

## **Ngā Mahi a Ngā Tūpuna / The Work of the Ancestors**

### **General Information:**

- Te Pane o Mataoho or Mangere Mountain and the whenua (land) surrounding it have supported large and prosperous communities for the past 800 years. The first to settle this area were the Te Waiohua people
- Extensive māra kai (food gardens) were created on the surrounding fertile volcanic soils
- The Manukau Harbour and puna (freshwater springs) awa (streams) and ngāhere (forests) enabled hunting, fishing, and food gathering
- The steep sides of Te Pane o Mataoho and the addition of awa awa (ditches) and taiapa maioro (fence-like palisades) as well as shell ara (pathways) made entering the pā (defended village) undetected and attacking it difficult
- The view from the summit was not only spectacular but also strategic – hoariri (enemies) could be seen coming from any direction which is a critical feature for a pā
- Almost everywhere you look on Te Pane o Mataoho, there are humps, hollows, and terraces – all signs of those who have lived here before. These signs include tāpapa (garden mounds) used to grow staple foods such as kumara (sweet potato), rua kumara (covered storage pits) for storing foods that were cultivated, hunted, fished, and gathered, tūāpapa (terraced housing sites) which were fenced and included a whare moe (sleeping house) racks for drying fish and a hangi (earth oven) pit for cooking

**Vocabulary:**

whenua	land
māra kai	food garden
puna	freshwater spring
awa	stream
ngāhere	forest
awa awa	ditch
taiapa maioro	fence-like palisade
ara	pathways
pā	defended village, fortification
hoariri	enemies
tāpapa	garden mound
kumara	sweet potato
rua kumara	covered storage pit
tūāpapa	terraced housing site
whare moe	sleeping house
hangi	earth oven
tūpuna	ancestors

**Inquiry questions:**

- How do we know that people once lived on Te Pane o Mataoho?
- Why did the tūpuna (ancestors) choose to live here?
- What do you think “prosperous communities” means & how does it relate to Te Pane o Mataoho?

Images:







