

A destination for September !

NEW ZEALAND

The country will be hosting the 7th Rugby World Cup next September and October 2011.



The French team will play against the following countries:

POOL A	
Canada	
France	
Japan	
New Zealand	
Tonga	

As you can see, the French will be playing against New Zealand and its famous team:

'The All Blacks'



Rugby is considered as New Zealand's national sport. Winners of the inaugural Rugby World Cup in 1987, New Zealand are the leading point scorers of all time and the only international rugby team with a winning record against every test nation they have ever played.

The All Blacks have won a record 75% of all rugby matches they have ever played since 1903.

The team's early uniforms consisted of a black jersey with a silver fern and white knickerbockers. By their 1905 tour New Zealand were wearing all black, except for the silver fern, and their All Black name dates from this time.

The matches will be held in 11 host cities across New Zealand, in 12 match venues.



... an opportunity for us - and our pupils - to have a closer look on this country...

You can find some information, videos or lesson plans for your pupils on the following websites:

www.rugbyworldcup.com/fanzone/education/index.html

<http://www.newzealand.com/>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FN7qbkuDVGE>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xr-bnpGkl6c&feature=relmfu>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EOGQctmsbvI&NR=1>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L4yozMbKHQU&NR=1>

There are more than 4 million inhabitants in New Zealand. It's an English-speaking country but the other language is Maori.

Māori

The name originally meant "the local people", or "the original people". Māori was a word which signified "local" or "original" - as opposed to the new arrivals - white European settlers - the "pakeha".

The ancestors of the Māori were a Polynesian people originating from south-east Asia. Some historians trace the early Polynesian settlers of New Zealand as migrating from today's China, making the long voyage travelling via Taiwan, through the South Pacific and on to Aotearoa (New Zealand).

Different waves of Maori have settled in New Zealand from the 8th century onwards.

The *Great Fleet*, considered to be the first mass arrival of Polynesian settlers, was estimated to have arrived in 1350. Modern scholars are now questioning not only the exactitude of the above dates, but also the *Great Fleet* theory itself. The debate continues today.

The first Polynesians settled mainly around the coast of New Zealand, and especially the east coast, which was more hospitable and temperate in climate.

The Maori had remained particularly isolated from external contact until 1769 when Europeans settled. Their culture was dramatically altered. They had to fight to keep their lands & property. Because of wars & disease, the population decreased by 1896. Since WWII, the situation has improved with the government acknowledging its responsibility for certain issues and the Maoris have been trying to revive certain aspects of their culture & traditions.

Their most famous cultural heritage is the HAKA.



New Zealand has traditionally performed a *Haka* before each rugby match since 1906.

The *Haka* is a traditional Maori war dance. There have been different kinds of *Haka* over the years.

It used to help evacuate fear before battles and to reinforce concentration & cohesion. It's the same principle for rugby.

The best-known is called *Ka Mate* which tells the story of a young war chief who manages to escape his enemy by being sly. It symbolizes the victory of life over death.

The most recent is *Kapa o Pongo* dating from 2005 and especially created for the team. It created controversy since the last gesture conjures up the adversary's throat being cut off.

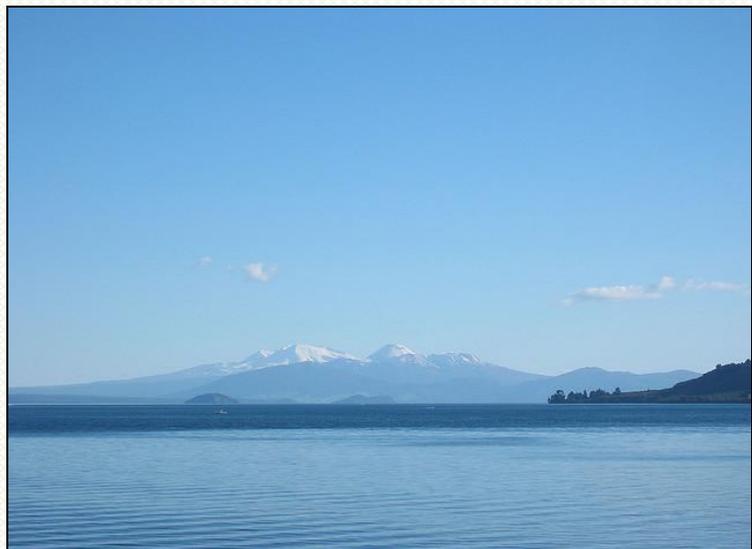
New Zealand's LANDSCAPES

Many varied landscapes can be seen in New Zealand from spectacular glaciers, picturesque fjords, rugged mountains, vast plains, hillsides, subtropical forest volcanic plateau to 15,000 miles of coastline with pristine sandy beaches. To protect these landscapes, there are numerous National Parks in New Zealand where the public can walk or trail.

[Here are some pictures...](#)



MILFORD SOUND FIORDLAND NATIONAL PARK (south west of New Zealand's South Island)



LAKE TAUPO (North Island of New Zealand)



TONGARIRO ALPINE CROSSING (North Island of New Zealand)



SHAKESPEAR REGIONAL PARK (in the Auckland region)

New Zealand's wildlife

Before man arrived New Zealand was a land of birds. The only mammal was a tiny native bat. And it was the very last country on earth to be settled by humans.

The result, today, is a bird population that is different from any you will see elsewhere in the world.

The most fascinating bird is the kiwi you can see in the bush at night. It's a shy bird.

Around the coast of the South Island and lower North Island, you can find fur seal colonies.



Yellow-eyed

THINGS TO DO

Thanks to the varied landscapes, you can indulge in different activities according to your tastes !



Hiking



(Scuba) diving



Bungee jumping



Kayaking

Enjoy !