

Text C (English / A1)

Waitangi Day: New Zealand's National Day (A1+)

New Zealand is a unique country, and its national day is unique too!

New Zealand is very isolated – its **neighbour** Australia is more than 4,000 kilometres **away**! So it has some unique plants and animals, like the kiwi, a bird that can't fly.

People from NZ are often called "Kiwis" too.

New Zealand also has sheep... a lot of them! There are more than six times more sheep than people in New Zealand!

Fifteen percent of the population is Maori. The Maoris arrived in waka (large canoes) from Polynesia about 1,000 years **ago**. The Maori name for the country is Aotearoa, which means "the Land of the Long White Cloud."

Maori and British Influences

Many countries' national days celebrate independence or a revolution. But New Zealand's national day, Waitangi Day, 6 February, celebrates a peace treaty. The treaty was signed between the British and the Maori on 6 February 1840, in a place called Waitangi.

In 1906, New Zealand became independent from Great Britain. But to honour the country's history, Waitangi Day continues to be the national day.

Help:

- **neighbour** (n) normally, a person who lives next to you or close to you
- **away** (adj) distant
- **ago** (adj) in the past
- **cloud** (n) when it rains, there are grey or black *clouds*.
- **peace** (n) opposite of war / conflict



A kiwi



Sheep



The haka, a Maori dance