



Explorers from the Pacific may have travelled to Antarctica as early as the year 600! Traditional spoken stories of some Māori tribes speak of the explorer Te Rangiora who sailed the southern seas before returning to his tropical island home. He spoke of monster sized seas and waves as big as mountains. A phrase he used which **strengthens** his story is “a frozen sea of pia.” Pia is a root vegetable grown in the Pacific islands. When it is scraped it looks just like snow.

We know for **certain** that the first modern New Zealander to visit the ice was Te Atu who travelled with American explorers in 1840.

Questions (look in the text for highlight clues!)

- 1) In what year do historians believe Pacific explorers may have gone to Antarctica?
- 2) What are two descriptions of Te Rangiora’s thoughts on the southern seas?
- 3) Which Māori explorer do we know for **certain** travelled to Antarctica?
- 4) Where did Te Rangiora leave from to get to the southern seas?
 - a) America.
 - b) New Zealand.
 - c) A tropical island.
- 5) Why does Te Rangiora’s description of ‘pia’ mean it is most likely he went to the southern seas?
- 6) Can you think of a reason why Te Rangiora’s story is not very reliable?

Māori origins, voyaging and adaptation

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New Words (look in the text for highlight clues!)

What do you think the word **strengthens** means in the story? Read the sentence.

Does it mean:

- a) The story is more likely to be true.
- b) The story is less likely to be true.
- c) The story is definitely true.

A naming word (Nouns)

For each sentence find the word that gives the name of something.

- 1) The tiny boat travelled up and down.
- 2) The shavings floated down.
- 3) It was very cold in the southern ocean.

The southernmost tribe in New Zealand, Ngāi Tahu, created a pou or marker to place at our country’s Antarctica base. It represents all New Zealanders and is a piece of home for all who travel down to the ice each year to complete science research.

