

# Trading cards

The purpose of this activity is to highlight the mutually beneficial trading relationships that existed between Māori and migrants in the decades before the Treaty was signed. Pictorial cards of some of the main trading items help to provide a vocabulary activity for English language learners.

## Activity 10

**Time:** 35 – 40 minutes.

**Materials:** Cut out the two-sided cards, pages 51 to 54, directly from the colour-pages section. Laminate.

1. Distribute the two-sided cards among the participants. Depending on numbers, some people may need to share cards or have more than one.
2. Participants explain to each other why the item on their card was an important item of trade in the time before the Treaty. They should show the picture on the front and read the notes on the back. Allow plenty of time for people to mix during this part of the activity.
3. Sum up together as a group at the end. Ask:
  - Was the relationship between Māori and Pākehā mostly good or bad at this time?
  - Were there any problems?

Despite what people may think, this trade-based relationship was generally good. There were, however, some problems developing (see notes).

## Notes

### Reasons for having a treaty

- land problems
- lawlessness
- increasing immigration

The presence of Pākehā was generally welcomed by Māori because of the economic and political benefit derived from the exchange of goods. However some tensions were beginning to show, particularly at Kororāreka (now Russell) which became a stopover for whaling and trading ships looking for provisions and women. Drunken sailors on shore leave created havoc, prompting alarmed missionaries to call the town 'the hell-hole of the Pacific.'

These Europeans were effectively outside the control of European law and Māori could

see the benefit in inviting a governor to have authority over his own people.

In addition, a number of unfair and unscrupulous land transactions had taken place and there were some situations where Māori and Pākehā simply had different understandings of the deal. These misunderstandings arose from differing cultural attitudes toward land. In traditional Māori society land was not bought or sold. The relationship towards land was spiritual and the concept of owning it did not exist. In Europe however, despite some history of communal relationships to land (commons), it was seen as a commodity to be bought and sold.

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**For discussion:** What is the traditional way of seeing land in your country? Has this changed over the years?

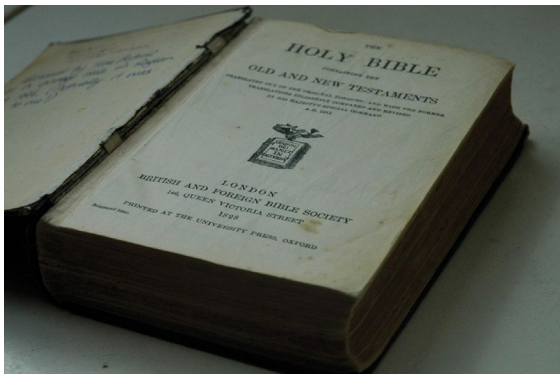
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### A quote on Māori and trade

*Māori traded widely in pre-European times, coastal tribes taking the produce of their fisheries to distant tribes inland and receiving in due course those goods not so readily accessible to them...*

*There are many ... accounts of a Māori trading bent. It is sufficient to say here that by the 1820s Māori were substantially involved in the provisioning of ships and the supply of whaling settlements. By 1830 ships were carrying large quantities of their produce to Sydney. Thus were Māori involved in export, even before the Treaty, and their enterprise continued well after it.*

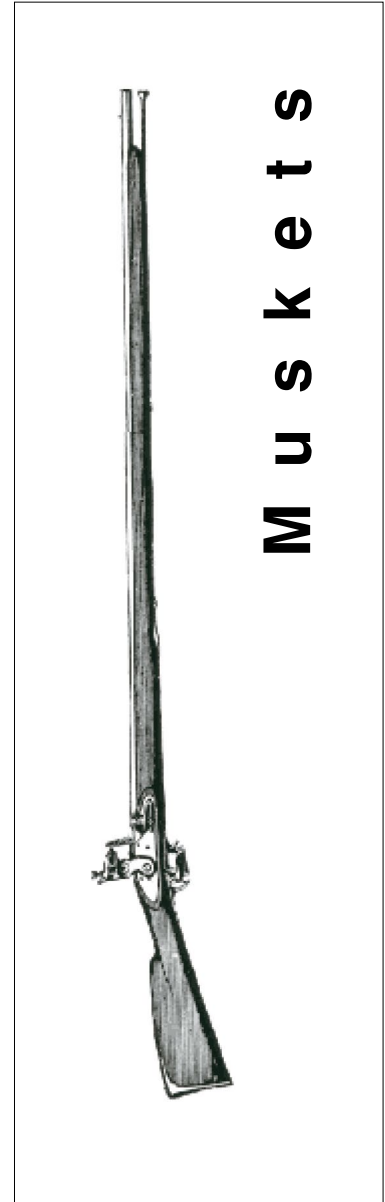
*It is also well documented that Māori were the main suppliers to the first post-Treaty settlements in both islands, and there is commentary upon their virtual monopoly of the fish trade. (Waitangi Tribunal, 1988).*



## Christianity



Cut out the two-sided cards from these pages and laminate



## Muskets

activity 10.





