

LESSON 8. Kia ora and welcome to New Zealand

Communicative area: describing national characteristics of a country



Active vocabulary: adaptable, to cope with, significance, spirit, to strive for

1. a) Do the following quiz with your partner: choose the right variant.

1. New Zealand's name in Maori is "Aotearoa", which means "land of the ...
a) long white cloud;
b) long green land.
2. Maori were the first inhabitants of New Zealand. They came there in canoes from Polynesia in the ... century.
a) 14th; b) 17th.
3. New Zealanders are called Kiwis as it is native to this country.
a) kiwi fruit; b) kiwi bird.
4. New Zealand consists of two main islands the ... Island and the ... Island.
a) North Sun; b) South Moon.
5. For many years New Zealand has been ranked among ... countries in the world.
a) the happiest; b) the healthiest.
6. There are ... official languages in New Zealand: ...
a) three; four; b) English, Maori, sign language, Elvish.
7. New Zealand was the first country to give women the right to vote in ...
a) 1893; b) 1913.
8. The first man to conquer ... was Sir Edmund Hillary, born in New Zealand. He climbed this mountain together with Sherpa mountaineer Tenzing Norgai in 1953.
a) Mount Everest; b) Mont Blanc.



9. The proton was discovered by a New Zealander ...
a) Sir Ernest Rutherford; b) Albert Einstein.
10. The first commercial bungee jump was made in Queenstown, New Zealand, back in ...
a) 1988; b) 1978.
11. The ... lake in the world is Nelson's Blue Lake.
a) clearest; b) deepest
12. There are no ... in New Zealand. None.
a) snakes; b) spiders

b)   **Listen to the short introduction to New Zealand and check your answers. Who has the biggest number of the right answers?**

2. Match the words to their definitions or synonyms:

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|------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. pursuit | 7. spirit |
| 2. adaptable | 8. to cope with |
| 3. down-to-earth | 9. to expand |
| 4. guardianship | 10. to overcome |
| 5. painstaking | 11. to pride oneself on |
| 6. significance | 12. to strive for smth. |

- a) able to change one's behaviour easily in order to deal with new situations;
- b) done very carefully and slowly;
- c) importance;
- d) practical and direct in a sensible honest way;
- e) the position of being legally responsible for smth or smb;
- f) the process of trying to achieve smth;
- g) the qualities that make someone live the way they do, and make them different from other people;
- h) to be proud of smth;
- i) to become larger in size;
- j) to deal successfully with a difficult situation or a job;
- k) to make a lot of effort to achieve smth;
- l) to succeed in dealing with or controlling a problem.



3. a) Work in three groups. Each group reads one of texts about New Zealand and its people. Answer the questions after your text.

Group A. People of New Zealand



The name *Kiwi* comes from the curious little flightless bird that is unique to New Zealand and has special significance for the indigenous Maori people. During the First World War, New Zealand soldiers were called *kiwis*, and the nickname stuck. Eventually, the term Kiwi was used about all New Zealanders. Just like the bird, they are unique, adaptable and slightly strange.

New Zealanders share a set of values that come from Maori cultural influences, early pioneering spirit, and a love for sports and the outdoors. Maori, the first inhabitants of the islands, came there in canoes courageously overcoming the dangers of the ocean. European pioneers were brave and independent. Before building farms and towns, they had to first clear the land – a painstaking and sometimes dangerous activity. It forced these early New Zealanders to become strong and multi-skilled. Early settlers strove for a fair and honest society, where everyone would be equal under the law.

New Zealanders are friendly and down-to-earth people who have the spirit of *manaakitanga*, or hospitality. Kiwis have developed a passion for the outdoors and enjoy activities that make the most of their spectacular landscape. 15% of New Zealand families own their own boat. They love hiking, camping, fishing. Bush and beach walks are other popular outdoor pursuits. The more fearless go to the mountains, following in the footsteps of perhaps the most adventurous Kiwi, Sir Edmund Hillary, who conquered Mount Everest, the world's highest mountain, in 1953. The loyalty to your friends and comrades – *mateship* – is another social value.

New Zealanders like to see themselves as practical, coping with anything thrown at them, with good life-skills and a co-operative *can-do* spirit.

Questions: Why are New Zealanders called Kiwis? What qualities do they share? What makes them unique?

Group B. Maori culture

Maori culture is an integral part of life in New Zealand, influencing everything from cuisine to customs, and language. Maori are the indigenous people of New Zealand. They came there more than 1000 years ago from their mythical Polynesian homeland of Hawaiki. Today, one in seven New Zealanders identify themselves as Maori. Their history, language and traditions are central to New Zealand's identity.



Maori culture plays a role in everyday life in New Zealand. As an official language, it's common to hear Maori spoken, and many official place names are in Maori. You can easily learn the correct pronunciation of place names, plus some simple Maori words and phrases, such as *kia ora* and other greetings.

In fact, handshakes are not the traditional form of greeting for Maori people. Instead, they use a much warmer and up-close form of greeting known as the *hongi*. The *hongi* stands for two individuals pressing their noses and foreheads up against one another and sharing the breath of life together. It is meant to symbolise the unification of both souls.

Maori customs are important in daily life. *Manaakitanga* is all about welcoming guests and providing great hospitality, something which all Kiwis pride themselves on.

Kaitiakitanga means the sense of respect and guardianship that Maori feel to the natural world. This philosophy is central to the love and care many New Zealanders have for the environment. We ask all visitors to New Zealand to make the *Tiaki Promise*, which captures this respect for our precious natural resources.

Performing arts or *kapa haka*, which includes harmonious singing, rhythmic dancing, and Maori dances such as *the haka*, are a must-see for any visitor.

Questions: What role do Maori play in New Zealand's culture? What notions are traditional for Maori culture? How do they greet each other? What Maori words do you remember?

Group C. Landscape as a movie star



Even if you haven't seen *The Lord of the Rings* or *The Hobbit* films, you'll know New Zealand is incredibly scenic. Travellers are attracted to New Zealand by a world of constantly changing scenery packed into a comparatively small space: primordial forest; lakes; waterfalls; fiords; active volcanoes; hot-water springs; geysers; white- and black-sand beaches; mountains and glaciers. New Zealand is a land of immense and diverse landscape. You'll see things here that you won't see anywhere else in the world. By the way, natural reserves make one-third of the country's territory.

The Lord of the Rings trilogy turned New Zealand's landscapes into movie stars. When director Peter Jackson decided to set the films in New Zealand, he knew that his native land could provide landscapes so spectacular that in many cases they would need little camera trickery to become the fantastical Middle-earth locations described by J.R.R. Tolkien. All but one scene of *The Lord of the Rings* films were shot in New Zealand, practically making the movies a 12-hour long advertisement for the country's landscapes.

In the author's classic series of fantasy adventure books, *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy, most adventures begin in Hobbiton – home to the hobbits. For the first films, set builders spent nine months recreating the village on farmland near the small town of Matamata, and returned to spend two and a half years expanding it for Jackson's new trilogy, based on *The Hobbit*. Now, the set is maintained by local farmers and is open to the public.

Questions: What kind of landscapes can you find in New Zealand? Why was New Zealand chosen as the set for *The Lord of the Rings* or *The Hobbit* films? What happened to the sets of the films?

b) Work in groups of three: one representative from groups A, B, C. Share with your partners the information you have learnt. Answer their questions. What facts were the most surprising? What would inspire you to visit New Zealand?