

Concept Star

The Concept Star is a thinking organiser.

1. Purpose of the resource

The Concept Star combines a number of purposes but it is basically a thinking organiser that activates prior knowledge, enables students to externalise their current conceptual knowledge or clarify mis-conceptions, make predictions and develop vocabulary.

It can be used as a meta-cognitive tool for reflection and evaluation of what and how the student learned. The important aspect of this tool is providing the space for the dialogic reasoning and sharing of whakaaro around the concept/topic that promotes ako and tuakana/teina paradigms.

2. How is it used?

The Concept Star can be used in multiple ways by teachers and students and their whānau. Teachers may prepare the concept star around a concept with questions or headings or leave the star points blank for students to write their own ideas or questions about a concept. These are then shared, discussed or debated with others to develop understanding, new knowledge and vocabulary.

3. Context/setting for use

The Concept Star can be used by individuals initially, then in pairs or groups - as a pre-reading activity or at the introduction to a new topic or concept. The dialogic aspect of this strategy is the most important part – where conceptions can be developed further and mis-conceptions dealt with by those with more expert knowledge.

4. Link to Ako: Critical Contexts for Learning (3 circles)

Once students know how this strategy may be used, they can use it with their own whānau around learning topics or concepts – by contributing and sharing knowledge bases that will enhance their own child's understanding (see Matariki example).

