

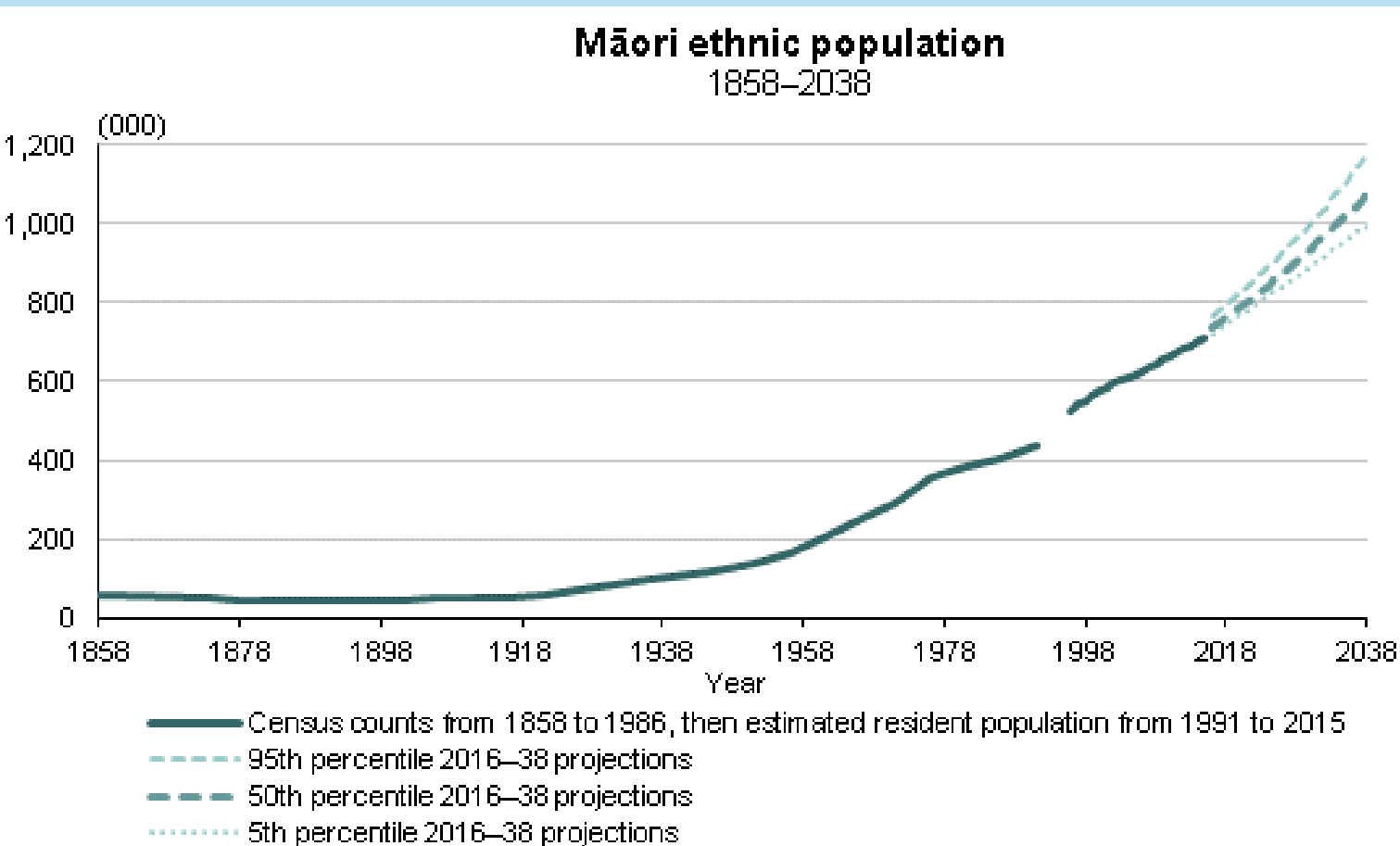
# **Māori People**

Presented by  
**Marc Silver**



# New Zealand Indigenous

