

Iwi Māori perspectives (2022)

‘Nu Tirenī is the name for our tribe.’

‘The North Island has always been Te Ika ā Māui, the fish of Māui, and we were Te Waka ā Māui, the waka of Māui.’

‘Aotearoa has been popularised by Pākehā. There’s no way we will be taking the name.’

‘There’s no interest in being identified by North Island imagination.’

—Te Maire Tau (Kāi Tahu)

‘This is an opportunity for Aotearoa New Zealand society to come to that themselves. We are a nation that is starting to embrace its history.’

‘Māori being clear about who we are and what we stand up for is important and that will help to shape our society. And if Aotearoa doesn’t come to be in my generation or the next, Ngāpuhi will always call this land Aotearoa.’

—Sam Napia (Ngāpuhi)

‘Everyone has their own identity, but Aotearoa essentially means the cloud that covers the whenua. The clouds are seen by all parts of the country, and they are a cover for all parts of the country.’

‘Every iwi, every marae, every hapū will have their own narrative and they need to be true to their histories. We have to take on all histories, all accounts, but a natural part are the calls to a coming together of ideas.’

‘The Kīngitanga encourages a meeting of minds, but also for people to be true to the tribal narrative of their areas, which will be different. Each will have their own mana.’

—Rāhui Papa (Tainui)

Teaching activity



Look at the list below, and answer the following questions:

- Aotearoa me Te Waipounamu
- Aotearoa
- Aotearoa New Zealand
- New Zealand

- 1) Which name do you prefer, and why?
- 2) Which name does your class prefer, and why?

Hold a debate using the following moot:

The country should officially be named Aotearoa me Te Waipounamu