

Introduction

Treaty people

The purpose of this activity is to provide participants with an essential personal link to the Treaty, and to introduce the relevance of the Treaty for all immigrants to Aotearoa/New Zealand.

Activity 1

Time: 5 – 10 minutes.

Materials: Use page 11 as an overhead transparency / slide or copy it as a handout for each participant. Whiteboard and pen.

1. Ask participants to think about when they arrived in Aotearoa / New Zealand. Who stamped their passport? (If you have a group of ESOL students they may well be carrying their passports with them. Ask those who are to take it out and open it up.)

- The stamp would have been given by the New Zealand Immigration Service, a part of the New Zealand Government. The Government gives people the right to live here in this country. In return, we are expected to follow the laws of this country and to respect the other people who live here.
- In a similar way, one aspect of the Treaty of Waitangi is that it is an agreement about immigration. The Treaty of Waitangi has, in recent years, been referred to as our first immigration document. It gave immigrants the right to come and live here and share this country. Māori who signed the Treaty agreed to share their country with new

people but there were also 'laws' or guarantees that they expected immigrants to follow.

- The Treaty of Waitangi is the founding document for the establishment of non-Māori settlement in Aotearoa / New Zealand.
2. This link between immigration and the Treaty applies not only to those whose passports were stamped recently by the Immigration Service but also to the majority of New Zealanders.

Ask the group for a show of hands: Is there anyone here whose ancestors were in Aotearoa / New Zealand before 1840?

Because the pre-Treaty population was mostly Māori you are unlikely to find anyone who can answer 'yes'. Even the ancestors of those Pākehā whose families have been here for many generations will most likely have arrived after the Treaty was signed.

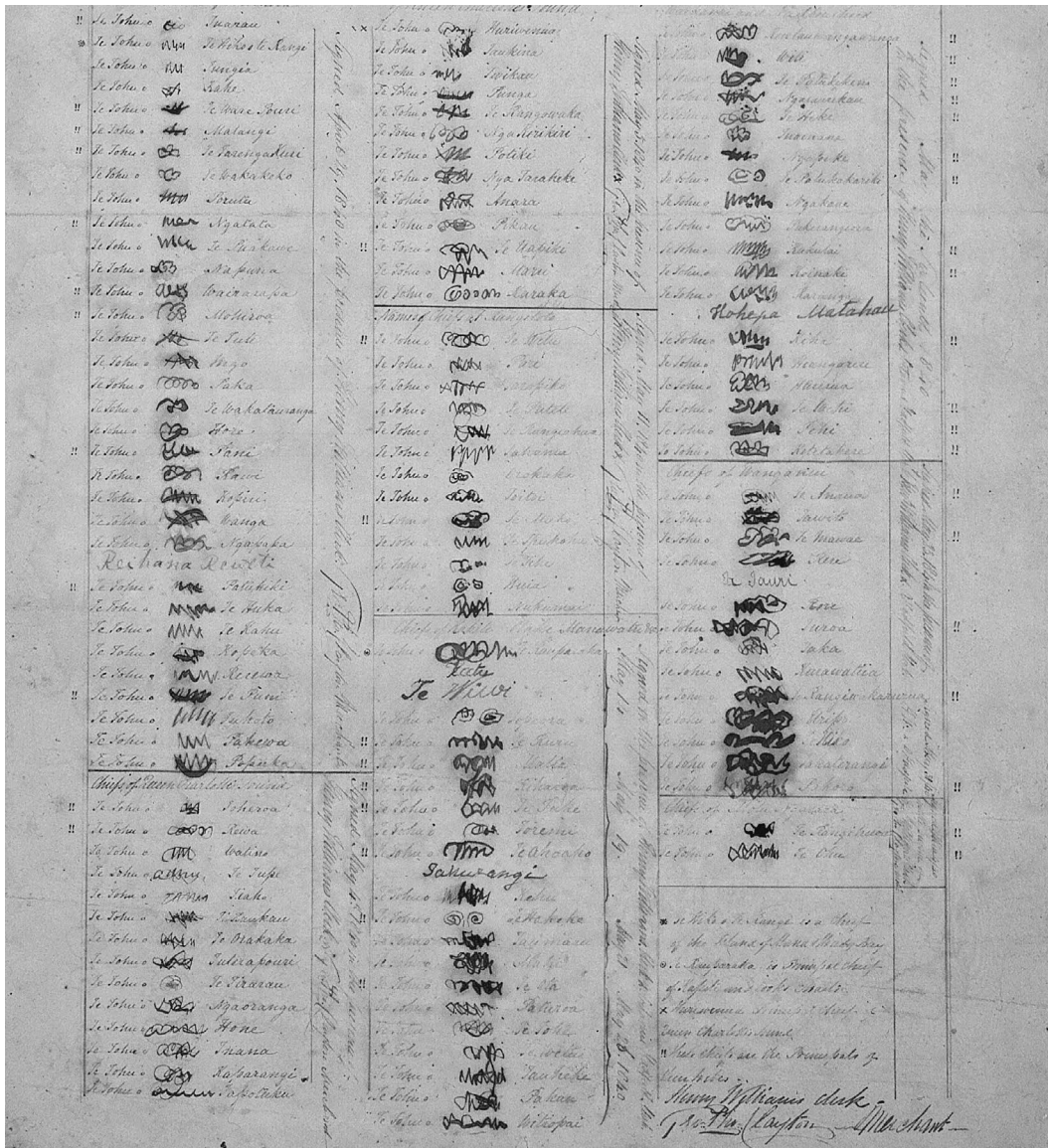
3. Show overhead transparency / slide or give a copy to each participant as a handout.

The Treaty of Waitangi is not only important in history; it is still an important issue in Aotearoa / New Zealand today. The Treaty is at the heart of the discussion about what it means to be a New Zealander and who we are as a nation. We all need to have a knowledge of the Treaty to be able to share in those discussions and to understand what is in the news, on TV and in the newspapers.

The Treaty of Waitangi is important for all New Zealanders.

Māori who signed the Treaty agreed to share their country with the people who would come here later.

Treaty people, tangata tiriti. That's us and that's why we need to know about and respect the Treaty.



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