

# Tāwhao's Pair





There was once a chief named Tāwhao. This ancestor lived in Whāingaroa, at Te Whānga.



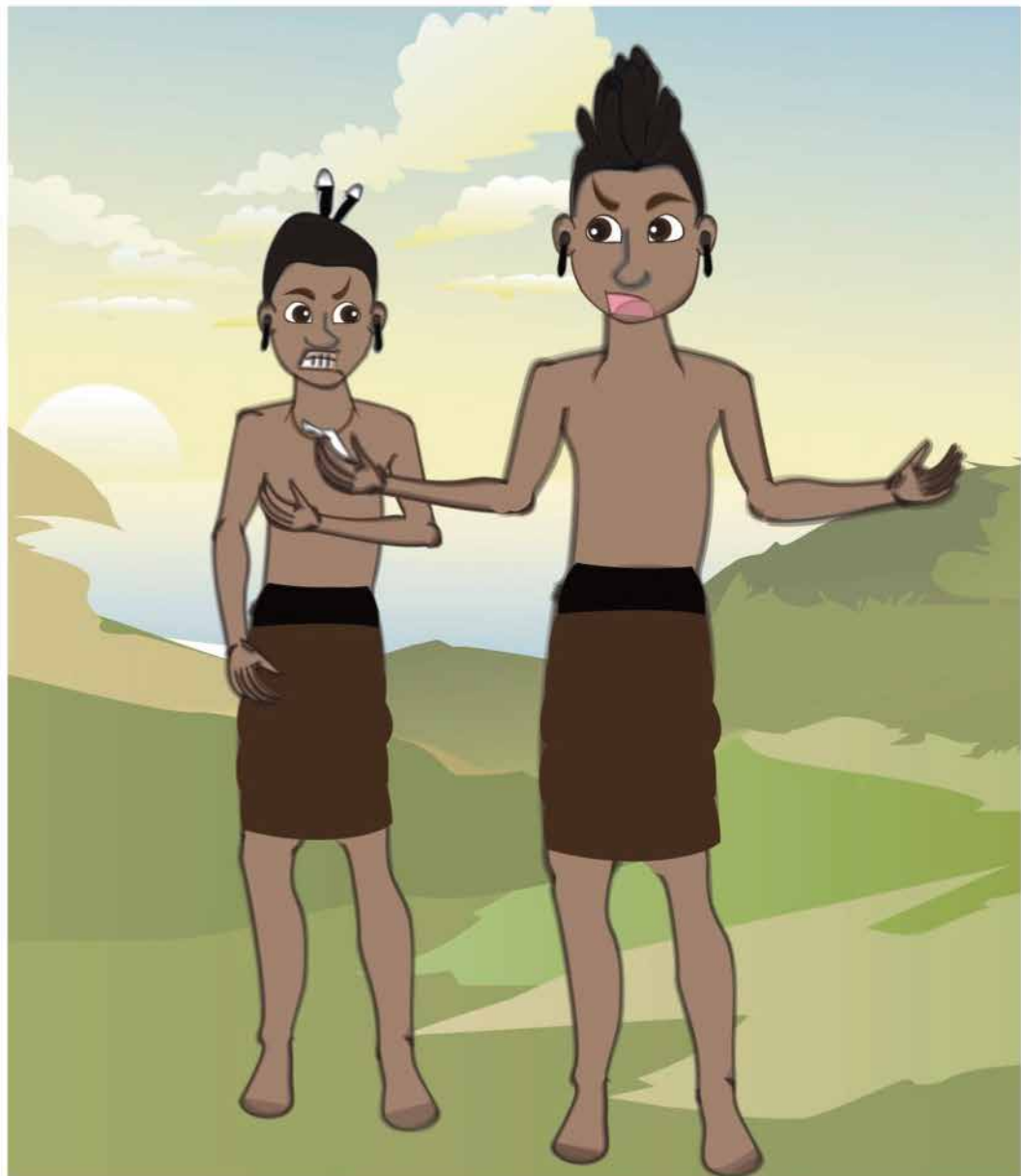
He had two wives who were sisters named Pūnui-a-te-kore and Maru-tē-hiakina. They became pregnant, and the child of Maru-tē-hiakina was born first, his name was Whatihua.



Following this, not long after the birth of Whatihua, Pūnui-a-te-kore gave birth to a boy, his name was Tūrongo.



