they came from
- **Knocked unconscious:** lost the ability to act or sense what was around her

The Jackal and the Drum (Page 46)

- **Jackal:** wild dog-like mammal
- **Packmates:** members of the same group
- **Gobble:** eat quickly and greedily
- **Loyal:** supportive of members of their group and family
- **Pretended:** acted as if something was true when it wasn't
- **Knothole:** hole in tree where branch grew
- **Hoard:** hidden collection of something
- **Chittered:** made high-pitched sounds
- **Dribble:** let saliva run out of mouth

The Case of the Crimson Phantom (Page 49)

- **Case file:** collection of information about an investigation
- **Sidekick:** companion or helper for a hero
- **Detective:** person who investigates things for people or companies
- **Agency:** company that offers services
- **Phantom:** mysterious ghost-like figure
- **Customers:** people who buy things or use a service
- **Queue:** line of people waiting their turn
- **Flustered:** worried, rushed or confused
- **Mysterious:** unknown or not understood
- **Roller coaster:** ride where a small railway car goes along a steep and twisty track
- **Fabulous:** very good or impressive
- **Gadgets:** small, useful devices or tools
- **Nickname:** informal name used to refer to someone
- **Followers:** people who subscribe to someone's online content
- **Investigating:** look for clues or answers related to something
- **Blurry:** unclear or out of focus
- **Incident:** unusual event or happening
- **Wailing:** crying out or screaming
- **Distorted:** changed from its normal shape
- **Footage:** recorded video
- **Go viral:** become very popular online

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CLASS DISCUSSION SHEET

LET'S TALK ABOUT...

heroes! They come in all shapes and sizes... but what do you think makes a hero? Some of them are big and strong, while others are clever and cunning (like Maui!).

1. Who are some heroes from mythology that you can name?

2. What are some words that you would use to describe heroes? List as many as you can!

3. Maui uses cleverness and magic instead of strength and often breaks rules or causes trouble. Do you think he is still a hero? Why?

4. Can you think of any modern-day people who you think are heroes? What makes them special?

MEET MY HERO!

Anyone can be a hero to someone! Tell us about a person that you admire and draw them below!

My hero is: _____

What makes them special?

_____

_____

Words I would use to describe them:

_____

_____

_____

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READING COMPREHENSION SHEET

Find the *proper nouns* and *adjectives* – and a *rhetorical question*!

> Taranga had four sons, who were strong and tall. She was very happy when she gave birth to another child in the summer. He was also a boy, but he was small and weak.
>
> Taranga was worried. Was her baby strong enough to survive? Then, she heard a voice from the waves, as if the sea itself was speaking to her. It said, "Your child is not ready yet. Place your child in the water and Tangaroa, the god of the ocean, will care for him."

1. *Proper nouns* are names of particular people, places or things. What are the two proper nouns in the extract?

_____

2. In the first paragraph, two *adjectives* (describing words) are used to talk about Maui's brothers. What are they? What are the two adjectives used to describe Maui himself in the paragraph?

_____

3. A *rhetorical question* is used to make a point or make a reader think, rather than get an answer. What is the rhetorical question in this text?

WHAT'S THE OPPOSITE?

Write in a word that means the opposite of each of the ones listed below.

Heavy: _____

Wet: _____

Clean: _____

Quiet: _____

Fresh: _____

ANSWERS: 1. *Taranga* and *Tangaroa*. 2. *Strong, tall, small* and *weak*. 3. 'Was her baby strong enough to survive?' **What's the Opposite?** Possible answers are *light, dry, dirty, loud* and *state*.

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STORY SEQUENCING SHEET

The story of Maui's childhood is told below, but the events have been mixed up. Show the order the sections should be read in by numbering them!