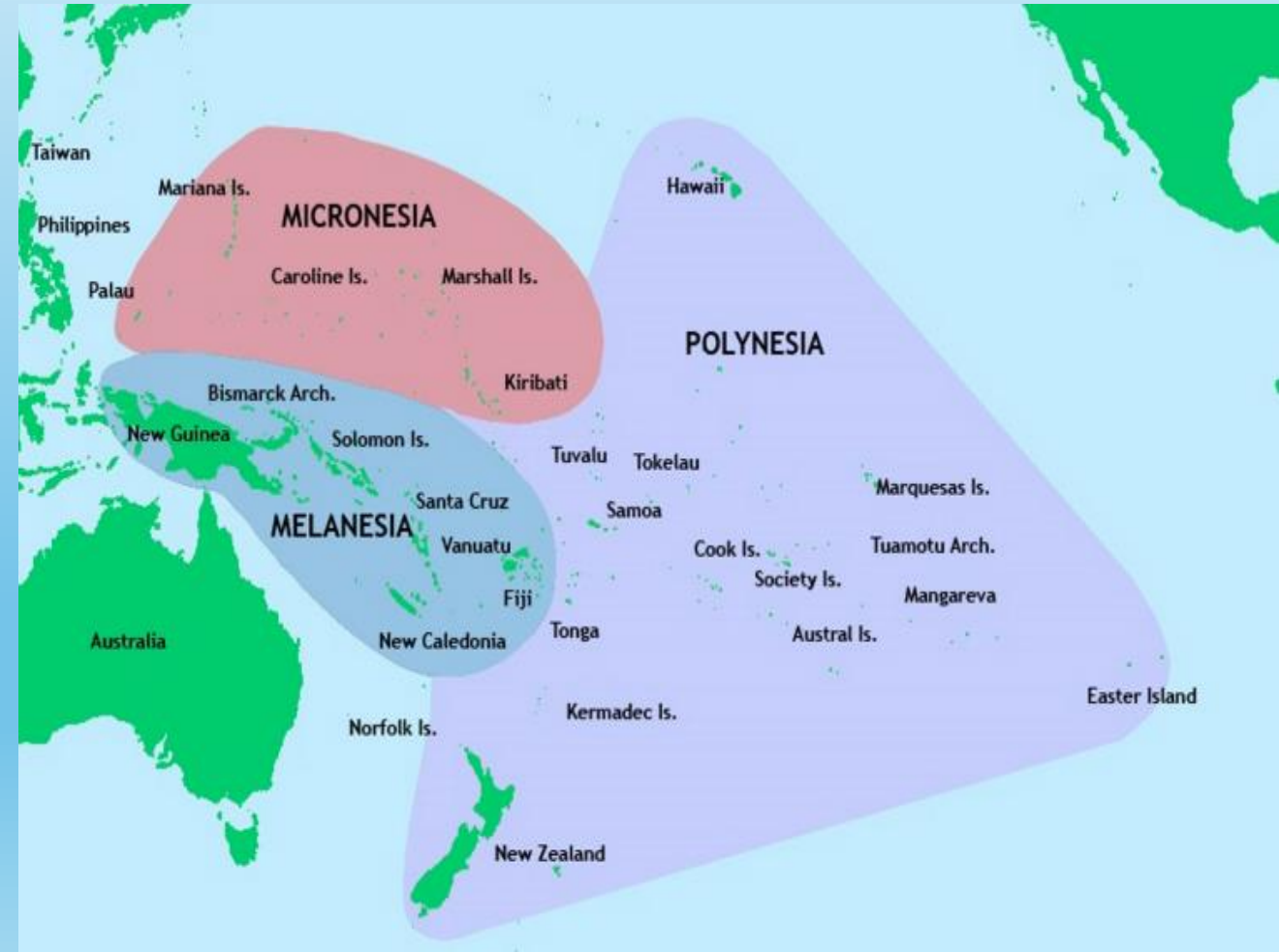
- New Zealand's Indigenous People are the Māori. They are an integral part of the nation's identity and culture.



- The estimated population of Māori in New Zealand is 978,246 according to the 2023 Census.
- Over the last 150 years the Māori population has grown significantly.
- Māori communities have also settled in Australia, Canada, the UK, and the US.
- One in five people in New Zealand are of Māori descent.

# Māori History

- Evidence suggests that New Zealand was first inhabited by immigrants from the Polynesian Islands.
- The first wave of these immigrants arrived in 950 AD followed by others in 1150 and 1350. It is the travelers of 1350 who developed into the contemporary Māori people.
- They arrived bearing their domesticated animals and plants, some of which did not survive the change of environment.
- The many years of isolation enabled the Māori to come up with a unique culture involving mythology, performing arts, language, and unique crafts.





# First Contact

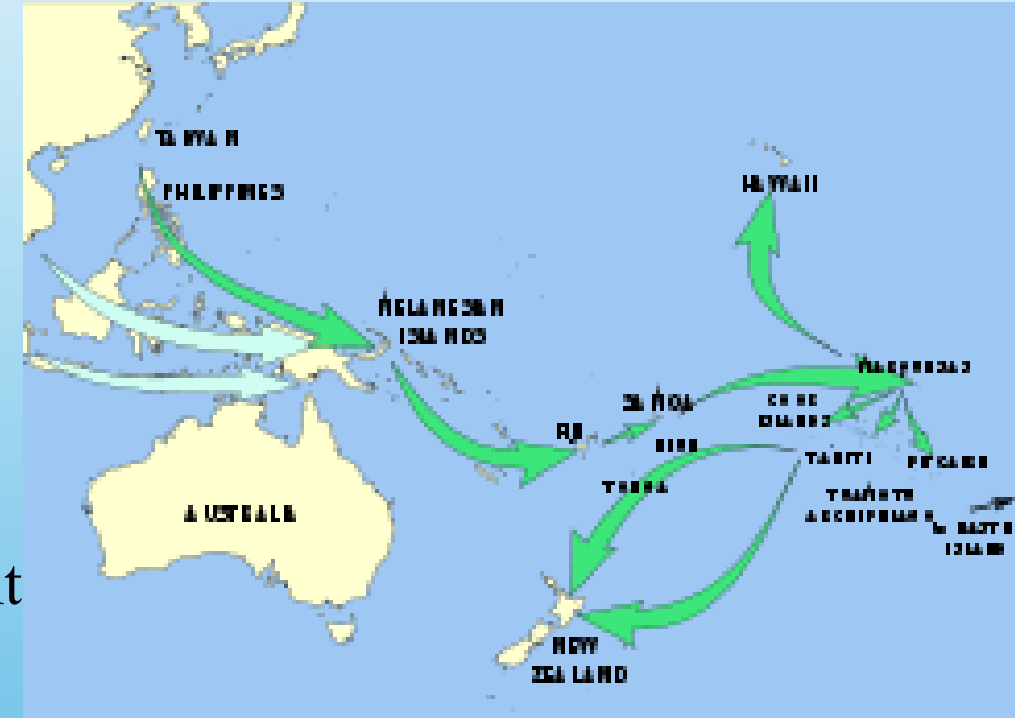
- The 1830s saw waves of Europeans settle on the island. Most of the traditional chiefs gave up their autonomy by signing the Treaty of Waitangi in 1840 in exchange for British protection and recognition.



- Between 1860 and 1865, the Māori engaged the British in battles over autonomy and land rights. The Māori has been actively participating in New Zealand's society and has implemented efforts towards preserving the rich Māori culture.
- Their traditional history describes their origins in terms of waves of migration that culminated in the arrival of a “great fleet” in the 14th century from Hawaiki, a mythical land usually identified as Tahiti.

