

# MATARIKI AT TE MANAWA WAITĪ



Kia Ora! Ko Waitī ahau. I'm Waitī, a star within the Matariki cluster. I watch over the many freshwater streams, rivers and lakes in Aotearoa. You can help me by looking after them!

## KA KITEA A MATARIKI KA RERE TE KORKORO

*When Matariki is seen the korokoro migrate*

A traditional proverb linking the migration of korokoro (lampreys) and other fish with Matariki and the beginning of a new year.

### CONNECTING WITH WAITĪ

There are many ways we can connect with the whetū Waitī. Our freshwater environments are important, not only for the creatures who live in them, but us too! Check out the ideas below to connect with Waitī this Matariki.

Go for a picnic - spending time near our waterways safely is great for our own wellbeing!

Carefully pick up rubbish. Help keep our rivers and streams clean for everyone.

Learn something new about our waterways and local environment.

Make some fishy crafts, learn new waiata and get creative.

Take a walk or a bike ride down to Urban Eels on the Ara Kotahi walkway.



### MATCHING TERMS

Can you match the Te Reo Māori names for our waterways to identify them?

Awa	Geothermal
Roto	Rivers
Kūkūwai	Groundwater
Waipuna	Lakes
Wainuku	Wetlands
Ngāwhā	Springs



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## MAKE YOUR OWN FISH POP-UP STAR CARD FOR WAITĪ

Take an A4 piece of card and cut it in half, creating two A5 pieces.

Fold both pieces in half again to make the initial shape of the card.

Select 1 piece to be the inside of your card. While folded in half, make a 1.5cm - 2cm cut approximately two thirds down the centre fold.

This is your tuna or fish mouth.

Use a ruler and score in a diamond shape around the mouth cut. This becomes your pop up mouth.

Take your time to fold along this scored line. You can pop your mouth open towards what will become the inside of your card.

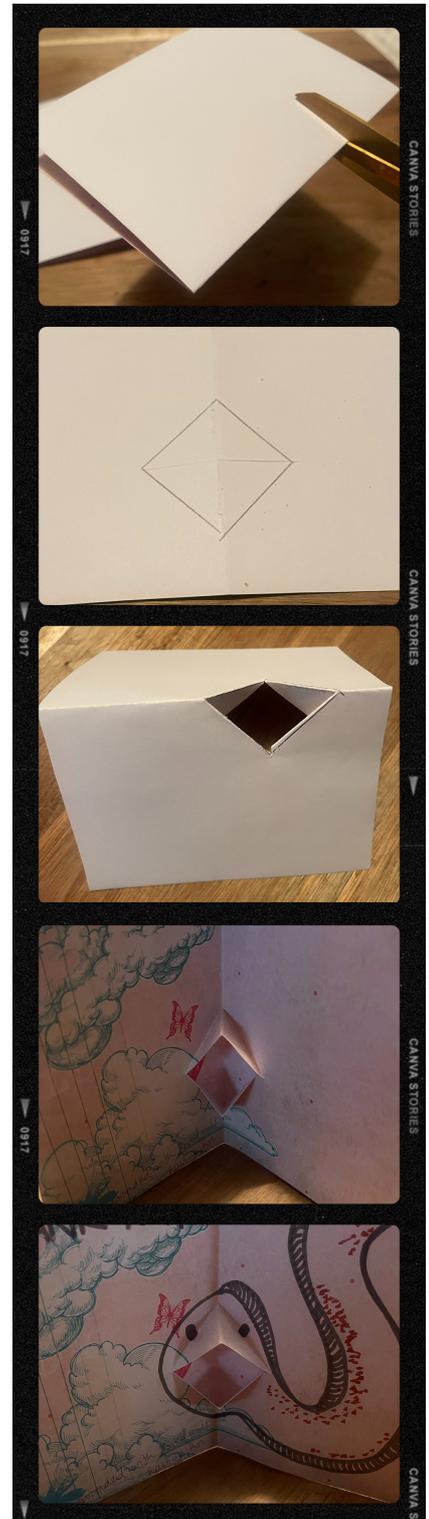
Paste the outside and inside cards together creating your final card shape.

Decorate your own fish pop-up card.

Perhaps you could give it to a loved one to celebrate Matariki.

