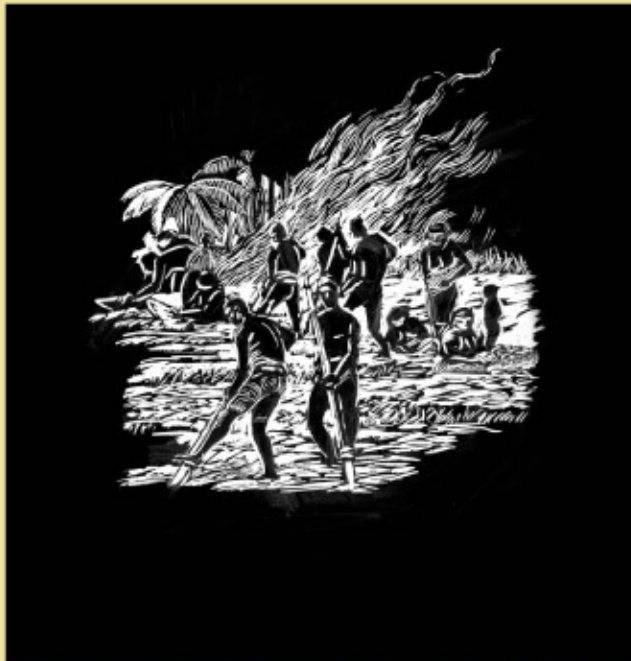


Gardens

Kumara was the most important food cultivated by Maori and was a major of their diet. Kumara was planted in mounds with one plant per-mound and was most likely planted on the terraces below. Other foods brought from Hawaiki such as yams and taro did not make the transition the weather being too cold for growing these two root vegetables.

"The kumara is a plant of succulent nature and tender growth liable to be injured by the buffeting of strong and cold winds. This annual needs suitable soil and a considerable amount of care and skill in cultivation, much more so than the common potato.

"(Maori Agriculture, Elsdon Best)



Te kite kai a Tairongo (the food basket of Tairongo) or Te umu tao noa a Tairongo (the food oven of Tairongo)

Te kite kai a Tairongo and Te umu tao noa a Tairongo the traditional name for Ohiwa reflecting the abundance of food that could be gathered from the harbour.



Fishing and Shellfish Gathering

The sea was very important to Maori, as shown by the many living sites found on the coast. The harbour teemed with fish and is still a breeding, nursery and feeding ground for many fish species such as: trevally, snapper, flounder, sole, mullet, red cod, kahawai and kingfish. The upper reaches of the harbour are important breeding grounds for whitebait, while the harbour itself is important for mussel, cockles, pipi and other shellfish. Fishing offshore was done with baithooks and trolling.

"Kei Tauwhare ko te kopua o te Ururoa

Ko te kai i rari no mai te rawaweketia e te ringaringa.

At Tauwhare is the dwelling place of the shark

The abundant food that has been disturbed by the hand of man.

Below Tauwhare there is a shark breeding pool this was a significant food source for the pa making the breeding site very important to the inhabitants.



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

