

NEW ZEALAND

BASIC FACTS

It is the country of **The Lord of Rings** trilogy (film), **volcanoes**, **hot water springs** (prameny), **kiwi birds** and **Maori people**.



THE FLAG of New Zealand consists of the British Union Jack, the four stars represent the Southern Cross, star constellation/ stars in the sky.



The country is an isolated island country [ajsolejtyd ajlend]. It is situated 2,000 km from Australia. The Maori name for the country is translated as "THE LAND OF THE LONG WHITE CLOUD". It is made up of **2 big islands** – the North Island and the South Island and many small islands.



THE NORTH is known for white sand beaches that are perfect for swimming, it is popular for **volcanoes and bubbling pools and geysers** with hot water, THE SOUTH ISLAND [ajlend] is larger and they say more beautiful. There are **the Southern Alps**, the highest peak of Mount Cook. Temperatures are **cooler** than in the North. 76% of the population live in the North. The population is about

4 million people today. The capital of New Zealand is **Wellington** and Auckland is the biggest city. People also like to visit places further in the north where the Lord of Rings was filmed. There are two main languages: **English** and **Maori**.



THE HISTORY and the MAORI PEOPLE

The first people in New Zealand were **the Maori people/ Maoris**, who arrived in the country in canoes[kenjus] as warriors. They have **a unique culture** [junýk kalč@], tattoos on faces, lips, noses and their chin(brada), their own language, art, crafts and traditional haka dance,



performances, which we can see for example at the beginnings of the New Zealand team's rugby matches.



HAKA is a **Maori war dance**, performed by a group of men or women, with/ including swinging (pohupování se) on the feet, loud shouting [šauting] (křik) and opening eyes and stretching/ sticking out of the tongue.

Europeans first came to New Zealand in the 17th century, 1642 when **Abel Tasman** from the Netherlands discovered it. It became a **British colony**. **Queen Elizabeth II** has been the head of the country since then. It is a **constitutional monarchy**.

GEOGRAPHY and CLIMATE

New Zealand is a very **beautiful country with many mountains, lakes and rivers**. The highest mountain is **Mount Cook**, or Aoraki, which is 3,724 metres high. The biggest lake is Lake Taupo and the longest river is the Waikato River. **The weather is not as hot as Australia's** and **there is often snow** in the winter.



THE NORTH ISLAND[ajlend]

The North Island has a sub-tropical climate, which means that there are **warm to hot summers** and **cool mild winters**. **Summer lasts from December** to February and winter from June to August. Most of the rain falls in winter. The North Island has **a lot of volcanic activity**. There are volcanoes, **hot mud springs** [mad] (bahenní prameny) and **hot water springs and GEYSERS** [gejzírs]. Most of New Zealand's population live in the North.



THE SOUTH ISLAND

In the South Island there are more **MOUNTAINS**. They run through the middle. The New Zealand's **highest peak / mountain is Mount Cook** (Aoraki), which is 3,754m high. The South Island is larger than the North Island but has **only one quarter of the country's population**. The South Island is **much colder** and there is **snow and glaciers** [glejsir] **in the mountain ranges**. The country suffers a lot from **earthquakes**.



FLORA AND FAUNA

For millions of years New Zealand has been isolated. There are **unique** [junýk] **birds, animals and plants.**

- THE KIVI is the most famous animal, it is a small bird that cannot fly/flightless bird. This bird is **the symbol of the country**. People from New Zealand call themselves “kiwis”.
- The biggest insect in the world lives in New Zealand. It is called THE GIANT WETA CRICKET(cvrček).
- Many whales and dolphins live in New Zealand’s waters and there are more types of penguins there than anywhere else in the world.
- THE KAKAPO is another unique bird (kakadu). It is about 60cm high, it is active at night and it is the only type of parrot which is unable to fly. The kakapo is **the heaviest** (about 4 kg), **the loudest bird** (about 130 decibels) and most critically endangered birds.
- THE TUATARA lives only in New Zealand. This animal is a type of reptile (plaz), born with a partial third eye.

Task: draw

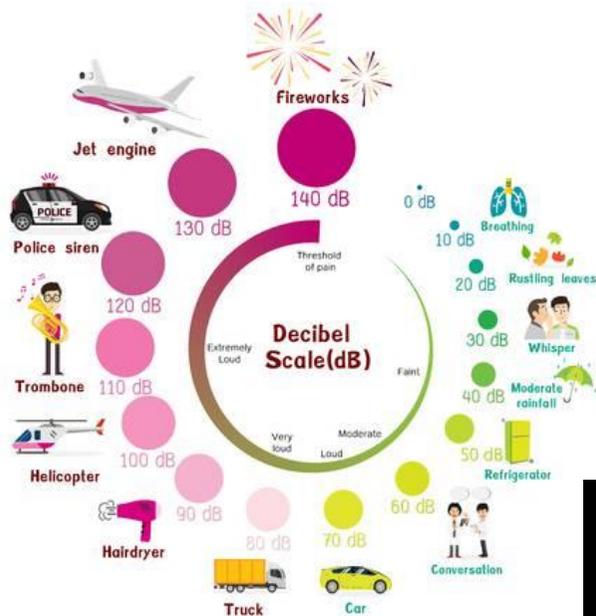
A kiwi bird

kakapo

tuatara

weta cricket

a Maori



SPORTS



RUGBY UNION is the most popular sport. New Zealand is one of the top rugby nations in the world.

Cricket is a popular summer sport. New Zealanders also play **netball, basketball and tennis**. The country is also a very strong **sailing**.

FAMOUS PEOPLE

PETER JACKSON is a famous director who made **The Lord of the Rings trilogy** awarded by 17 Oscars, adventure films based on an epic fantasy by J.R. Tolkien. It is a tale of wizards, dwarfs, elves and rings of power. An ancient ring, created by a dark lord Sauron, lost for centuries has been found and is given to a small Hobbit called Frodo and his 8 companions to take it to the land of Mordor and destroy it. If you come to New Zealand, **you can visit places where the Lord of the Rings trilogy and the Hobbit film were made** or take tours to see the beautiful landscapes of New Zealand.

You can visit **the Lord of Rings mini-museum, to see the little Hobbit’s house**, take walking or hiking tours to see waterfalls, glaciers, mountains and lakes, you can take **the hobbit journey, helicopter tours or movie tours**.



RUSSELL CROWE is a New Zealander who’s popular thanks to the role of **the Gladiator** (it is a historic film based on a Roman legend, British-American epic historical drama about a slave, Roman General Maximus Decimus Meridius, who becomes a gladiator and fights in arena to take a revenge for the murders of his family and his empiror) or the captain in **the Master and Commander**. The film was nominated for 10 Oscars and won in 2 categories.



DWAYNE JOHNSON was born in California, but lived in New Zealand together with his mother’s family. He is also known as the Rock. Johnson is an American **actor, producer and professional wrestler**. He starred in **Jumanji II**. It is an adventure film about 4 teenagers who get sucked into a magical video game called Jumanji and the only way to escape is to work together to finish the game.

The teenagers change or transform into their chosen game avatars and they get new bodies, which is very funny as one of them, a girl addicted to her cell phone gets into a little man’s body. Each of them has different skills – strengths and weaknesses. The film is a very good comedy.