

The Treaty of Waitangi

Te Tiriti O Waitangi

The Treaty of Waitangi is an important document of New Zealand. It is an agreement, an exchange of promises, between the British Crown and a group of about 500 Māori rangatira (chiefs).

In the 1830s, the British government decided they needed to protect Māori people, British settlers and trade, especially from the French who had an interest in taking over New Zealand.

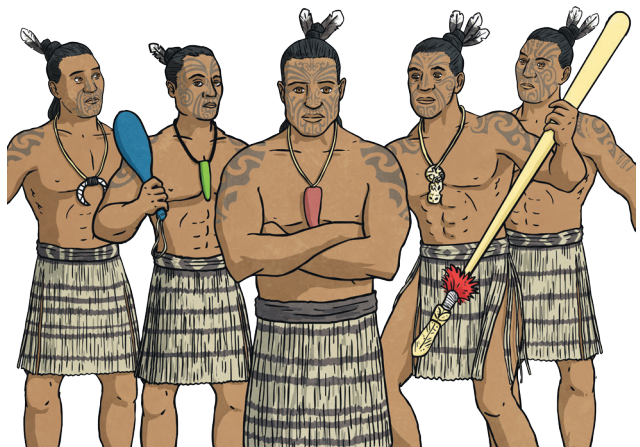
Lieutenant-Governor William Hobson began writing the treaty, with advice from James Busby, to secure British power. The treaty was translated by missionary Henry Williams and his son. The treaty was written in both English and Māori, but the translation was not exactly the same.

The Māori version of the treaty was signed on 6th February, 1840 by about 40 chiefs in the Bay of Islands. Many more chiefs signed copies of the Māori version of the treaty throughout New Zealand.

The British announced supreme power over New Zealand on 21st May, 1840.

There were misunderstandings over the translations of words between Māori and the Crown. This misunderstanding and disagreement over the Treaty was the main cause of wars between some Māori tribes and the government in the 1860s.

In the 1900s, there was not much importance put on the Treaty; it wasn't until the 1970s that Māori began to protest and march for their land. In 1975, the government created the Treaty of Waitangi Act and the Waitangi tribunal to negotiate the treaty. There have been many claims, and settlement continues to happen with these today.



Questions

1. Who was the Treaty of Waitangi between?

2. When did the government decide that they needed a treaty?

3. Why do you think the treaty needed to be translated?

4. How many chiefs signed the treaty on the 6th of February 1840?

5. What was the main cause of the wars in the 1860s?

6. What happened in the 1970s?

7. Research and find out what a 'tribunal' is.

The Treaty of Waitangi Answers

The Treaty of Waitangi

1. Who was the Treaty of Waitangi between?
The treaty was between the British Crown and 500 Māori chiefs.
2. When did the government decide that they needed a treaty?
The government decided that they needed a treaty in the 1830s.
3. Why do you think the treaty needed to be translated?
The treaty needed to be translated because Māori couldn't speak or read English.
4. How many chiefs signed the treaty on the 6th of February 1840?
About 40 chiefs signed the treaty on the 6th of February 1840.
5. What was the main cause of the wars in the 1860s?
The main cause of the wars was misunderstanding and disagreement over the treaty.
6. What happened in the 1970s?
In the 1970s, Māori started protecting and marching for their land.
7. Research and find out what a 'tribunal' is.
Various answers similar to: A tribunal is a group of people chosen to settle particular types of disputes (disagreements).

The Treaty of Waitangi

Te Tiriti O Waitangi

The Treaty of Waitangi is the founding document of New Zealand. It is an agreement, an exchange of promises, between the British Crown and a group of about 500 Māori rangatira (chiefs).

In the 1830s, the British government decided that they needed to protect Māori people, British settlers and trade, especially from the French who had an interest in taking over New Zealand.

Lieutenant-Governor William Hobson began writing the treaty, with advice from James Busby, to secure British power. The treaty was translated by missionary Henry Williams and his son.

The treaty was written in both English and Māori, but the translation was not exactly the same.

The Māori version of the treaty was signed on 6th February 1840 by about 40 chiefs in the Bay of Islands. First to sign the treaty was Hōne Heke. Many more chiefs throughout New Zealand signed copies of the Māori version of the treaty.

Hōne Heke - (Hone Wiremu Heke Pōkai 1807/8–1850)

Heke was rangatira of the Ngāpuhi tribe. He was a very influential chief who supported the treaty to begin with, however, he became strongly opposed to it as time went on.



The British announced sovereignty over New Zealand on 21st May, 1840.

