

# Matariki ahunga nui - Matariki provider of plentiful food

As the cluster of Matariki stars disappear in autumn it marks the time to harvest and preserve kai (food) ready for the cold winter months ahead.

Kai was preserved for trade with other iwi (tribes), for long journeys or for when kai was in short supply.

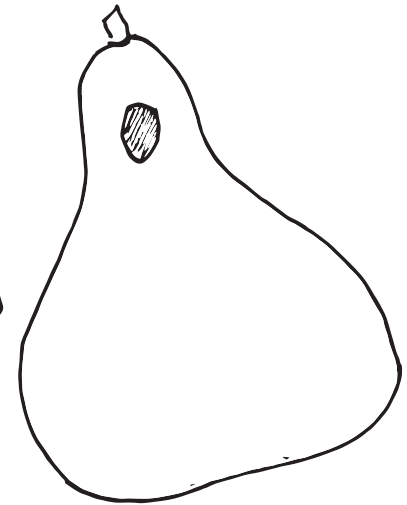
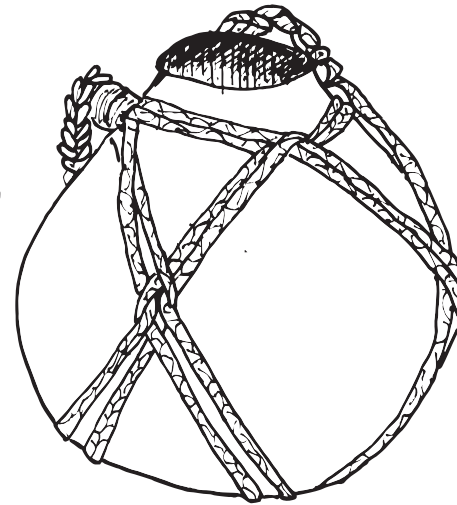
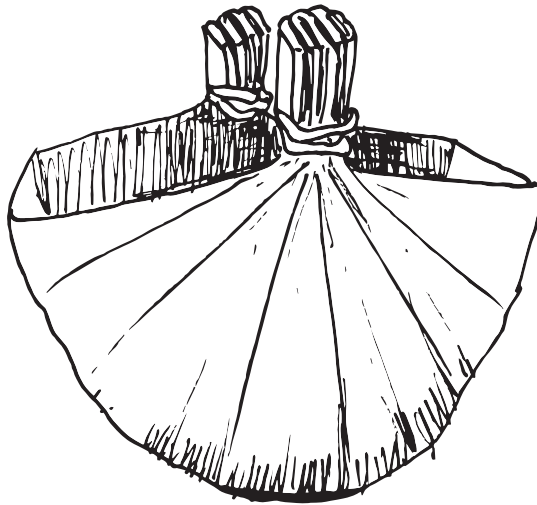
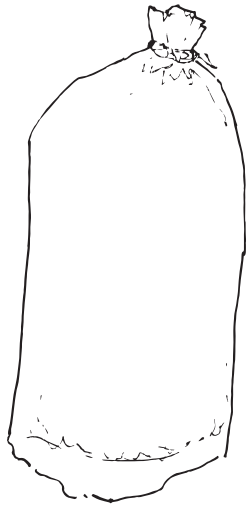
Māori had many ways of preserving kai including smoking over fire, sun drying on racks and potting in containers with fat. Birds were preserved in pōhā (kelp bags) or in hue (gourds).

The pātaka (food storehouse) was used to keep the kai safe and away from predators.

At the time of Matariki the pātaka was full of mahinga kai – food gathered ready for the feast.

Use this word list to help you name the taonga stored in the Pātaka

Ipu	a water container made from the hue
Tahā	a food storage container made from the hue
Patua	Food basket made from the folded bark of the totara tree
Pōhā	a kelp bag which was wrapped in bark and flax
Kete	flax bag



## TRY THIS:

Next time you come to the Museum bring this activity sheet with you. Use it to help you match the drawings and the names with the taonga (treasure) on display in our *Ngā Taonga tuku iho o ngā Tūpuna* Gallery. See if you can find the doors that might be found on a pātaka



Pātaka in Ngā Taonga tuku iho o ngā Tūpuna Gallery

# Pātaka – storehouse

## Instructions

### What you need

- Download and print the pātaka template sheet
- Light card - a cereal packet works well
- Scissors, glue stick
- Pens and pencils for decorating

### Pātaka

- Decorate your pātaka on the outside. Look carefully at the photo of the pātaka to see what it is made from
- Glue it onto card
- Turn it over and decorate the inside
- Cut out your pātaka
- Fold the flaps - look carefully to see which way to fold them
- Glue the flaps - follow the arrows on the diagram

### Post

- Decorate, glue onto card and cut out the post
- Glue the long flap under the opposite long edge
- Fold and glue the small flap inside the post

Now glue the post to the underside of the pātaka

Ka pai! Well done

## Happy Matariki!

# Pātaka Template

**Instructions**

- cut around the solid line
- - - fold on the dotted line

