

NEW ZEALAND

Where is New Zealand situated? What does the country look like?

New Zealand is situated **southeast** of Australia between Tasman Sea and Pacific Ocean in the southern hemisphere and it consists of two large islands: **North** and **South**.

The country is **hilly** and **picturesque** with **rocks, volcanoes, hot springs, mud pools** and **geysers**. **Evergreen** forests with warm climate are typical for NZ.

Number of inhabitants and population

The population of New Zealand is about 3,6 million.

The people of New Zealand are mostly of European origin.

The original inhabitants and also largest non-European group are the **Maoris**. They were originally cannibals of Polynesian origin. New Zealanders are called **kiwis** as well.

The official language is **English** and **Maori**.

Flag and currency

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

Currency is **New Zealand dollar**.

New Zealand's history

The islands were discovered by a Dutch explorer and navigator **Abel Tasman** in 17th century. Firstly, it was a Dutch colony. Later **Captain James Cook** claimed the country for Great Britain in 18th century.

New Zealand was named after a part of Holland - Zealand.

Geography

The name of the mountain range is the **Alps** with the highest mountain **Mount Cook** and there are many rivers for example Karamea and Waikato (the longest river).

It is a land of snow-capped mountains and green pastures.

The capital and other large cities

The capital city is **Wellington**.

The largest cities are **Auckland, Christchurch** and **Hamilton**. **Auckland** is the largest and most cosmopolitan city.

Economy

New Zealand is a modern agricultural country with a well-developed economy. NZ is world's second largest exporter of wool.

Agriculture

New Zealanders grow **barley, wheat, maize, oats, fruits and vegetables** and raise **livestock**.

Mining

Coal, oil, natural gas, gold and iron ore are mined there.

Major export products

Major export products are dairy products, wool, fish, meat, fruit and vegetables.

Manufacturing

New Zealand produces meat and dairy products, paper and paper products, chemicals, metal products, machinery, clothing, timber, motor vehicles, electrical machinery, petroleum, printed materials.

Government

The New Zealand is based on British parliamentary system. It is parliamentary democracy. The head of state is Governor General who represents the British monarch. The official head of state is the British Queen. NZ is the part of the British Commonwealth.

The typical sports

The national sport is **rugby**.

New Zealanders also play basketball, golf and swimming.

Typical animals and plants

In NZ we can find unique kinds of plants and animals, which do not grow and do not live anywhere in the world.

The typical animals of New Zealand are **kiwis, mountain parrots, Kakapo** - the world's largest parrot and **brown emu**. There are also **albatrosses** and **penguins** and the world's largest **insect, reptile** which has its **predecessor** in the age of the dinosaurs and also sheep, bats.

New Zealand has 14 national parks which take about a quarter of NZ. There are unusual plants such as giant **Kauri** trees or "Mount Cook lily". The well-known film **The Lord of the Rings** was shot in many locations within New Zealand's conservation areas and national parks.

Key:

1. Famous personalities living or born in New Zealand are Russell Ira Crowe (a New Zealand-born Australian actor, film producer and musician), **Rachel Hunter** (model), **Lucy Lawless** (actress-Xena), **Karl-Heinz Urban** (actor), **Ernest Rutherford** (scientist and winner of the Nobel Prize in chemistry).

2. I have been to New Zealand. / I have never been to New Zealand.

3. I would like / I wouldn't like to visit New Zealand because

TEST

origin	insect	bats
penguin	dairy products	gold
iron ore	livestock	barley
maize / corn	agricultural country	hot springs
developed economy	volcanoes	mud pools
geysers	explorer	Southern Cross