A Maori Story

Read about New Zealand and write True or False.

1. The Maori are originally from Australia. __________
2. A weta is a type of spider. __________
3. Winter in New Zealand is from June to August. __________
4. There are five million people in New Zealand. __________
5. Kiwi birds don’t have feathers; they have hair. __________
6. The Haka is a type of song. __________
7. There are stars on the New Zealand flag. __________
8. Kiwis don’t come out in the day. __________
Complete the sentences and solve the puzzle.

2 Aotearoa means the land of the long white _____________.
3 Tuta played the _____________.
5 Hinemoa lived with her _____________.
7 Hinemoa tied some ____________ together to go to the island.
9 You can see the ____________ in the sky at night.

1 Tuta lived on the island of _____________.
4 The island is in the middle of a _____________.
6 Hinemoa couldn’t move the canoe. It was too _____________.
8 A _____________ is a small boat made of wood.
Guess the letters and find the mystery place.

1. My first is in moon and in dance. ___
2. My second is in lake and in egg. ___
3. My third is in new and in wood. ___
4. My fourth is in zoo but not in book. ___
5. My fifth is in flute and in new. ___
6. My sixth is in Maori and in Tuta. ___
7. My seventh is in pool and in village. ___
8. My eighth is in play and in musician. ___
9. My ninth is in canoe and in hunting. ___
10. My tenth is in island and in dog. ___

The mystery place is _______________________. 
Before you read

Go over pages 2 and 3 with the class. Ask if any children have heard of New Zealand before. Invite volunteers to say if they know of any other countries that are islands. Write up the Maori words on the board and practice pronouncing them with the class. Pay special attention to Aotearoa (New Zealand) and tell them they will find out what this means in English after they read the story.

Tell the class to look at the twelve key vocabulary items on pages 4 and 5 and check that everyone understands their meanings.

Play Guess the word. Divide the class into two teams and tell them you are thinking of one of the twelve words. Children from each team take turns to say letters. If your word contains the letter, write it up on the board and award a point to that team. The children can have a go at guessing the word. If they guess correctly they get three points but if they guess incorrectly they lose three points. They can win an extra point by saying what the word means in their language.

While you read

Play Correct the Mistakes. After reading page 6, say to the class: Tuta played the violin. Get children to correct you: Tuta played the flute. Say: He played his music in the mornings (evenings). Repeat this after each page. For example, on page 7 say: Hinemoa’s father was the village doctor (leader), and so on.

After you read

Remind the class that they will find out the meaning of Aotearoa. Get them to look at page 6 and tell them that there is a word hidden in the picture, which they have to find. Ask them to write it down in their notebooks. Repeat this for pages 10, 15, 17, 18 and 20 until they have collected all six words: Land – of – the – long – white – cloud. Go over the explanation of this name on page 24.

Using the worksheets

Worksheet 1

Read about New Zealand and write True or False.

Divide the class into pairs and ask them to read the three texts, silently at first. Then tell children to take turns reading out loud to their partners. Next, tell the class that you will start reading a sentence and choose volunteers to finish it. For example: The Maoris are originally from... or Kia ora in Maori means...

Then get the children to read the eight sentences together and decide whether they are true or false. Check with the class as a whole and invite volunteers to correct the false sentences.

Worksheet 2

Complete the sentences and solve the puzzle.

Ask the children to complete the sentences and fill in the crossword individually and then check with a partner when they have finished. Check with the class as a whole by inviting volunteers to read out completed sentences.

Worksheet 3

Guess the letters and find the mystery place.

Write up the first two words, moon and dance, on the board. Choose a volunteer to say which letter the two words have in common and write it down. Explain that each clue will give them a letter from the mystery place. Get the class to complete the activity in pairs.
Extension

Write a love story. Give each student a piece of paper. On the board write up these headings in a column:

Boy’s name:
Girls name:
Where they met:
He said:
She said:
What happened:

Explain that this is a fun way to write a story. Ask everybody to choose a boy’s name and write it down. The paper is then folded over so they can’t see what has been written. Everyone passes their paper on and writes a girl’s name and so on until the stories are completed. Ask the children to unfold the stories and display them around the class. Get the class to mingle and read the stories.

Answers

Worksheet 1

Read about New Zealand and write True or False.

1 False
2 False
3 True
4 False
5 False
6 False
7 True
8 True

Worksheet 2

Complete the sentences and solve the puzzle.

Across
2 cloud
3 flute
5 father
7 branches
9 moon

Down
1 Mokoia
4 lake
6 heavy
8 canoe

Worksheet 3

Guess the letters and find the mystery place.

1 n
2 e
3 w
4 z
5 e
6 a
7 l
8 a
9 n
10 d

Mystery place: New Zealand