

New Zealand

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<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/explore/countries/new-zealand/>

Fast Facts

Official Name:	New Zealand/Aotearoa (Maori)
Form of Government:	Parliamentary democracy
Capital:	
Population:	
Official Languages:	
Money:	New Zealand dollar
Area:	103,883 square miles (269,055 square km-s)

Geography

New Zealand is a remote, mountainous group of islands in the Pacific Ocean. The islands, North and South Islands, are separated by the Cook Strait., its nearest neighbour, is 1,600 km-s away. New Zealand has more than 50, some of which are still active today. Sharp snowy and rocky create a majestic landscape. The South Island is home to the highest mountain peak in New Zealand,, which rises to 3,754 meters.

People & Culture

New Zealanders, or "Kiwis" as they are called, have been shaped by their isolation. Today, most Kiwis are no longer, with 86 percent of the population living in cities. More people live in the city of Auckland on North Island, than the whole population of South Island.

The Maori named the country, Aotearoa, "....." The Maori culture is respected by New Zealanders and many parcels of land under were returned to the Maori in 1998.

..... is the favorite sport and nearly everyone cheers on the national team, the All Blacks. Many Kiwis also enjoy

Nature

Because of its r..... location, New Zealand is rich in unusual wildlife not seen anywhere else in the world. Nearly all the land animals are and many of these species have lost the ability to The people and European settlers introduced animals to the islands and the flightless birds had no defense against them. In the last 1,000 years, half of all animals on the islands have Deforestation and draining of swamp land is also threatening many remaining species, including the bird.

Government & Economy

New Zealand's government is based on the democracy based on the system used in There are 122 seats in the House of Representatives and each is elected for a-year term. seats are reserved for the Maori and they are chosen by Maori voters. is the main industry in New Zealand with over two million visitors a year. The main exports are, butter,, and wine.

History

The Maori people arrived by from islands in Polynesia near Tahiti around A.D. 1,000. In the 1600s, the explorer Abel Tasman visited the islands, but his party left after being attacked. New Zealand was named Nieuw Zeeland after a in the Netherlands. In 1769, Captain James Cook came to the islands. The established settlements and signed a with the Maori in 1840. The Maori protested the treaty after their lands were, and in the 1860s, they began a 12-year war against the British for control of North Island. Peace was to the islands in the 1870s. The country became a dominion of Britain in 1907 and its independence from Britain in 1947.