

ĀKAU

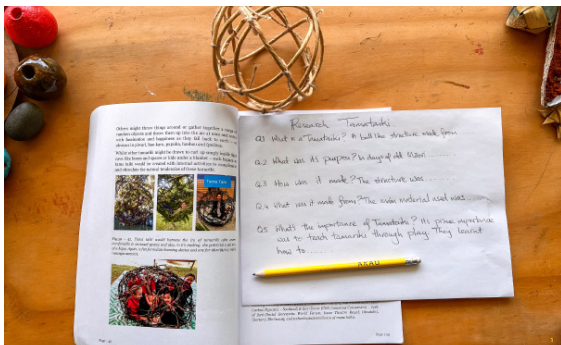
Kaupapa Matua

Design Activity

Tamataiki Weaving Activity

Nau mai ki te rēhia! Come and join the fun! We're inviting you to help us create a magical play-space filled with taonga taakaro at Waitangi in 2026! We celebrate Hine-te-rēhia and many other amazing Atua Māori who love to play, in a Māori play-space made for mokopuna of all ages! Tomo mai - come on in and let's play together!

Learning how to design and weave a mini tamataiki using natural resources with coloured wool and creating a ball game with it.



Task 01: Research what a tamataiki is and answer the following questions.

- What is a Tamataiki?
- What was its purpose?
- How was it made?
- What was it made from?
- Whats the importance of Tamataiki?

Notes: Create a visual brainstorm about your understanding and perspective of tamataiki.



Task 02: Making the mini tamataiki ball structure

Create a ball shape approximately 150mm in diameter using the thick paper ribbon supplied or appropriate materials (e.g soft cane or grape vine cuttings).

- Start with creating a 150mm diameter circle first and tying securely with jute string then continuing with another circle crossing in another direction to achieve a ball structure.
- Carefully cut 20 × 10cm long pieces of jute string and use to tie while continue to make circles with the paper ribbon in different directions.
- Tie where the paper ribbon crosses each other to help reinforce the ball shape and durability of the structure.



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Task 03: Plaiting, weaving, knotting fibres and wool.

- Gather a variety of natural fibre resources (e.g flax strips and jute string) and make 3x 1-metre-long plaits.
- Take one plait and weave in and out of the ball structure securing both ends to the structure. Then weave in the next plait to fill in gaps and so forth.
- Find other threads or wool and continue to weave in and out of the ball structure so that the gaps start to close giving the ball a tightly woven textured finish.

Task 04: Get into groups of 2-4 tamariki and design a fun tamataiki ball game using your woven mini tamataiki.

Explore the possibilities of play with tamataiki by hanging hoops up high, using woven baskets as targets or goals or balancing the balls by stacking them till they topple. The fun is endless.

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Tangible Outcomes:

- 2 x Mini Tamataiki

Materials:

- Paper ribbon
- Jute string
- Paper twist ties
- Natural flax strips and fibres
- Coloured wool
- Pair of scissors

Kaiako Notes:

- Kaiako to demonstrate first using the paper ribbon to create the first circle that measures 15cm in diameter.
- Assist the students in creating circles using the paper ribbon and fastening with the twist ties to create the ball shape/3D sphere.
- Work in pairs (one to hold the paper ribbon while the other ties knots) to help secure the 3D structure.
- Continue to weave threads and plaits through the structure to reinforce the tamataiki and its durability.