

New Zealand

New Zealand consists of two large islands: the North Island and the South Island. And many more small islands.

The current population is more than 4.6 million. The Maoris are the indigenous people and they represent the 15% of the total population.

The official languages are English, Maori and sign language.

The country's official head of state is Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and the prime minister is also a woman: Jacinda Ardern.

The flag is very similar to the Australian one with the Southern Cross constellation and the Union Jack.

The capital city is Wellington (in the North island). The two other major cities are Auckland (the largest city) and Christchurch.

New Zealanders are sometimes called Kiwis because the kiwi is the national bird. The kiwi hasn't got wings and it can't fly.

The national sport is rugby. They are very proud of their national rugby team, the All Blacks. It is called like that because they wear black shorts, shirts, socks and boots.

This country has more sheep than people and it is a big exporter of meat and wool.

About a quarter of the land are forests which are protected in National Parks. The majority of the rivers are short and run into the sea. The landscape is very varied, including many hills, valleys, mountains, deep caves, beaches, lakes, waterfalls and volcanoes.

In the North island you can find Lake Taupo (the largest lake), thermal areas with hot springs, mud pools and geysers (in Rotorua), the Waitomo caves (where you can see worms that glow in the dark, like stars) and my favourite volcano: Mount Taranaki.

In the South island you can find the Mount Cook (the highest peak, at 3,764m), the amazing fjords in Milford Sound, some glaciers and the most beautiful beaches in Abel Tasman National Park.

In New Zealand you can also find unique kinds of plants and animals. In the town of Kaikoura you can watch whales and swim with wild dolphins.

Write T (true) or F (false):

- 1) The largest lake is in the South island.
- 2) The rivers are short and most of them run into the sea.
- 3) New Zealand's plant and animals are different from other places in the world.
- 4) The best beaches are in the centre of the island.
- 5) The Maoris are the indigenous people.
- 6) New Zealand has many butterflies.
- 7) The highest mountain is 3,764 metres high.
- 8) Table tennis is very famous.
- 9) You can see whales and dolphins.
- 10) The Australian and New Zealand flags are very similar.
- 11) New Zealand has two official languages.