# Māori arrival in New Zealand

- This historical account provides the basis for traditional Māori social organization and is generally supported by archaeological discoveries, which have dated Māori arrival in New Zealand to about 1300 CE.
- Members of each tribe (*iwi*) recognized a common ancestry and common allegiance to a chief or chiefs (*ariki*).
- Traditionally, at the day-to-day level, the most important social groups were the *hapū* (subtribe), which was the primary landholding group and the one within which marriage was preferred, and the *whānau*, or extended family.
- Until 1860 the Māori still owned most of the land of North Island, but a large increase in the number of immigrants in the 1850s led to demands for greatly increased land purchase by the government.



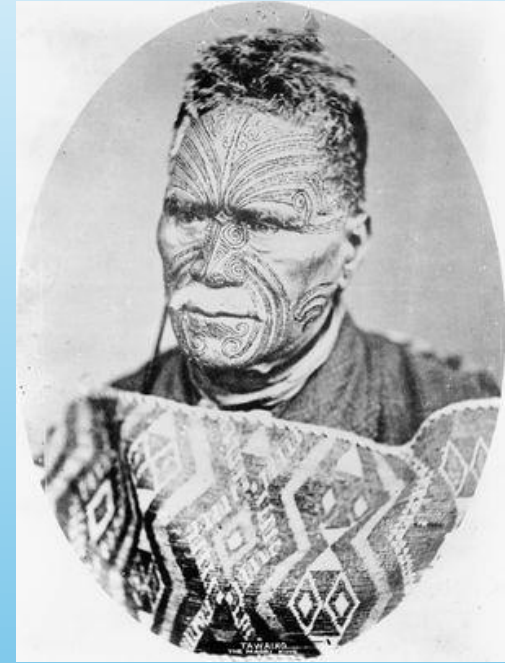
# Capt. James Cook



- This social order was in force when Abel Tasman, the first European contact, arrived off the coast of New Zealand in December 1642. He did battle with a group of Māori on South Island and left the area largely unexplored.
- In 1769–70 Capt. James Cook circumnavigated the two major islands and wrote about the intelligence of the Māori and the suitability of New Zealand for colonization.
- Whalers, sealers, and other Europeans seeking profit were initially welcomed by the Māori. With the introduction of muskets, disease, Western agricultural methods, and missionaries, however, Māori culture and social structure began to disintegrate. By the late 1830s New Zealand had been joined to Europe, and European settlers landed by the score.

# The Rise of the King Movement

- After the British assumed formal control of New Zealand in 1840, European settlement and government began to alarm the Māori, especially in North Island.
- In 1845 some Māori chieftains began ravaging the Bay of Islands and other areas of the far north (in what has sometimes been called the First Māori War), and they were not ultimately suppressed until 1847, by colonial forces under Gov. Sir George Grey. His victories brought peace that lasted from 1847 to 1860.
- The King Movement was a response to the increasing threat to Māori land. In 1857 several tribes of the Waikato area of North Island elected Te Wherowhero as king. He reigned as Pōtatau I. In addition to electing a king, the Māori established a council of state, a judicial system, and a police organization, all of which were intended to support Māori resolve to retain their land and to stop the intertribal warfare.



Tūkāaroto Matutaera Pōtatau Te Wherowhero Tāwhiao, the second Māori king (1860–94).







