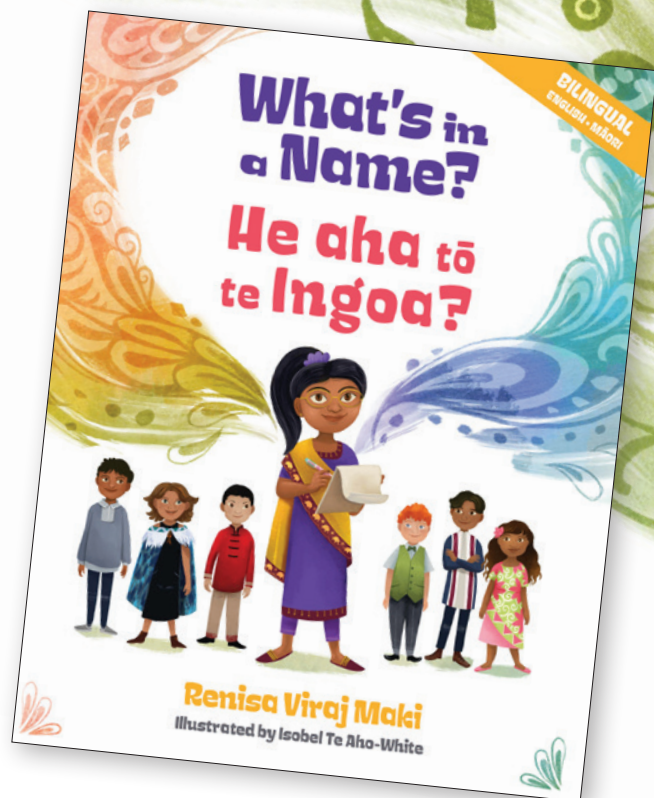


# What's in a Name? He aha tō te Ingoa?

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Māori translation by Hona Black



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## TEACHER RESOURCE

‘There’s mana in a person’s name, so it is important to say it properly.’

*What's in a Name?* celebrates diversity and inclusion, focusing on the importance of pronouncing names correctly. It teaches students about the mana within a name, and how to cherish those around us by practicing how to say their name properly.



The author worked with the Speech Language Therapists Association to research phonetics and methods for pronouncing sounds from different languages, including how to position the tongue or teeth to produce a particular sound.



# DISCUSSION

Each and every one of us has a name, and it forms part of our identity. We all have mana, and our names carry that mana too. We will be reflecting on the stories behind our names, and just like the characters in the book, we will practice pronouncing names correctly with some fun activities.

## ACTIVITIES

1. Make a list of names in the class.  
How many cultures are represented in these names?  
Mark these on a map of the world.
2. Do any of your classmates have the same name as you? Do you come from similar or different backgrounds?
3. Split up your name into phonetic sounds, like the characters in the book did.  
Draw a poster with these sounds, teaching everyone how to pronounce your name correctly.  
Do parts of your name rhyme with other words? Write these down.  
Can you write a fun song to help people learn your name? You can add these to your poster.
4. Ask your family about the origins of your name.  
Was it the name of another family member?  
Did your parents like the name based on book characters? Find out the story behind your name.







## ACTIVITIES CONTINUED

5. How many meanings does your name have?  
Did you know the same name can mean different things in other languages?
6. Priyanka practices saying difficult names by recording the sounds on her brother's phone and standing in front of a mirror and repeating the words.  
How many other ways to learn a name can you come up with?
7. If you could give yourself any name in the world, what would it be?
8. Do you have a nickname?  
Is it a shortened version of your name, or something completely different?  
How did you get this nickname?

## WRITING ACTIVITIES

1. Make a certificate for each student in the class, with their first name, middle name and surname included. Have a prize-giving assembly in your classroom where each student has to give a certificate to the person behind them and read out their full name correctly. Bonus points if you learn to say 'hello' to that student in their native language!
2. Make a classroom art display to illustrate the word 'hello' in different languages. Cut speech bubble shapes out of paper and write the words in the bubbles. Here's some words you might use:

Kia ora  
Fakaalofa lahi atu  
Ni hao  
Dia dhuit

Namaste  
Ciao  
Talofa  
Ayubowan

If you don't know already, do some research to see which countries these words come from.

# USING THIS BOOK IN THE NEW ZEALAND CLASSROOM

This book can be linked to several curriculum subjects such as Social Sciences and Aotearoa New Zealand histories. The diversity and inclusion themes connect to the Achievement objectives of Social Sciences. The book also connects to the 'Cultural knowledge' achievement objective within the Learning Languages module. Refreshing the New Zealand Curriculum has been a focus in recent years, honouring Te Tiriti o Waitangi, being more inclusive, clear, and easy to use. This book connects to tikanga Māori values of manaakitanga and hospitality towards guests, as well as broader cultural values supporting intercultural friendships and celebration of different backgrounds. Given the focus on 'Teaching as Inquiry' approach, this book can connect with various 'Big Ideas' or overarching themes such as community, culture, identity and racial harmony. The book is bilingual in te reo Māori and English, and can be used towards Learning Languages curriculum.

