

Passport to Learning

Morning

Time Plans



Travel
UNIT

Welcome,



Pour yourself a cup of coffee, put your feet up, and take a little coffee break with me. Let's talk about Family Style Learning using simple Morning Time plans. Our family found the simplest way to homeschool was to learn as much as we could together as a family. We found the easiest way to do this was by setting time aside each morning to do our Bible, memory work, and humanities together. In our home, we called it family time; you may call it Morning Time, Circle Time, Table Time, Basket Time, or something similar.

Each morning, our family would gather at the table for breakfast and devotions. Then we would congregate on the couch and floor in our family room for our family-style lessons. I would read aloud to the kids while they drew something, built something, or created something with their hands. After discussing the book or chapter we read, we would work on memory work, read some poetry, learn a folk song or hymn, write in our journals, play a game (usually math-related), learn about an artist or composer, draw in our nature journals, discuss current or historical events, do some map work, maybe do a science experiment, and from time to time, read a little Shakespeare.

Did we cover all of these things each day? No way! After family devotions and read-aloud, we would do 2 or 3 of the things mentioned as a family before taking a break and moving on to independent work. In this resource, I have compiled for you our Morning Time Plans we did over the years. Each monthly plan suggests topics to read, discuss, memorize, learn, teach, observe, and do.

Use what you like and what appeals to your family. Skip the rest. Each month is "grab and go." Scripture, memory work, poetry, map work, and art prints are printer ready. Links are provided for geography, art, science, and music studies. All you need to do is collect picture books and chapter books to read (I share some of my favorites), print what you need, and start. For more ideas on how to use Morning Time Plans, listen to Coffee With Carrie Homeschool Podcast [Episode #130, "Simple Homeschool Solutions: Let's Get Loopy!"](#)

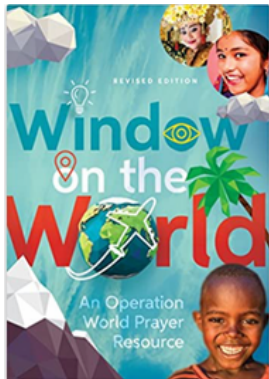
May the Lord bless your homeschooling adventures for His glory,

— Carrie —
DE FRANCISCO



Family Devotions

Start each day in prayer and worship. In this year's Morning Time Plans, you and your family will be "traveling the world." As you "travel," spend each week praying for missionaries around the world. Pray for the people and cultures around the world that do not know the saving grace of Jesus Christ. Learn about different world religions and compare them to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I recommend using the book, Window on the World: An Operation World Prayer Resource (WOW) by Operation World Resources and edited by Molly Wall and Jason Mandryk. From, October through May, I will suggest countries and cultures to read about from this book during your family devotional time.



Map Work

Create a Map Work Binder for each child (or add these pages to their Memory Work Binder). Each month, print the maps to be learned and memorized. Print one blank map and one labeled map for each child. Place the blank map and labeled map back to back inside a sheet protector. Then place each sheet protector into the Map Work Binder. Another alternative is to purchase Transparent Menu Covers. For younger students, print extra copies of the labeled maps to use as coloring sheets. Each day, trace with a dry-erase marker the labeled map. Once or twice a week, try to label the blank map. Once the country or continent is memorized, try drawing and labeling it from memory. Each week, pick a country to read about in Children's Atlas of God's World (CAofGW) by Froman or in The Travel Book Atlas (TB) by Lonely Planet. For example, if the monthly continent focus is South America, then pick 3-4 countries to read about that are located in South America. For more ideas on how to "travel the world" and do simple map work, listen to Coffee With Carrie Homeschool Podcast Episode #69, "Passport to Learning."



