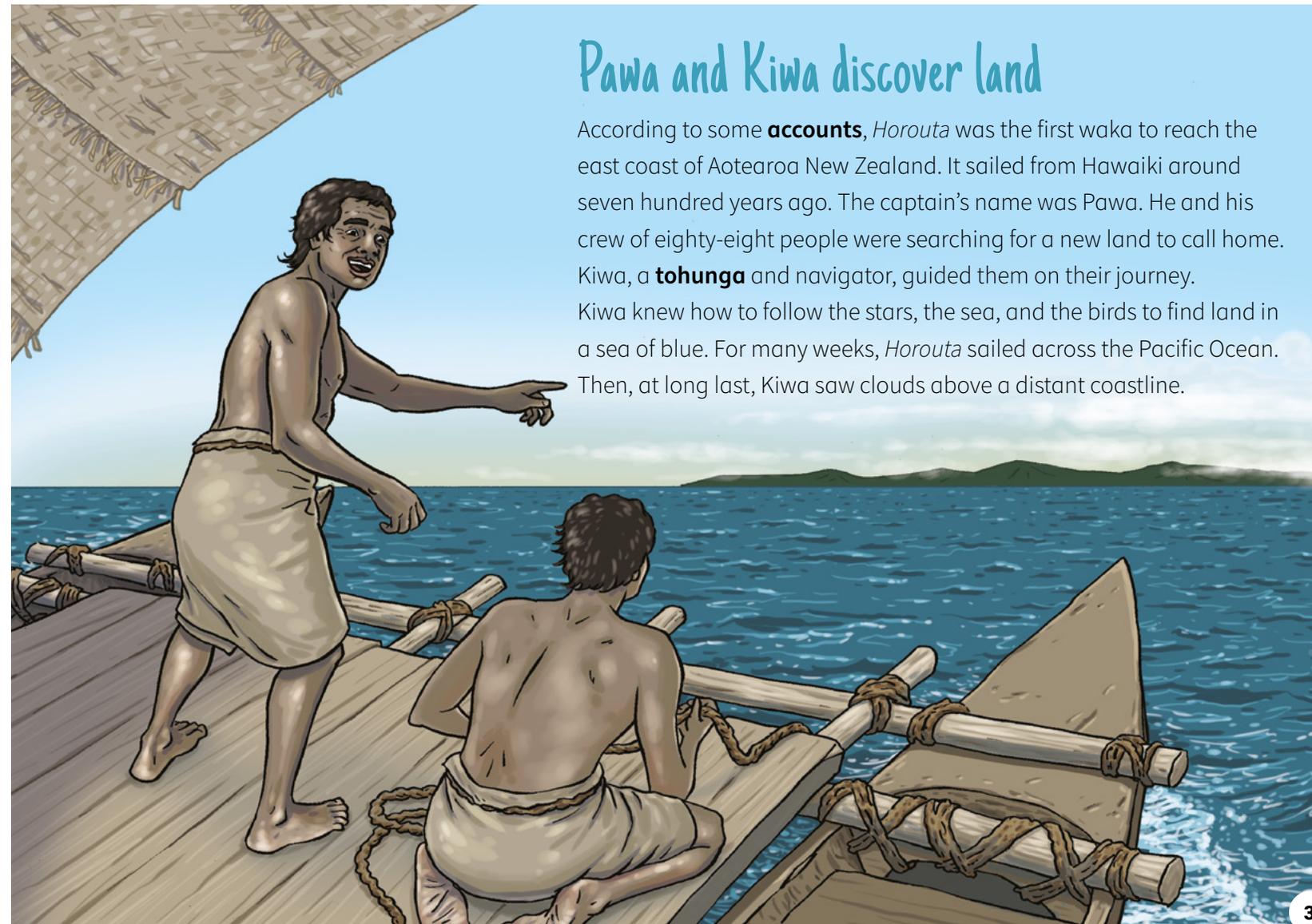




TŪRANGANUI-A-RUA, TŪRANGANUI-A-MARU, TŪRANGANUI-A-KIWA E!

by Walton Walker
(Ngāti Porou)

Just outside Gisborne, on the east coast of the North Island, lies a long, sweeping bay. It has golden sand, white cliffs, and rivers that twist into the sea. Like many places in Aotearoa New Zealand, it also has two names – one in te reo Māori and one in English. These names tell two very different stories. For the **tangata whenua**, they are part of a rich and sometimes painful history.



Pawa and Kiwa discover land

According to some **accounts**, *Horouta* was the first waka to reach the east coast of Aotearoa New Zealand. It sailed from Hawaiki around seven hundred years ago. The captain's name was Pawa. He and his crew of eighty-eight people were searching for a new land to call home. Kiwa, a **tohunga** and navigator, guided them on their journey. Kiwa knew how to follow the stars, the sea, and the birds to find land in a sea of blue. For many weeks, *Horouta* sailed across the Pacific Ocean. Then, at long last, Kiwa saw clouds above a distant coastline.

