

Tikanga Harakeke: How to cut Flax

1. Say a Karakia before cutting.

2. Never take the rito (child) or awhi rito/mātua and whaea (parents/father and mother). The rito is the new life and the awhi rito the guardians, they nurture the child.

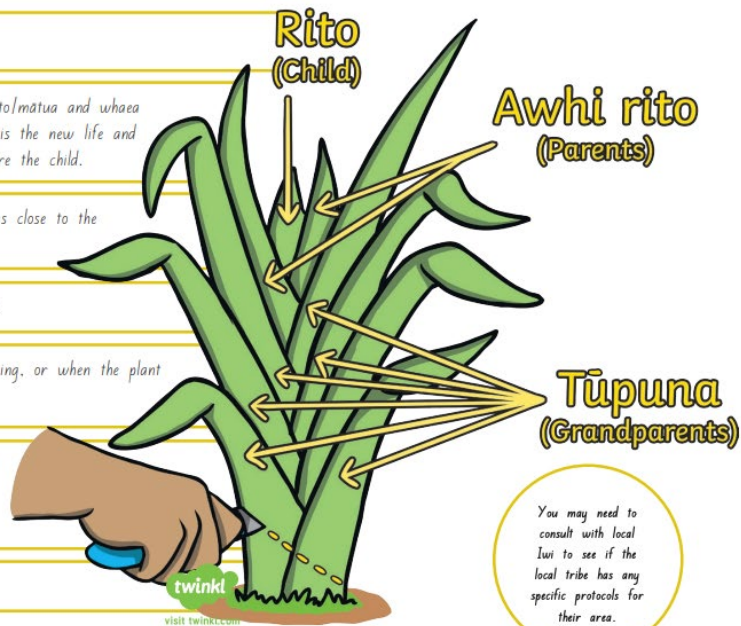
3. Cut the tapuna on a downward angle as close to the base of the plant as possible.

4. Cut from both sides leaving it balanced.

5. Never cut in the dark, when it is raining, or when the plant is flowering.

6. Be a Kaitiaki (guardian) — take out the old and dead leaves as you are cutting to help the plant grow.

7. Only cut what you will use.



Gathering Flax

Preparing the Flax Lesson 1

Preparing the Flax Lesson 2

Preparing the Flax Lesson 3

Interview with a Master Weaver