

DISCOVER
our AMAZING
WORLD
CLIL READERS

THE

MAORI

PEOPLE

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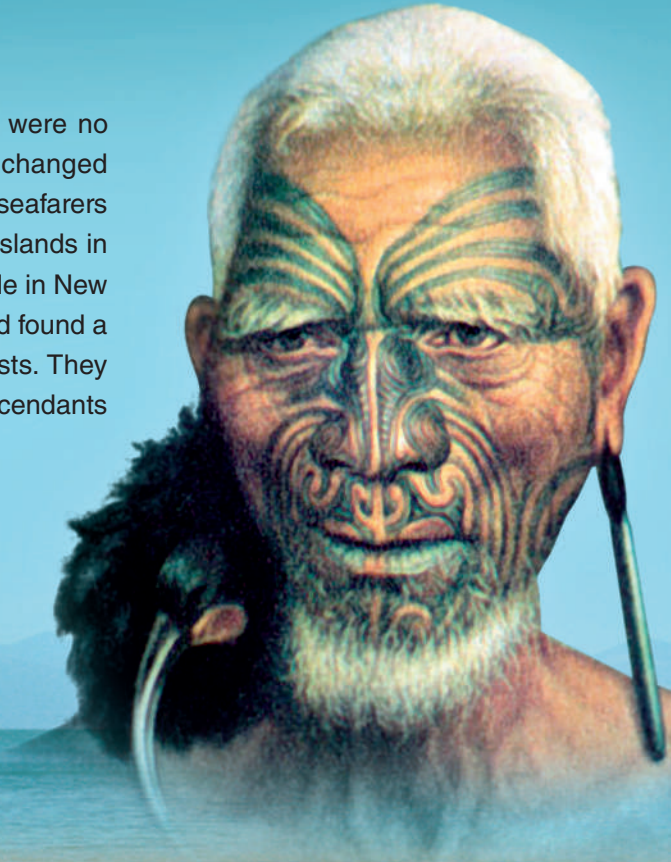



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The Discovery of New Zealand

Until less than a thousand years ago, there were no human inhabitants in New Zealand. That changed sometime between 1150 and 1350 CE. A group of seafarers set out from Polynesia, a collection of over 1,000 islands in the Pacific Ocean, and were the first people to settle in New Zealand. They traveled to the islands in canoes and found a land of mountains, green hills, and beautiful coasts. They established communities and never left. Their descendants still live there today. They are the Maori people.





The Maori have a legend which describes their ancestors' arrival in New Zealand. According to the legend, a Polynesian chief named Kupe was the very first person to arrive in New Zealand. He sailed away from the island of Hawaiki with a crew of men in a very large wooden canoe. While on the ocean, they saw a massive octopus. The octopus was

frightened of the men, so it swam toward some islands – the islands of New Zealand. Kupe and his crew chased the octopus and tried to catch it. When the canoe got too close, the octopus wrapped its tentacles around the boat and tried to crush it. There was a long battle between the men and the sea monster, but in the end Kupe defeated and killed the octopus.

Hawaiki is not a real place, but the Maori consider it to be the place where their ancestors came from. It is also believed that Maori return to Hawaiki when they die.



The Myths of the Maori

Myths and legends are the stories that different cultures create to explain how things came to be. Many mythological stories feature a supernatural trickster character that lies, steals, and is a nuisance to everyone. The name of the Maori trickster is Maui. According to a Maori legend, Maui was the reason humans learned to create fire.

Maui Steals Fire: A Maori Legend


One night, Maui began to wonder where fire came from. "We've always had it, but how did we make it?" he wondered. "I have to find out!"

After everyone went to sleep, Maui put out all the fires in the world. The next day, the leader of Maui's

village said that someone would have to go to the fire goddess, Mahuika, because no one knew how to make fire. Maui volunteered and journeyed to Mahuika's mountain cave. Mahuika was no regular goddess—her body was completely on fire. She asked what Maui wanted.

"We don't have any fire," he said. "Can you help us?"

Mahuika felt very generous. No one had visited her in a long time. She gave Maui one of her burning fingernails. He thanked her and left. Then, he began to think again. "If Mahuika's fire was extinguished, how would she get more?"



He had to find out. He extinguished the fingernail and went back for another. He said that he accidentally blew out the fire. Mahuika laughed at Maui's clumsiness and gave him another fingernail. When he left the cave, Maui extinguished that one too. He did this over and over again. Mahuika even started to give him her toenails. Then she realized that Maui was tricking her.

