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 by Henry and Edward Williams wasn’t accurate, which is partly 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 flow-on 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 kāinga
Stay home
Haere ki tātahi
Go to the beach

Haere ki te marae
Go to the marae

Mahi hākinakina
Play sport
1795–1830
An estimated 1,000 sealing and whaling ships visit New Zealand shores.

1642, 13 Dec
First recorded European sighting of New Zealand by Abel Tasman.

1769, 6 Oct
Captain James Cook and his ship Endeavour lands in Aotearoa New Zealand.

1769, 12 Dec
Captain Jean François Marie de Surville's ship St Jean Baptiste arrives in Hokianga.

1791–1792
Sealers and whalers start arriving and trading through Sydney, Australia.

1772
Marion du Fresne arrives in the Bay of Islands.

1800
Māori population is estimated at 100,000–120,000.

1805
Te Pahi travels to Sydney to establish trade.

1809
The Boyd incident, a violent clash between Māori and Europeans.

1814
First missionaries in New Zealand.

1817
British law states that New Zealand is not within the King's Empire.

1820
Māori chiefs Hongi Hika and Waikato visit King George IV in England. They help create a Māori dictionary with Professor Samuel Lee at Cambridge.

1831
Northern Māori rangatira (chiefs) ask the British government for protection against the French.

1833
James Busby, the first official British Resident, arrives.

1835
Declaration of Independence signed.

1837
Britain decides to establish a New Zealand colony.

1839, 29 Oct
The New Zealand Company ship Tory sets sail from England.

1840
William Hobson appointed as British consul.

1840
Treaty of Waitangi is signed.

1834
United Tribes' flag chosen by northern Māori.

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1840
Land purchases prohibited and the first migrant ship the Aurora arrives in Wellington. William Hobson appointed as British consul.
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 kāinga**
  Your home

- **Tō wāhi hararei tino pai ki a koe?**
  Your favourite holiday place

- **Tō maunga**
  Your mountain

- **Tō wāhi nō reira ō mātua**
  Where your parents are from

- **Tō wāhi e tino pai ana koe ki te haere**
  Where you’d most like to visit

- **Tō tātou tāone 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.

Tika  Teka
Tika  Teka
Tika  Teka
Tika  Teka
Tika  Teka
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 tricky, 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:

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bat = b a t
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**English**

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_ _ _ _ _
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_ _ _ _ _
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n __ __
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When looking at the signatures on the Treaty you will see that how Māori rangatira (chiefs) signed was not a name like we see today.

Some drew symbols from their tāmoko (facial marking) to agree to the document. In some cases, just a plain ‘X’ was enough because it came from their own hand.

Below are some examples from the real Treaty. How would you sign it? You don’t have to use words.

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
The flow-on effects from signing the Treaty were unforeseen by rangatira. Below are examples of the impacts on future generations.

In the circles below, draw some other examples that you can think of.
On Waitangi Day, Te Papa flies three flags. Colour in these flags with the correct colours.

1 = whero
2 = kahurangi
3 = pango

**Te Kara – Flag of the United Tribes of New Zealand**

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.
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.
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