

A history of migration to this country

The purpose of this activity is to increase participants' awareness of the history of further migration to Aotearoa/New Zealand and the diversity of peoples who have settled here, to help contextualise their own experience. The timeline does not cover Māori migrations.

Activity 8

Time: 15 mins for small group plus 20 mins for large group discussion. Total: 35 mins.

Materials: Cut out activity cards on pages 29 and 30 and laminate. (You may want to copy the three kinds of cards onto different coloured paper, eg. dates = green, people = red, Government actions = blue).

The handout *A history of migration to this country: answers* on page 31.

Timeline of migration history to this country on pages 27 and 28 can be used as facilitator's notes or copied as a handout for participants.

1. Break group into smaller groups of about four or five people.
2. Give each group a set of laminated cards: 12 with dates (green cards), 12 with groups of peoples (red cards) and one with a government action (blue cards) that affected a specific group of people. Give only one blue card to each group.
3. Participants then match their red and blue cards with the green 'date' cards. Allow 15 minutes for this activity.
4. The facilitator gives out handouts with the answers.
5. The facilitator then opens up discussion about the answers. Allow 20 minutes for this activity.

Notes

This activity does not cover all the significant information about migration to Aotearoa/New Zealand, but gives participants a general understanding of trends in migration history. It will also give participants an opportunity to discuss world events at different times in history and the kinds of discrimination faced by migrants.

The facilitator can refer to the notes, *Timeline*

of migration history to this country, for specific information to engage participants in discussion.

Some interesting implications of migration can be highlighted, eg. most early migrants to Aotearoa/New Zealand were men on their own, who left their families behind (such as the Chinese). This phenomenon is known as 'astronaut families' (Ho, Bedford & Goodwin, 1997).

The big picture

It may be helpful to refer at times to a bigger picture, eg. how colonial capitalism as an economic system typically destroys a country's traditional economy. This leads to the transportation of populations over long distances.

Some countries did, and still do use migration as a deliberate economic policy. Great Britain in the 19th Century, for example, encouraged people to migrate as a remedy for the class tensions and civil unrest which may otherwise have resulted in revolution. Many of these migrants were either poor, unemployed, landless or disenfranchised (Simpson, 1997).

Some countries today still rely on migration as one means of addressing a high level of unemployment in their local economies. For example, in South-East Asia migrant workers are encouraged to go and work in mainly domestic jobs in areas such as the Middle East.

So, people (including Pākehā) who see themselves as voluntary migrants and those who see themselves as refugees may have responded to similar economic and political forces in colonial capitalism.

The report, *New Zealand Now – People Born Overseas* (Census 96) (1998), is a good overview of immigration history and can be found on the website www.stats.govt.nz.

Timeline of migration history to this country

A general, but not comprehensive, outline of non-Māori immigration to Aotearoa/New Zealand. Figures and information drawn from Bell (2001), McGill (1982) and Rasalingam (2000).

1642: Visit by Abel Janzoon Tasman (Dutch).

1769: Visit by Captain James Cook (English).

1820s: There is a rapid increase in migrants from England, Scotland, Ireland, often via Australia and the United States. This had negative effects on Māori: there were disease epidemics, problems with alcohol, use of firearms and conflict about land.

1858: For the first time, the non-Māori migrant population is equal in number to the Māori population.

1860s: Chinese are the first non-European migrants and invited to Aotearoa by Pākehā businessmen to mine for gold.

1870s: Migrants arrive from Great Britain, Germany, Scandinavia, Poland, Switzerland, Ireland.

1880s onwards: In the late nineteenth century, the New Zealand Parliament passes discriminatory laws against Chinese seeking to enter New Zealand. The Chinese Immigrants Act of 1881 imposes a poll tax of ten pounds per Chinese person and restricts the numbers able to enter the country to one person per ten tonnes of ship cargo. In 1896 the tax is lifted to one hundred pounds per person and there are further restrictions on the numbers of Chinese able to enter New Zealand. At that time the tax exceeds a year's wage and is not waived until 1934. The Act is not repealed until 1944.

