

## Mihi Maker

Finding digital content that is both fun *and* educational can be tough. Kids are hungry for knowledge but most learning activities are not like the digital content that they love and consume each & every day.

So how do we compete with today's digital distractions and foster an attitude of making and not consuming? Gamefroot does this by producing educational activities that are built on technology that young people choose to use.

## Summary

Gamefroot courses mix “game industry” practice and school curriculum together to make fun online courses. In Mihi Maker, users build their own pepeha in the form of a game!

The image shows a screenshot of the 'Mihi Maker Tutorial' interface. On the left, a game scene depicts a character running towards a traditional Māori marae building. The text 'tōku marae' is visible in the scene. A red circle with the number '6' and the word 'Ko' is positioned above the character. Three yellow callout boxes provide information: the top one states 'With little or no teacher intervention, young people can progress through Mihi Maker at their own pace.'; the middle one says 'Learning how to construct your Pepeha in Gamefroot is easy and fun.'; and the bottom one notes 'Kids can personalise their game by choosing from a range of characters.' On the right, a blue sidebar titled 'Mihi Maker Tutorial' features a progress indicator with six green dots, the sixth of which is highlighted with a blue circle and the number '6'. Below the progress indicator, the text 'Marae - Gathering place' is followed by several horizontal lines representing text input. A small thumbnail of the marae building is shown below the text. At the bottom right of the sidebar, a green box contains a graduation cap icon, the text 'Curriculum aligned', and a checkmark.

## Description

A mihi is a formal acknowledgement or greeting in Te Reo Māori. A pepeha is a way to introduce yourself in Te Reo Māori; it tells other people who you are and where you come from.

Although a pepeha can be written, it's usually an oral introduction where you stand up and say it in front of an audience. Using digital technologies, users create their pepeha in the form of a game, and share it with others to play either online, or on their smart phone.

Mihi Maker bridges educational gaming technology, with Maori culture into your learning environment.

## **Curriculum contexts**

### **English (Reading)**

Level 2 - Ideas: Show some understanding of ideas within, across, and beyond texts.

### **Social Sciences**

Level 2 - Social Studies:

- Understand how cultural practices reflect and express people's customs, traditions, and values.
- Understand how places influence people and how people influence places

### **How does it work?**

With little or no teacher intervention students can easily access the Mihi Maker template and progress through the game making process simply by following the steps provided.

We provide our clients with a unique link that opens a customized version of Mihi Maker that educators can use to track and monitor usage.

We provide educational users the ability to tag games for grouping and archiving purposes. If you are a school or museum you can talk to us about personalising Mihi Maker with your own logo and branding.

### **Our team**

Gamefroot has been developing games and working closely with the games industry for 20 years. Mihi Maker is built in partnership with Te Papa (kaitiaki taonga Moana Parata, who is from Ngati Toa), Ethan Sagar, and expert advice from Te Wāhanga at the New Zealand Council for Educational Research.

### **Beyond curriculum**

Mihi Maker is a great way to introduce digital technologies to your students.

Using Gamefroot courses, students benefit by experiencing game industry process and technologies, and access the tools that foster the sorts of critical thinking skills that will prepare them for tomorrow's workforce.