

New Zealand: Air, Land and Sea

1 QUICK QUIZ

Test your knowledge of New Zealand.

1. Which city is the capital of New Zealand? a) Sydney; b) Wellington; c) Auckland.
2. What are the native people of New Zealand called? a) Aborigine; b) Inuit; c) Maori.
3. What season is it in December in New Zealand? a) winter; b) spring; c) summer.

2 WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Write words from the article next to the definitions below. The paragraph number will also help you find the correct word.

1. someone who is always looking for exciting things to do _____ (paragraph 1)
2. a thick strong string or rope _____ (paragraph 2)
3. a chemical produced by your body that makes your heart beat faster and gives you more energy when you are frightened, excited, or angry _____ (paragraph 3)
4. a large area of beautiful countryside that is protected by the government _____ (paragraph 4, two words)
5. mostly uninhabited rural areas in countries like Australia and Africa that are usually far from cities _____ (paragraph 4)
6. an old traditional story _____ (paragraph 4)
7. someone or something that has lived in an area since birth or for a very long time _____ (paragraph 4)
8. this process sends smoke and lava out of the volcano _____ (paragraph 5)
9. when a large amount of wet earth falls down a hill we call it a _____ (paragraph 5)
10. a slang word for special clothes and equipment you need for a particular activity _____ (paragraph 7)
11. the person in charge of a boat; another word for *captain* _____ (paragraph 7)
12. when something contains something that can hurt or even kill you it is _____ (paragraph 9)

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NEW ZEALAND: AIR, LAND AND SEA

by Doris Evans and Anthony Doesburg

1 Say "New Zealand", and most people think of fantastic beaches, forests, mountains and oceans. And you can enjoy this beautiful landscape by doing exciting activities. New Zealand is a paradise for thrill-seekers! There's skydiving, white-water rafting, climbing, canyoning, kayaking, mountain biking, snowboarding, hiking, swimming, paragliding – and, of course, bungee jumping!

2 **Air: Bungeeeeeeeee!!!!!!**
Would you jump off a bridge with just a cord to save you? Millions of people already have – especially in New Zealand, the home of bungee jumping! Mitchell Walker, 21, comes from New Zealand's adventure capital, Queenstown. It's a small town next to the deep-blue Lake Wakatipu and surrounded by mountains, on the South Island. Adrenaline junkies will find everything they need here.

3 On his 13th birthday, Mitchell got an unusual present. He won a radio competition, and his prize was a bungee jump from Kawarau Bridge – the world's first and most famous jump location. "It was just awesome," Mitchell remembers. The adrenaline was pumping as he looked at the water 43 metres below. And Mitchell says he was a little scared. "It's something many people never experience", he recalls. "Flying through the air, falling towards the river below – that makes you feel free."

4 **Land: Park life**
With 14 national parks, New Zealand is filled with wonderful plants, wildlife and hiking trails. Flynn Hcart-Saunders, 21, loves the outdoors. "I have a great respect for nature," he says. In summer Flynn, from Opotiki, works in the North Island's Te Urewera National Park. Flynn takes tourists through the park's wild forests. "We spend three to four days with our groups in the bush – telling them about the trees, animals and Maori legends." The park is almost completely covered in vegetation, even on some of the highest mountains. And nearly all of New Zealand's native birds live in the forest. "When it rains, everything changes," Flynn says. "It comes alive, and you see a totally different beauty."

5 In winter Flynn works on Mount Ruapehu, a volcano and the North Island's best skiing area, in Tongariro National Park. Sometimes the volcano makes headlines – like for an eruption in 1996 and mudslides in 2007. This is a bit frightening, but Flynn's motto is, "Respect the mountain, and hope the mountain respects you."

6 Sabine Jahn, 16, from Heilbronn in Germany, loved visiting Tongariro National Park. Last December, during her year at school in Auckland, Sabine spent a week hiking, cycling, swimming and white-water rafting at Taurewa Camp. Sabine noticed that the weather in the park can change very quickly. It can even be cold in summer, so wearing the right clothes is important.

7 **Water, water everywhere**
Under the sea, a new world is waiting to be explored. And 18-year-old Shayni Hawkins wants to take you there. "It was a childhood dream of mine to be able to breathe underwater," says Shayni, who's been scuba-diving for more than a year. When she was at school, she began working for the company Dive Tutukaka. "My day starts with cleaning the boat and preparing lunch," she says. "We check the diving gear before we welcome people onto the boat. The skipper tells everyone about the trip and safety on the boat."