1878 – 1900s: Lebanese migrants arrive.

1887 – 1909: 4,000 single men from Croatia arrive.

1898: The Kauri Gum Industry Act is meant to deter further migrants and was discriminatory. Under this Act only naturalised British citizens can dig for gum on Crown reserves. It was acknowledged at the time that this was an attempt to restrict the flow of migrants who had started to arrive from the Austro-Hungarian Empire during the 1880s.

1919: Undesirable Immigrants Exclusion Act is used to exclude people not of British descent.

1920 – 1930s: Indians, mainly from Gujarat arrive. In the 1920s Sir Apirana Ngata argues that Māori will be negatively affected by Asian immigration.

1933 – 1940: Prior to World War II about 1,000 Jewish refugees from Central Europe settle in Aotearoa/New Zealand.

1944: Polish refugees and others from Eastern Europe arrive. The American vessel *General Randall* arrives from war-torn Europe carrying the first refugees, 733 Polish children and 108 adults.

1949 – 1952: Displaced persons from Europe arrive.

1950s – 1972: 30,000 Dutch migrants arrive.

1956 – 1958: Hungarian refugees arrive.

1960s – 1970s: Samoan, Cook Island, Tongan, Niuean and Tokelauan people are invited to Aotearoa/New Zealand as there is a shortage of labour.

Global social change is occurring, including the civil rights movement in the USA and countries in Asia and Africa achieving independence and reclaiming culture and language.

1962 – 1971: Chinese refugees from Indonesia and Hong Kong arrive.

1965: Russian Christians, refugees from China arrive.

1966: 1,000 people from Tokelau come to Aotearoa/New Zealand following a devastating hurricane.

1968 – 1971: Refugees from Czechoslovakia arrive.

1969: Significant numbers of Sri Lankans arrive in response to a demand for skilled professionals.

1970s: Migrants from the United Kingdom, Australia, United States and Pacific Islands (including Kiribati and Tuvalu, and men from Fiji) and from Singapore arrive. There are long-standing educational, military and trade links between Singapore and Aotearoa/New Zealand.

'Dawn raids' and random checks on 'overstayers' target Pacific Peoples.

1972 – 1973: Asian-Ugandan refugees arrive.

1974 – 1981: Chilean refugees arrive.

1974 – 1991: Eastern European refugees from Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Bulgaria, Romania, Yugoslavia, and the Soviet Republics arrive.

1975 onwards: 9,925 refugees arrive from Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam.

1980s: Malaysians arrive with similar links to those between Singapore and Aotearoa/New Zealand.

Pakistanis, Filipinos, Thais arrive as well as peak numbers of Tongans between 1986 – 1991.

Aotearoa/New Zealand begins to relax its immigration policies towards Asians and a more humanitarian stance is taken towards refugees.

The largest numbers of migrants continue to be from Australia and the United Kingdom.

1987: Indo-Fijians fleeing political instability in Fiji come.

1988: Iraqi and Iranian refugees arrive.

1990s: There is an increase in:

- Japanese
- Koreans
- Thais
- Indonesians
- Chinese from China, Hong Kong, Singapore, Taiwan and Malaysia.
- South Africans of both Afrikaans and English descent.
- Ethiopians, Somalis and Sudanese.
- Afghans.

- Bangladeshis, (there were only a few previously).
- Indians, Sri Lankans.
- Migrants from Burma/Myanmar– the most recent are refugees.
- Serbs, Croats and Bosnians as refugees and immigrants.
- Refugees from Kosovo.
- Egyptians.
- Iraqis.
- Lebanese.

Australians and British continue to be the largest groups of new migrants.

Recent Chinese arrivals now outnumber New Zealand born Chinese.

1996: Numbers of Taiwanese, Thais and Fijians decrease.

2000: More Indo-Fijians come to Aotearoa/New Zealand following the coup.

There are now about 800 Kurdish people in Aotearoa/New Zealand.

2002: The New Zealand Government brings in stricter controls for immigration, for example, by raising the English proficiency level required.

In 2003: There are more than 47,000 people of Dutch descent in Aotearoa – they are the second largest European group.

