

Matariki

Matariki is the Māori name for a particular constellation of stars. This constellation is also called Pleiades (in Greek) and Subaru (in Japanese).

The word Matariki has two translations:

mata riki	means	' <u>tiny eyes</u> '
mata Ariki	means	' <u>eyes of God</u> '

Different Iwi celebrated Matariki at slightly different times.

- At the start of June, the constellation of Matariki sets in the western sky. This often marked the end of the harvest, when crops such as kumara were brought into storehouses.
- The first new moon after the setting of Matariki is often used to mark Matariki celebrations in the 21st Century.
- The rising of Paunga (Rigel in the constellation of Orion) and Matariki was also used by some tribes.
- Other tribes used the first new moon or full moon after the rising of Matariki.

Traditionally, Matariki was a time to:

- Remember those who have gone before us and the contribution they have made to our lives.
- Celebrate the harvest.
- Plan for the planting of next year's crops.

~~century~~
~~Japanese~~
~~rising~~

~~constellation~~
~~kumara~~
~~tiny eyes~~

~~eyes of God~~
~~moon~~
~~western~~

~~Greek~~
~~Paunga~~

~~harvest~~
~~plan~~

~~harvest~~
~~remember~~