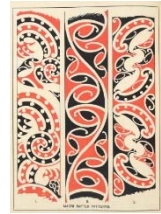


Topic Sheet 1- Māori Art



Traditional Māori art consists primarily of four forms: carving, tattooing, weaving and painting. The art is often spiritual and conveys information about the history of the people. Lots of the art features motifs, such as: the spiral, the chevron and the Koru. Black, white and red are often the dominant colours that are used.



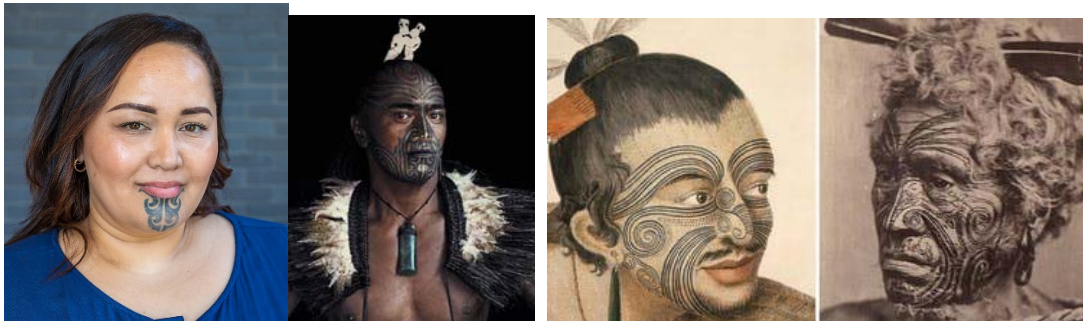
Carving

Carving is done in wood, bone and stone. The carvings are used to decorate houses, fences and containers.



Tattooing

In the past, Maori tattooing was done with a chisel. The focal point of traditional Maori tattooing was generally the face because Maori people consider the head to be the most sacred part of the body. Men had full facial tattoos while women only had their chin, lips and nostrils tattooed. Some Maori also had other parts of the body tattooed, such as backs, legs and arms. Only people of rank or status were allowed to have tattoos. The tattoos were almost like an identification card and showed that person's accomplishments, status, position, ancestry and marital status.



Weaving

Weaving is used to create a range of items, including: wall panels, clothing and bags.

