

Waitangi Day Teacher's Notes

A2

In this A2 article your students will learn about New Zealand and its national day. You can decide to work on it either at the beginning of February to match the celebrations or as part of a unit devoted to national days in English-speaking countries. Although this will obviously not be a starting point for a discussion of imperialism given the age and general knowledge of the students, the article allows for a few hints to avoid showing an idyllic vision of the Maoris' situation.

Vocabulary and Grammar

- geography and population related vocabulary.
- some Maori words.
- the superlative
- present simple and past simple.

Phonology

- Vowel sounds: /i:/, /ɪ/, /aɪə/, /aɪ/, /eɪ/
- Word stress: national, February, capital, important, election, Australia, respected...

Spoken interaction, reading, spoken production, writing

- We suggest starting by pre-reading activities to prepare your students for the reading and speaking tasks. Then the reading activity can be introduced by speaking about the map, first by inviting students to say all they can. Some will only be able to produce words like *New Zealand*, *Pacific*, *islands*. Start with them, and gradually move on to more able students who will make simple sentences by putting their friends' words together (*New Zealand is composed of four islands / it's located in the Pacific Ocean...*). This should remain a warming up activity, not a geography lesson, so keep it short and move on to the recap which can be oral or written, depending on your students' needs.

- Then have the class read the first three paragraphs, and tick the right boxes to make sure everybody understands what makes New Zealand unique, before reading about the general characteristics of its population.
- The second part of the article is devoted to the history of New Zealand, in particular the relationships between the native population and the white population. The activities include picking up information, justifying opinions, using information to write a short presentation and expressing an opinion.

Solutions

A.1. Australia: January 26th; France: July 14th; Ireland: March 17th; the United Kingdom: no official national day; the United States: July 4th; New Zealand: February 6th.

2. A census paints an important picture of the characteristics of a country's population.

She couldn't vote in the general election because she wasn't a British citizen. Canada is the biggest neighbour of the United States.

3. /i:/: New Zealand, peace, people, sheep, chief

/ɪ/: citizen

/aɪə/: empire

/aɪ/: isolated, fly, island, Waitangi

/eɪ/: Australia, neighbour

B.1. The following are only examples of a possible interaction:

It's a map of New Zealand.

I don't know the name of the sea. Can somebody tell me?

I think it's the Pacific Ocean.

So we can say that New Zealand is in the Pacific Ocean.

There are two big islands and two small islands on this map.

There is the North Island and the South Island. The South island is bigger.

I think Auckland is the capital city. Is that right?

I don't agree, I think it's Wellington. Or maybe it's Christchurch. What do you think, X?

2. New Zealand is located in the Pacific Ocean. It's made up of four main islands and a lot of small ones. The largest is the South Island. There are lots of mountains in the South Island. The capital city of New Zealand is Wellington.

3.a. 1 b. 1, 2, 3

4. Isolated and unique.

5.a. There are about thirty-three million sheep in New Zealand.

b. "there are almost seven times more sheep than people in New Zealand."

C.1.a. The Maori arrived about 1,000 years ago / around the year 1000.

b. They lived in Polynesia before.

c. No, they came in large canoes called waka.

2. Around 1000: Maori (from Polynesia), Aotearoa

1642: Dutch explorer Abel Tasman (from Holland), Nieuw Zeeland

1769: Captain James Cook (from Britain), New Zealand

3.a. The Maori are the first people / the native people of New Zealand.

b. There are about 720,000 (seven hundred and twenty thousand) Maori.

c. "Fifteen percent of the population is Maori."

4. First, the Maori came from Polynesia around the year 1000. They named the country Aotearoa.

Then, explorer Abel Tasman came from Holland in 1642. The Dutch named the country Nieuw Zeeland.

After that, Captain James Cook came from England and named the country New Zealand.

Today, New Zealand is an independent country.

D.1. Date: 1840

Between a British representative and 40 Maori chiefs.

Results:

1. New Zealand belongs to the British Empire.

2. The Maori are British citizens.

Type of treaty: peace

2.a. After the treaty was signed, New Zealand became a British colony.

b. In 1906 New Zealand became independent from the United Kingdom.

c. After 1906, Maori culture was not respected by the white population of New Zealand.

Express your opinion:

I think the Maoris' situation is better today than in the past. Their language is an official language in New Zealand like English.

Waitangi Day is still the national day and their culture is celebrated everywhere in New Zealand on that day. People eat Maori food, watch the *haka* and *waka* races.