

The Maori people discovered New Zealand over a thousand years ago. They called it „Land of the Long White Clouds“. When the Dutch explorer Abel Tasman reached the islands in 1642, he named them New Zealand.



New Zealand is made up of two main islands in the Pacific Ocean. Both islands lie on an earthquake zone and the North Island has many volcanoes. The South Island has a spectacular mountain range.

With warm weather and good soil, New Zealanders grow all kinds of fruit vegetables and flowers. Sheep farming is also important. New Zealand sells lots of its produce abroad, for example lamb and butter. New Zealanders spend lots of time outdoors, sailing, fishing, playing rugby and walking.

Maori people came to New Zealand from the islands of Polynesia. British farmers and whalers arrived in the late 18th century. Arguments over land led to wars, which the Maoris lost.

New Zealand became an independent dominion of Britain in 1907. Since then it has built up strong links with Australia and nearby Asian countries.

to discover: entdecken
 Dutch: holländisch
 explorer: Forscher
 main: Haupt...
 both: beide
 to lie: liegen
 earthquake: Erdbeben
 mountain range: Bergkette
 soil: Erde
 all kinds of: alle Arten von
 whalers: Walfänger
 arguments: Streit
 to lead, led, led: führen
 dominion: ehem. britisches Gebiet

Put in the plural:

a volcano	two <i>volcanoes</i>	an island	two
a tomato	some	one sheep	many
a country	all	a farmer	lots of
a kind of fruit	all of fruit	a strong link	many
a white cloud	full of	a child	three

Translate:

1. Wer entdeckte Neuseeland?
2. Wie nannten sie das Land?
3. Gibt es viele Vulkane?
4. Sie verbringen ihre Zeit draußen.....
5. Wann wurde das Land unabhängig?
6. Wer verlor den Krieg?
7. Warum kamen sie nach Neuseeland?
9. Wie verbringen sie ihre Zeit?
10. Was ist so wichtig?