Read Aloud

This is the heart and soul of your family-style learning and morning time. It doesn't really matter which classics or picture books you read; the idea is to spend at least 20 minutes a day reading aloud to your children. However, it is a time (and sanity) saver to read to the entire family books that are related to the topics you are studying in history, science, art, and music. Each month, I suggest a few classics to read as well as give links for recommended picture books. Don't let my recommendations add extra stress to your planning. I often found I could go to the library at the beginning of the month with only a list of topics I wanted to cover, and I could find an abundance of picture books to check out. I personally made more work for myself trying to find the exact books recommended in teacher guides and packed curriculum. Start with the suggested books in each month's Morning Time Plans and then check out or purchase any other treasures you find along the way.

Math Morning Time

Math and games were a consistent part of our morning time routine. While math was usually what my children did during their independent work or one-on-one with me later in the day, I did incorporate math during our morning time through picture books and/or games. Each month, recommended math picture books will be given to read aloud during your morning time. Over the years, I collected quality math picture books to include in our home library. There is an abundance of picture books that teach counting, shapes, and adding skills so I only purchased the ones my kids loved to read over and over again. Then each month, I would get from the library a ton more. New ones come out every year. Surprisingly, there are a ton of math picture books that teach higher-level math skills such as fractions, multiplication, division, probability, decimals, measurement, ratio and proportions, geometry, and even algebraic concepts. This year while "traveling the world" during Morning Time, I highly recommend using the [Count Your Way Through Country Series](#) by James Haskins. Listen to Coffee With Carrie Homeschool Podcast [Episode #19 "Math Morning Time: Tame Those Math Tears and Fears."](#)

Check out my [Math Games PlayList](#) at my Coffee With Carrie Homeschool Help YouTube Channel. I share over a dozen simple math games you can play with a deck of cards or a pair of dice. There are games for all math levels, including algebra.



Memory Work

Create a Memory Work Binder for each child. Each month, print the scripture memory verse, poem, song, maps, and/or passages suggested for memorization. Print one of each for each child. Place the memory work pages inside sheet protectors. Then place each sheet into the Memory Work Binder. Another alternative is to purchase [Transparent Menu Covers](#). When you read, recite, or memorize verses, poems, or passages, they are easy to find and use. You can also use dry-erase markers to highlight or underline keywords. For more ideas on how to incorporate memory work into your days, listen to Coffee With Carrie Homeschool Podcast [Episode #116, Memory Work: A Podcast To Remember](#).

Poetry

My kids did not enjoy poetry so I had to be intentional about including it. I did this by including at least one poem and one poet in our Morning Time Plans each month. Because this was not an area of interest for my children, I made sure I kept poetry time light and enjoyable. Keep it simple. Read the poem with your family and simply enjoy it. It's really that easy! If you want, ask your children to close their eyes while you are reading the poem. Then after, they can narrate what they pictured in their minds, or they can draw an illustration that goes with the poem. Ask what they liked about the poem and what they didn't like. Focus on a new vocabulary word heard in the poem. If you have time, print the poem and place it in your child's Memory Work Binder. Each day or each week, recite the poem and memorize it line by line. For fun, read the poem with different accents. With older kids, you can analyze the rhyming pattern (if there is one). Teens can look for literary devices in the poem such as personification, alliteration, similes, and onomatopoeia. If your child loves to write, then try creating a few original poems about the same topic or using the same rhyming scheme. I honestly think poetry should be read for enjoyment; it doesn't need to be over-analyzed. For more ideas on how to have fun with poetry, listen to Coffee With Carrie Homeschool Podcast [Episode #93, "Poetry Tea Time."](#)



Nature Study

At the beginning of the year, let each child pick out a new drawing journal.

This will be his/her nature journal for the year. Each week, nature study suggestions and activities are given in the Monthly Morning Time Plans. Feel free to do some, all, or none of them. You can use the activities to supplement whatever you are already doing in science, or they can be your sole science "curriculum" for the year. In the Nature Study section of the Morning Time Plans, drawing, painting, and watercolor instructions, videos, and links are given. The primary objective of doing nature studies is to appreciate God's handiwork in creation, to improve observation skills, to inspire curiosity, and to get outside.

