

Chapter 9

The Maoris



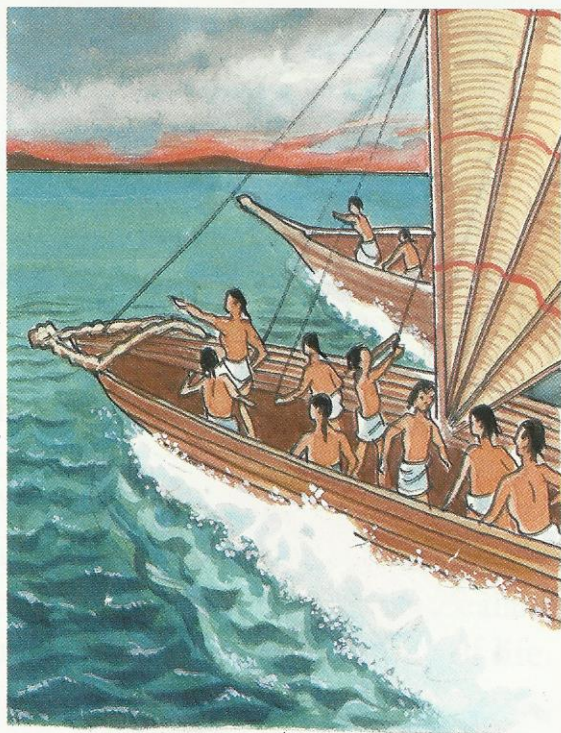
New Zealand



Polynesian Islands

New Zealand is a country near Australia. It is made up of two large islands called the North Island and the South Island and many other smaller islands.

The first people to settle in New Zealand came from the Polynesian Islands north of New Zealand. They are called the Maori people.



When the Maori people first arrived in New Zealand, they called it **Aotearoa** (a-o-tear-o-a), which means the Land of the Long White Cloud. This was because there was a cloud or haze over the bay where their boats first landed. Legends tell us that a man named Kupe led the Maori people to New Zealand. These stories also tell of the fighting that continued for years amongst the different Maori tribes over land.



The Maoris spent much of their time hunting and fishing. They hunted a bird called the 'mao' for its meat. The mao was a very big bird, even bigger than an ostrich. The meat of this bird was used for food and its bones were used to make tools. This bird is now **extinct**. The national bird of New Zealand is the kiwi.

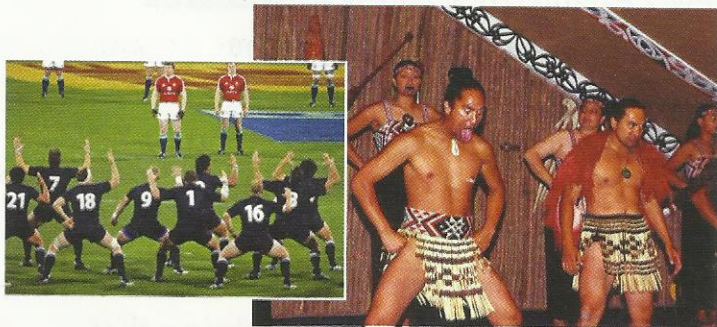


In New Zealand, the Maoris have their own dress, dance and music. Maori people still do a war dance called the **haka**.

When the Maoris do this dance, they use their feet, hands, eyes, tongue and voice. It is used sometimes as a welcome; at other times it is used as a challenge!

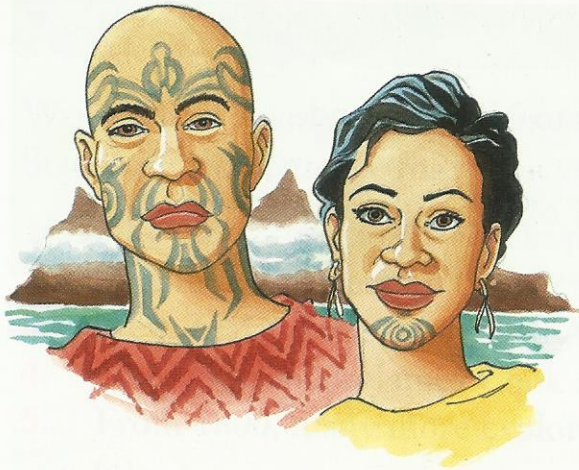
Usually the actions and words in the haka tell of what the Maoris want to do to their enemies. They stamp up and down to make the ground shake. This can be very frightening for the enemy.