Taranga placed Maui in the water and he floated out to sea. He was watched over by the sea god and the creatures that served him.	
The old man taught the boy many things – how to make cloth and rope, carve canoes and find his way over the ocean.	
She cut off some of her hair and wrapped the child in it. Then, she decided that she would call the boy 'Maui'.	
Maui learned so quickly that the old man also taught the boy how to speak to wild creatures and take the form of different animals.	
Many years later, Maui decided to leave the old man and look for his family. He turned into a bird and flew out over the sea.	
Maui was washed up on a beach and found by an old man. He took the baby into his home, fed him and warmed him over a fire.	
One night, Maui followed her down a deep tunnel beneath the Earth. He took the form of a wood pigeon to fly after her.	
Long ago, a woman called Taranga lived on an island in the Pacific Ocean. She was the leader of her village and had four strong sons.	
At the end of the tunnel, Taranga met Maui's father, the god of the underworld. He hugged Maui, glad to finally meet his long-lost son!	
He soon found his mother's village and was welcomed into her family. However, he wondered where she went every night!	
But when she gave birth to her fifth son, he was small and weak. Taranga heard the sea god telling her to put the baby in the water.	

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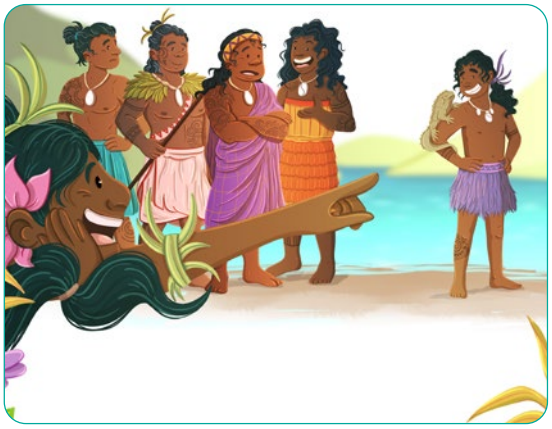
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STORYBOARD

Tell the tale of Maui's adventures in your own words below.
You could write words, brief notes or full sentences – it's up to you!









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THE MANY TALES OF MAUI!

In Polynesian mythology, Maui is a demigod and hero who is famed for his cleverness. He caused lots of trouble... and made life better for humans along the way! Here are stories about him that you should read.

WHAT KIND OF HERO IS MAUI?

Maui is a trickster hero, who uses magic and cleverness to win instead of strength or force. He likes to cause trouble and often breaks the rules. He is also a *culture hero* for many Polynesian peoples. A culture hero is an important legendary hero who made life better for people by discovering fire, making laws, teaching people how to grow crops, or making other breakthroughs. Culture heroes can be found in legends from around the world, and they are often trickster heroes as well. These characters aren't afraid of breaking rules or defying the gods to help humans!

The Birth of Maui

Storytime issue 142

The 'origin story' of this cheeky trickster. He is cast into the sea as a baby and learns magic from a wise man.



Maui Goes Fishing

Storytime issue 20

When he goes fishing with his brothers, he creates the islands of New Zealand!



Maui and the Secret of Fire

Storytime issue 127

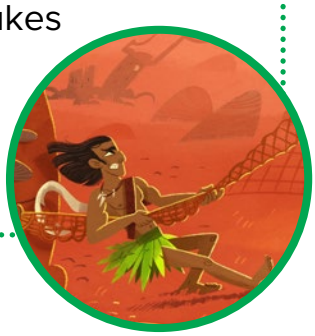
Maui puts out all the fires in the village, so he has to go and get some more from his grandmother... the fire goddess!



Maui Tames the Sun

Storytime issue 48

The hero makes the day last longer with a cunning trick!



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TERRIFIC TRICKSTERS!

Here are six tricksters you should know about! Can you match each one with the correct picture below?

MEET THE TRICKSTERS!