After spending time in nature and drawing something that piqued your child's interest, you can stop there. However, if you want to include more, give your child a verse, poem, or inspirational quote to copy next to his/her drawing. If your child is older, he/she can research the item drawn and write facts about it next to his/her drawing or they can spend time labeling the parts of their drawing. The goal is to observe and enjoy nature. For simple ways to incorporate Nature Studies in your week, listen to past Coffee With Carrie Homeschool Podcast episode.

Art Study

Print in color the masterpiece for the month. In our morning time plans, we scheduled two weeks for our art and artist study. If you would like to learn about the artist and his/her work once a week during the entire month, then search the internet for 2-3 other masterpieces by the artist to use. The first week, start with the masterpiece given in the Morning Time Plans. Then each of the following weeks, focus on a different masterpiece by the same artist. Use the same procedure described in the Morning Time Plans on the Art Study pages. Since we purposefully chose famous artists, it will be easy to research the artist on the internet and to find quality picture books at your local library about each artist to dig deeper into his/her life and works. I highly recommend building your own home library of artist picture books. Check out some of our favorite artist picture book series: [The Katie Books](#) by James Mayhew, [Anholt's Artists Books For Children](#) by Laurence Anholt, [Getting to Know the World's Greatest Artists](#) by Mike Venezia, and [Smart About Art books](#). We also invested in many art and artist card games and board games to play during our Morning Time. It was a great way to review artists we have learned about and to introduce new artists not yet covered. For more information on how to do simple art studies, listen to Coffee With Carrie Homeschool Podcast [Episode #15: "Let's Talk Art Studies: What Are They and How To Start."](#)

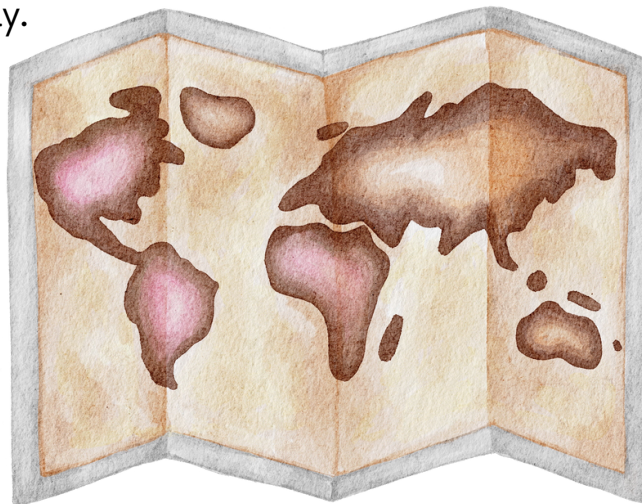
Music Study

In this year's Morning Time Plans, I combined Composer Studies with Folk and Hymn Studies. You can learn a lot about a culture or time period by singing, listening to, and learning American folk songs and folk songs from around the world. In addition, traditional church hymns are full of biblical truths, doctrine, and bible verses. While listening to, singing, and discussing lyrics of traditional hymns, your family will be learning about God and the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

In September and December, I include a composer study. During the remaining months, your family will learn a new folk song or hymn related to the places and cultures discussed that month.

For a composer study, create a playlist of the composer of the month. Start with the musical piece or symphony listed in the Monthly Morning Time Plan. Spend one week learning about the composer, his or her life, the musical era of his/her work, and one or two musical pieces suggested in the plans. Use your playlist throughout the month. Use it as background music when playing, drawing, cooking, eating, driving, cleaning, and resting. The idea is to infuse your family's day with beautiful music. Just listen and enjoy. Eventually, your children will begin to recognize the composer's style or the style of a particular musical era.

For a folk song or hymn study, print the folk song or hymn for each child and place it in his/her Memory Work Binder. Each morning, start with family devotions and worship by singing the hymn together. For fun, listen to and sing the suggested folk song from another country during Morning Time or throughout the day.



