

THE CREATION OF NEW ZEALAND - 1

Read the Maori legend.

Long ago, the demigod Maui lived in Hawaiki, the Maori ancestral homeland. He had secret magical powers.

One day, Maui's brothers decided to go fishing in their canoe without him. But Maui hid in the bottom of the boat. His brothers were well out to sea before they found him. They wanted to take Maui back to land, but he used his magic to make the land look much further away than it actually was. So the brothers let him stay.

Before long, they stopped rowing and the boat was anchored. Maui brought out his magic fishhook, the jaw of his sorcerer grandmother. He tied it to a rope and then dropped it into the water. Soon, Maui felt a powerful tug on the line.

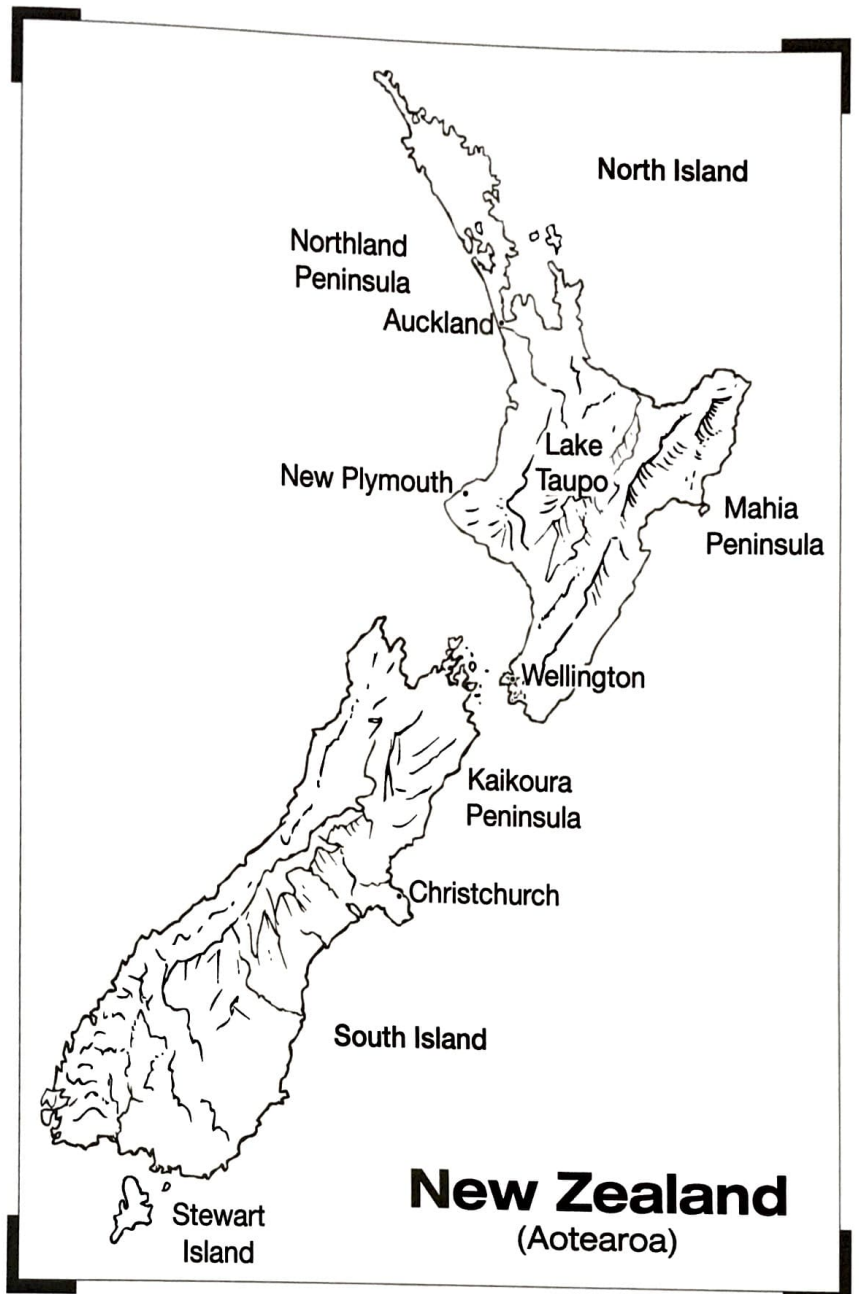
This does not feel like any ordinary fish, he thought.

Maui began pulling on the line. The fish was so strong that he had to brace himself and pull with all his might. But after a long struggle, Maui finally pulled up a giant fish. This fish became the north island of New Zealand or *Te Ika a Maui* ('the fish of Maui'). The fish's mouth is Wellington Harbour and its tail is the Northland Peninsula.

Immediately after he caught the fish, Maui began to pound it with his greenstone club. This created the mountains and valleys of the island. Maui's fishhook became Mahia Peninsula—the *Te Matau a Maui* ('the fishhook of Maui').

The other islands of New Zealand were also created by Maui. The South Island is his canoe—*Te Waka o Maui* ('the canoe of Maui')—and Kaikoura Peninsula is where he placed his foot during his struggle with the fish. Stewart Island, the tiny island below the South Island, is *Te Punga a Maui* ('the anchor of Maui').

It would be many years later that the Maori people would sail the thousands of kilometres from Hawaiki to live on these islands. They called the country *Aotearoa* ('Land of the Long White Cloud').



THE CREATION OF NEW ZEALAND - 2

Use the text on page 43 to answer these questions.

1 Literal

(a) What are each of these places known as to the Maori?

(i) Wellington Harbour _____

(ii) Kaikoura Peninsula _____

(iii) Stewart Island _____

(iv) Mahia Peninsula _____

(v) Northland Peninsula _____

(b) What is another name for New Zealand?

(c) Order these events from 1 to 5.

The Maori people migrated to New Zealand.

Maui caught a giant fish.

Maui's brothers discovered Maui in the canoe.

Maui created the mountains of the North Island.

Maui tied his magic fishhook to a rope.

3 Evaluative

Do you think it is important for all New Zealanders to know this legend? Why?

2 Deductive

(a) Why do you think Maui's brothers let him stay in the canoe?

(b) What do you think each of these Maori words means in English?

(i) 'te'

(ii) 'a' or 'o'

(iii) 'ika'

(iv) 'punga'

(v) 'waka'

(vi) 'matau'

(c) (i) Which place on the map of New Zealand do you think the Maori believe is the giant fish's heart?

(ii) Which place on the map of New Zealand do you think the Maori believe is on one of the giant fish's fins?

THE CREATION OF NEW ZEALAND – 3

Use the text on page 43 to help you complete this activity.

This legend does not give us much information about Maui's point of view. What might he have felt, seen, heard, touched or smelt?



- For each of these events from the legend, write your impressions of what Maui might have sensed.

Event	Emotions	Sights, sounds, smells or feelings (touch)
<i>Maui hides in the canoe.</i>		
<i>Maui is discovered by his brothers.</i>		
<i>Maui makes the land appear far away.</i>		
<i>Maui pulls in the fish.</i>		
<i>Maui pounds the fish, creating mountains and valleys.</i>		

- Choose one of the events listed above. Rewrite this section of the legend from Maui's point of view. Include all the senses you listed.

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