

Māui and the Sun

Characters

- Narrator
- Māui
- Māui Mua (Māui the Firstborn)
- Māui Roto (Māui to the Inside)
- Māui Taha (Māui to the Side)
- Māui Waho (Māui to the Outside)
- Tamanuiterā - The sun
- Whanau members/villagers

Props

- Campfire (torch and coloured cellophane or paper)
- Jawbone
- Flax
- Ropes
- Net



Scene 1

Narrator: A long, long time ago, when Aotearoa was still young, there lived a clever demigod named Māui. Every night, around the fire, Māui's brothers would complain about the sunlight.

Māui Mua: I tried to go fishing today and again the sun moved so fast that there was no light and I couldn't see my hook to put bait on.

Māui Roto: My whanau are so hungry, I haven't had enough light to go hunting for their kai.

Māui Taha: I keep trying to do my chores but it is too hard in the dark.

Māui Waho: Tino! (I agree, in Te Reo)

Māui: (standing up) I, Māui, can tame the sun!

All brothers: (laughing)

Māui Waho: You cannot catch the sun Māui, he is too powerful.

Māui Taha: The heat and flames would burn you to death.



Māui: You have seen me fish up our land, nothing is impossible. I will use the jawbone of my ancestor, Muri-ranga-whenua, and with your help, we will slow the sun.

All brothers: OK Māui, we'll help.

Narrator: The brothers knew that if anyone could capture the sun it would be Māui.

Scene 2

Māui is talking to his family and villagers, they are sitting by him.

Māui: Whanau, we must collect as much harakeke as possible, then weave it into strong ropes.

Māui Mua: Hoake, let's go!

Whanau/villagers: We will help you, Māui!

Narrator: The brothers, Māui's whanau and the villagers started collecting flax, and weaving it into long strong ropes. After days of collecting and weaving, they finally had enough ropes.

Māui: Kapai everyone, look at all of these strong ropes! Now I will tie them together to make a gigantic net, big enough to catch the sun.

Narrator: While the people slept, Māui sat tying knot after knot right through the long, dark night.

Māui: I will now say the magical karakia taught to me by my ancestors. This will make the net as strong as a thousand men.

Narrator: Māui quietly chanted his karakia as the sun rose and the villagers awakened.

Māui Roto: Māui, are we ready to start our long journey east to where the sun first rises?

Māui: Yes brothers, it will be a long and difficult journey but with our ancestors watching over us I know we will make it.

Scene 3

The brothers and Māui are all hiding in caves or behind trees looking towards a giant pit.

Narrator: Finally, Māui and his brothers arrived at a huge, deep pit. Inside Tamanutierā, the sun, was sleeping. Māui and his brothers hid in caves and behind trees.

Māui: (whispering) Turituri! The sun is beginning to wake up.

Narrator: It wasn't long before they felt the warmth of the sun and saw the first glint of light.



Māui Mua: (whispering) Why are we doing this?

Māui Taha: We'll be burnt alive!

Māui: Pull on the ropes, pull as hard as you can!

All brothers: Aue we will!

Tamanuiterā: Hey you kikino! What are you doing?

Narrator: Māui started chanting his magical karakia, asking his ancestors for their strength.

Tamanuiterā: I am stronger than you Māui, no net will trap me!

Narrator: Māui knew he had to do something more so he jumped at the sun, attacking it with his magical jawbone. The magic hit the sun like a bolt of lightning.

Tamanuiterā: Why are you hurting me?

Māui: You fly too quickly across the sky, we never have enough time in the day to do all of our work.

Narrator: Tamanuitera struggled to get free but Māui again showed him the power of the jawbone.

Māui: If we release you, will you promise to fly slowly across the sky and give us more daylight?

Tamanuitera: I give up! Your magic is too strong for me. I will slow down.

Māui Taha: Let go of the ropes.

Narrator: The sun rose slowly up into the sky. The brothers all smiled at Māui with pride. They knew he had proved them wrong again.

Māui Waho: Māui, we will never question your knowledge and power again!

Māui Mua: You have tamed the sun and given us all more sunlight.

Narrator: From that day on, Tamanuitera flew slowly across the sky, giving man time to do all his chores. Māui was forever known as the man who could tame the sun.