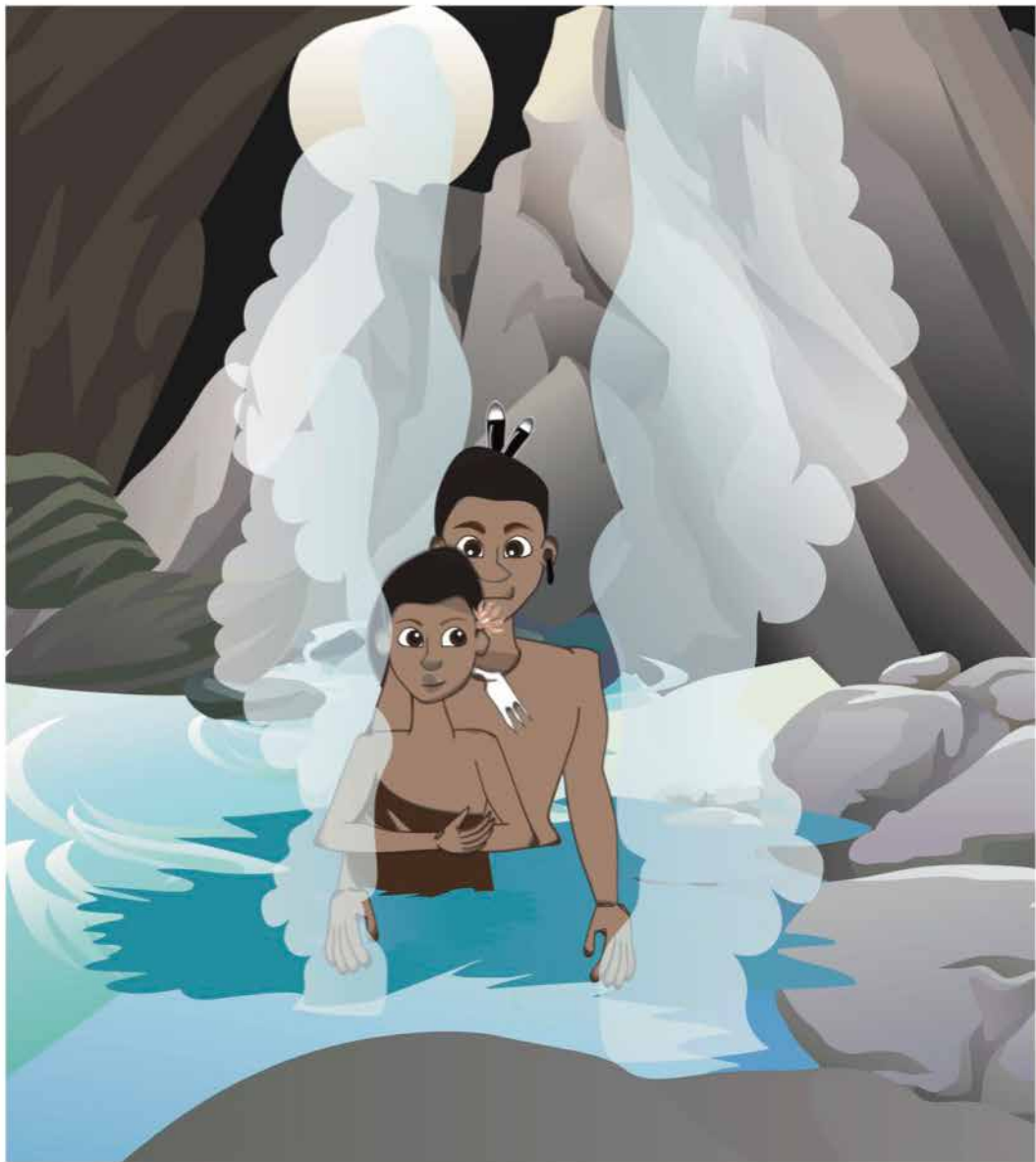
They were nurtured and taken care of by their mothers and raised by their father Tāwhao. As time passed, the pair grew into adolescents and would continuously compete against each other. They would also argue as to who was the elder sibling and who was the younger.



Whatihua would say 'I'm the older brother because I was born first!' Tūrongo would contend by saying 'No way! I am the older brother because your mother is the younger sister of my mother!' This was their main dispute throughout their childhood and it continued through to adulthood.



The year's past and the pair matured into men, they were involved in all the tasks of men but, the issue of who was senior remained in their thoughts. In due time, Tūrongo set out to explore the land, he arrived at Pātea in the Taranaki district.



Whilst there, he met the noble maiden of the area, her name was Ruapūtahanga, she was a descendant of Turi, the man who sailed the Aotea canoe to Aotearoa. They became affectionate toward one another and it was decided that Ruapūtahanga would travel to Tūrongo's home to become his wife.