Some kōrero around Waitī refer to the importance of coming together and supporting each other.

For some, Waitī is the twin to Waitā, symbolising the importance of sharing and connecting.



# MATARIKI AT TE MANAWA WAITĪ

Kia Ora! I'm Tuna - an eel in Aotearoa. I live in our freshwater environments and the whetū Waitī represents my home. Play a game with me to learn more about how I grow. Answer the questions below - each time you get one right, colour in a new part of my life cycle.

Can you colour my whole life cycle?



## QUESTIONS

How many types of tuna can be found in Aotearoa?

Where do tuna live?

What do tuna eat?

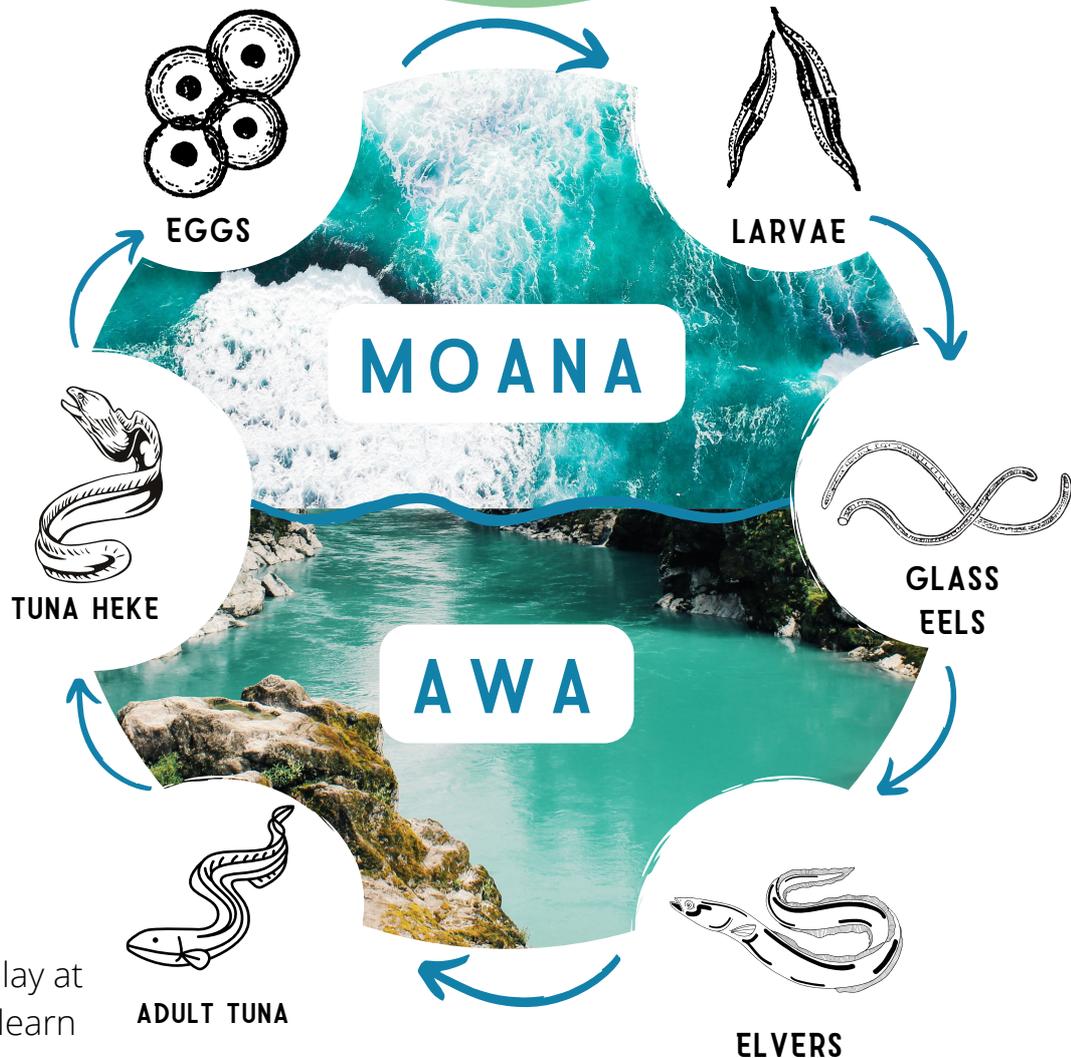
What is a juvenile tuna called?

