

Waikato

ENVIROSCHOOLS



Waterscapes - What's special about water near you?

Water creates many special natural features and ecosystems that give different places much of their distinctive character, and can harbour rare local species of plants and animals.

How do you connect with water in your area?

Is there a special place near you or a special connection in your family?

Think about water near you:

- surface water features (lakes, rivers, wetlands, streams);
- groundwater resources (springs, aquifers, bores);
- coastal and marine areas (estuaries, beaches, harbours);
- unique water features (underground rivers and caves, gorges, geothermal areas)



Questions to ask

- Can you name some of the places and water bodies in your local area?
- Can your whānau share any songs or stories about water?
Listen to this one! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QdCCRFWOHPE>
- What stories do the names tell you? Do you know their original names?
- What water is named in your pepeha? Or a pepeha from a family member? You can use: <https://pepeha.nz>
- Can you remember a favourite experience about a particular water body?
- What are some of the special things about water in your area?



Put it all together

Using google earth, locate water bodies close to you, or if you can safely, visit water near to you.

Can you create a picture or a map of your special places or write a poem or song. Ask an adult to take a picture or film it and post on the Waikato Facebook group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/waikatoenviroschools/>

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Extension:

Can you create a pepeha for you or a member of your family using <https://pepeha.nz>

Use google earth to locate water near you: <https://www.google.com/earth/>

- look for water near you on map, satellite view and street view



Visit an online topographic map of your area <https://www.topomap.co.nz/>

Can you use Waikato Regional Council website to give you more information about water near you?:

<https://www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/environment/water/>

<https://www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/environment/natural-resources/water/rivers/>

Visit the Science learning Hub to help understand about catchments

<https://www.sciencelearn.org.nz/resources/2886-mapping-my-local-water-catchment>

Local catchments and the streams and rivers in them can be very important to the people who live in them. Learn more in [Te mana o te awa](#) and [Wai Māori](#).

Learn about the history of your local catchment and how it has changed over the years.

Create a timeline. Check out the [History of the Waikato River](#) timeline as an example.