A. Anansi: cunning spider-god
From: Akan, West Africa & Caribbean
Read more in: ***Storytime*** 4, 51, 107

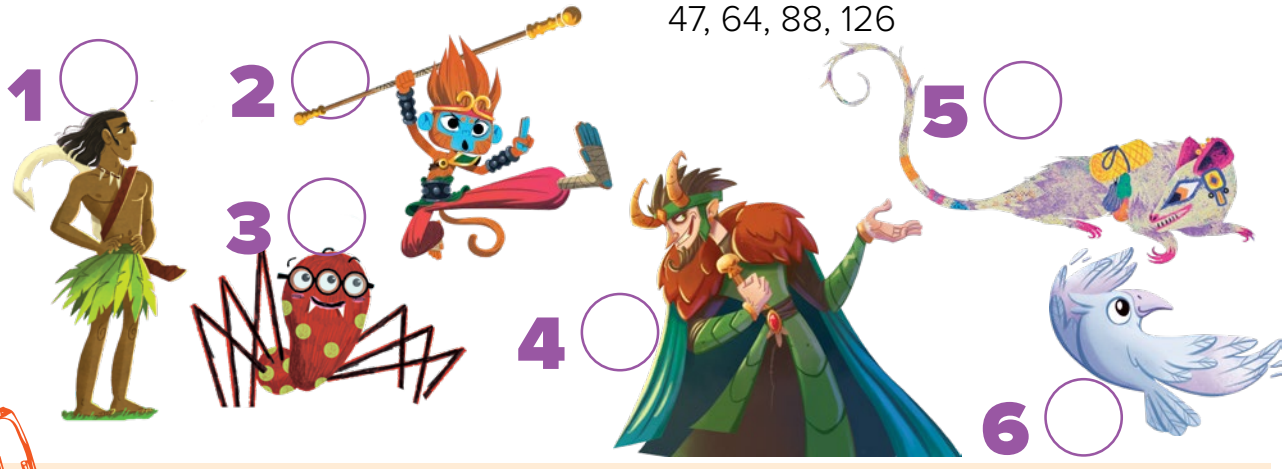
B. Raven: clever white-feathered bird
From: Haida culture, North America
Read more in: ***Storytime*** 61

C. The Great Opossum: mighty helper of humanity
From: Central America
Read more in: ***Storytime*** 119

D. The Monkey King: brave and boastful warrior
From: China
Read more in: ***Storytime*** 83

E. Maui: shape-shifting troublemaker
From: Polynesia
Read more in: ***Storytime*** 20, 48, 127, 142

F. Loki: wicked god of mischief
From: Scandinavia, Norse mythology
Read more in: ***Storytime*** 10, 23, 39, 47, 64, 88, 126



CIRCLE ALL THE WORDS THAT DESCRIBE A TRICKSTER!

cunning loyal **scheming** audacious
obedient **sly** unpredictable **curious**
timid crafty **restless** clever

ANSWERS: 1. E, 2. D, 3. A, 4. F, 5. C, 6. B.
Words that describe tricksters: *cunning, scheming, audacious, sly, unpredictable, curious, crafty, restless, clever.*

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MAKING A HERO TALE!

Answer the questions below to create your own legend about a trickster hero. When you have finished, write your new story down on the next page.

☐ **1. Who is your hero?** Give them a name! Animals make brilliant tricksters. Are they small and clever, or big and clumsy-but-lucky?

My hero is: _____

☐ **2. What is your hero's weakness?** Every trickster has one — Anansi is greedy, Maui is restless. What flaw will cause trouble later?

My hero's flaw is: _____

☐ **3. What does your hero want – and why?** Food for themselves? Or fire for all of humanity? The best trickster tales are about changing the world.

The thing your hero wants is: _____

☐ **4. Who has the thing your hero wants?**

This should be a powerful being – a god, a giant or a king. The bigger and stronger, the better!

The powerful being is: _____

☐ **5. How does your hero reach the powerful being?**

Do they fly, swim, disguise themselves, or talk their way in?

The trick the hero uses is: _____

☐ **6. The escape: what happens?** Do they lose something or get hurt along the way? Remember their flaws!

Oops! What happened? _____

☐ **7. How was the world changed by what the hero did?**

Did their actions make life better for humans – on purpose or by accident?

They will be remembered because: _____

_____

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MY TRICKSTER MYTH!