There were misunderstandings over the translations of words between Māori and the Crown. This was the main reason for the 1860 wars between some Māori tribes and the government.

A founding document is a legal document which establishes or sets up a country or organisation.

In the 1900s, there was not much importance put on the treaty. It wasn't until the 1970s that Māori people began to protest and march for their land. In 1975, at the age of 80, Dame Whina Cooper marched with her granddaughter, leading 5000 other Māori to Wellington from Te Hapua over their land. Finally, the government created the Treaty of Waitangi Act and the Waitangi tribunal to negotiate the treaty. There have been many claims, and settlement continues to happen with these today.

Dame Whina Cooper - (Hohepine (Josephine) Te Wake, 9 December 1895 – 26 March 1994)

Dame Cooper was a loved and respected Maori leader. She was essential in setting up land schemes and Maori Women's Welfare. Dame Cooper is best remembered for leading the land march in 1975.



Questions

1. Who was the Treaty of Waitangi between?

2. When and why did the government decide that they needed a treaty?

3. Why do you think the treaty needed to be translated?

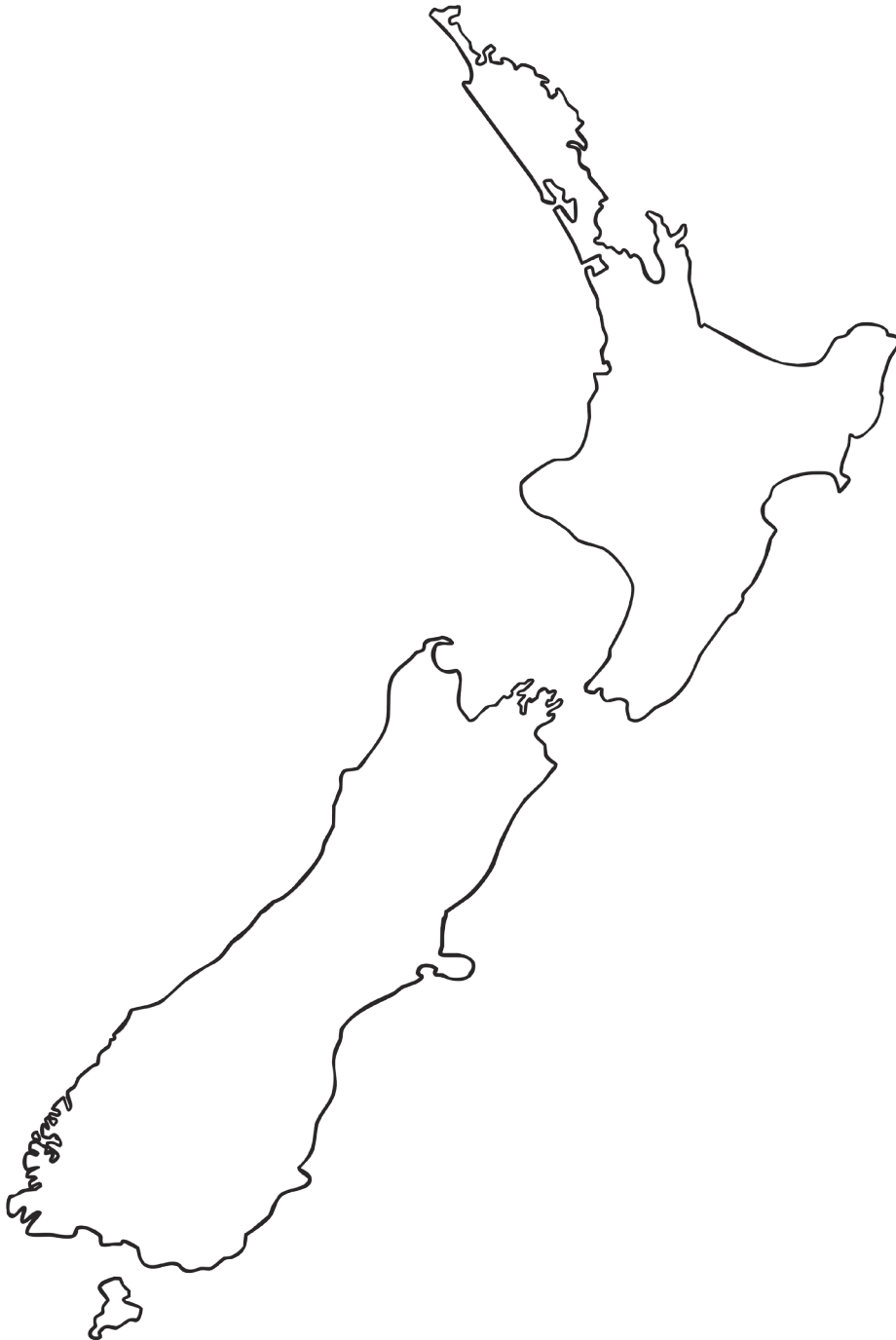
4. What does sovereignty mean?

