

The Haka

Creating and performing a school Haka for the sports team

Great for...

- **Dance** composing and performance

Activity

- 1** Watch a recording of the All Blacks (New Zealand rugby team) performing their Haka before a match. Look at the history of the dance – some versions are war dances but others are a form of welcome for guests. Some are performed by men, some by women, some by children and some by mixed groups. Ka Mate is the Haka traditionally used by the All Blacks. The words and moves can be researched by the children using the internet.
- 2** Get the children to work in two groups to compose their own Haka. They should think about what they want to say, the rhythm of the words and the moves they want to include. They may decide to have a leader at the front helping to keep them all together.
- 3** Outside on the sports pitch before a match, get the children to line up in their groups facing each other, and perform their Haka to each other.

What you need

- **The words and moves of the All Blacks' Haka** – these can be found on the internet, although the children can undertake this research as part of the activity

Preparation

- Discuss how chants and dances are sometimes used at the beginning of sports matches to create a sense of team unity and also to intimidate the opposition. Do any of the children's favourite sports teams have a chant they perform at the start of their matches?

Less challenging

- Get the children to recreate an existing Haka.
- Where necessary, get the children to work with an adult to devise their Haka dance.

More challenging

- Get the children to research Haka used by teams from other countries such as Tonga and Samoa.

Your notes

Use this space to evaluate the activity



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