

# New Zealand, land of the Kiwis

*New Zealand, an island nation south of Australia, is famous for its scenic landscapes of snowcapped mountains and green pastures.*

New Zealand is situated in the South .....<sup>1</sup> Ocean, 1,600km south-east of Australia. It consists of two large .....<sup>2</sup>, North and South Island, and a number of smaller islands. The total .....<sup>3</sup> (269,000 sq km) is slightly larger than the UK.

The North Island is well-known for its volcanoes and highly active thermal areas. The South Island is dominated by the Southern Alps, a .....<sup>4</sup> running from the north to the south of the island. The highest point, Mount Cook, reaches a height of 3,754m. New Zealand is also famous for its myriad of rivers and lakes. The longest .....<sup>5</sup>, the Waikato (meaning 'flowing water' in Maori) is 425km long. It originates from Lake Taupo, New Zealand's largest .....<sup>6</sup>.

About 75% of New Zealanders live in the North Island, even though it is smaller than the South Island, because the largest cities and industries are located there. The country has an urban population and 86% of the .....<sup>7</sup> live in cities.

Most people in New Zealand are of European, mainly British, descent. The Maori population, about 10%, is the largest minority. Both English and Maori are official .....<sup>8</sup> in the country.



## Did you know?

New Zealanders call themselves 'kiwis' after a bird which can't fly called the kiwi. It can only be found in New Zealand.



## Warm up

**1a** What do you know about the geography of New Zealand? Answer the questions.

- 1 Which ocean surrounds New Zealand?
- 2 Which island is bigger – North Island or South Island?
- 3 Who is the head of state of New Zealand?
- 4 What is the name of the capital?
- 5 What is the general climate in New Zealand?

**1b** Check your answers on p. 140.

## Reading & Listening



**2** Listen and fill in the blanks in the text above.

**3** Read about the natural wonders of New Zealand and answer the questions.

- 1 Where is Rotorua and why is it famous?
- 2 What is the name of the most spectacular geyser?
- 3 What is the Maori name for Mount Cook?
- 4 Where is Fiordland?