

MOKO CONTROVERSY

PART 1

Activity 1 : Reading comprehension

The New Zealand Herald

Concern over ignorant use of moko

3:10 PM Thursday Feb 27, 2003

A group of academics are concerned the Maori tattoo is being used by non-Maori, without understanding what the symbols mean.

Auckland University art history lecturer Ngarino Ellis and fellow academics Professor Ngahuia Te Awakotuku and Linda Waimarie Nikora were particularly concerned that people were "misappropriating" moko or traditional Maori tattoo.

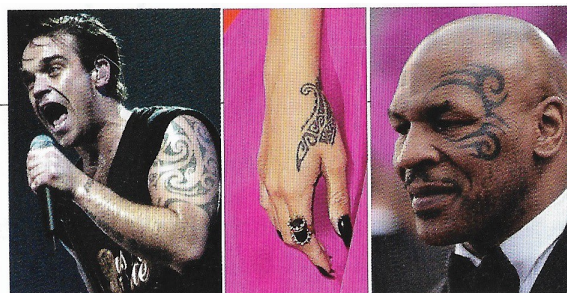
The concern comes after controversy over heavy weight boxer and convicted rapist Mike Tyson's moko-looking tattoo over his eye, which he had done just before his fight against Clifford Etienne last weekend.

A spokesman for Tyson said it was meant to represent his being a "warrior".

Maori expert on facial tattoos Pita Sharples said at the time that he did not like seeing the design on Tyson because of his criminal past.

He was also disturbed by British rock star Robbie Williams' arm tattoo "because there are definitely Maori characters of moko" in it.

Ms Ellis said the fact that high profile figures like Tyson and Williams and musician Ben Harper were sporting moko-like tattoos, "demonstrates a need for more information in the wider community about moko, both here and overseas".



▲ Robbie Williams, Rihanna and Mike Tyson all have tribal tattoos inspired by Maori designs

Do you think Robbie Williams' use of the moko is offensive?



Courtney, Auckland

I think he could have checked with kaumatua (tribal elders) to make sure he wouldn't offend their culture. People have got to be really careful.



Daniel, Christchurch

Everyone's entitled to have whatever design on their body!



Mark, Wellington

He shouldn't have done this because he has no Maori heritage.

[Send us your feedback.](#)

a. Present the text (type of document, title, date, author, main topic...)

b. Look at the photos. Why do you think these celebrities chose such tatoos ?

c. Read the text. Underline in different colours the elements that correspond to :

Concern

Ignorant use

Maori moko

Activity 2 : Your opinion matters

a. Focus on the feedback on Robbie Williams' use of moko. Do you agree with Courtney, Daniel or Mark ? Write your own feedback and justify your opinion.

I think...
In my opinion, ...
For me, ...
In my view, ...

PART 2

a. Lis les phrases suivantes extraites des commentaires des internautes.

1. He **shouldn't have done** this.
2. I think he **could have checked** with kaumatua (tribal elders).
3. That **must have hurt** the Maoris.

b. Ces structures permettent d'exprimer :

- une suggestion après coup = phrase...
- une hypothèse = phrase...
- un reproche/ un jugement = phrase...

Pour **exprimer un point de vue** (suggestion, hypothèse, reproche...) à propos d'un fait passé, on a besoin d'un, comme **should, must, could** + l'auxiliaire à l'infinitif + le verbe au **participe passé**.

c. Complète avec *should have, must have* ou *could have* puis ajoute le participe passé du verbe indiqué.

- a. Captain Cook (**think**) he had stumbled into paradise when he arrived in New Zealand.
- b. Do you think scientists (**predict**) this earthquake ?
- c. It was a frustrating game – the All Blacks (**win**).
- d. I (**agree**) to do bungee jumping – I'm scare of heights !
- e. We were supposed to take the bus to Wellington at 4pm, he (**forget**).