

DID YOU
KNOW?

WHAKAREWAREWA



ROTORUA
museum

Te Whare Taonga o Te Arawa
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You may have been to this place before but you might have heard about it. Located not far from the Rotorua city centre is Whakarewarewa Village which sits in a geothermal area surrounded by hot pools and geysers.

The people of the village are of Tūhourangi and Ngāti Wāhiao descent, their whakapapa (genealogy) can be traced to the first people arriving on the Arawa waka at Maketū.

For centuries these hapū (sub tribes) lived in the village and used the geothermal resources for cooking, heating and bathing.

Since 1800s when Europeans started to arrive to New Zealand, many people from the village have taken on the role of a tourist guides showing the geothermal wonders around the village and Māori culture.

The visitors were amazed with Māori way of life and the way they utilised the geothermal activity surrounding them.

CHALLENGE

With the help of an adult prepare some steamed vegetables for dinner. You will need a pot and steamer basket. Fill the pot with couple of inches of water, fit the steamer basket onto the pot and turn on the heat.

When the water starts boiling (you will hear bubbling sound) add vegetables into the basket and cover with lid.

Most of the vegetables will only take a few minutes to steam before being ready. If you are using carrots or potatoes check with a fork if they are soft first.



FACTS

- The full name of this special place is Te Whakarewarewatanga o Te Ope Taua a Wāhiao, meaning the gathering place for the war parties of Wāhiao.
- Wāhiao was a chief from Rotorua and brother to Hinemoa
- An ope taua is a war party and it was said Wāhiao and his warriors did a mass haka before going into battle and it is this event the place is named after
- Today Whakarewarewa is one of the few tourist attractions where visitors can visit a modern authentic Māori community
- In summer children swim in the Puarenga Stream where tourists throw money down to them. The children are skilled at finding money on the riverbed, earning them the nickname 'Penny Divers'

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Cooking in steam box, circa 1890, Josiah Martin (English, b.1843, d.1916), Rotorua Museum Te Whare Taonga o Te Arawa (OP-2611)

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