May Morning Time Plans



Travel
Australia &
South Pacific

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Scripture

Pray for New Zealand, Samoa, Fiji, & Papa New Guinea in the WOW book. Read about Aboriginal Religion.
Throughout the month, read Matthew 5.
Focus on the memory verse: Matthew 5:3-10 (The Beatitudes)

Map Work

Learn and memorize the Oceanic Islands. Older students should draw and label the South Pacific from memory.
Read about Oceania (80-85) from CAofGW or visit Kids World Travel website.

Poetry

Read, discuss, and memorize "The World Below the Brine" by Walt Whitman.

Art Study

Study the painting, "Tahitian Women on the Beach" and learn about the artist, Paul Gauguin.

Music Study

Listen to and learn "Kookabara," an indigenous lullaby.

Nature Study

Learn about coral reef biome and its inhabitants.

Math Work

Read The Charlesbridge Adventure books by various authors.

Read Aloud

Read Diary of Wombat by French, Koala Lou by Fox, The Rainbow Fish by Pfister, The Little Island by Brown, Swimmy by Leo Lionni as well as picture books about Australia and the coral reef. Read aloud from one of the following chapter books: Seven Little Australians by Turner or 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea by Verne.

Cultural Connections

In the kitchen, make Lamingtons (New Zealand), Tahitian Pudding, and Kiwi Salad (South Pacific). Play Mu Torere (New Zealand) & Samoan Number Game.



Artist: Paul Gauguin

1891

"Tahitian Women on the Beach"

Oil on canvas



Week One

- 1). Print in color or view it [online](#).
- 2) Show it for 5 minutes. Tell students to study it. Look for details.
- 3). Turn it face down. Ask students to describe the art work from memory.
- 4). Turn the painting face up again. While they are looking at it, ask them to describe it and to pick out details they didn't mention.
- 5). Discuss the painting. What is it? What do you notice? What do they like about it?

Week Two

- 1). Learn about the French artist, Paul Gauguin.
- 2). Gauguin was a post-impressionist artist and was friends with Vincent Van Gogh. He was born in Paris in 1848 but he spent his childhood in Lima, Peru. Living in Peru gave him a love of exotic, faraway places. Sadly in his 40s, Gauguin abandoned his wife and five children to live in the Pacific Islands. This is where he painted the people of Tahiti and the Polynesian culture. Many of his paintings at this time also have a religious theme.
- 3). Gauguin's style is considered post-impressionism. His paintings influenced Pablo Picasso and Henri Matisse.



Tahitian Women by the Beach



Cuisine Spotlight: Australia

This is a classic Australian dessert!

Lamingtons

INGREDIENTS:

- store-bought sponge cake (It's easier than homemade)
- 4 cups confectionary sugar, **sifted**
- 1/3 cup cocoa powder
- 1 tbsp unsalted butter
- (1/2 cup + 2 tbsp) boiling water
- 3 - 4 cups desiccated coconut (or coconut flakes finely chopped in food processor.)



DIRECTIONS

1. Cut cake into 15 squares rectangles. Freeze for 1 to 1.5 hours.
2. Combine the icing ingredients in a heat-proof bowl and mix until smooth. Should be a syrup consistency, but not watery.
3. Place the coconut in a shallow bowl or pan with a large surface area.
4. Pierce a piece of cake with a toothpick. Place it in the icing and roll to coat. Transfer it to the coconut and quickly roll. Completely coat with coconut. Transfer to tray.
5. Repeat with the other pieces of cake.
6. Let it stand for 1-2 hours until firm. Serve with tea or coffee.



Cuisine Spotlight: New Zealand

Kiwi is the star fruit of New Zealand. This Kiwi Cucumber Salad with walnuts and fresh mint is not your typical green salad!

Kiwi Cucumber Salad

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 head butter lettuce (coarsely chopped)
- 6 kiwi fruit, peeled and sliced.
- ½ cucumber, peeled and sliced
- ⅓ cup walnut pieces (optional)
- 1 handful of fresh mint

DRESSING:

- ¼ cup olive oil, extra virgin
- 1 tablespoon of fresh lime juice
- ¼ cup rice vinegar
- 2 teaspoon honey
- salt and pepper, to taste



DIRECTIONS

1. Mix the dressing ingredients together and set aside.
2. Prepare the salad. Pour Lime Dressing onto the salad.
3. Mix well and serve.