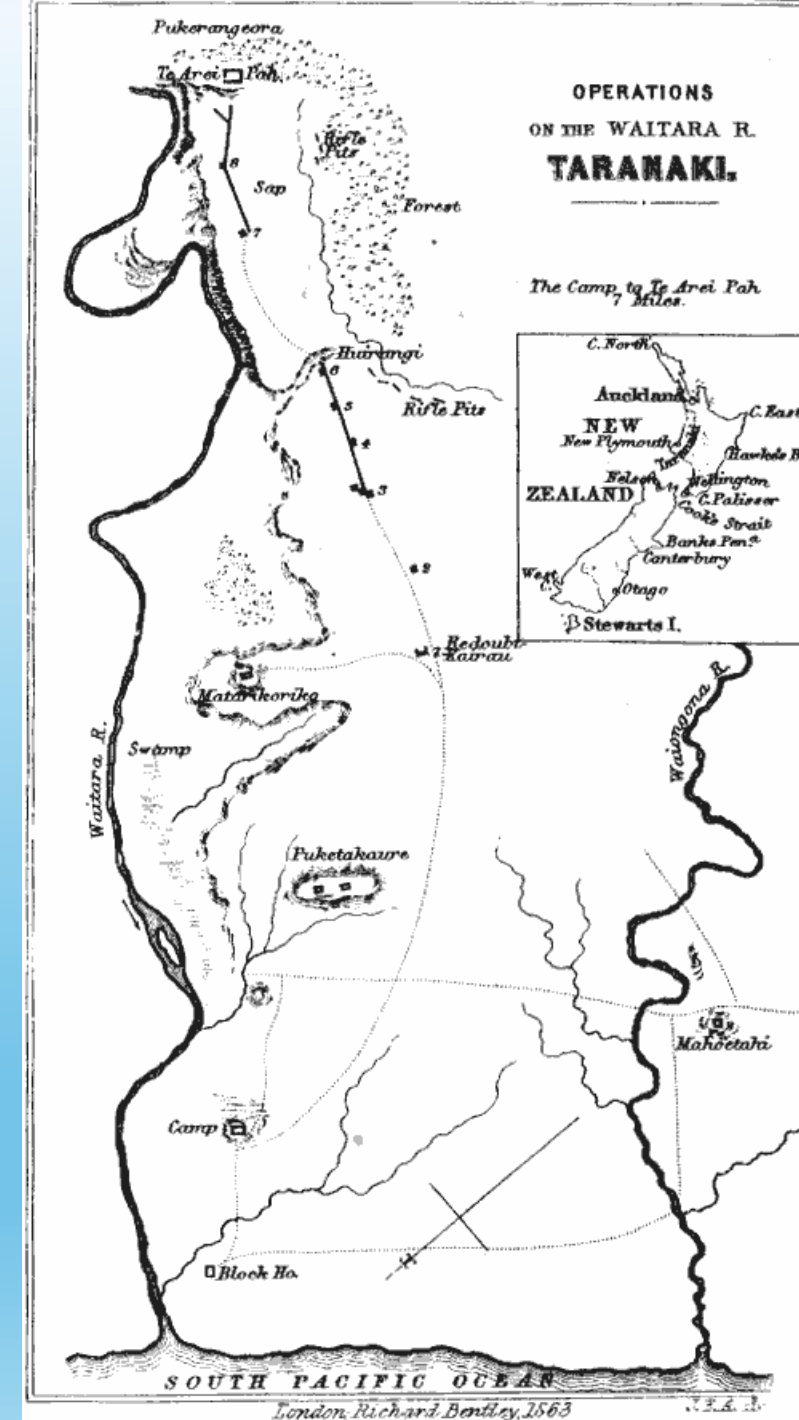


## Māori at War

- The war consisted essentially of a series of generally successful sieges of Māori fortified villages by British troops and militia. The British were defeated during an attack (June 1860) on Puketakauere when the Māori executed a surprise counterattack, but the Māori were defeated at Ōrongomai in October and Maahoetahi in November.
- The war ended in a truce after the Māori surrendered in late March 1861. The Māori remained in possession of the European-owned blocks of land.

