Matariki 2009
Welcoming the New Year!

Matariki is on 25 June in 2009. Heritage Education has developed a programme to help teachers introduce the stories about Matariki the constellation of stars whose first rising heralds the dawn of the New Year. This is the signal that seasons are about to change and the sun will turn around and begin to drift North again. In our region the star Puaka (Rigel in the Orion constellation) is visible at this time and is celebrated as the food bringer.

You can see the pre dawn sky as it would appear in June on the ceiling of the Takata Whenua gallery at the Museum.
We have a make believe fire for students to sit around telling stories and to imagine themselves resting on their journey to gather food.

What stories of celebration and learning can be told to pass on knowledge? Which legends tell us of the ancestors?

How could Matariki be celebrated?

Matariki is traditionally celebrated with learning and preparation for planting as well as celebrating the harvest. It was also seen as a perfect time to learn about the land we live on and to remember ancestors who have passed from this world to the next and the legacy they left behind. Matariki celebrations can be related to topics such as: Health, Food and Hospitality, Conservation, Arts and Crafts, Navigation and Astronomy.

Don't be disappointed! - book early to secure your preferred dates.
BOOKING IN ADVANCE is important for us to plan and prepare resources for your class needs. Please allow a minimum of *at least* 2 weeks.
Remember you can book online:

Pass the planning, preparation and presentation to us

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