

The Nine Stars of Matariki

Many have come to believe there are in fact nine stars that form Matariki. The stars, rather than being viewed as a whole, are seen as individuals. Each star holds influence over the environment in a unique way and a study of the stars can bring insight to the year ahead. The stars are in balance with one another and each is positioned significantly.





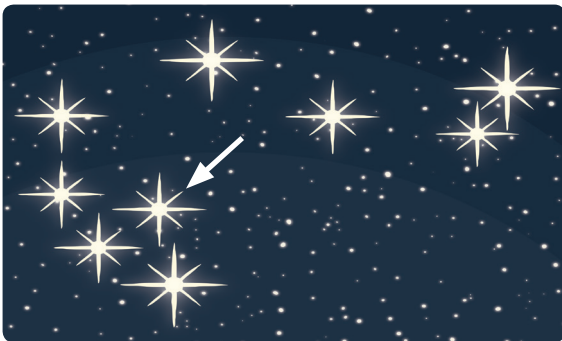
1. Matariki (Alcyone)

I am a star that signifies reflection of time past. I represent a connection to the environment and herald a time for people to gather together. I am a symbol of hope and encourage your connection with the environment and with each other.



2. Pōhutukawa (Sterope/Asterope)

I am the star that cradles the memories of those loved ones that we have lost. I am a symbol of connection to the past and to the ancestors who have gone before us. I sit away from those associated with food to preserve the noa of the kai. Look upon me and remember and acknowledge those who have led you on the path you are on.



3. Waiti (Maia)

I am the star that shines for all sources of fresh water and the life within. I shine for ngā awa, ngā roto, ngā kūkūwai and ngā waipuna. When I shine bright, the waters will sustain land and man alike.



4. Waitā (Taygeta)

I am the star that symbolises all sources of salt water as well as those that dwell within it. I discover new life within these waters even after all this time. Te Moana-nui-o-Kiwa and Te Tai-o-Rehua are filled with a wonder of plant life, whāngote and ika. Respect, preserve and protect our coasts and oceans and the ocean dwellers for they are a great taonga.



5. Waipuna-ā-rangi (Electra)

I am the star associated with life-giving rain in all forms - ua nganga (hail), hukarere (snow), haupapa (sleet), pūroro (driving rain) and hāuaua and everything in-between. The healthy cycle of the earth is reliant on the arrival of the rains and at the mercy of the waters from the sky.



6. Tupuānuku (Pleione)

I am the star with an interest of all that grows in the ground that can be harvested, gathered and used as sustenance. Well-nourished, and sustaining soil is essential to all that grows. Honour Papatūānuku with your plantings, plant only those which you need and tend them well.



7. Tupuārangi (Atlas)

I am the star that is linked with the trees, forests, fruits, berries and birds. I associate with the realm of Tānemahuta. Our native forest dwellers - ngā manu, ngā mokomoko, ngā ngārara and ngā kararehe need our protection as do our mighty rākau. Your role in their preservation is to act as kaitiaki.



8. Ururangi (Merope)

I am closely tied with the moods of Tāwhirimatea and te whānau puhi. Hauraro, Tonga, Hauāuru and Marangai can cool you on a day when Tamanuiterā is sending forth his intense heat and they can bring destruction and challenge when Tāwhirimatea commands a storm.



9. Hiwaiterangi/Hiwa (Celaeno)

I am the star to be wished upon. I am the youngest star of the nine and represent the hopes and aspirations to be carried forth to the coming year. Along with Pōhutukawa, I represent a status of the sacred and tapu and, therefore, sit apart from those stars that represent aspects of kai and sustenance. Hold fast to your dreams and aspirations and focus on those pathways that will lead you in those directions.