

Activity Idea

Kōwhaiwhai Pattern Bookmarks

Recommended for Ages 8 – 12

The Māori are the native Polynesian people of New Zealand. The Māori people's long history originated when they arrived in New Zealand in the early- to mid-1300s. Hundreds of years later, the Māori culture, rich with arts and tradition, is still a big part of New Zealand's identity. One of those artistic traditions is Kōwhaiwhai. Consisting of repeating scroll patterns, this decorative art form adorns house rafters and can either be painted or carved into wood. Kōwhaiwhai are often found on Māori meeting houses. Here are some examples:

Painted:



Carved:

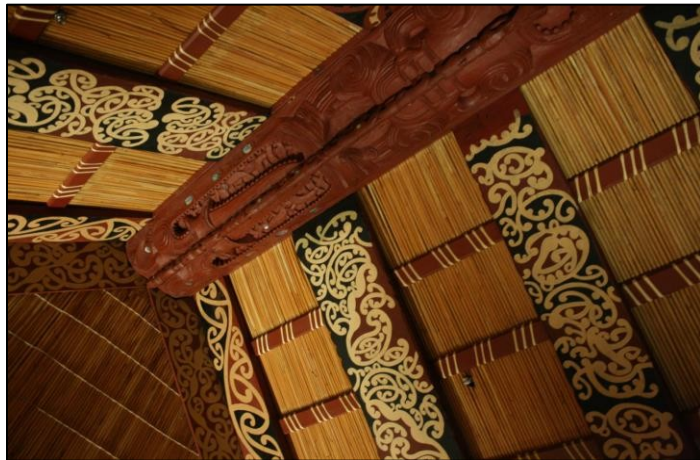


Photo credit: Wikipedia Commons

Spark an Idea!

Create a Kōwhaiwhai-inspired bookmark by printing the templates on the next page using cardstock or by tracing a rectangle on another sheet of paper and creating your own Kōwhaiwhai pattern. Then, color your bookmark using colored pencils, markers, crayons, paint, colored sand (affixed with glue), or glitter.