The New Zealand rugby team performs the haka before each game. It is meant as a challenge and to frighten the other team. There are many different hakas. Each Maori tribe has its own haka.



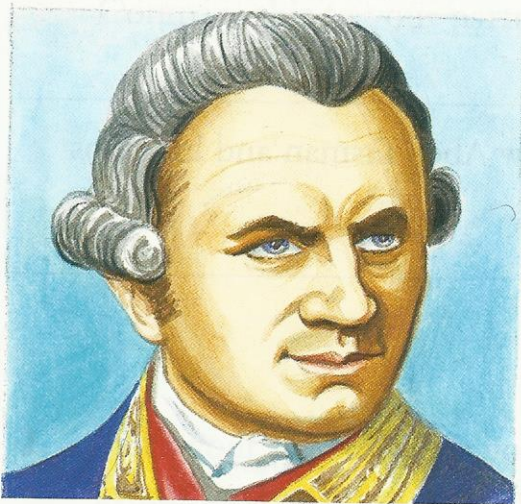
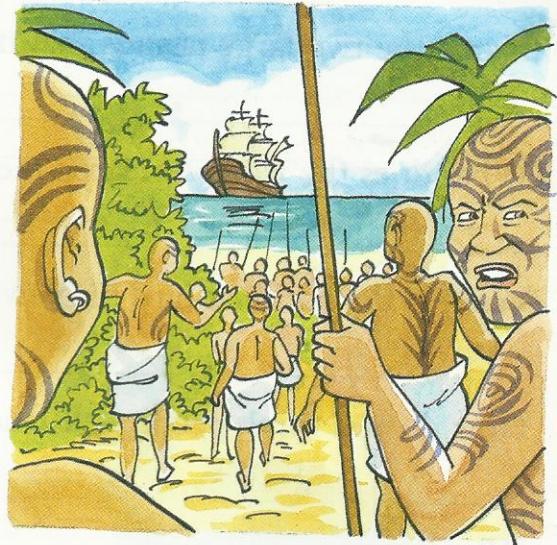
Maoris are famous for their carving and weaving. The carving is normally done by the men. They usually carve figures out of wood. The weaving is done by the women. They weave baskets, floor mats and other items.





Some Maoris tattoo their bodies. Men have tattoos on their faces and other parts of their bodies. Some women have tattoos on their chins and lips.

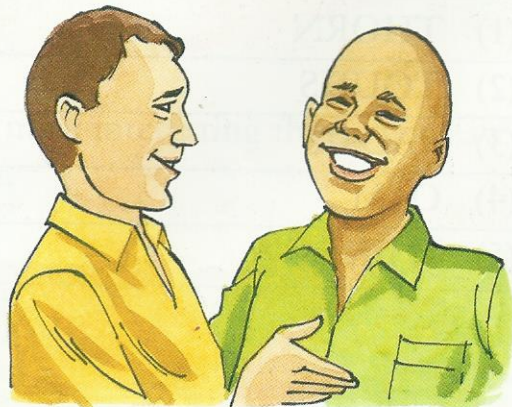
In 1642, Abel Tasman, a European explorer from Holland, sailed into New Zealand waters. The Maoris would not allow Tasman and his crew to land. Tasman was forced to sail down the coast of New Zealand.



Captain James Cook

Captain James Cook, a British explorer, drew a map of New Zealand which is very close to the map we use today. He landed in New Zealand in 1796 and was the first person to realise that the country was made up of two large islands.

From 1800, there was much fighting over land and property between the Maori people and the new settlers who arrived from Europe. However, they now live peacefully in New Zealand and respect each other's way of life.



Key Vocabulary in this Chapter

- Aotearoa:** The name given by the Maoris to New Zealand.
Extinct: No longer living.
Haka: A traditional Maori war dance.

Activity A

- Name the two large islands that make up New Zealand.

- What does the word Aotearoa mean?

- What is the national bird of New Zealand?

- How do you think people felt when the Maoris did the haka?

- Who are the All Blacks?

- How do you think the Maoris felt when they saw Abel Tasman and his ships trying to land on their island?

Activity B

Unscramble these words from this chapter.

(1) THORN	(1)
(2) TOUHS	(2)
(3) RAOMI	(3)
(4) OAM	(4)
(5) WIJK	(5)