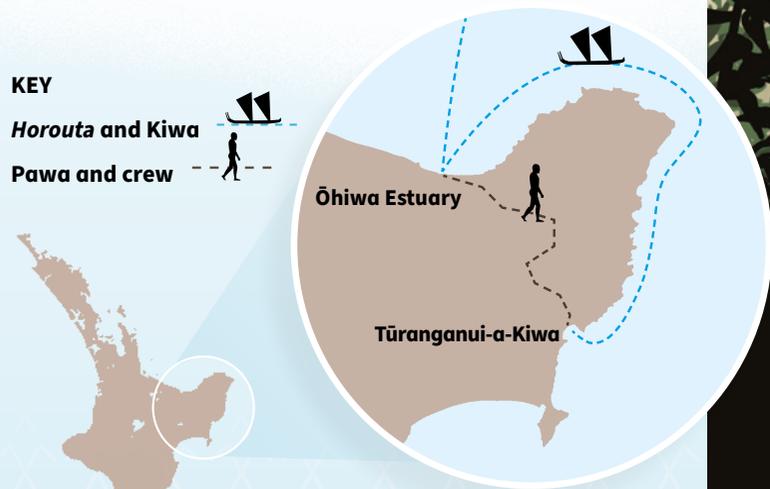
Pawa and Kiwa sailed into a small estuary. But as they got closer, they struck a hidden sandbar. The **haumi** of the waka was badly cracked. It needed to be fixed.

Pawa and his crew made it to shore and split into three groups to look for wood. While they searched, Kiwa guided the damaged waka around the coast to wait for them on the other side. There he discovered a beautiful bay filled with plants and wildlife. As one of the first people to step foot on the land, he claimed the right to name the area. He called it Tūranganui-a-Kiwa – the long waiting place of Kiwa.

KEY

Horouta and Kiwa 

Pawa and crew 



How Tūranganui-a-Kiwa got its name is remembered differently by different iwi and hapū. The kōrero told here is just one version among many.

A land of riches

Horouta is one of many waka that arrived in Tūranganui-a-Kiwa. The tangata whenua also have links to *Tākitimu* and *Te Ikaroa-a-Rauru*. Their ancestors were some of the first people to explore the land and learn how to live here.

Tūranganui-a-Kiwa had everything the people needed. There was easy access to **kaimoana**, good soil for growing crops, plants for building houses, and lots of birds, including moa. As the population grew, pā were built along the banks of the rivers and high in the hills. New **hapū** spread out. Eventually, people from all over Aotearoa came to trade for food and other resources. From the riverbank where Kiwa first stood, a community was born.



A community stands up

After Cook's visit, Tūranganui-a-Kiwa was often named "Poverty Bay" in maps, charts, and other official documents. But many Māori continued to call it by its original name. Over the years, the local iwi made many attempts for "Tūranganui-a-Kiwa" to become the official name, but with little success. Then, in 2013, Kaiti School in Gisborne presented a **petition** to the council. The students couldn't believe that the bay's Māori name had been replaced by Cook. They wanted to change it back. This time, the council asked local iwi and members of the community if they agreed. After several years of debate, the answer was clear. It was time for a change.

One bay, two names

Two years later, the government decided to change the name of the bay to Tūranganui-a-Kiwa / Poverty Bay. They believed that a two-part name was the best way to reflect the area's Māori and Pākehā history. Not everyone agreed with the decision. But many people were happy to see the Māori name officially recognised. For the tangata whenua, the name connects them to their **tūpuna**. It honours Kiwa's achievements and celebrates the area's proud Māori history.

*“ We're not poor.
We've got our reo.
We have our land.
We have our whānau.
We have our community.
For us as Māori, that's
what makes us feel rich.
Poverty Bay doesn't reflect
us as a community. ”*



Billie-Jean Potaka Ayton,
Principal, Kaiti School



What's in a name?

Place names are everywhere. We use them so often that it's easy not to think about them. But each name tells a story. Often, these stories have replaced other stories. Learning about these stories can teach us a lot about our history and our values. What do you know about the names in your **rohe**?

Glossary

accounts: descriptions of an event
continent: a huge, solid area of land that is separated from other areas of land by water or other natural features
hapū: a kinship group connected by whakapapa or a common ancestor
haumi: an extra section added to the front of a waka to make it longer

kaimoana: seafood
petition: a request to change something, often signed by lots of people who agree
rohe: local area
tangata whenua: local people; the people who belong to the land in a tribal area
tohunga: a priest, healer, or expert in a particular area
tūpuna: ancestors

