



evropský
sociální
fond v ČR



MINISTERSTVO ŠKOLSTVÍ,
MLÁDEŽE A TĚLOVÝCHOVY



INVESTICE DO ROZVOJE VZDĚLÁVÁNÍ

NEW ZEALAND

STUDENT'S WORK SHEET

Task 2: Read this text to learn more:

Geography

New Zealand is situated in the South Pacific Ocean 2,000 km from Australia. It consists of two large islands, called The South and North Islands and many small islands. Its area is 270,534 km² and the population is 4.5 million people. The original inhabitants are the Maori and they call their country Aotearoa – The Land of the Long White Cloud. But the most of the population are European descendants. There are also Polynesian and Asian minorities. The official languages are English and Maori.

New Zealand is known for its exceptional natural beauties. The South Island is larger and more mountainous than The North Island, with The Southern Alps dividing it along its length and with its highest mountain Mount Cook (3,754 m). It's also colder with snow and glaciers in the mountains. In the North Island there aren't so many mountains, it's warmer and it's known for a lot of volcanos, fast-flowing rivers, geysers and boiling mud. This landscape made a perfect location for a well-known film The Lord of the Rings which was shot here. But on the other hand there are a lot of earthquakes too.

Fauna and Flora

In New Zealand there are 14 national parks and a lot of reserves. A lot of animals and plants are endemic here, e.g. a kiwi which is both a bird and a fruit (and sometimes also a nickname for New Zealanders) a kakapo or a kea – the world's only mountain parrot. None of these birds can fly. There are no snakes, but there are a lot of species of insects.

Towns and Cities

The capital city of New Zealand is Wellington. It's the second most populous city in the country and it's situated in the south of The North Island. It's a political center housing the Parliament and all the government offices.

The largest city in New Zealand is Auckland. It has 1,400,000 inhabitants and it's situated in the north-west of The North Island. It's the country's busiest seaport, there is a university, a museum of Maori Art, a busy airport and it's the economic and cultural center of the country.

The largest city in The South Island and the third largest urban area is **Christchurch**. It was badly destroyed by strong earthquakes in September 2010, February 2011, June 2011 and January 2012. Many people were killed. Christchurch is a gateway to the Antarctic. R. F. Scott and E. Shackleton started their journey to the South Pole here and in the Canterbury Museum you can find many artifacts about the Pole exploration.

History and the type of government

The first settlers in New Zealand were the Maoris, a Polynesian group from the eastern Pacific, who came by canoes in the 13th century. The first European who discovered this country was the Dutchman Abel Tasman in 1642. Captain James Cook explored the coast in 1769 – 1770. British sovereignty was proclaimed in 1840 and the colony became a dominion in 1907.

Now it's an independent country and a member of the Commonwealth. It means New Zealand is a constitutional monarchy. The official head of the state is British Queen Elizabeth II who is represented by the Governor General. The head of the government is the Prime Minister (now John Key).

Economy

New Zealand has a developed market economy. Food processing, textiles and forest industry are the main industries here. The currency is the New Zealand dollar called the "kiwi dollar". The main trading partners are the USA, Australia, Japan and Great Britain.



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