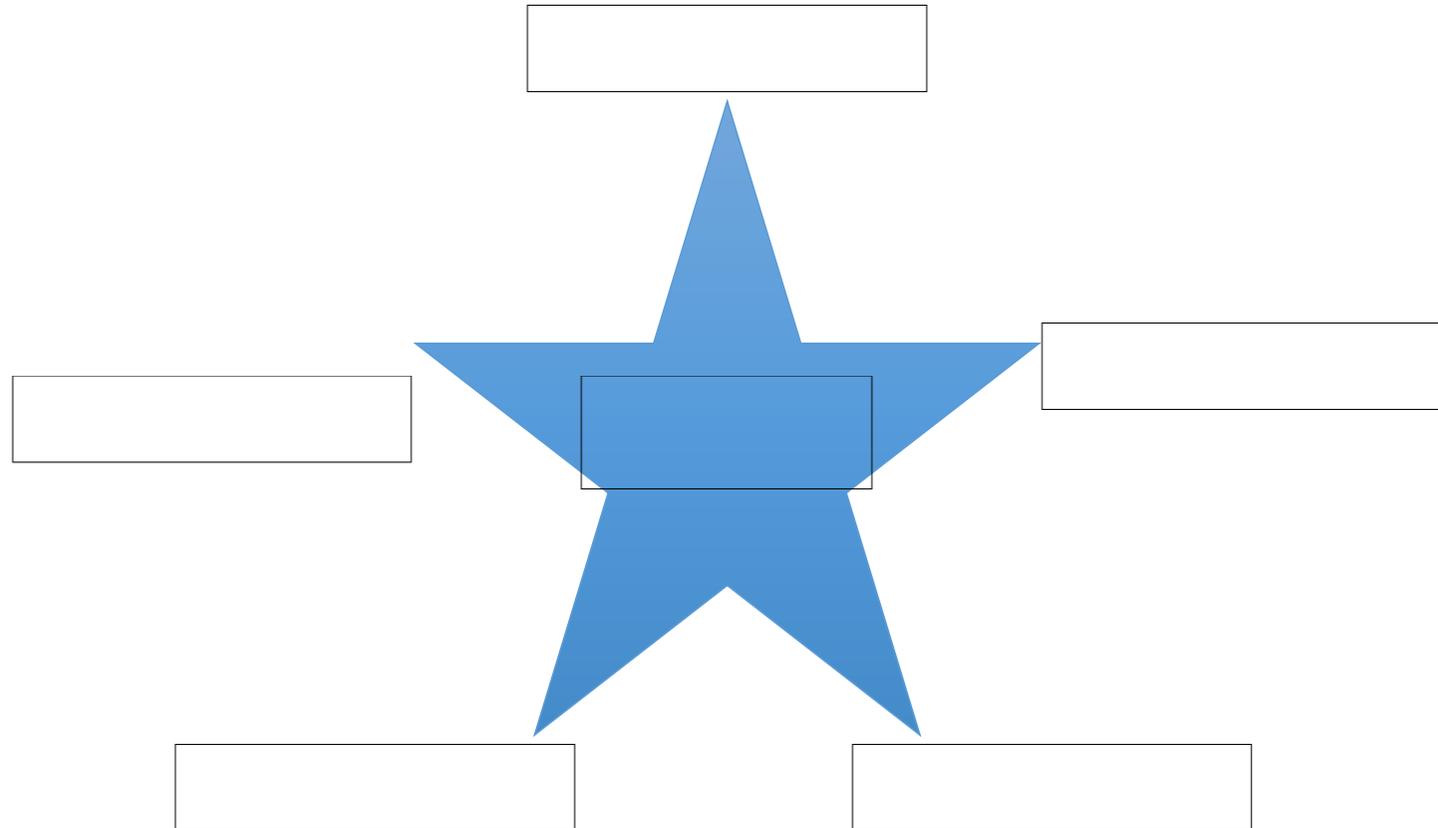
5. Questions for users to consider

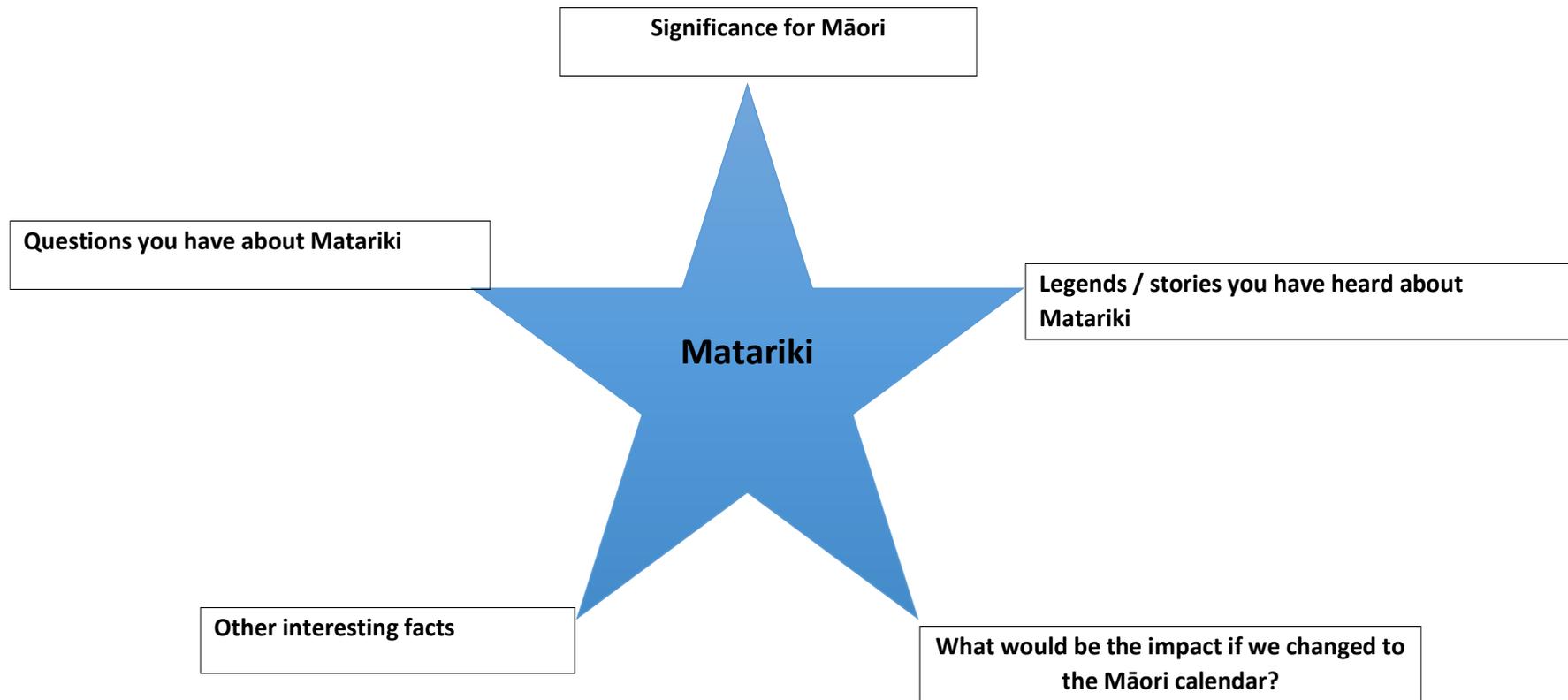
How might the Concept Star be used to surface any mis-conceptions students may have around complex concepts?

What meta-cognitive strategy will you employ to get students to reflect on how this literacy tool can support their learning and understanding of new concepts?

CONCEPT STAR

Purpose: The Concept Star is a thinking organiser that activates prior knowledge and enables students to externalise their current conceptual knowledge or clarify mis-conceptions about a new concept or topic, make predictions and build vocabulary. One important aspect in using this strategy is that the teacher must provide space for dialogic reasoning and meaning making to occur. Students must be given time to discuss and share their thinking and understandings with others. This strategy can also promote culturally responsive principles of Ako and Tuakana/Teina.





Task:

1. Work in pairs to record your collective knowledge and understanding of Matariki.

This will be shared and discussed with the wider group where you can add further information and enhance your understandings.