

Traditional Maori Carving Designs

THE BONE
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"Carving Unlimited"

Maori are a Polynesian people who have excelled in carving for centuries. This is a short list of the traditional designs they have used.

Koru

From the tree fern, spiral representing New Life and Growth.



Tiki

First Child or Ancestor. Usually in fetal position. Strong Good Luck charm.



Wakahuia

Treasure box for Huia feathers, amulets, pendants and necklaces.



Marakihau

Mythical deep sea monster with human form and long tubular tongue.



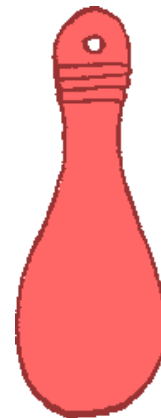
Hei Matau

Fish hook originally carved from Maui's Grandfather's jawbone. Used to fish up the North Island. Brings Good Luck and Prosperity.



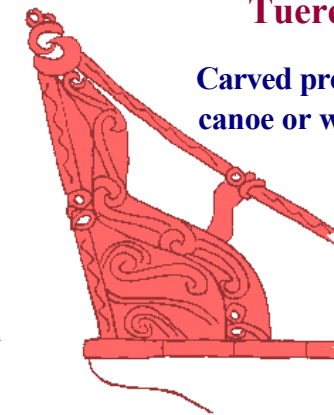
Mere/Patu

Hand clubs. Symbolise Facing and Overcoming Life's Difficulties and Challenges.



Tuere

Carved prow of canoe or waka.



Heru

Ceremonial headdress for Maori man, nowadays, a unisex hair adornment.



Mokopeke

Mythical snake-like creature relating back to early travels through Polynesia.



Taurapa

Carved stern post of Maori war canoe.



Koropepe

Eel-type fish usually in motion.



Manaia

Guardian of Spiritual Energy. Has the Head of a Bird, Body of a Man and Tail of a Fish creating a balance of Sky, Earth and Sea.



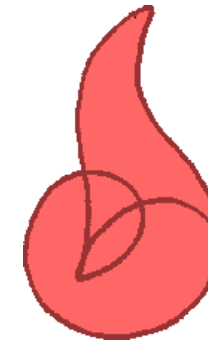
Taiaha

Long carved spear used in martial arts - like combat.



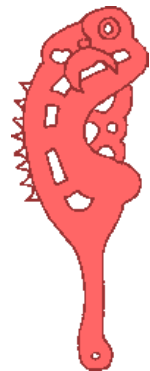
Roimata

Teardrop or Tears of Sadness



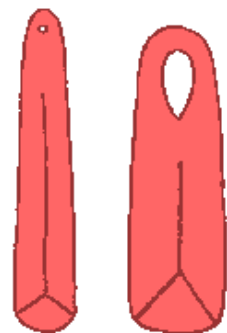
Maripi

Flesh cutting knife made with sharks teeth. For ceremonial occasions.



Hei Toki-Adze

Representing Power and Authority (often male).



Tekoteko

Human-like figure from apex of meeting house (Whareniui). Usually portrays long departed Chief or Warrior.



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