



STORIES FROM THE SEA

EXPLORATION OBJECTS



MAORI FEEDING FUNNEL

Date made

c.1850's

Object ref.

GRYEH : 1968.367

Credit

Great Yarmouth
Museums

Description

This is a Māori feeding funnel called a 'korere'. It is from the Northland region of New Zealand. The korere was used to feed important men during a tattooing ceremony called 'tā moko'. During the ceremony the man would have intricate sacred patterns tattooed on his face and body using a chisel. The feeding funnel was used to feed him as it was forbidden for him to touch the food himself. The Māori believed that it was 'tabu' for the man to touch the food. This is where we get the word taboo from, meaning not allowed or not acceptable.

The korere is made of wood and carved with swirling patterns similar to the 'moko'

patterns. It was brought back to Great Yarmouth by a sailor who travelled to New Zealand in the 1800s.

Questions

1. The funnel is covered in very intricate patterns. Why do you think it is so well carved?
2. The 'moko' tattoo patterns represent a person's family tree (who their ancestors were, how many brothers and sisters they had etc.). Design your own pattern which tells people about your family.



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