

Date:

KO: To know New Zealand is located in the South Pacific Ocean.

Prior Learning Task

Locate New Zealand on a world map. Using what you know about the globe, what can you tell me about New Zealand?

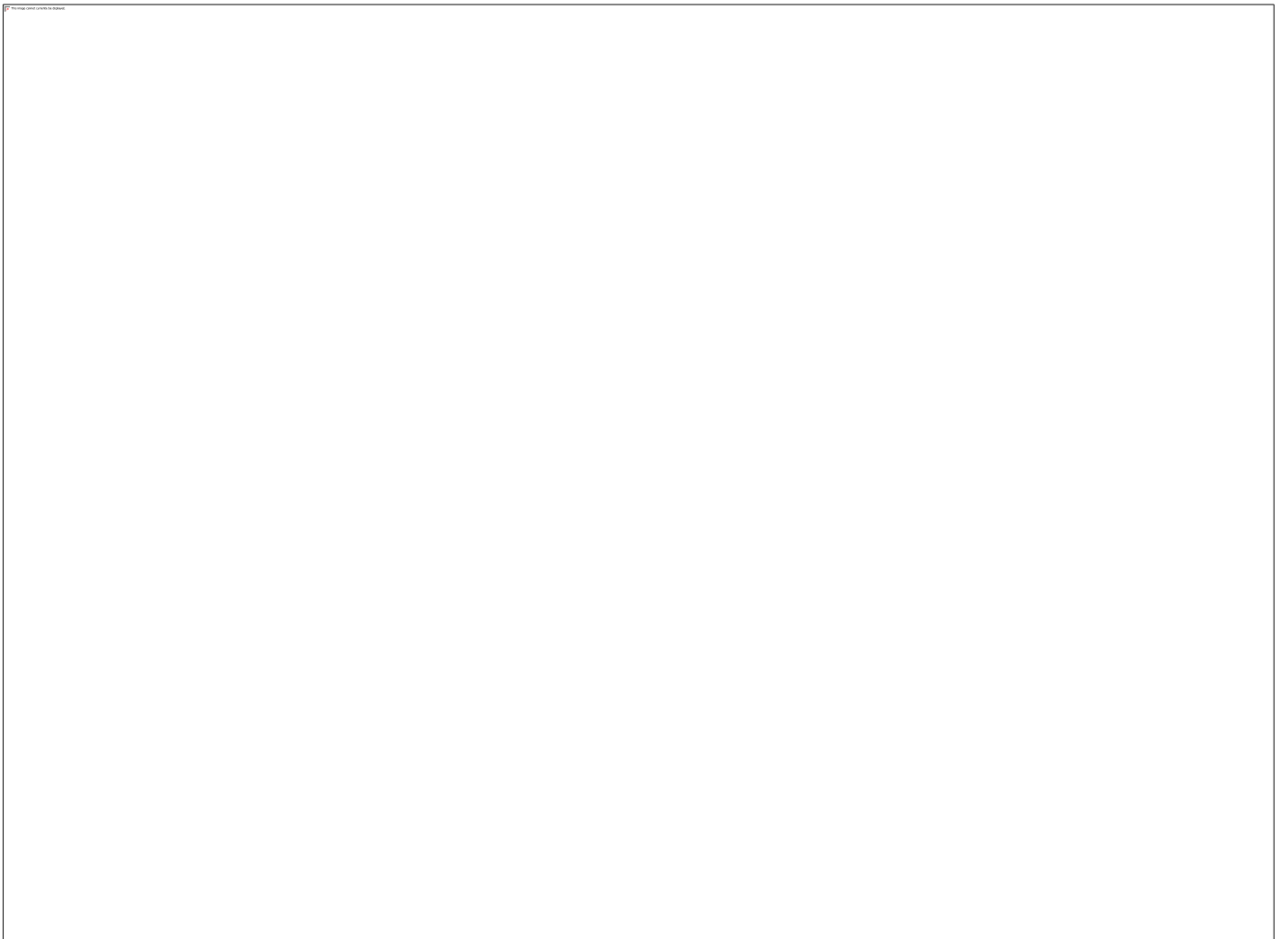
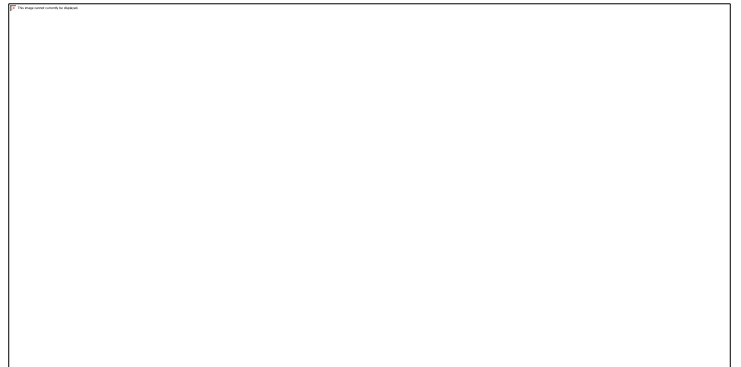
Key Vocabulary:

1. Southern Hemisphere
2. Tasman Sea
3. Southern Cross
4. Polynesia
5. Commonwealth

‘Tectonic plates’

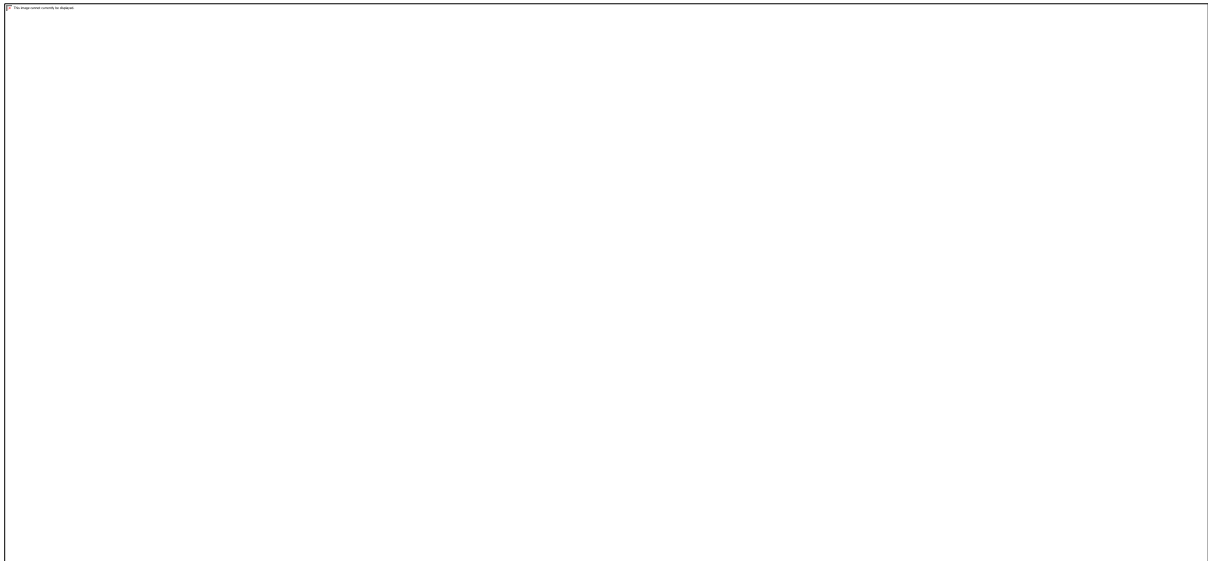
Scientists think the earth’s outer shell is divided into seven ‘plates’ that move over the mantle. Where the plates meet, there can be activity such as earthquakes, mountains and volcanoes.

New Zealand is located in the Southern Hemisphere and is surrounded by the Tasman Sea and the Pacific Ocean. New Zealand is made up of two islands; North Island and South



Island. **Locate the two islands of New Zealand.**

The capital city of New Zealand is Wellington. Christchurch, Auckland, Queensland and Dunedin are



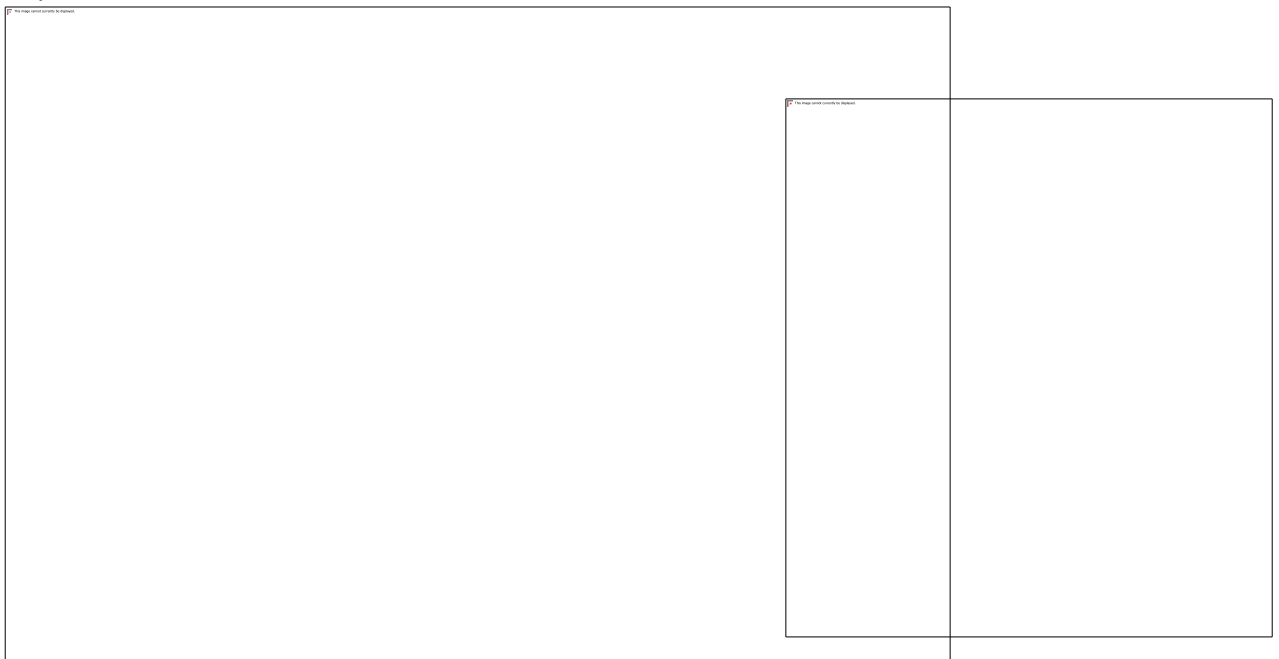
other major cities where there are airports.