# Māori versus Pākehā

- The fighting resumed in the Second Taranaki War in April 1863 when 300 men of the 57th Regiment evicted Māori from land they had occupied at Tātaramakā, 20 km south-west of New Plymouth. The tribes occupying the land viewed this as an act of war.
- The Waikato War began in July 1863, and the Waikato River region, the center of the King Movement tribes, became the main target of the Europeans.
- Once again, the war was decided by sieges of Māori *pās*, but the Māori also began to employ guerrilla tactics. British troops were aided by gunboats and forest ranger units made up of colonial volunteers. The Europeans won notable victories in October and November 1863. The fall of the Orakau *pā* in early April 1864 essentially brought the Waikato War to an end.

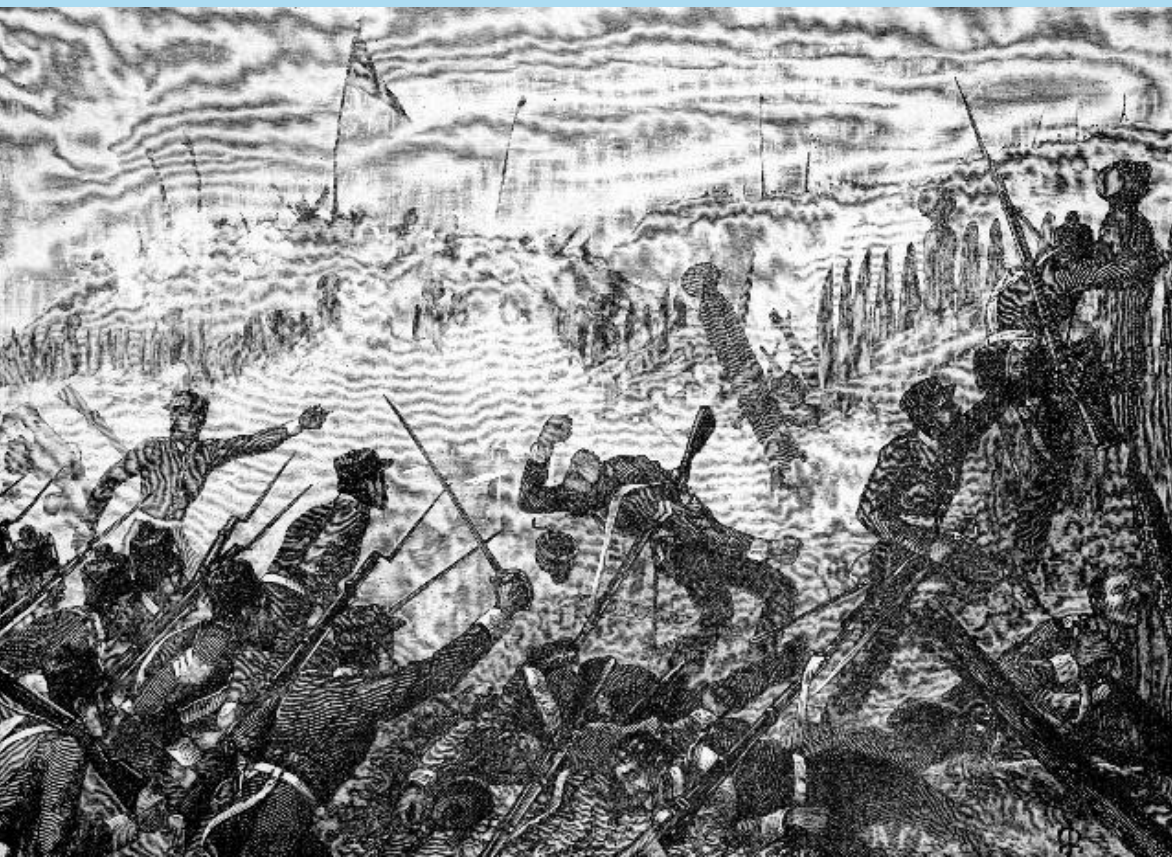




# Māori versus Pākehā Cont.

- The last of the wars—known to the Europeans as “the fire in the fern” and to the Māori as *Te riri Pākehā*, “the white man’s anger,” was fought from 1864 to 1872.