2 OF 2

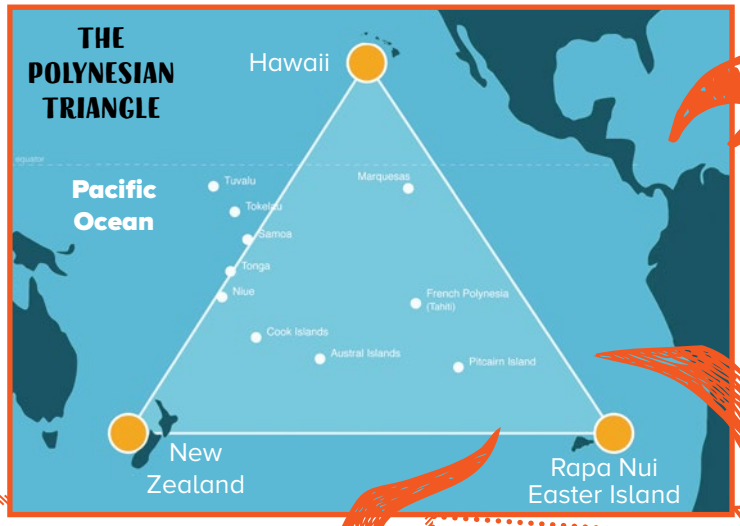
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AMAZING POLYNESIA!

Polynesia is a huge area of the Pacific Ocean that is scattered with islands. Here are some things you should know about this fascinating region!



DID YOU KNOW?

Polynesian peoples began settling the islands of the 'Polynesian triangle' over 2000 years ago, travelling up to 2500 miles across the Pacific in open wooden canoes. They had no compass, no GPS and no maps. They navigated by observing the stars, the swell of the waves, the flight of birds and even the temperature of the water. This was an amazing achievement!

FACT FILE!

- **1000+** islands
- **7.6 million people** live across the triangle today
- Covers **10 million square miles** of ocean
- **2000+ years** of history
- **6** independent Polynesian nations
- Less than **0.01% of the world's population**

WATCH OUT!

Many of the islands in the Pacific are volcanoes! Volcanic eruptions can be dangerous, but the ash and lava that they throw out makes the soil fertile and good for growing crops. New volcanic islands are being formed all the time!

THINK ABOUT IT?

Why do you think Maui is a trickster – not a warrior or a king? What does that tell us about what the Polynesian peoples admired?

WHY POLYNESIAN TALES ARE SPECIAL!

1 No writing! Polynesian cultures didn't have a way of writing things down. Every piece of knowledge was kept alive in stories, songs and chants that were passed on from generation to generation.

2 The huge ocean! Being surrounded by the biggest ocean on Earth, Polynesians were at the mercy of natural forces. Myths gave those forces personalities, which made them easier to understand and respect.

3 Their stories travelled with them! As Polynesian navigators settled new islands, they carried their myths with them. Stories about Maui can be found from New Zealand to Hawaii!

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POLYNESIAN PATTERN-MAKING!

Tattoos with complicated patterns are very popular and important in Polynesian culture! Can you continue filling in the pattern below?

What is tessellation?

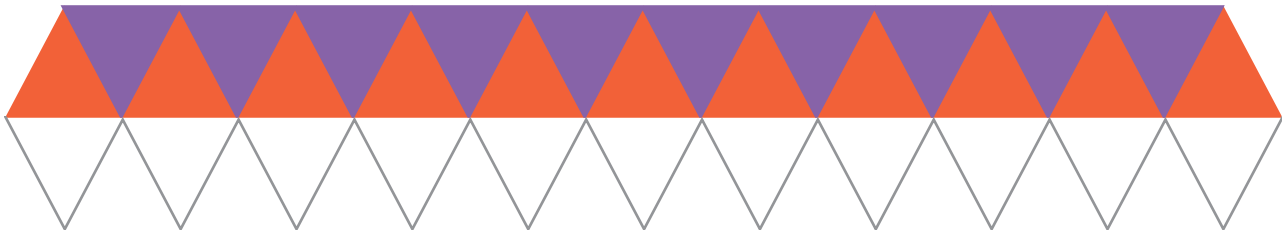
When shapes fit together perfectly with NO gaps and NO overlaps, it is called *tessellation*. Polynesian weavers used tessellating triangles and chevrons on woven cloth and tattoo borders for thousands of years.

Try this!

1 Look at this completed Polynesian border pattern. Can you see how the red and purple triangles fit together perfectly? Count the triangles in one row!



2 Continue the pattern! Fill in the empty triangles below – the first row is done for you. Shade the triangles to match the pattern above.



Why do triangles tessellate?

