

**NEW ZEALAND**

# Geography



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- New Zealand is about 1,250 mi southeast of Australia.
- Two main islands and a number of smaller outlying islands so scattered that they range from the tropical to the antarctic.
- The country is the size of Colorado.
- New Zealand's two main components are the North Island and the South Island, separated by Cook Strait.
- The North Island is 515 mi long and volcanic in its south-central part.
- This area contains many hot springs and beautiful geysers.
- The South Island has the Southern Alps along its west coast, with Mount Cook (12,316 ft; 3754 m) the highest point.
- New Zealand is one of the world's least crowded countries, with just over 4 million people.

# Language

- English, Maori (both official)
- Maori is only used in New Zealand and nowhere else in the world. Despite its official status, the language continues to struggle against being lost.
- A recent survey by the New Zealand government shows about 130,000 people speak some Maori.

## Maori Words

**Pakeha =  
Person, not Maori**

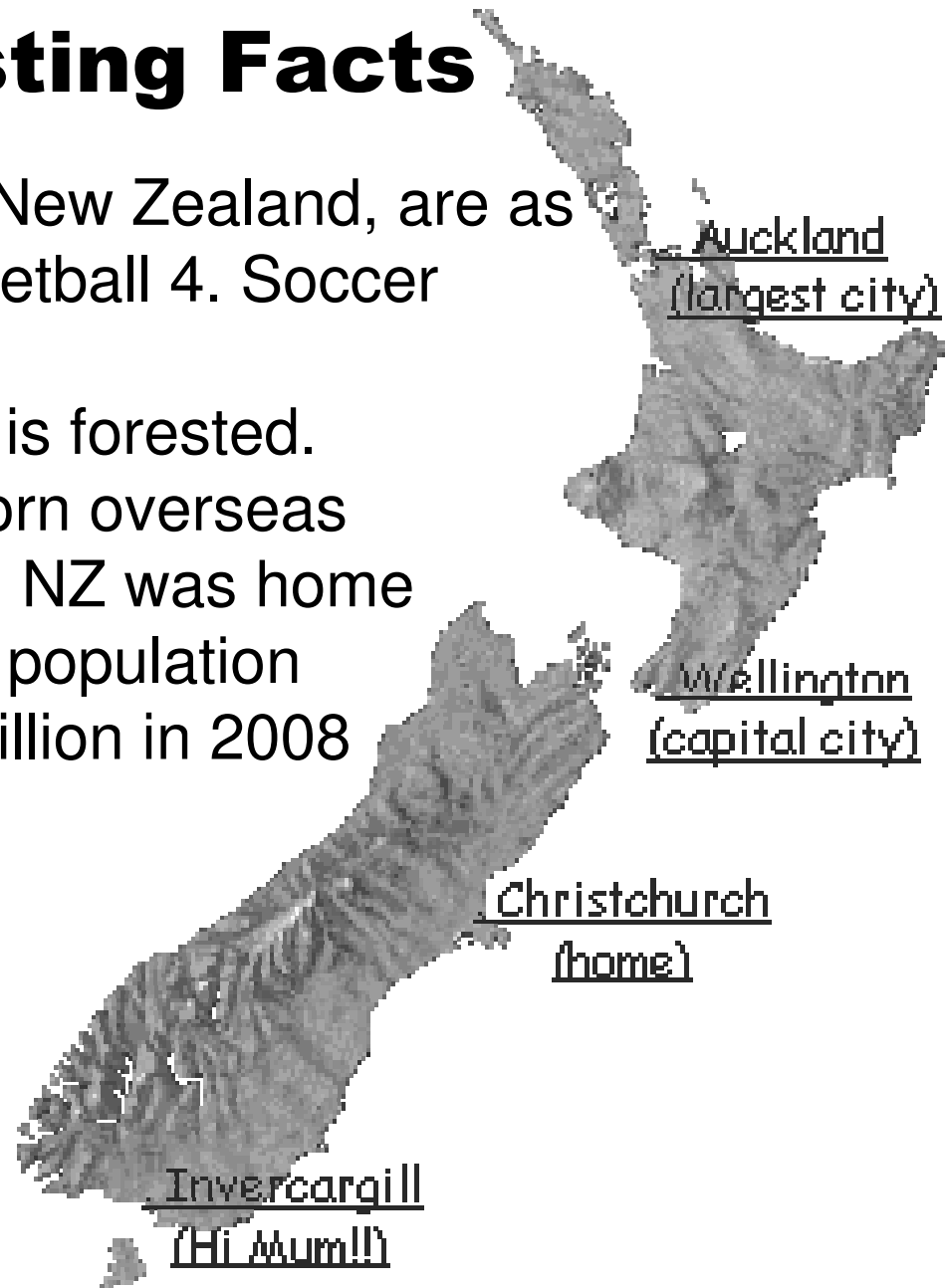
**Kai =  
Food**

**Kahawai =  
fish**

**Hangi =  
Popular method  
of cooking**

# Interesting Facts

- The most popular sports in New Zealand, are as follows:1. Rugby 2. Golf 3. Netball 4. Soccer 5. Cricket
- 30% of New Zealand's land is forested.
- 22% of its residents were born overseas
- From the early 1980s, when NZ was home to over 70 million sheep, the population has declined to around 39 million in 2008
- New Zealand is extremely mountainous, with Mount Cook towering over 12,000 feet.



# **Australia is the Worlds Largest Exporter of:**

**Agriculture and horticulture,  
which incorporates the production of  
sheepmeat,  
beef,  
wool,  
dairy produce and hides,  
deer,  
goats and cereal products.**



**In fact, agricultural products total more than 50%  
of all New Zealand exports.**

# New Zealand Rare Animals

**Tuatara** - Native to New Zealand.

The tuatara is the most ancient of all living reptiles. It is even older than the dinosaurs

It has survived for almost 200 million years

Tuatara can live up to 100 years

**Weta** - The weta is native to New Zealand.

It is a rather large insect.

While harmless to humans, its bite can be painful.

It is a protected species, and, despite its repellent aspect, may not be harmed.



**The kiwi** - Amazing flightless bird. They are about the size of a chicken, have thick leather skin, a great sense of smell, a long beak with nostrils on the end, and hair-like feathers. All of these attributes make it very unlike a bird, and more like a mammal - however it is still a bird.

# Climate