5. What was the main cause of the wars in 1860?

6. Why do you think it is significant that Dame Cooper led the land march in 1975?

7. Research and find out what a 'tribunal' is.

8. Use a map and find these important places in New Zealand from this text:
Waitangi, Bay of Islands, Wellington, Te Hapua. Mark them on the map below:



The Treaty of Waitangi Answers

1. Who was the Treaty of Waitangi between?
The treaty was between the British Crown and 500 Māori chiefs.
2. When did the government decide that they needed a treaty?
The government decided that they needed a treaty in the 1830s because they wanted to protect Māori people, British settlers and trade.
3. Why do you think the treaty needed to be translated?
The treaty needed to be translated because Māori couldn't speak or read English.
4. How many chiefs signed the treaty on the 6th of February 1840?
Sovereignty means to have supreme power or authority.
5. What was the main cause of the wars in the 1860s?
The main cause of the wars was the misunderstanding and disagreement over the treaty.
6. What happened in the 1970s?
Various answers – could refer to the fact that she was a respected Māori leader and elder; she was 80 at the time; she marched with her granddaughter.
7. Research and find out what a 'tribunal' is.
Various answers similar to: A tribunal is a group of people chosen to settle particular types of disputes (disagreements).

The Treaty of Waitangi

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The Treaty of Waitangi is the founding document of New Zealand. It is an agreement, an exchange of promises, between the British Crown and a group of about 500 Māori rangatira (chiefs).

In the 1830s, the British government decided they needed to protect Māori people, British settlers and trade, especially from the French who had an interest in taking over New Zealand.

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The Māori version of the treaty was signed on 6th February, 1840 in the Bay of Islands by about 40 chiefs.

Hōne Heke - Hone Wiremu Heke Pōkai 1807/8–1850)

Heke was rangatira of the Ngāpuhi tribe. He was a very influential chief who supported the treaty to begin with, however, he became strongly opposed to it as time went on.



First to sign the treaty was Hōne Heke. Many more chiefs throughout New Zealand signed copies of the Māori version of the treaty.

The British announced sovereignty over New Zealand on 21st May, 1840.

The treaty had 3 main articles:

1. The British crown has complete governance over New Zealand forever.
2. The British crown will protect Māori people.

A founding document is a legal document which establishes or sets up a country or organisation.

their land, resources, treasures and way of life and Māori chiefs will sell their land to the crown for an agreed price.

3. The British Crown will protect all the people of New Zealand and give them the same rights and privileges of citizenship as the people of Great Britain.

The main misunderstandings were over the word 'sovereignty' and the phrase 'undisturbed possession of all their properties'. Sovereignty is having supreme power or authority, however, it was translated as 'kawanatanga' which Māori translate to governance. Māori believed they still had ownership of their land with their laws and traditions with the Queen governing it, however, complete sovereignty meant that the Queen had absolute power.

There were wars between some Māori tribes and the government in the 1860s. The main reason for these wars was the misunderstanding and disagreement over the treaty.

In the 1900s, there was not much importance put on the treaty. It wasn't until the 1970s that Māori began to protest and march for their land. In 1975, at the age of 80, Dame Whina Cooper marched with her granddaughter, leading 5000 other Māori to Wellington from Te Hapua over their land. Finally, the government created the Treaty of Waitangi Act and the Waitangi tribunal to negotiate the treaty. There have been many claims and settlement continues to happen with these today.