## Muskets

Māori people traded flax to get muskets and the way they made war changed forever. The tribe that got muskets first would be stronger than its neighbours and enemies. Old wars were sometimes started again.

After muskets became common all over the country, these wars mostly stopped.



## Flax

Flax was useful for making *ropes* used on ships.

Māori people knew how to prepare flax and Māori women especially spent a lot of time on this activity in the early 1800s.

Flax was often traded for long guns called muskets.

## Whales

Whales were killed in the sea around Aotearoa. In



Europe their *bones* were used for women's clothes and umbrellas. Their oil and fat were used in *perfume* and *lighting*. By the 1850s there were not many whales left.



Whalers worked hard and they also drank hard.



Firing a bomb-lance. PUBL-0017-02. Reproduced by permission of the Alexander Turnbull Library, National Library of New Zealand Te Puna Matauranga o Aotearoa.

## Seals

After 1790, many men from different parts of the world came to Aotearoa to hunt seals. Seals were easy to kill and their skins were used for making hats to sell in Europe.

The ships left men here to get seal skins and came back for them after several months or years. Sometimes the ships didn't come back.

## Christianity

Māori people were very interested in new ideas and many were interested in the Christian religion.

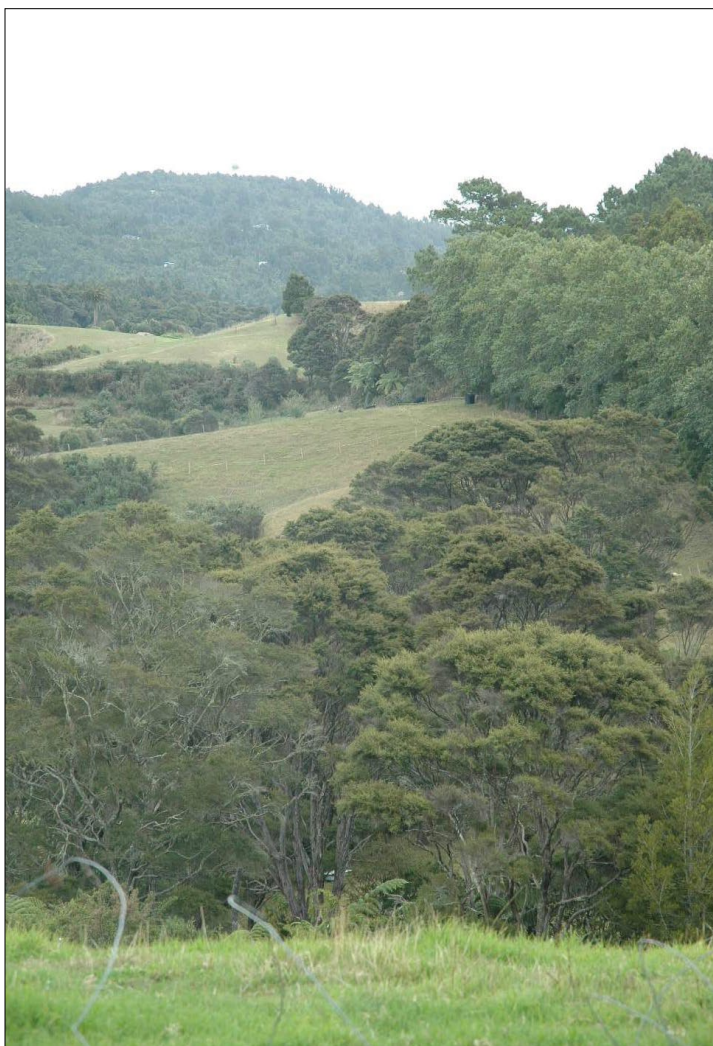
The Bible was the first book to be translated into te reo, the Māori language. In 1840 a higher percentage of Māori people in the north of New Zealand knew how to read and write than in Europe.



These cut-out cards belong to Activity 10: Trading cards on page 36.



activity 10.



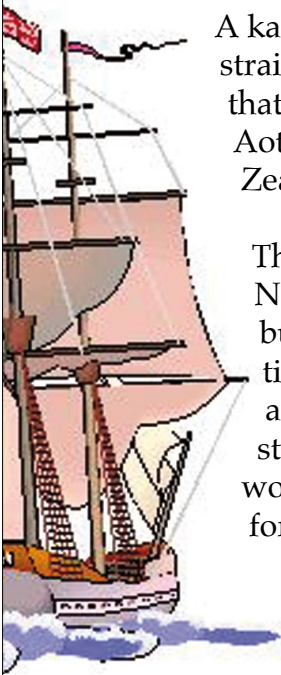
**Cut out the two-sided cards from these pages and laminate**



## *Kauri*

A kauri is a tall straight tree that grows in Aotearoa/New Zealand.

The British Navy was very busy at this time in history and it needed strong, straight wood like this for its ships.



## *Blankets and nails*

Blankets and nails were common items that Māori people wanted. They had their own way of making blankets of course, but these took a long time to make, so it was easier to buy them.