Rightly so, Tūrongo should return to Kāwhia to build a home for himself and Ruapūtahanga.



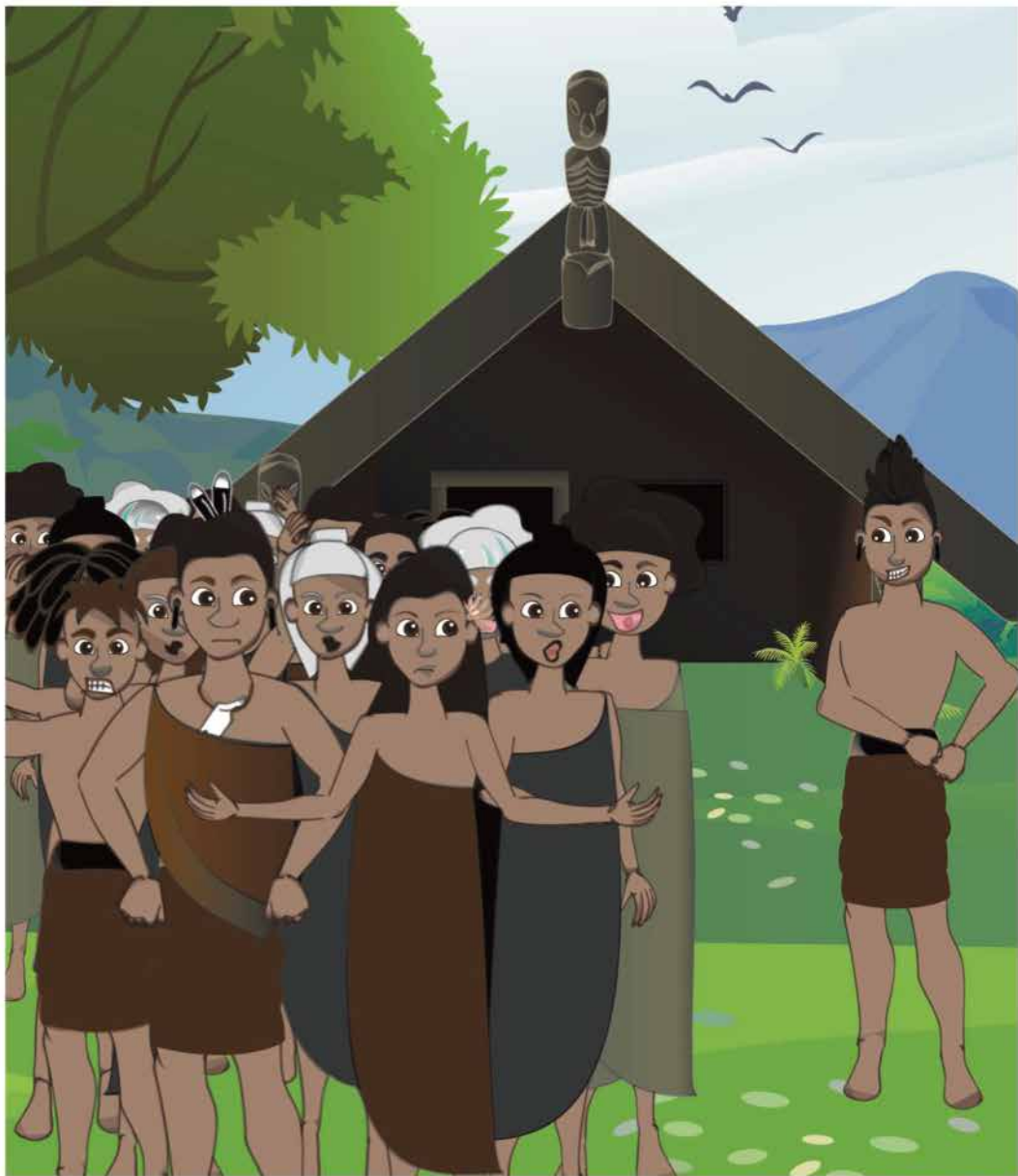
Whatihua heard that Tūrongo had found a wife and grew envious of his brother. He also wanted Ruapūtahanga as a wife for himself. So, Whatihua thought of how he might interfere with Tūrongo.



Whilst Tūrongo was building his house, Whatihua would look over and say, 'Hey Tūrongo, the ridgepole is too long, cut it so it's shorter.' Tūrongo took notice and cut the ridgepole making it shorter.