The Southern Alps is a mountain range extending along much of the length of New Zealand's South Island.

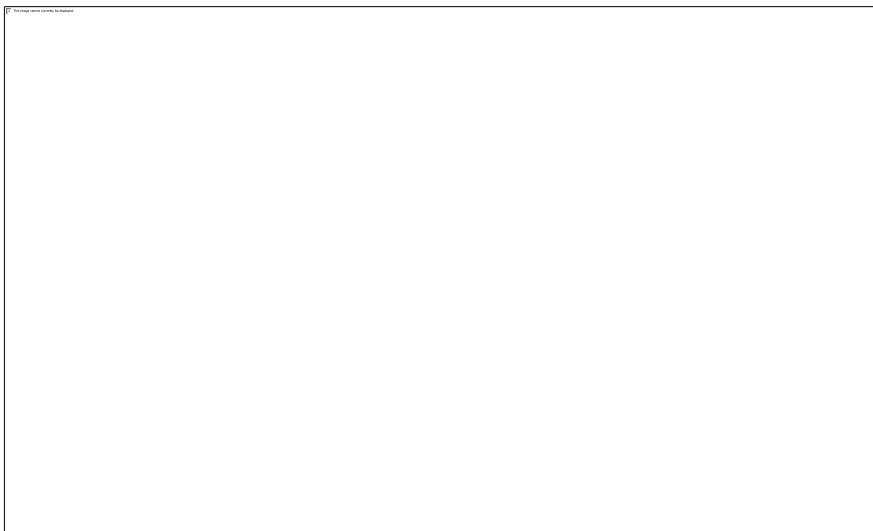
It is located on the edge of two tectonic plates and is the site of several volcanoes, some of which are still active.

New Zealand experiences earthquakes, some of which can be very dangerous, especially for people living in cities. Near to some of New Zealand's volcanoes, there are hot springs and geysers.

Physical features of New Zealand:



Due to New Zealand's remote location, it was one of the last places in the world where people came to live. Scientists think people from the **Polynesian** Islands came to New Zealand by canoe around 700 years ago.



In 1642, Abel Tasman, a Dutch explorer saw the coastline of New Zealand. In 1645, Dutch cartographers named the land Nova Zeelandia after a Dutch province called Zeeland. Then in 1769 Captain James Cook began to map the outline of the country he called New Zealand.

The South Pacific Ocean is huge and contains many small islands. Melanesia, Micronesia and **Polynesia** are all names given to groups of small islands in the Pacific Ocean. Easter Island is a **Polynesian** island famous for its statues with giant heads, there are over 800 of them and they represent the spirits of ancestors.



The Union Jack is present, because New Zealand was a British Colony and remains member of the **Commonwealth**, Queen Elizabeth is the head of state. The stars on the flag represent the **Southern Cross**, a feature of the sky in the **Southern Hemisphere**.

Talk Task: Describe New Zealand.

1. Label a map of New Zealand including capital city.



North Island

South Island

Auckland

Wellington

Christchurch

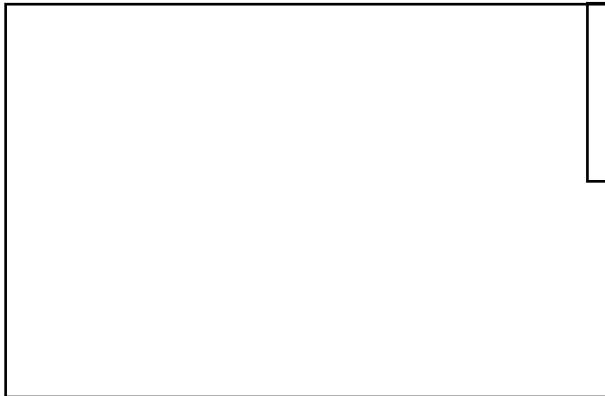
Tasman Sea

Pacific Ocean

South Pacific Ocean

2. Draw and label the Southern Alps on the map.

3. Draw the flag showing the Union Jack and the Southern Cross.



Step for depth: Explain why New Zealand was one of the last places in the world to be inhabited by humans.
