




- 1 Read about New Zealand. Where is it?
- 2 Read about New Zealand again. Answer the questions.
  - 1 Where did the Maoris come from?
  - 2 Who was the first European to sail to New Zealand?
  - 3 Who made the first map of New Zealand?
  - 4 Why did European and North American ships come to New Zealand?
  - 5 In which century did New Zealand become part of the British Empire?



- 3 In pairs, answer the questions.
  - 1 Where is your country?
  - 2 Were there famous explorers in your country in the past?
  - 3 What are some important dates in your country's history? Why are they important?
- 4  Write a short paragraph about the history of your country. Use your answers to Exercise 3 and the New Zealand examples to help you.



## New Zealand

**New Zealand is a country in the south-western Pacific Ocean. It has two large islands, the North Island and the South Island, and its capital is Wellington.**



The first people in New Zealand came from Polynesia in boats about a thousand years ago. We don't know exactly when they came. They developed their own culture and today we call them Maoris.

For a long time the Maoris were the only people in the country. Then, in 1642, the Dutch explorer, Abel Tasman, arrived with two ships. Unfortunately, there was a fight between the Europeans and the Maoris and many people died. Tasman left and Europeans did not come again for many years.

In 1769, the British explorer, James Cook, sailed to New Zealand and made the first maps of its coastline. After that, many European and North American ships arrived. They wanted to hunt for whales in the Pacific and trade with the Maoris.

In the nineteenth century, many British people came to live in New Zealand and they bought land from the Maoris. In 1840, the British government signed an agreement with the Maoris, the Treaty of Waitangi, and New Zealand became part of the British Empire. In 1893, New Zealand became the first country in the world to give women the right to vote.

Today New Zealand is a quiet country famous for kiwi birds, spectacular landscapes and the filming location of *The Lord of the Rings*.