



Kakaha Pa sat high above the Puhoi and Waiwera Rivers for nearly 600 years before it was abandoned. Defensive ditches still show its location.

When my mother sensed that I was ready to come into the world, she dug a deep hole in the sand of Waiwerawera Beach to capture the hot, healing waters that flowed from Rūaumoko, god of volcanoes, and Papatūānuku, Earth mother. Here she soaked, awaiting my arrival. Wikitoria was a name that she saw as suiting me, hopeful that it would give me many victories over the course of a long life. I was not born into privilege. My mother, **Āhere**, was taurekareka, what today might be called a slave. My mother's name, **Āhere**, means to snare birds, and she certainly lived up to it. Some of our catch made for good eating but my mother's main role in our Ngāti Rongo tribe was to provide feathers for the making of korowai (cloaks) that were worn by rangatira (chiefs) or traded as taonga (treasures).

The first Pākehā that I knew was my father. For a few weeks a year, when he was onshore away from the whaling ship that he called home, he would spend time with us. My mother entered into a three week marriage (the length of Jack's shore leave) and provided him with a warm bed. In return she received a new kind of weapon called a musket that could kill from a distance. Jack named me 'Eliza' after his ship that carried him across the oceans and back to us each year; however he rarely used my name, instead calling me his 'speckled potato,' a reference to my skin colouring. I looked different to the rest of my tribe with lighter coloured skin and what my father called sun kisses that bloomed on my cheeks and shoulders.

My tribe based ourselves in Kakaha Pā which had looked down on the Puhoi and Waiwera Rivers on the headland we called **Maungatauhoro** for nearly 600 years. Our defensive ditches and wooden palisades that had protected our people were no match for the heavily armed musket attack led by the strong northern Ngāpuhi tribe when it came in 1821.

My mother and I helped the wounded into the healing waters on the beach. We held the hands of the dying, trying to provide comfort, yet knowing the whispered words of **a bright future ahead, were hollow**. And that was where my childhood was lost. That fatal shot rang out, seeing me slump into the waters and lose my mother, lose my friends and say goodbye to my childhood.

- 1) What was Wikitoria doing when she died?
 - a) Soaking in the hot water.
 - b) Helping to snare birds.
 - c) Helping tend to the wounded.
- 2) How did Wikitoria gain her middle name?
 - a) From her mother.
 - b) After her father's whaling ship.
 - c) Because of her lighter coloured skin.
- 3) What does the Māori word **Āhere** mean?
- 4) Approximately when did Wikitoria's tribe settle Kakaha Pā?
 - a) 1820
 - b) 1220
 - c) 620
- 5) Why do you think that the words of a bright future were hollow?
 - a) The wounded men were going to die.
 - b) She did not mean the words she was saying.
 - c) The future was not bright because of the Ngāpuhi attacks.
- 6) What are two elements that were designed to try and protect the people of Kakaha Pā?
- 7) List two pieces of evidence that indicate what Āhere used the caught birds for?
- 8) Why was Wikitoria's parents' marriage only three weeks long?
- 9) Describe geographically where you could find **Maungtauoro**?
- 10) Read the 'Did You Know' section and briefly describe in your own words how Hongi Hika ensured his tribe would dominate the Musket Wars.

Word Salad

There are many unusual words and phrases in the story you have just read. Complete the following tasks to ensure your understanding:

- 1) Find the definitions of the following English words.
 - a) flowed
 - b) privilege
 - c) speckled
 - d) hollow
 - e) slump

2) Use each of the five words in five separate sentences using your own words.

Parts of Speech: Adjectives

Adjectives are used to describe naming words. Identify each adjective in the following sentences:

- a) The pool was shallow.
- b) The deep ditches surrounded the pā.
- c) Dad worked on a whaling ship.

Did You Know?

The Ngāpuhi tribe from the north of the country were the strongest tribe in New Zealand during the Musket Wars. Their great chief Hongi Hika, visited the British King, gaining many presents and gifts upon his visit. When Hika sailed home, he sold many of the gifts in Sydney in order to purchase muskets. He used them to dominate the tribes that he sought revenge on, including Wikitoria's tribe and pā.