- The largest numbers of new settlers each year still come from the United Kingdom and Australia.
- There are more people of Cook Island descent in Aotearoa/New Zealand than there are in the Cook Islands. They are the second largest Pasifika group in Aotearoa/New Zealand after Samoans.
- There are now also more Tokelauans in Aotearoa/New Zealand than in Tokelau.
- Seven hundred refugees are accepted into Aotearoa/New Zealand every year as recommended under the United Nations Human Rights Conventions.

For further information see:

<http://www.tki.org.nz/r/socialscience/curriculum/SSOL/timeline/preload.html>

Dates

1769	1840s - present	1860s
1870s	1887 - 1909	1920s - 1930s
1933 - 1940	1950s - 1972	1960s - 1970s
1975 onwards	1987 & 1988	1990s - present

Groups of People

<p>Captain James Cook arrives.</p>
<p>Migration from Britain increases rapidly from this time. British and Australian people continue to be the largest groups of immigrants to Aotearoa/New Zealand today.</p>
<p>The Chinese were the first non-European settlers to Aotearoa/New Zealand after the Treaty was signed. They were invited here to work on the goldfields.</p>
<p>Migrants from Great Britain, Germany, Scandinavia, Poland, Switzerland and Ireland arrive.</p>
<p>4,000 Croatian men arrive.</p>
<p>Indians, mainly from Gujarat, arrive.</p>
<p>1,000 Jews escape from Nazi Germany to Aotearoa/New Zealand.</p>

30,000 Dutch migrants arrive.													
Increase in Pacific Island peoples, eg. Samoan, Cook Island, Tongan, Niuean and Tokelauan. They are invited to Aotearoa/New Zealand due to a shortage of labour.													
10,000 refugees from Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam arrive.													
Indo-Fijians arrive. Iraqi and Iranian refugees arrive.													
<p>Increase in:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Asian migrants</td> <td>South Africans</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Africans</td> <td>Bangladeshis</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Indians</td> <td>Sri Lankans</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Migrants from Burma</td> <td>Egyptians</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Serbs, Croats and</td> <td>Iraqis</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bosnians</td> <td>Lebanese</td> </tr> </table>		Asian migrants	South Africans	Africans	Bangladeshis	Indians	Sri Lankans	Migrants from Burma	Egyptians	Serbs, Croats and	Iraqis	Bosnians	Lebanese
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Government Actions

Poll Tax	Kauri Gum Industry Act
Dawn raids and random checks on particular 'overstayers'.	The New Zealand Government raised the entry level of proficiency in the English language.



Copy each group of cards onto coloured paper. Cut out and laminate.

A history of migration to this country: answers

Dates	Peoples	Government actions
1769	Captain James Cook arrives.	
1840s - present	Immigration from Britain increases rapidly from this time. British and Australian people continue to be the largest groups of immigrants to Aotearoa/New Zealand today.	
1860s	Chinese arrive to work in goldmines.	
1870s	Migrants from Great Britain, Germany, Scandinavia, Poland and Switzerland.	
1887 - 1909	4,000 Croatian men arrive.	Poll Tax, 1881 Kauri Gum Industry Act, 1898
1920s - 1930s	Indians, mainly from Gujarat arrive.	
1933 - 1940	1,000 Jews escape from Nazi Germany to Aotearoa/New Zealand.	
1950s - 1972	30,000 Dutch migrants arrive.	
1960s - 1970s	Increase in Pacific Peoples – Samoan, Cook Islanders, Tongan, Niuean and Tokelauan.	Dawn raids and random checks on 'overstayers', 1970s
1975 onwards	10,000 refugees come from Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam.	
1987 and 1988	Indo-Fijians, Iraqi and Iranian refugees arrive.	
1990s - present	Increase in Asian migrants, South Africans, Africans, Afghans, Bangladeshis, Indians, Sri Lankans, people from Burma/Myanmar, Serbs, Croats and Bosnians, Egyptians, Iraqis, Lebanese.	New Zealand Government brings in stricter controls for immigration, eg. raising the English proficiency level, 2002

Add your information here

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Date

People
