



PEPEHA

A basic introduction to
introducing yourself in
te reo Māori

What is Pepeha?



YOUTH HORIZONS | KIA PUĀWAI

- Pepeha is a way of identifying who we are and telling people about where we come from and who we are related to.
- We find connections with landmarks and waterways that we spiritually identify with, or that are significant to us.
- We also connect with our homeland and the vessel that brought our people to this land.
- This is a cultural way of introducing ourselves.



1. How do our Youth Horizons | Kia Puāwai values fit into the purpose of pepeha?
 - Aroha
 - Manaakitanga
 - Whanaungatanga
 - Wairuatanga
2. How can you use pepeha in your current role?

Practice makes perfect



YOUTH HORIZONS | KIA PUĀWAI

- Learning your pepeha is something that takes time and a bit of research.
- 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 Māori, your pepeha will grow with you.
- Be proud of your ancestry and speak with great confidence when you recite your pepeha.
- Pepeha takes practice, and the more practice, the more comfortable you will feel when reciting it

Te/ngā or tōku/ōku?



YOUTH HORIZONS | KIA PUĀWAI

- If you are non-Māori, use te (singular) and ngā (plural) instead of tōku or ōku. Non-Māori cannot say for example that Pirongia is your maunga. Non-Māori can still use Pirongia in their pepeha, but only in a way that it is significant to you, rather than that it is your maunga, like someone Māori can say.
- For example, if you are non-Māori, you would say ‘Ko Pirongia te maunga’ – ‘Pirongia is the mountain I affiliate to’, rather than ‘Pirongia is my mountain’.
- However, you can say tōku or ōku for your whānau, parents, spouse, children and your name, as these do belong to you. E.g.
 - Ko Blogs tōku whānau (Blogs is my family)
 - Ko Mary rāua ko Jim ōku mātua (Mary and Jim are my parents)
 - Ko Wendy tōku hoa rangatira (Wendy is my wife/partner/spouse/significant other)
 - Ko Alice rātou ko Billy ko Alex āku tamariki (Alice, Billy and Alex are my children)
 - Ko Joe tōku ingoa (Joe is my name)

Basic pepeha format for non-Māori



YOUTH HORIZONS | KIA PUĀWAI

Tēnā koutou katoa (greetings to you all)

- Ko _____ te/ngā maunga (mountain)
- Ko _____ te/ngā awa/moana (river or sea)
- Ko _____ te/ngā waka (canoe)
- Ko _____ te/ngā iwi (tribe)
- Ko _____ te/ngā hapū (sub-tribe)
- Ko _____ te/ngā marae (meeting house)
- Ko _____ tōku ingoa (my name is)

The mountain that I affiliate to is _____

The river/lake/sea that I affiliate to is _____

The waka that I affiliate to is _____

My tribe is _____

My sub-tribe is _____

My marae is _____

My name is _____

Basic pepeha format for Māori



YOUTH HORIZONS | KIA PUĀWAI

E ngā mana, e ngā reo

Tēnā koutou katoa (greetings to you all)

Ko _____ tōku maunga (mountain)

Ko _____ tōku awa/moana (river or sea)

Ko _____ tōku waka (canoe or vessel)

Ko _____ tōku whare (meeting house)

Ko _____ tōku iwi (tribe)

Ko _____ tōku hapū (subtribe)

Ko _____ tōku whānau (wider family)

Ko _____ ōku mātua (parents)

Ko _____ tōku ingoa (my name is)

My mountain is _____

My river/lake/sea is _____

My waka is _____

My meeting house is _____

My tribe is _____

My subtribe is _____

My whānau is _____

My parents are _____

My name is _____

Nō reira,

Tēnā koutou katoa