

Matariki activity

Ages 5-10

What you need:

- A sheet of paper
- String
- Stapler
- Hole punch

Traditionally, Māori celebrate the start of a new year in mid-winter. The new year begins on the first new moon after the star cluster Matariki rises in the eastern sky. That's why the Māori new year is called Matariki. Matariki is a time to gather with whānau and friends to reflect on the past, celebrate the present and plan for the future.

Kites are often flown to celebrate the rising of Matariki and the beginning of the Māori New Year. Here we have a simple kite tutorial for you to make your own!

Instructions:

1. Fold the sheet of paper in half
2. Mark two points, A and B on the folded edge of the paper. Point A should be 63.5mm from the end of the paper and point B should be 25.4mm from point A
3. Bend the top corners on both sides of the page to point A and staple them in place without creasing the fold
4. Punch a hole just above point B
5. Put both ends of your string into point B and thread through so the string is in the centre of the kite
6. Your kite is ready to fly!
Decorate with stars to celebrate Matariki and get flying!