All three angles of a triangle add up to 180°. Two triangles make 360° – a full turn – so they always fit perfectly around a point.

Challenge!

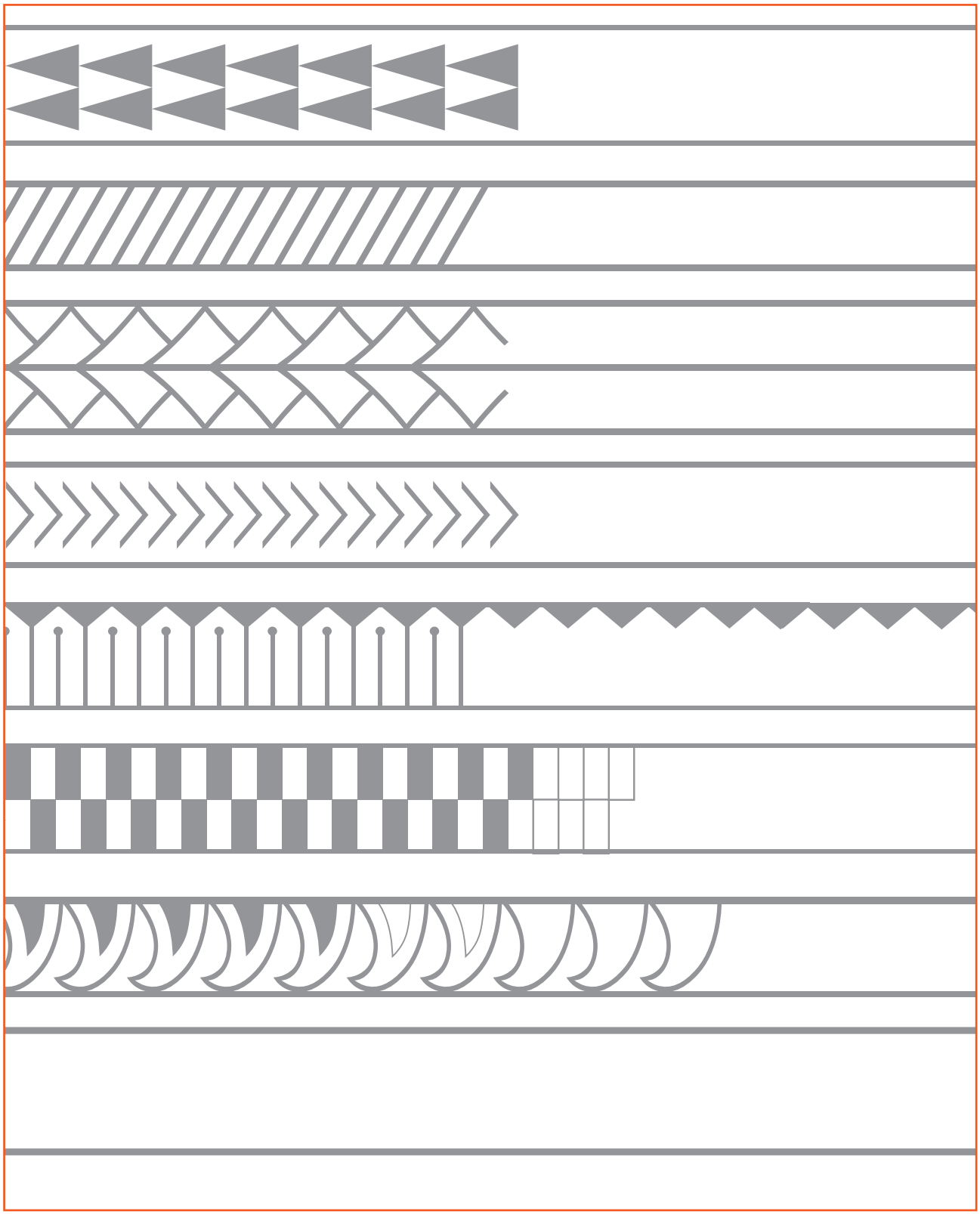
Can a circle tessellate?
Try drawing circles packed together — what happens?
Hint: look at the gaps.
Now try hexagons.
What do you notice?

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COMPLETE THE PATTERNS!

