

***The political
system of New
Zealand**



Area: 270.534 square km

Population: 3.5 million people

Native people: Maori

2 Main Islands:

the North Island (114.500 sq. km)

the South Island (150.700 sq. km)

Local regions:

12 local government regions,

4 Unitary Authorities

The capital: Wellington (326.900 people)

Government:

The Principal administrative Body (the Cabinet)

Unicameral Parliament (governor-general and the House of Representatives)

The official languages: English and Maori

Longest river: the Waikato (425 km)

Largest lake: Lake Taupo (600 sq. km)

Highest point: Mount Cook (3.754 meters)

Symbols of New Zealand:

Kiwi (flightless bird)

Pogutakawa (a red flower), fern

Currency: New Zealand dollar (It is called “Kiwi”)

Natural hazards: earth quakes (about 100 earthquakes every year), volcanoes, glaciers

Plant life: out the country’s 2000 species, about 1500 are endemics, 13 National parks.

New Zealand food: Hangi (a traditional Maori food. This food is steamed over hot stones in the ground)

New Zealand is called: “Kiviland”, “Godzone”, “Pig Isles”, “Shaky Isles”, “Maori land”, “A big white cloud”.

* Answer the questions

- 1) Which countries can be compared with New Zealand in size?
- 2) Name New Zealand's major islands. What is their size and which strait separates them?
- 3) Which is New Zealand's longest river?
- 4) Are earthquakes frequent in New Zealand?
- 5) How is New Zealand called?
- 6) How do we call plants which are found in one place only?
- 7) Which plants and animals symbolize New Zealand?
- 8) Which animals did Europeans bring to the continent?

- 9) Which major urban centres in the North Island can you name?
- 10) Which island of New Zealand is inhabited by more than two thirds of the population?
- 11) Which four New Zealand cities can you name?
- 12) How much has Maori culture influenced literature, art and music in New Zealand?
- 13) Could you refer to New Zealand as to a constitutional monarchy?
- 14) How many Houses are there in New Zealand Parliament?
- 15) What is the voting age?
- 16) What does the executive comprise?

* Passive voice

- 1) In New Zealand the legislature (to call) the Parliament.
- 2) The members of the House of Representatives (to elect) every three years.
- 3) Elections in New Zealand (to conduct) on a party basis.
- 4) The business of government (to carry out) by 38 government departments.
- 5) The prime-minister's residence in Wellington (to know) as Vogel House.
- 6) Executive action nominally (to take) on behalf of the governor-general.
- 7) Governor-general (to appoint) by the British monarch.
- 8) Members of Parliament who belong to the party not in power (to know) as the opposition.

* True/ false

1) New Zealand is a colony of Great Britain
2) The British monarch is the head of state in New Zealand
3) The Monarch's representative is the governor-general
4) The Parliament represents the legislative branch
5) The Parliament has 2 houses
6) The Prime-minister appoints ministers
7) The Prime-minister is appointed by the Parliament
8) The Executive Council and the Cabinet represent the Executive branch
9) The governor-general is part of the legislative branch
10) The Constitutional act was adopted in 1986