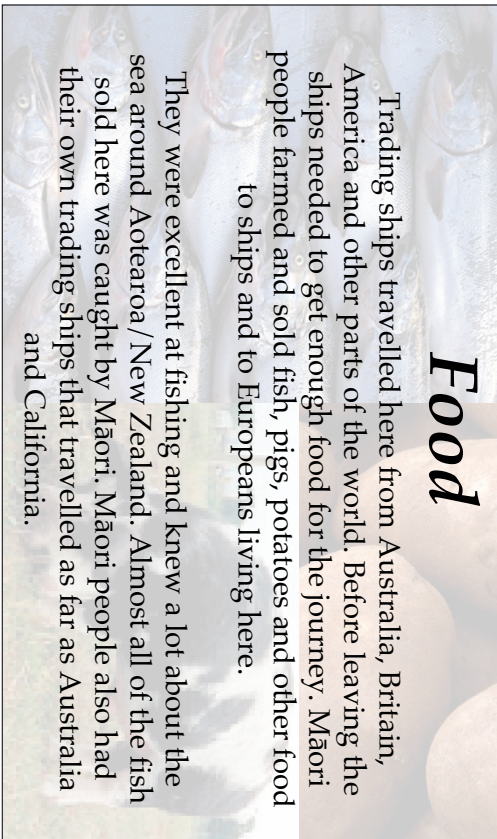
Metal tools were also popular.



## *Food*

Trading ships travelled here from Australia, Britain, America and other parts of the world. Before leaving the ships needed to get enough food for the journey. Māori people farmed and sold fish, pigs, potatoes and other food to ships and to Europeans living here.

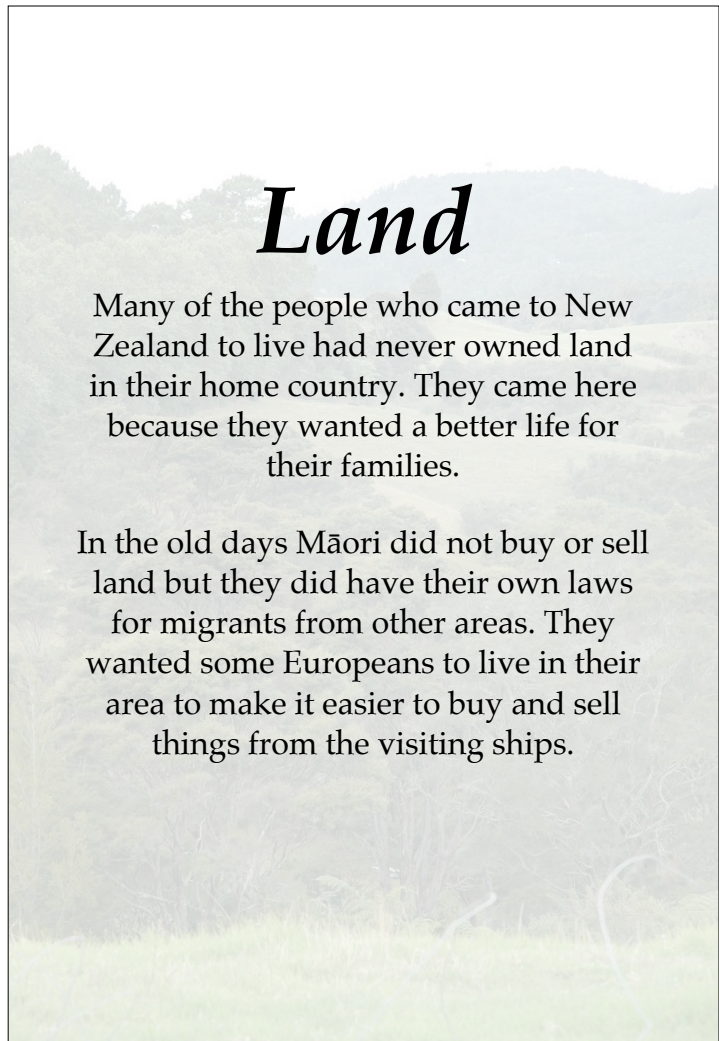
They were excellent at fishing and knew a lot about the sea around Aotearoa/New Zealand. Almost all of the fish sold here was caught by Māori. Māori people also had their own trading ships that travelled as far as Australia and California.



## *Land*

Many of the people who came to New Zealand to live had never owned land in their home country. They came here because they wanted a better life for their families.

In the old days Māori did not buy or sell land but they did have their own laws for migrants from other areas. They wanted some Europeans to live in their area to make it easier to buy and sell things from the visiting ships.







## *Māori international travel*

During the late 1700s and early 1800s Māori were travelling to places such as Europe, India and South America.

They were invited to share their ideas and skills because people overseas were very interested in New Zealand. Māori who had travelled also brought back many ideas to their hapū. When they came home they held wānanga (seminars) to explain what they had seen and learned.

These rangatira are visiting Sydney Hospital grounds in  
1823

## *Peaches and wheat*

In the 1850s, Waikato hapū had large areas of peach orchards, wheat, corn and other crops for export.

Fifty flour mills were built in  
the Waikato at this time.