"No more!" she roared. She threw one of her last toenails at Maui and a huge fire surrounded him instantly. Maui changed himself into a hawk and flew away, but the fire followed and burned his wings. Maui cried to the rain god for help, and rain started to pour. It extinguished the fire and Mahuika's burning mountain. The only fire that remained was on Mahuika's last toenail. She angrily threw it at Maui, but it hit a forest instead.

The trees were proud to have Mahuika's last bit of fire. They always kept a little so that they could help to bring fire to others. Maui, human again, gathered a few pieces of their wood and took it back to his village. In front of his friends and neighbors, he rubbed the wood together and produced a small fire. The villagers were happy to have fire again. They did not know how Maui got it.

According to a Maori myth, the sun used to rise and set very quickly. Maui slowed it down, which is why we have long days.



Friends, Family & Foes

Word Bank

(pp. 10-11)

foe (n) = enemy

sub-group (n) = a group within a group

independent (adj) = able to take care of yourself

village (n) = a small town

importance (n) = significance

kinship (n) = family relationship

leadership (n) = the ability to lead

assigned (adj) = given a role or task

role (n) = a position

based on (phr) = because of; due to

ancestor (n) = sb related to a person and who lived a long time ago

appoint (v) = to give sb a role or task

diminish (v) = to decrease in importance or value

religious (adj) = spiritual

missionary (n) = sb attempting to convert others to their religion

combination (n) = two or more things joined or mixed together

pronunciation (n) = how a word or letter sounds when spoken

(pp. 12-13)

warrior (n) = a soldier

conflict (n) = the state of being in disagreement or at war

war party (n) = a group of warriors fighting a battle

consist (of) (v) = to be made up of; to contain

participate (v) = to take part; to join

enemy (n) = sb hated by or at war with sb else

merciful (adj) = showing compassion

survivor (n) = sb that is not killed by or as a result of sth

remain (v) = to stay

prevent (v) = to keep sth from happening

revenge (n) = an action to get back at sb who has harmed you

fighting condition (phr) = the state of being able to fight well

defensive measure (phr) = a way of preventing or protecting yourself from an attack

fort (n) = a place that is well-defended

settlement (n) = an area where a group of people have settled

terrace (n) = a flat area of ground constructed on the side of a hill, usually one of a series

design (v) = to plan

attacker (n) = sb who tries to inflict physical harm

protection (n) = the reduced risk of danger

injure (v) = to cause damage to sb's body

Pre-Reading activities

1 a) **Decide if the following sentences are T (true) or F (false).**

- 1 The Maori were excellent warriors.
- 2 The Maori believed family and kinship were not important.
- 3 A chief was always the main decision-maker in Maori society.
- 4 A chief was appointed based on the importance of his ancestors.
- 5 The Maori had no writing system until the Europeans arrived.

b) **Listen, read, and check.**

While-Reading activities

2 **Read the text and choose the best answer, A, B, C, or D.**

- 1 The Maori put an emphasis on
A their writing system **C** family and kinship
B food sources **D** conflict with other iwi
- 2 Important decisions were discussed in
A war parties **C** the summer months
B protective forts **D** public meetings
- 3 A chief might appoint a(n)
A decision maker **C** enemy
B religious leader **D** ancestor
- 4 In the Maori language, 'wh' sounds like
A the 'l' sound **C** the 'm' sound
B the 'h' sound **D** the 'f' sound

3 Choose the correct word/phrase.

- 1 The **public/final** decision would be made by the chief.
- 2 The Maori built protective **forts/terraces** on top of hills.
- 3 They also established pa on **manmade islands/enemy war parties**.
- 4 They wanted to prevent their **enemies/family leaders** from taking revenge.

4 a) SUBJECT-SPECIFIC VOCABULARY: Match the following words to make phrases.

- | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------|------------|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> | excellent | A maker |
| 2 <input type="checkbox"/> | food | B leader |
| 3 <input type="checkbox"/> | religious | C group |
| 4 <input type="checkbox"/> | sub- | D sources |
| 5 <input type="checkbox"/> | decision- | E warriors |

b) Use the phrases from Ex. 4a to complete the sentences.

