

Curriculum Review November 2010



Karapiro School
Whakatupu taki tatou

Social Science

Social Sciences curriculum planning 2010

The major social science learning opportunities for this year have been...

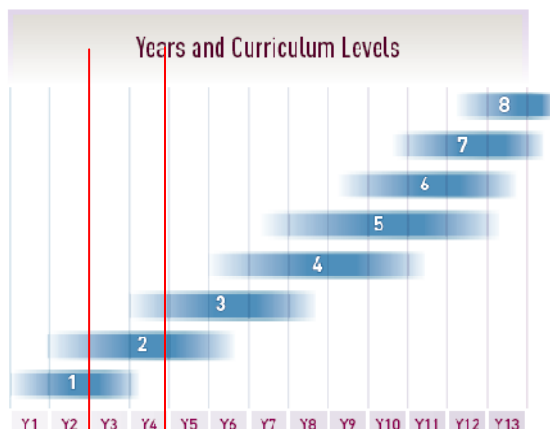
Term 1	Noho marae at Waitomo
Term 2	ANZAC Day study
Term 3	Jubilee and Living Legends project
Term 4	Rowing World Championships Karapiro: (submerged histories)
Classes have also had many other planned and incidental social sciences learning opportunities including State Highway One (Room 1), Chilean mine rescue and Canterbury earthquake.	



Student Achievement

Levels of achievement in social science November 2010 Based on Living Legend learning.						
Level	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Level 3					88% (14)	90% (9)
Level 2			100% (7)	100% (9)	12% (2)	10% (1)
Level 1	100% (10)	100% (9)				
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6

The yellow section indicates curriculum level expectation



58 out of 61 students achieved at a 'best fit' level appropriate to their year level during our recent 'Living Legends' study (term 3). Students were assessed against teacher devised rubrics based around the relevant achievement objectives for social science. Three year 5 or 6 students did not achieve level three for the work that they demonstrated in the unit. In each case this was partly due to the fact that they lacked some motivation and/or home support during the initial research gathering period.

5 year 4 students achieved at level 2A with some aspects of their work being assessed at level 3.

6 year 5 students and 3 year 6 students achieved at level 3A with some aspects of their work being assessed at level 4.

Overall assessments included some reference to competency work including self manager skills.

The achievement in this unit will be considered alongside other social studies learning from earlier in the year to enable teachers to make a final assessment decision for parent reports. Learning journals will also feature Social sciences assessments.

Children with special learning abilities

There have been numerous opportunities for able students to be extended during this year's social sciences programme. Many students have gone into incredible depth as they have sought ways to record the past during our living legends unit. The sharing sessions were very moving and were a real highlight of the year. Other students were selected to lead our very moving ANZAC commemoration. Programmes have been enhanced through visitors and EOTC experiences.



Resources

ICT facilities were stretched to the maximum during much of the learning. Computers, camera's and voice recorder were all in demand at all times of the day. We have used the National Library Service frequently to supplement resources. Trips have been taken to Waitomo (Tokikapu Marae), Lake

Karapiro (RWC), Cambridge (Tourism unit) and a trip is planned for Te Awamutu Museum before that end of the year.

Professional Development

All teaching staff have had to develop increased ICT skills to support student’s learning throughout the year. This has particularly been the case during the Living Legend study.

Staff meetings have been used to share good practice and to analyse professional reading such as SET articles and NEMP results. The 2009 NEMP findings in Social Science were shared at staff and BOT meetings.

The staff has worked collaboratively to review plan learning experiences The 2010 ICT contract that we are on has a focus on using ICT to enhance achievement in literacy.

Appraisal programmes have not specifically focused on social science (2009 was writing, 2010 is mathematics) but general feedback has been provided about all aspects of curriculum.

Budget

Area	2010 Budget	2009 Actual	2008 Actual
Social Science	\$200	\$85	\$233
The major 2010 expense has been blank DVDs for students to record projects. Incidental costs such as ICT and photocopying are not included.			

Future goals

Staff are currently planning major learning themes for 2011. We are considering focussing learning around a central theme of respect. Respect for ourselves, for others and for our local and global environment. The Rugby World Cup will doubtlessly be a major event offering great motivation and we are keen to build on the learning that has occurred around ANZAC day this year. We also have another Marae visit planned in February.

David Graham

