

Date: _____

KO: The **Maori** were the first people to live in New Zealand.

Prior Learning Task: What do we know about the physical geography of New Zealand?

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.

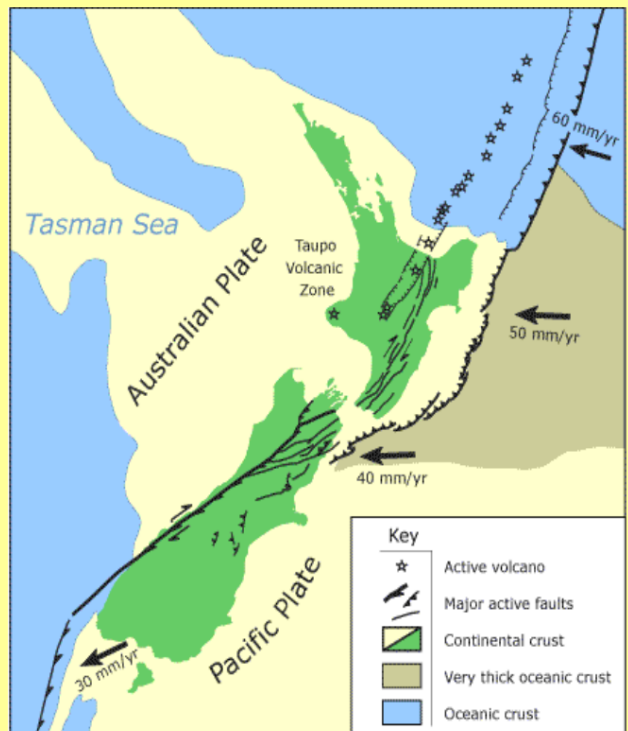




Figure 1: Detailed plate tectonic setting of New Zealand

Geyser	Volcano
A vent in the earth's surface that sometimes ejects water and steam in a jet	An opening in the earth's surface, usually in a mountain, where gas, magma and ash can escape.
	
Rotorua	Mount Ruapehu (<i>Roo a pay who</i>)

Maori means 'natural' or 'normal' and is the name given to the people who first lived in New Zealand over 700 years ago.

The **Maori** culture developed in relative isolation for many hundreds of years.

Scientists can estimate this by looking at DNA and old trees to see where and when trees were first cut down.

Scientists believe **Maori** travelled from Polynesia in large canoes before settling in New Zealand and living in isolation for

many hundreds of years.

Abel Tasman, a Dutch explorer saw the coastline of New Zealand in 1642, but the first contact was violent. It is believed the **Maori** were protecting an important agricultural area, but on this occasion four Dutch seaman were killed whilst going out in small boats from their ship to collect water. The Dutch seamen fired at the **Maori** and struck one man.



Captain James Cook later mapped the coastline of New Zealand. Like the Aboriginal people in Australia, the **Maori** had not been exposed to European illnesses before, so influenza, smallpox and measles had a devastating effect on the **Maori** population.

Conflicts also killed many, the introduction of the musket saw around 3,000 battles and raids between the **Maori** tribes,



many of whom still used wooden or stone weapons.



This is a picture of a **Maori** chief from Cook's expedition.

The **Maori** had their own traditions, customs and language.

The **Maori** had an oral tradition of storytelling and songs.

A well-known **Maori** cultural activity is the **Haka**. The **Haka** is a 'war dance'. It is a chant which involves lots of hand gestures and foot stamping. Facial expression is also very important in the performance of the **Haka**. It was originally performed by warriors before a battle. Now, it is performed by the New Zealand rugby team before a game.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BI851yJUQQw>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yiKFYTFJ_kw

Hongi is a traditional greeting where you press your nose and forehead against the person you are greeting. This tradition comes from the **Maori** belief that the first woman was created from clay and a god breathed life into her through her nostrils.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cmSmlRIMeis>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UuWSry2fPDs>

Why do the Maori meet with the Hongi?

Ta Moko is a tattoo that shows how important and wise a person is. The **Maori** believe the head to be the most sacred part of the body, so face and head tattoos were common and before the Europeans arrived they were applied using sharp bone or sharks teeth dipped in ink.

Talk Task: Describe and explain some **Maori traditions.**



Independent Task: Produce a non-chronological report about the **Maori**.

Step for depth: Describe the impact of contact with Europeans on the **Maori** and Aboriginal people.