Cuisine Spotlight: Tahiti

Po'e (POH-eh) is a popular and traditional Tahitian fruit pudding.

Po'e

INGREDIENTS:

- 6-8 Ripe bananas peeled and cut into chunks
- 1/2 cup of brown sugar
- 1 cup of Arrowroot or cornstarch
- 2 teaspoons of Vanilla
- 1 cup of coconut cream **



DIRECTIONS:

1. Preheat oven to 375°F. Puree the bananas in a blender or food processor.
2. Mix together the brown sugar and cornstarch. Add this mixture and the vanilla to the bananas and process well. There should not be any lumps of starch.
3. Butter a 2-quart baking dish and pour in the puree. Bake for 30 to 45 minutes, or until the pudding is firm and bubbling. Remove from oven and allow to cool. Cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate until well chilled.
4. Cut into cubes and place into individual bowls. Top with a dollop of coconut cream and sprinkle with brown sugar.

**Coconut cream is the thick coconut milk that rises to the top of a can of coconut milk. Don't shake the can before you open it and you can skim it right off the top.



Samoaan Number Memory Game

Cut out the Samoaan number cards below.

Arrange them face down in a 4 x 5 grid.

Play the game of Memory.

Turn over two cards at a time. If they match, the player keeps the two cards and takes another turn. If they do not match, the player turns them face down and ends his turn.

<i>Tasi</i> ONE	<i>Tolu</i> THREE	<i>Lima</i> FIVE
<i>Lua</i> TWO	<i>Fa</i> FOUR	<i>Ono</i> SIX



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<i>Fitu</i> SEVEN	<i>Valu</i> EIGHT	<i>Iva</i> NINE
<i>Sefulu</i> TEN	<i>Ziro</i> ZERO	<i>Free</i> FREE



1

5

9

2

6

10

3

7

0

4

8

Free

Mu Torere: Māori Game

Mu Torere (Moo Toh-RE-re-uh) is a New Zealand game played on a game board ("papa takaro") or scribed into clay or sand. It is a two player or two team strategy game.

