

Culture Cards Presents:

Identities

Identities are a very important part of our life. They are how we view ourselves and our most important traits.

From our relationships to our family and community, our ethnicity, our hobbies and employment, to our personalities and ideals, we all have multiple identities that are incredibly meaningful and personal.

The Māori are the indigenous people of Aotearoa or New Zealand.

The Māori identity is formed around whakapapa, which means genealogy, and contains an individual's ancestry and lineage to their people and their land.

Whakapapa directly translates to lay flat, to place in layers, and to recite in proper order. You can think of this as an individual's layered relationship that includes their home, their land, their tribe, and where they fit within that.

The pepeha is a traditional introductory speech that is based on an individual's genealogy.

A person will use their pepeha to identify themselves and their relationships.

This speech may include their name, their parents, or another ancestor. It may also identify their tribe, or geological connections such as their mountain, river, or lake.

What do other cultures value strongly in their identities?