

Glossary of Māori terms

Maori term	English equivalent in context
Aotearoa	New Zealand
atua	divinity, god
hapu	clan
harakeke	New Zealand flax, <i>Phormium tenax</i>
hauoratanga	good health
hua	result, fruit
hui	conferences
ika	fish
ira tangata	human element of life
iwi	kin groups, public, communities
kai	food
kaik	village
kaihautu	host
kaikorero	representative, speaker
kaitiaki	guardian
kaitiakitanga	guardianship
kanohi ki te kanohi	face to face
kaumatua	male elder, elders
kaupapa	topic, project
kawa	ritual
kawai whakaheke	lines of descent
kirehe	animals, creatures
kokako	blue-wattled crow, <i>Callaeas cinerea cinerea</i>
korero	communicate
kuia	female elder, elders
kumara	sweet potato
kura kaupapa	school using Maori as the medium of instructions
mana	authority, control; prestige, standing

mana tangata tiaki	standing as a custodian for cultural matters
marae	meeting house
matauranga	knowledge
mauri	life principle, principle
mihimihi	welcome
Pakeha	European, non-Maori
papatipu	land with Maori title
Po	night, the underworld, the after-life
pohutukawa	a tree, <i>Metrosideros excelsa</i>
powhiri	opening ceremony
puharakeke	a land snail
pukenga	skilled, a repository
rangatahi	young Maori
rangatira	chief
rangatiratanga	independence, dominion
rawaho	an outsider
reo	language
reo irirangi Maori	Maori radio
riwai	potato
rohe	area
rongoa	medicine
runanga	councils, boards
taiao	environment, world view
take	subject of discussion
takiwa	district
tamariki	children
tangata tiriti	persons of cultures other than Maori
tangata whenua	local people, native people
taonga	assets, belongings
taonga tuku iho	treasures handed down from the ancestors
tapu	inviolable
Te ao Maori	the Maori world

te reo (te reo Maori)	the Maori language
Te Tiriti o Waitangi	Treaty of Waitangi
teina	younger sister of a female, younger brother of a male
tika	correct
tikanga	culture, cultural, customs
tino rangatiratanga	independence
toku	my
tu	to stand
tuakana	older sister of a female, older brother of a male
tupuna	ancestor
w'akapapa	Wanganui and Taranaki dialect for whakapapa
wairua	spirit
wananga	seminar, workshop
whakapapa	genealogy, heredity
whanau	family
whanui	broad, a group or people in general
whenua	land