Waitangi Day

Activity book
Pukapuka mahi
Waitangi Day happens each year on 6 February.

It’s a time when New Zealanders remember the first signings of the Treaty of Waitangi, which took place on 6 February 1840 between the British and Māori.

The Treaty then travelled around New Zealand, gaining over 500 signatures from Māori by September 1840.

The Treaty stated it would protect Māori land, and the Queen of England promised to give the same rights to Māori as British people.

The Treaty signified the joining of Pākehā and Māori people. However, the promises made in the Treaty weren’t always kept, and the te reo Māori translation wasn’t accurate, which is why there have been many protests and debates about the Treaty.
In this activity book, we’ll explore:

- what you do on Waitangi Day
- events that led to the signing of the Treaty
- where Waitangi is
- busting myths about the Treaty
- why translating can be difficult
- how the Treaty was signed
- the effects of signing the Treaty
- what the flags you see on Waitangi Day mean
- designing your own flag.
What do you do on Waitangi Day?
Colour in the pictures that show the things you do.

Haere ki te rā whakanui
Go to a celebration

Maumahara i ngā mate
Remember loved ones

Noho ki te kainga
Stay home
Haere ki tātahi
Go to the beach

Haere ki te marae
Go to the marae

Mahi hākinakina
Play sport
Read this timeline to learn about the events in our history that led to the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi.
1800–1830

An estimated 1,000 sealing and whaling ships visit New Zealand shores.

1769
Captain James Cook and his ship Endeavour lands in Aotearoa New Zealand, 12 Dec

1772
Marion Du Fréne arrives in the Bay of Islands

1791–1792
Sealers and whale rs start arriving and trading through Sydney, Australia

1795–1830
Northern Maori rangatira (chiefs) ask the British Government for protection against the French

1814
First missionaries in New Zealand

1817
United Tribes Flag chosen by northern Maori

1831
Declaration of independence signed

1833
New Zealand colony

1834
British decides to establish a British consul

1837
William Hobson appointed as British consul

1839
Migrant ship the Aurora arrives in Wellington

1840
Treaty of Waitangi is signed

1840
Land purchases prohibited and the first post-Treaty NZ History
Waitangi is a place in Aotearoa New Zealand. You can see where it is on this map.

But the map isn’t finished! Draw arrows to show places that are special to you.

- **Tō kainga ake**  
  Your home

- **Kei hea te waahi hararei papai ki a koe?**  
  Your favourite holiday place

- **Tō maunga**  
  Your mountain

- **Te tūrangawaewae o ōu mātua**  
  Where your parents are from

- **E hiahia ana koe te haere ki hea?**  
  Where you’d most like to visit

- **Te taone matua**  
  Our capital city
Mythbusting! Read through these 10 sentences about the Treaty of Waitangi and circle whether they are true (tika) or false (teka).

The answers are upside down at the bottom of the page – but no peeping until you’ve finished!

1. The Treaty of Waitangi was first written in Māori, then translated into English.

2. The translation of the Treaty into Māori was done in one night.

3. There is only one Treaty which was signed by everyone.

4. All rangatira (Māori chiefs) and Crown representatives signed the Treaty on 6 February 1840.

5. The English and Māori versions of the Treaty say the same thing.
6. James Busby was the first official British resident of New Zealand, in 1833.

7. Over 500 rangatira signed the Treaty, including 13 rangatira wāhine (female leaders).

8. Only one version of the original Treaty was written in English. After it was signed, it was stored in an iron box in an Auckland house, which burned down in 1841. It was rescued, and in 1865, sent to Wellington and kept in a safe. By 1908, the Treaty was water damaged and partially eaten by rats!

9. There are nine original versions of the Treaty still in existence.

10. The originals are stored at Te Papa.
The Treaty of Waitangi was translated from English into te reo Māori. Translating can be hard, especially when the same word can mean different things – these are called homonyms.

There are homonyms in both te reo Māori and English language. Can you fill in the missing letters?

For example:

\[ \text{bat} \rightarrow \text{\_\_a\_t} \]

\textbf{Te reo Māori}

\[ \text{\_\_\_\_\_\_\_} \]

\[ \text{\_\_\_\_\_\_\_} \]

\[ \text{W\_\_\_\_\_\_} \]
m

n

r

s

t
When Māori signed the Treaty of Waitangi, many drew symbols that meant something to them. Some drew patterns from their tā moko (facial tattoo), while others used patterns from their surroundings.

Below are some included on the real Treaty. How would you sign the Treaty if you couldn’t use words?

Practise here before signing the scroll

Image: Crop from the Treaty of Waitangi, Te Tiriti ki Te Tairāwhiti | East Coast sheet, 8 Apr 1840. Courtesy of Archives New Zealand via Flickr. CC BY 2.0
When Māori signed the Treaty of Waitangi, they couldn’t know its effect on future generations. Below are some of the effects still felt by Māori today.

Can you think of any other impacts? Draw them in the circles below.
On Waitangi Day, Te Papa flies three flags. Colour in these flags with the correct colours.

1 = whero
2 = kahurangi
3 = pango

The United Tribes of New Zealand flag

This flag was chosen in 1834 by northern chiefs at Waitangi. They needed a national flag so their boats could trade around the world.

The design was officially recognised by the King of England.

Fun fact Someone who studies flags is called a vexillologist!
The Tino Rangatiratanga flag

This flag was the winner of a design competition in 1990. It is sometimes flown alongside the New Zealand flag as a symbol of Māori rights under the Treaty of Waitangi.

The New Zealand flag

This has been internationally recognised as the flag of New Zealand since 1902.

The Tino Rangatiratanga flag

This flag was the winner of a design competition in 1990. It is sometimes flown alongside the New Zealand flag as a symbol of Māori rights under the Treaty of Waitangi.
Now it’s your turn to create your own flag!

Flags might look simple but the symbols and colours are full of meaning.

First, write three words, or draw three symbols, that come to mind when you think of your HOME in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Now, write three words, or draw three symbols that come to mind when you think of the word PLACE.
Next, pick three colours that you feel connect these words or symbols. Or maybe they’re just your three favourite colours!

Now use your favourite symbols and colours to make your flag.
We want to hear how you’re using this activity book and if you have any feedback. Email us at learning@tepapa.govt.nz

tepapa.nz/WaitangiDayActivityBook