

# 5. Maori occupation



Photo: Jeremy Rolfe.

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Maori came in canoes from Hawaiki. The Captain of the Aotea was Turi. He named the Orongorongo Valley after his wife, Rongorongo.

- If you were a Maori living here 500 years ago, think about where would you have chosen to make your settlement. Explain why beaches were chosen as a good place to live. List some of the things the coast could provide for you.

Look for signs of early Maori settlement.

- Coastal groves of karaka were planted to provide food from the seeds. Watch out for these glossy-leaved natives with fruit that ripens in late summer.
  - Look out for remnants of the kumara garden rock walls that can be seen along the coast.
- Old stone tools were found when the road was bulldozed in the 1960s. How do you think they would have been made/used?

- Each member of your group can imagine that they have been given one square kilometre of this land. Each person can take on the role of either a local councillor, an eco-tourist, a geology student, a Department of Conservation scientist, a local maori or a property developer and explain to the rest of the group how they would preserve it.

Karaka were usually planted near streams because the seeds needed to be soaked for several days to remove poison.

