

From suitcase to kete

The purpose of this activity is for participants to think about what they and their cultures contribute to the bilateral Treaty relationship and to a multicultural Aotearoa/New Zealand. This activity also acts as an emotional 'closing' of the workshop.

Activity 29

Time: 30 minutes.

Materials: Blank paper and pens, colour photographs on pages 60 and 61 placed on floor about one metre apart.

Optional: additional creative materials such as coloured paper, coloured pens or felts or pastels, ribbon, glue, scissors.

Optional: some reflective music to play while people are working.

1. Ask the participants to take some time individually to reflect on their own or their family/ancestors' journey as a migrant. Ask them to think about something from their culture that they would like to contribute or 'gift' to Aotearoa/New Zealand society. This could be some kind of knowledge, a skill, a taonga or treasure.
2. Ask participants to describe their gift on a piece of paper. This may be with words or pictures or other artwork, depending on available resources.
3. When they are ready, ask them to come back to the big group and deposit all of the images of their gifts on the colour photograph of the suitcase.
4. Ask each person to come forward individually to move their own 'gift' from the photograph of the suitcase to the photograph of the kete, saying what the gift represents.
5. Tell the group that the transfer of 'gifts' to the kete symbolises another part of their journey and that this concept is something that each can take away mentally and/or spiritually with them when they leave: the images of the gifts represent the contribution that new migrants (or the descendants of migrants) make.
6. Give the group time to share their feelings about this exercise.

The participants might like to actually hand over the 'kete' to a group they are in relationship with or they might like to keep the 'gifts' themselves to remind them of their intentions.



This page belongs to Activity 29: From suitcase to kete on page 114.



Kete by Joy Wikitera, Te Rarawa, Takirua weaver.