

## A Brief History of New Zealand

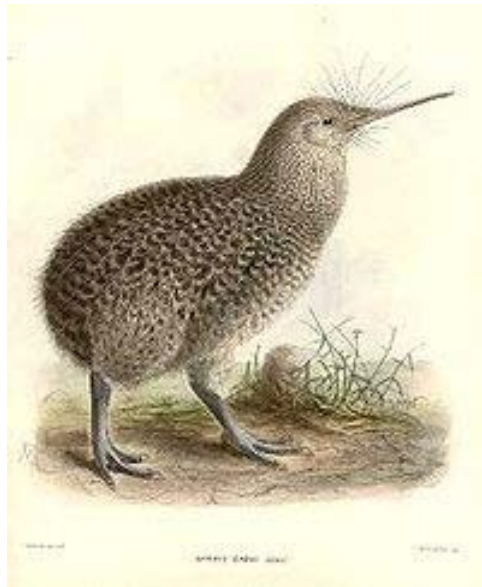
The first known natives of New Zealand arrived from Polynesia around 1,000 A.D. They are called Maoris and are a fierce looking, tribal peoples. When the British arrived in 1840, there were many clashes between the colonial forces of Britain and the Maori tribes that inhabited the North Island. The result was the New Zealand Wars. Ending the wars was the Treaty of Waitangi which was a pact between the Maori chiefs and the British government over land rights. Even though the New Zealand government finally awarded the Maori money and land in settlements during the 1990s, the land issues remain controversial.



A Maori man



A Maori Woman in native dress



The Kiwi, an extinct bird that is the symbol of New Zealand

## A Chronological History of New Zealand

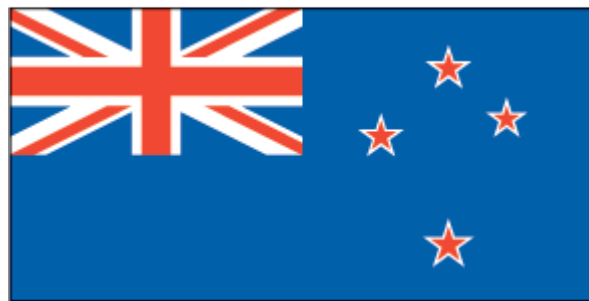
Years	Events
<b>1642</b>	Dutch explorer Abel Tasman is the first to visit New Zealand
<b>1769</b>	James Cook explores the New Zealand coastline and then again in 1773 and 1777, finding that there are two main islands
<b>1815</b>	The first British missionaries arrive
<b>1840</b>	The Treaty of Waitangi is signed. The British now are responsible for the protection of the Mori tribes. British law is established in New Zealand.
<b>1845-1872</b>	The New Zealand Wars, also referred to as the Land Wars. Maori tribes put up strong resistance to British colonial rule.
<b>1893</b>	New Zealand becomes the world's first country to give women the right to vote
<b>1898</b>	The government introduces "Old-Age" Pensions
<b>1907</b>	New Zealand becomes a Dominion within the British Empire



Images of New Zealand

**Population as of 2007:** 4.2 million  
**Capital:** Wellington  
**Largest City:** Auckland  
**Area:** 270,534 sq. km. (104,454 sq. miles)  
**Main Exports:** Wool, food and dairy products, wood and paper products

Map of Modern Day New Zealand



Flag of New Zealand