Fill in the patterns and create one of your own!

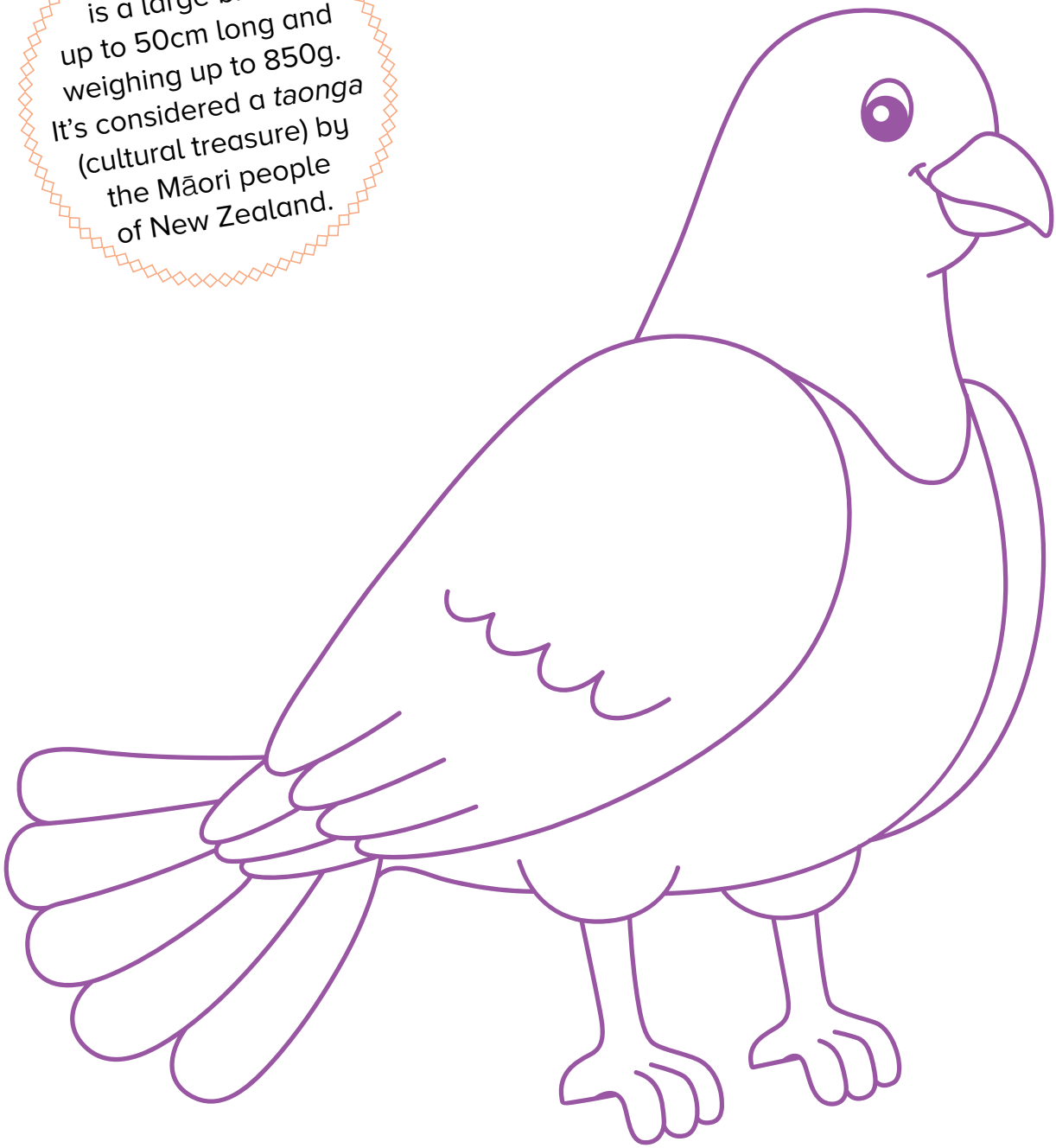


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COLOUR A KERERŪ!

The kererū is a large bird – up to 50cm long and weighing up to 850g. It's considered a *taonga* (cultural treasure) by the Māori people of New Zealand.



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