- Hostilities spread to virtually the whole of North Island. The main Māori combatants in the mid-60s were the fanatic Hauhau warriors. The British government wanted to end the war and have peace in 1864, but the colonial government, wishing to acquire more land, assumed an increasing share of the fighting and continued the war.



- From 1868 to 1872 the Hauhau were supplemented by members of a new warrior cult, Ringatū, founded and led by a guerrilla leader, Te Kooti.



# Religion

- The medieval religious beliefs of the Māori feature Polynesian elements.
- Such elements include tapu which translates to sacred; mana or psychic power, and noa meaning non-sacred. The supreme god was given the name Lo while the primeval parent of Papa and Rangi had eight divine offspring. Members of the Priesthood (tohunga ahurewa) went through specialized training.
- Christianity ultimately replaced this religious system.



# Culture

- The Māori people lived in two kinds of settlements namely pa (fortified) and Kainga (unfortified). The people stayed in the pa during wars. The structures were mostly constructed using thatch and poles or worked timber and posts.
- To survive, the Māori people engaged in gathering, sweet potato cultivation as well as gourds, taro and yams, and fishing.
- The Māori were organized into iwi, which were political units featuring descendants on both the maternal and paternal side. The iwi further branched into a few communities known as hapu.
- The Māori also had a performance art known as kapa haka, and they also took part in oral folklore. They convened in Maraes which was central to the community's spiritual, social, and cultural life.





# Haka

- The most recognized Māori tradition today is the "Haka" which is a war dance. Performed before the onset of war, today it has been immortalized by New Zealand's Rugby Team the All Blacks, who perform this dance before every game.
- The Haka was created to intimidate the enemy before a battle. Today it is used as part of the Māori culture before weddings, special events, and sporting events.





# Powhiri

- The traditional Māori welcome is called a powhiri.
- This involves a hongi which is a greeting where you press noses instead of a kiss.





# Māori culture in the 21st century

- Being Māori means recognizing and venerating their Māori ancestors, having claims to family land, and having a right to be received as *tangata whenua* (“people of the land”) in the village of their ancestors.
- There has been some revival of the teaching of the Māori language (*te reo Māori*), and in 1987 Māori was made an official language of New Zealand.
- Many Māori cultural practices are kept alive in contemporary New Zealand. All formal Māori gatherings are accompanied by oratory in Māori; action songs; formal receptions of visitors, accompanied by the *hongi*, or pressing together of noses on greeting, and sometimes by ritual challenges; and cooking of food in earth ovens (*hāngī*) on preheated stones.
- Carved houses, which serve as centers of meeting and ceremony in Māori villages, are still being erected.



# Māori culture in the 21st century

- For many Māori people, the most significant issue in New Zealand remains that of the land. They were acutely conscious of the injustices of European land dealings in the 19th century, and today they are suspicious of any moves toward changes of land law that are initiated by the government. Formerly, land defined as “Māori land” could be sold by its owners only after the approval of a special court.
- Māori have played a role in the governing of New Zealand since the mid-19th century, when Māori members first entered Parliament. Seven seats out of a total of 120 are reserved for Māori in the New Zealand Parliament. All voters who claim Māori ancestry may vote in a Māori electoral district, but a Māori may register in either a Māori or a non-Māori district.
- Indigenous Maori make up about 15% of New Zealand's five million population, but are over-represented in statistics such as poverty and imprisonment, with many blaming injustices dating back to the days of British colonial rule.





# Māori People

I hope you found these facts about the Māori People interesting and informative.

New Zealand Is amazing. I hope you get the opportunity to visit this beautiful and historic country for yourselves.

Thank you for coming!

# Acknowledgement

My seminars are the result of many years of travel experience combined with many hours of research over the internet.

I would like to acknowledge the many sources I have accessed.

These include: Wikipedia.com, Britannica.com, and the various Museum, Park and Government websites.