What is another name for silver eels?

What are tuna also called?

## TUNA AT TE MANAWA

Can you find a tuna on display at Te Manawa? What can you learn from the label?



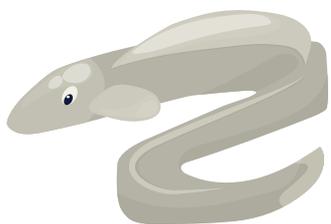
Answers: Three types of tuna live in Aotearoa (two are native). Tuna live in freshwater. Tuna eat insects, midges and crustaceans. Juvenile Tuna are called elvers. Silver eels are also called Tuna Heke. Tuna are also called eel.

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## TUNA - DID YOU KNOW?

Tuna thrive in freshwater homes, and like to find sneaky spots to hide like rocks, branches and tree roots. While Tuna spend a large part of their life in freshwater, they are diadromous, meaning they migrate between freshwater and saltwater. Follow the lines below and discover what type of home the Shortfin and Longfin Tuna prefer.

### LONGFIN TUNA



### SHORTFIN TUNA



Swamps, lakes, and streams near the coast.

Fast-flowing water  
Stony riverbeds

## TUNA LIFE CYCLE

Tuna start their life cycle in the Pacific Ocean as **eggs**.

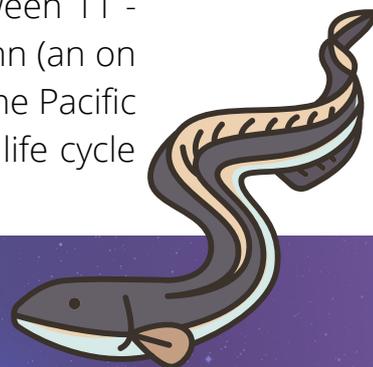
Tuna **larvae** are called leptocephalii and drift on the currents for 9 - 12 months before arriving in Aotearoa.

When they reach the Aotearoa continental shelf they grow into **glass eels** (little colourless eels about 60-70mm long). This is when our glass eel friends become used to their new freshwater environment.

**Elvers**, juvenile eels, begin to turn brown and head upstream from the estuaries, rivers and streams.

**Adult Tuna** can live for quite a long time. They live in freshwater habitats, the awa, roto, wetlands, ponds and streams. They spend their time feedings and preparing for their long journey back to the ocean.

The migrant eel, **Tuna Heke** or Silver Eels are, on average, are between 11 - 52 years old. At this stage, our Tuna friends use rainy nights in autumn (an on occasion spring) to begin their long journey (migration) returning to the Pacific Ocean. We think that when the return they spawn new eggs for the life cycle to continue.



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## KAITIAKI TUNA

Tuna were not only a source of kai, but also provided iwi with lots of information. It is said that Tuna are kaitiaki (guardians) of our streams, rivers and lakes, and they were used to help Māori assess the health of our environment including water quality.



## TUNA AND KAI

Tuna might be terrific swimmers, but they have terrible eyesight. They use their sense of smell to find their kai.

Tuna munch on small insects, midges and crustaceans. As they get bigger they will eat larger animals such as fish, birds and rats. They love it when it floods, their kitchen become full of creatures not normally found in the water such as beetles and worms.



## TUNA WHAKAPAPA

There are many kōrero for the origin of Tuna. One story shares that tuna was the great-grandchild of Ranginui and Papatūānuku. It is said Te Ihurangi's (a child of Ranginui and Papatūānuku) including Ngōiro (the conger eel), Tuere (the blind eel), and Tuna.

There are three types of tuna (eel) in Aotearoa.

- *Tuna kuwharuwharu* - Longfin eel (*Anguilla dienffenbachii*)
- *Matamoe* - Shortfin eel (*Anguilla australis*)
- Australian longfin eel (*Anguilla reinhardtii*)



## MORE TUNA FACTS

Tuna are not morning creatures and are more active at night. They also are less active in winter, preferring the warmer water temperatures.

A female logfin eel can have between 1 and 20 million eggs.

Elders can "climb" up wet rock faces as they move upstream.

The heaviest eel officially recorded weighed 24 kilograms (but reports of heavier eel have been recorded).

The oldest eel found to date was 106 years old.