8 Shayni lives in Tutukaka, a town on New Zealand's north-eastern coast. Diving tours take people to Poor Knights Islands Marine Reserve – one of the world's best places for diving. Shayni says, "The current brings subtropical fish from Australia. The Lord Howe coral fish has yellow and black stripes. It's really beautiful. There's also the ugly scorpion fish, which has poisonous spines! It's hard to see when it changes colour to look like coral."

9 Shayni feels very lucky to have her job. "You meet lots of people. About half of the visitors are from other countries. It's nice to learn about other places. I really want to dive overseas," she says.

10 **Safe at sea**
New Zealand's Waitakere beaches, near Auckland, are famous for their spectacular scenery, huge waves and black sand. One of the most famous beaches is Piha. It's three kilometres long, with black and gold sand. This area is Jessica Waterer's home. In the summer, Jessica, 19, works as a lifeguard at Piha beach. More than 3,000 New Zealanders spend their summers working as lifeguards. They're extremely important for the safety of the swimmers at New Zealand's many beaches. "It's such a cool job," Jessica says. "I work outside in the sun, on the beach. I save lives and get paid for it!"



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Bungee facts

- Bungee jumping comes from a ritual in the South Pacific islands of Vanuatu. To test their courage, young men jump off towers with vines tied to their ankles.
- Kawarau Bridge, near Queenstown, became the world's first commercial bungee jump, in 1988.
- There are about 13 places to go bungee jumping in New Zealand, including bungee variations like parabungeeing, bungee swinging or sky jumping.
- Jumps in New Zealand are between 35 and 134 metres and cost between 80 and 200 New Zealand dollars (about 40 to 100 euros).
- To do most jumps, you must be at least 10 years old and weigh between 35 and 245 kilograms.

The Poor Knights Marine Reserve

- is a 24-square-kilometre area of sea and uninhabited islands, near the coast of the Northland Region.
- has two large islands and a few smaller ones. They are what's left of a 4-million-year-old volcano.
- is a nature reserve. Most people aren't allowed to land on the islands.
- is a popular place for diving because of its marine life and unusual landforms.
- has a plant called the Poor Knights lily, which has spectacular flowers.

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3 FIND THE INFORMATION

Where can you do the sports mentioned in the article: in the air, on the land or on the water? Find all the sports activities in the article and write them into the word wheels. Tick three activities you would like to do. Can you find someone who'd like to do the same activities as you?

air

skydiving

land

hiking

water

kayaking

4 TEEN TALK

Write the name of the person who said...

"It was just awesome."

You can say *awesome* when something is cool, amazing, or impressive.

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5 WRITE A POSTCARD

Like Sabine from Germany, you are spending a year in New Zealand. Write a postcard to your friend at home. Include information about an awesome sport and a fantastic place.



Dear _____

Love _____

6 WEBQUEST

Alone or in small groups, choose one of the places in the article. Print out information and photos, make notes, and give a five minute talk on it. Some examples are: *Queenstown, Lake Wakatipu, Te Urewera National Park.*

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7 ROLE-PLAY: GROUP WORK FOR 2-6 STUDENTS

Each student writes notes on one of the role cards using information from the article. Then add some ideas and extra information of your own. One student is the reporter; the other students are the people from the article. Why not practice your interviews and then record or video them?

<p>Mitchell (Write notes only)</p> <p>age: nationality: live in: job: sports: other awesome things:</p>	<p>Flyn (Write notes only)</p> <p>age: nationality: live in: job: sports: other awesome things:</p>	<p>Reporter (Write questions only)</p> <p>age: nationality: lives in: job: sports: other awesome things:</p>
<p>Sabine (Write notes only)</p> <p>age: nationality: live in: job: sports: other awesome things:</p>	<p>Shayni (Write notes only)</p> <p>age: nationality: live in: job: sports: other awesome things:</p>	<p>Jessica (Write notes only)</p> <p>age: nationality: live in: job: sports: other awesome things:</p>

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KEY

1

1. b) Wellington
2. c) Maori
3. c) summer

2

1. thrill-seeker
2. cord
3. adrenaline
4. national park
5. bush
6. legend
7. native
8. eruption
9. mudslide
10. gear
11. skipper
12. poisonous

3**air**

skydiving, paragliding, bungee jumping (also: parabungeeing, bungee swinging, sky jumping)

land

climbing, canyoning, mountain biking, snowboarding, skiing, hiking, cycling

water

white-water rafting, kayaking, swimming, scuba-diving

4

Mitchell