

NEW ZEALAND

THE ANTIPODES



New Zealand is on the opposite side of the Earth from Europe. This 'double map' is printed as if you were looking right through a transparent globe. It shows that the far north of New Zealand is at the same latitude as North Africa, and that the far south of New Zealand is at the same latitude as the centre of France. Now turn the map upside down!

THE two main islands that make up New Zealand are 2000 km east of Australia. Only 4 million people live in the whole country. The capital is Wellington, near the centre of New Zealand, but the largest city is Auckland in the north.

The original inhabitants were the Maoris, but now they are only about 15 per cent of the population. Some place-names are Maori words, such as Rotorua, Whangarei and Wanganui.

South Island is the largest island, but has fewer people than North Island. There are more sheep than people! The Canterbury Plains are a very important farming area. Aoraki Mount Cook, the highest point in New Zealand, is in the spectacular Southern Alps. Tourists visit the far south to see the glaciers and fjords. The fast-flowing rivers are used for hydro-electricity.

NEW ZEALAND



AREA 270,534 sq km
POPULATION 4,290,000
CURRENCY NZ dollar



▲ **Auckland** is sometimes called 'the city of sails' because so many people own or sail a yacht here. The city centre (background) looks out over two huge natural harbours that are ideal for sailing. To the north is Waitemara Harbour and to the south is the shallow Manukau Harbour. Auckland is New Zealand's biggest city, and also an important port for huge container ships.

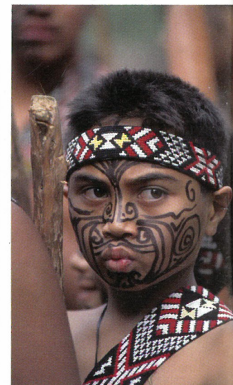


▲ **The Southern Alps** stretch the length of South Island. The fine scenery attracts tourists, and the grassland is used for sheep-grazing.

KIWI FRUIT . . .



. . . **were known** as 'Chinese Gooseberries' until New Zealanders (nicknamed 'Kiwis') improved them, renamed them, and promoted them. Now they are a successful export crop for farmers, and many other countries also grow them – it is interesting to find out where YOUR kiwi fruit comes from.



▲ **This Maori boy** wears traditional war paint and beads. The Maoris lived in New Zealand before the Europeans came. Today, most live in North Island and many of their traditions have become part of New Zealand life.