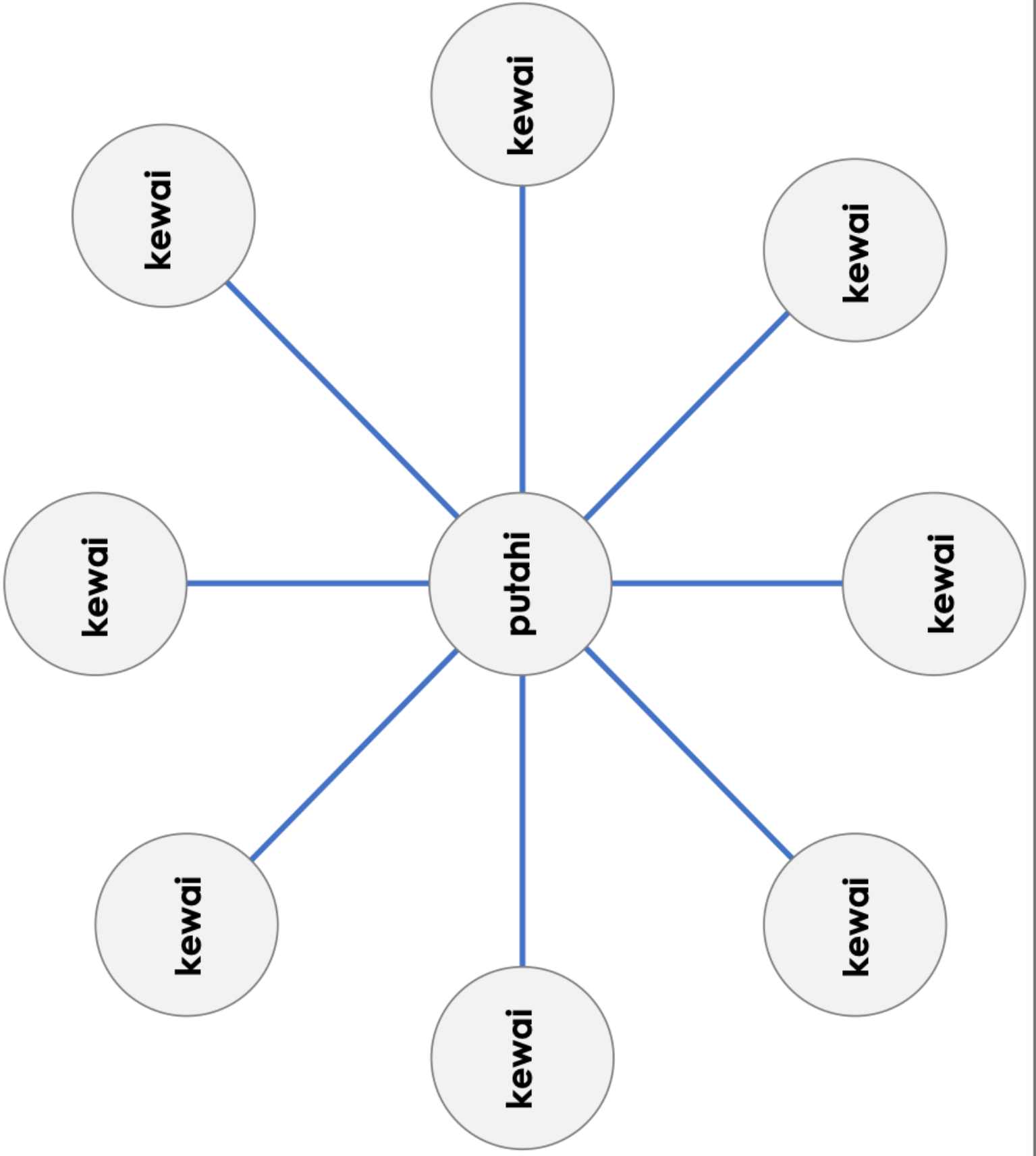
MATERIALS:

- 8 counters—four similar counters for each player (or cut out red and blue tokens attached)
- Game board

DIRECTIONS

1. On the eight point board, each player has four pieces - usually distinctly colored stones. (Red and blue tokens are attached)
2. Each player starts with all their pieces on one half of the board - placed on the four adjacent "kewai".
3. Each player then moves one piece at a time, alternately, either into the central "putahi" or onto one of the two flanking "kewai".
4. Pieces can not jump over another piece. Only one piece can be on a "kewai" or in the "putahi" at the same time.
5. The object of the game is for each player to move his pieces into such positions as to prevent the opponent from being able to move.



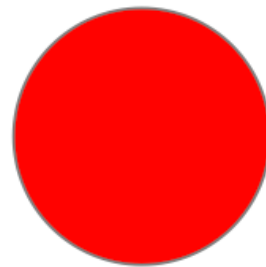
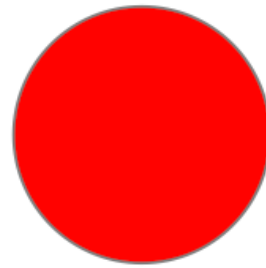
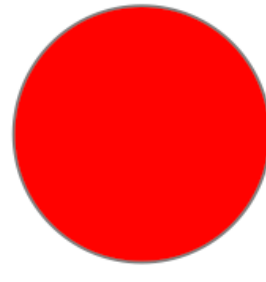
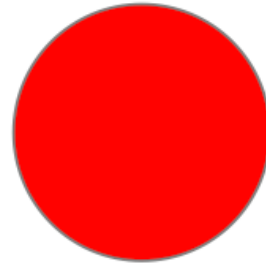


Mu Torere: Māori Game

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BOOK



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MAY: Australia, New Zealand & Oceania

SUMMER: Africa & Antarctica



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