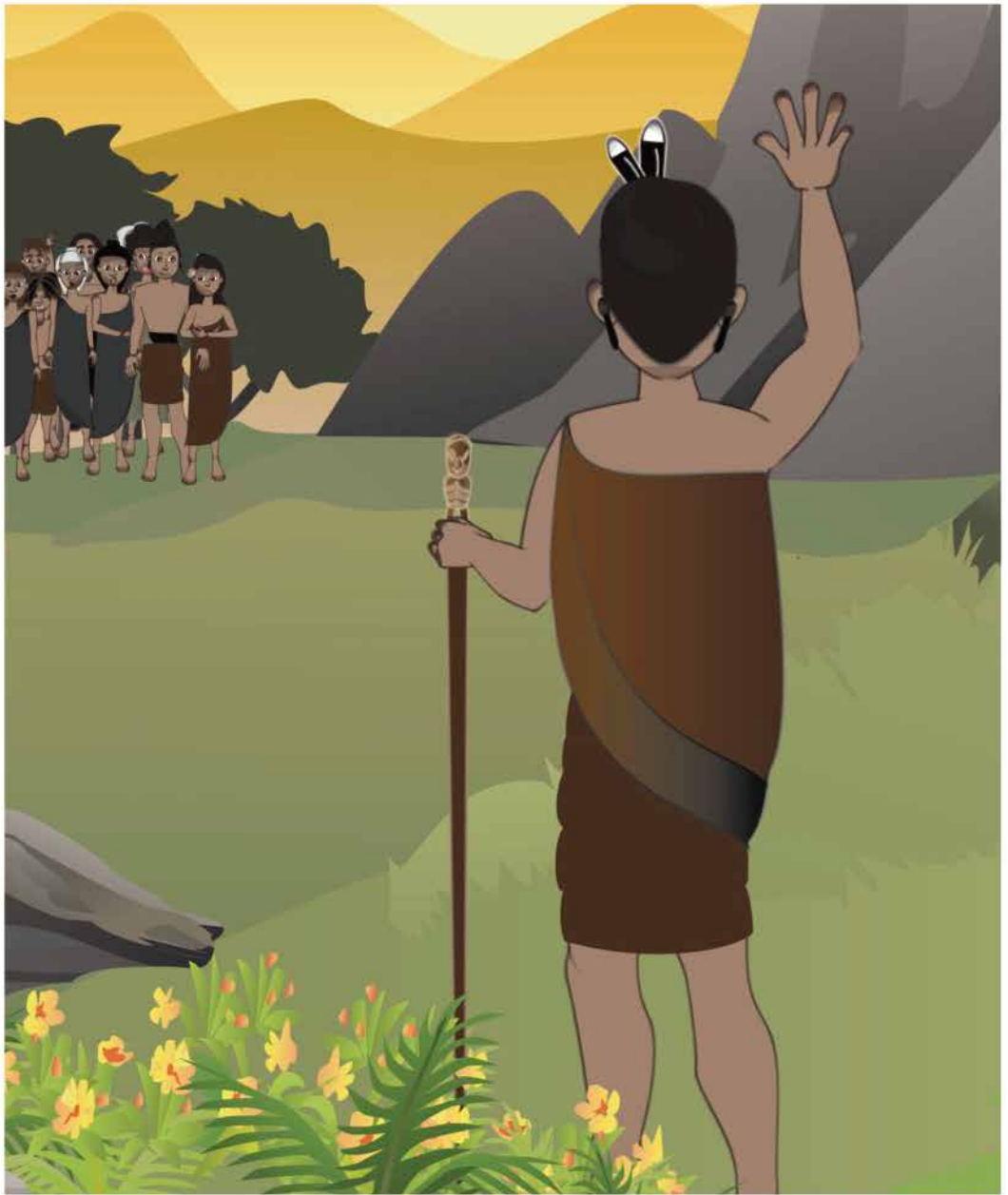
Whilst Tūrongo was working in the garden, Whatihua would look and say, 'Hey Tūrongo, your garden is too big, it'll be hard to look after.' Tūrongo took notice and made his garden smaller.



Time passed and soon enough Ruapūtahanga arrived with her company who had travelled to escort her to Tūrongo. They were welcomed accordingly and when Ruapūtahanga saw Tūrongo's house she worried it was too small and they would not fit. At that point Whatihua said 'Come and stay at my home it is large.'



When Ruapūtahanga and the others saw Tūrongo's garden they were concerned it was too small and there was not enough food. Whatihua said 'I have plenty of food.' He prepared food from the land and the sea.



Tūrongo was ashamed and deeply saddened, he also knew that Whatihua had been dishonest. And so, Whatihua married Ruapūtahanga. But what would become of Tūrongo? It would only be right that he leave, as he had no reason to stay, so he decided to depart Kāwhia.

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