- 1 The Maori battles took place when were most available.
- 2 The of a tribe was called a hapu.
- 3 The chief might take on a role as a
- 4 The chief would sometimes appoint a new
- 5 The Maori were

5 SUBJECT-SPECIFIC VOCABULARY: Which of the following relate to tribal conflict and which relate to tribal social structure? Complete the table.

- hapu • tribe • warrior • pa settlement
- enemy • chief • ancestor
- summer months • spear • public meetings

6 Choose the correct sentence.

- 1 **A** Important decisions were discussed in public meetings where family leaders would speak.
B Important decisions were discussed in public meetings where religious leaders would speak.
- 2 **A** The Maori were especially talented at taking the enemy gifts.
B The Maori were especially talented at taking the enemy by surprise.
- 3 **A** Pa weren't just built on hills.
B Pa weren't just built on settlements.

After-Reading activities

7 Read the following excerpt and then indicate where in the paragraph the sentence in bold fits best.

These settlements were known as pa.

[A] As a defensive measure, the Maori would often build protective forts at the top of hills. [B] They consisted of several terraces that were designed to keep attackers out. [C] The pa offered protection because it slowed enemy warriors enough to allow the tribe to throw spears or stones and injure or possibly kill some of their enemies. [D]


8 Think! How do you think the role of a religious leader is different from the role of a chief? Tell the class.

Conflict	
Social Structure	



Review

Listening activities

1  Listen to the following dialogue. For questions 1-4, choose the correct answer, A, B, C, or D.

- What are the speakers mainly discussing?
A animals from New Zealand
B the origins of flightless birds
C predators that eat flightless birds
D ways the Maori hunted moa
- According to the man, where do scientists believe flightless birds came from?
A Africa
B New Zealand
C South America
D Antarctica
- The moa were probably
A the descendants of ostriches.
B the only species of large, flightless bird.
C hunted into extinction.
D from Africa, Australia, or South America.
- Millions of years ago, Antarctica
A connected South America, Africa, Australia, and New Zealand.
B separated into South America, Africa, Australia, and New Zealand.
C divided South America, Africa, Australia, and New Zealand.
D broke off from South America, Africa, Australia, and New Zealand.

2  Listen to the following monologue. For questions 1-4, choose the correct answer, A, B, C, or D.

- Past cultures often explained the natural world through
A mythology.
B tricksters.
C Native American tribes.
D titans.
- Why does the speaker mention Greek and Native American fire myths?
A to suggest that ancient cultures borrowed from each other
B to compare the cultures that created ancient fire myths
C to support his thesis that many fire myths include tricksters
D to indicate the ways that the myths differ from each other
- According to the speaker, why do fire myths often involve trickery?
A Fire seems random and dangerous.
B Most mythical characters are tricksters.
C It used to be difficult to make fire.
D Most cultures have people like tricksters.
- Maui, Prometheus, and Coyote are some names of
A North American tribes.
B Greek myths.
C trickster characters.
D fire goddesses.

Amazing Facts



Did you know?

The Maori word for New Zealand is **1)**, which means 'the land of the long white cloud.'

Maori children often played games that taught them to be competitive and **3)** These games prepared the Maori for the violent life of a warrior.

Matariki is the Maori New Year **2)** It takes place in late May or early June and the Maori celebrate by holding festivals and telling myths and legends.

The name Maori means 'the **4)** people.'

New Zealand has three official **5)** : English, Maori, and New Zealand Sign Language.

Traditionally, the Maori used **6)** for hunting and for fighting. They used clubs, spears, and axes. They made these weapons from **7)**, wood, and bone.

The Maori believed that the spirits of the dead would sometimes come back to visit in the form of birds. It was believed that if the bird ate food left by a relative of the **8)**, that person's spirit would protect the relative.

There are around 600,000 Maori living in New Zealand, making up around 14% of the **9)**

The dog was the only **10)** animal of the Maori.

1 Fill in the blanks. Use: ordinary, aggressive, weapons, domesticated, population, deceased person, greenstone, languages, Aotearoa, celebration.

2 **ICT** In groups, collect facts about the Maori of New Zealand. Prepare a Yes/No quiz for your classmates.

THE maori PEOPLE

Be charmed by the amazing world of some of the Earth's oldest groups of people and find out all about their traditions and way of life.

Learn how they have managed to preserve their distinctive cultures and age-old customs through striking images, interesting stories and fascinating facts.

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