

## **Pepeha Introducing Yourself In Maori**



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## Pepeha - What Is It?

The pepeha is the way to introduce yourself in Maori.

Keeping in mind **I nga wa o mua** and the fact that our people in their **tikanga** face that direction for guidance, what better place could there be to start introducing ourselves! For we are the children of the whenua, of the moana and of the tupuna.

To introduce ourselves we should tell the story of how we arrived here, and the story does not start with ourselves!!! But before we journey back in time we should anchor ourselves to this whenua. **Mau** is hold, therefore our **Maunga** (mountain) will anchor us here.

How did our tupuna come? They crossed the **Moana**, (oceans) the vast stretches of Te Moana Nui a Kiwa and followed the **Awa** (rivers) to come to the final resting places of their **Waka** (canoes). From the Waka came the **Rohe** (districts) which sub divided into the **Iwi** then into the **Hapu**. Each hapu is affiliated with a **Wahi** (place) and in each wahi is a **Marae**. Your Tupuna come from the Marae, your **Matua** (parents) come from them and then there is **You**.

The next thing to do is to put all of this into Te Reo.

Using **Te** is saying that such and such is **the** mountain etc. However, remember about each Iwi having different tikanga? What is **the** mountain for one is not **the** mountain for another.

Using **Taku** implies that you are superior to what you are talking about.

Using **Toku** implies what you are talking about is superior to you.

<b><u>Hoatu te mana</u></b>	<b>Give credit and recognition</b>
<b>ki a ratou kua tae mai nei ki tenei whenua,</b>	<b>to those who came to this land,</b>
<b>kua wheturangitia i te korowai o Ranginui,</b>	<b>to those who have departed and are adorned as stars in the heavens,</b>
<b>kua hangaia i tenei tikanga hoki.</b>	<b>to those who built this tikanga also.</b>

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### **Guidelines for Pepeha.**

If you do not know all of the information, leave it out. As your life unfolds, you will, overtime, pick up other bits and pieces of information and you can add it in. Hence, as you grow learning Maori, your pepeha will grow with you.

Make sure, if you have parents from two different places, that each side fits!!! For example, if your father is from Ngati Porou (East Coast) and your mother is from Waikato, you would not say Ko Waikato toku awa, Ko Ngati Porou toku iwi as Waikato is not the awa for Ngati Porou.

When naming your grandparents and parents, put your grandfather / father first then your grandmother / mother second. Make sure that when you name the women, you use their maiden name as the maiden name is the connection to their blood lines.

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### The Order of Introduction

Ko \_\_\_\_\_ toku maunga

Ko \_\_\_\_\_ toku moana

Ko \_\_\_\_\_ toku awa

Ko \_\_\_\_\_ toku waka

Ko \_\_\_\_\_ toku rohe

Ko \_\_\_\_\_ toku iwi

Ko \_\_\_\_\_ toku hapu

Ko \_\_\_\_\_ toku wahi

Ko \_\_\_\_\_ toku marae

Ko \_\_\_\_\_ raua ko \_\_\_\_\_ oku kaumatua

Now if your parents come from the same place, continue as follows:

(a) Ko \_\_\_\_\_ raua ko \_\_\_\_\_ oku matua

Ko \_\_\_\_\_ toku ingoa

If your parents come from two different places you do your father's side first.

(b) Ko \_\_\_\_\_ toku matua tane

then go back to the top (Maunga) and come down your mother's side.

(c) Ko \_\_\_\_\_ toku whaea

Ko \_\_\_\_\_ toku ingoa

If one side is Maori, choose (a) (b) or (c) and then finish off with:

Ko \_\_\_\_\_ toku ingoa