

Moko controversy

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...)

The document is an article, titled: Concern over ignorant use of Moko, published on February 27 2003 in a newspaper called the New Zealand Herald.

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

I think they chose these tattoos because they found them beautiful

To symbolize strength... It means something important for them. It represents their past.

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

Concern

Ignorant use

Maori moko

Activity 2 : Your opinion matters

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, ...

Grammaire: should have, could have, must have

Lis les phrases suivantes extraites de commentaires de 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.

Ces structures permettent d'exprimer :

- une suggestion après coup = phrase ¹ ...
- une hypothèse = phrase ³ ...
- un reproche/ un jugement = phrase ² ...

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

1. Souligne la bonne expression:

1. We (should have / could have / must have) listened to the guide more carefully.
2. He (should have / could have / must have) gone to Rotorua if he had had more money.
3. You (should have / could have / must have) tried traditional Māori food.
4. They (should have / could have / must have) stayed longer if they hadn't been tired.
5. She (should have / could have / must have) been more careful with nature.

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

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

3. Traduis en anglais

1. Il a dû aimer la culture maorie.
2. Tu aurais dû respecter les animaux.
3. Nous aurions pu visiter l'île du Sud.
4. Elle a dû être impressionnée par les paysages.
5. Ils auraient pu prendre plus de photos.