

Waka in the wind

Testing your design with a scale model is an important step in boat building. You can assess if your ideas will work, without having to build it full size.

Here we used flax leaves and stalks to make a floating waka hourua. You will also need some scissors or a craft knife.

An outrigger is a vessel with a float or a shaped log attached to the side of a boat to prevent capsizing.



1 Start by collecting a flax leaf and several stalks of various widths.



2 Take two thick sticks as your hulls. Use a knife to poke a hole in the sides to join them together with two crossbeams. These form the spars for your outrigger.



3 Thread your flax sail onto your mast. Ask an adult to help you drill a hole into one of the hulls. Push your mast into the hole.



4 Set sail!

Does your waka hourua balance in the water? Does the wind catch your sail? What modifications would you make next time?

Spot the difference

Can you spot the six differences between the two paintings of *Taratai*?



Watercolour painting of TARATAI outrigger baurua at sea, by Roger Morris, 1989. NZMM 1989.33

Answers: 1 NZ flag changed colour, 2 Extra person on board, 3 Fish jumping out of the sea, 4 Seagull, 5 Sea monster, 6 Second land mass