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Questions

1. Who was the Treaty of Waitangi between?

2. When and why did the government decide that they needed a treaty?

3. Why do you think the treaty needed to be translated?

4. Do you think that it is important that Hōne Heke signed the treaty first? Why?

5. What does sovereignty mean?

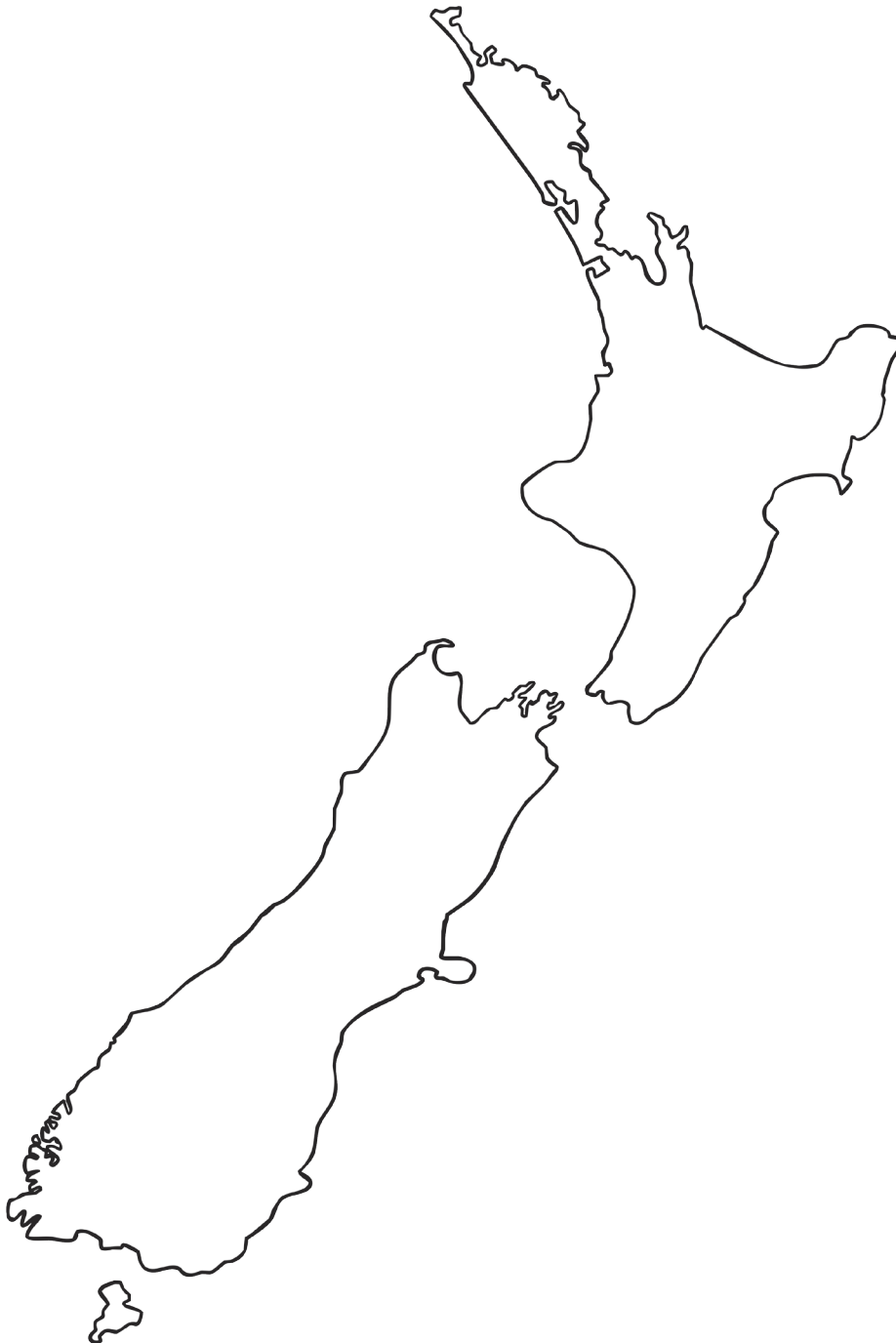
6. What was the main cause of the wars in 1860?

7. Why do you think it is significant that Dame Cooper led the land march in 1975?

8. Research Lieutenant-Governor William Hobson, James Busby or Missionary Henry Williams and write three facts about them.

9. Research and find out what a 'tribunal' is.

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3. Why do you think the Treaty needed to be translated?
The Treaty needed to be translated because Māori couldn't speak or read English.
4. Do you think that it is important that Hōne Heke signed the treaty first? Why?
Various answers similar to: I think that it is important that Hōne Heke signed the treaty first because he was an influential chief and other chiefs would have followed him.
5. What does sovereignty mean?
Sovereignty means to have supreme power or authority.
6. What was the main cause of the wars in 1860?
The main cause of the wars was the misunderstanding and disagreement over the treaty.
7. Why do you think it is significant that Dame Cooper led the land march in 1975?
Various answers.
8. Research Lieutenant-Governor William Hobson, James Busby or Missionary Henry Williams and write three facts about them.
Various answers similar to: A tribunal is a group of people chosen to settle particular types of disputes (disagreements).
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