



# Shelter Building

## Ka mate kāinga tahi ka ora kāinga rua

When one home fails, have another to go to. Have two strings to your bow

Humans have always used materials from their environment to make places to live and protect us from the weather and wild animals. The house you live in is just a fancier version of what we have always done! Before we had tents made of fancy materials, people would camp out in shelters they made themselves whenever they went travelling.

We will build a small hopuni (shelter) from materials around our house and garden. What you use will be based on what is available, just like humans always have! There are different levels you can build to. Choose the level that best suits you.

Make sure you take a photo of your hopuni when you're finished.

### Level 1 Task:

- Find your favourite toy: you're going to make them a hopuni!
- Head outside and gather materials from around your garden – remember not to take living plants unless your parents say it is OK
- Give thanks to Tāne mahuta and Papatūānuku – atua of trees and birds and earth mother for what you take.
- Find a spot to make your hopuni – think about the weather and what natural protection is already there.
- Build your hopuni – think about shelter from the weather, entry and exits and keeping in warmth
- Ka pai! Put your toy and see if they look comfortable!



### Level 2 Task:

This time we will build a hopuni for ourselves! Feel free to do this with others in your household, just make sure there's enough room for everyone!

- Find a site in your yard that is big enough to fit your shelter, and already has some natural protection.
- Gather your materials: think about how much you will need to be relatively comfortable





- Say thanks to Tānemahuta and Papatūānuku.
- Your materials need to work to keep out the rain and provide you with warmth. Some of these might be natural - rākau/sticks, rau/leaves etc. Some might be from inside – blankets, tarps etc.
- Construct your hopuni. Make it as comfortable as possible!
- Tino Pai! Enjoy your hopuni! Read a book, play a game, have a nap and have fun!



## Level 3 Task:

- First, you need to follow the steps for level 2 and build a hopuni. Now, you will spend the night in it!
- Check the weather forecast. If there is rain forecast, you should make sure your shelter is good at keeping out water before sleeping in it!
- Gather your sleeping materials – you will need a torch and warm clothes. You should make sure you have lots of warm things both underneath and on top of you when you're sleeping.
- Wait for te pō (night)! Enjoy your rest! Make sure you can get back inside if you need to.



**Ka rawe! You have spent a night in a shelter that you made yourself! Mīharo!**

## Questions

- What materials did you use from te taiao (nature)? What did you use from home? If you were stuck in the bush, how could you substitute these with natural items?
- If you were going walking in the ngāhere (forest) and unexpectedly had to spend the night, what things would you like to have with you?
- What would you do differently next time you build a hopuni?
- Is there anything you would change?

