NEW ZEALAND
BEFORE YOU BEGIN
What do you think of when you hear “New Zealand? Write down 3–6 things:
______________________________________________
______________________________________________
______________________________________________
______________________________________________

NEW ZEALAND IN A NUTSHELL
How much do you already know about New Zealand?
Read the following statements and decide if they are true or false. If you don’t know, try to guess.

1. New Zealand is twice the size of the Republic of Ireland.
   T □   F □
2. There are five sheep for every person in New Zealand.
   T □   F □
3. New Zealand is a former British colony.
   T □   F □
4. There is a constellation (= pattern of stars) on the New Zealand flag.
   T □   F □
5. In a referendum, New Zealanders decided to change their flag.
   T □   F □
6. English is the only official language of New Zealand.
   T □   F □
7. About 30% of New Zealanders can speak Maori.
   T □   F □
8. New Zealand Sign Language is completely different from British Sign Language.
   T □   F □

Listen to the recording again and answer the following questions.

1. Which other countries were mentioned in the recording as having the British monarch as head of state?
   _________________________________________

2. Where can you see the Southern Cross?
   _________________________________________

3. When did the New Zealand flag referendum take place?
   _________________________________________

4. What is the silver fern?
   _________________________________________

5. What does kia ora mean?
   _________________________________________

Now scan the QR code or go to www.bridge-online.cz/casopis-bridge/bridge-april-2020/ and play Track 7 to check your answers.

How many of your guesses were correct?
Now read an article about two places of interest in New Zealand. Fill in the missing information into the table.

### Oamaru
- **What it is:**
- **Location:**
- **Three top attractions in the area:**

### The Lord of the Forest (Tane Mahuta)
- **What it is:**
- **Location:**
- **Named after:**
- **Two things that endanger it:**

Finish the sentences with 1–3 words so they express ideas from the article.

1. **_________________________** its small size, Oamaru is full of interesting attractions.
2. The Steampunk NZ Festival **_________________________** in Oamaru every year.
3. At sunset, up to 100 little blue penguins **_________________________** by visitors.
4. Although the Lord of the Forest is very old, it still hasn’t **_________________________** growing.
5. According to a Maori legend, the world **_________________________** by a god who separated his parents.
6. You cannot enter the area with Tane Mahuta if **_________________________** disinfect your shoes first.

Find a mistake in each of the following sentences and correct it.

1. Auckland, New Zealand’s biggest city, is home to half the people who live in the country.
2. A penguin accidentally wandered into the centre of Oamaru last year.
3. You have to pay to visit Tane Mahuta on your own.
4. According to some experts, Tane Mahuta may be the oldest rainforest tree in the world.

Now finish the following sentences with your own thoughts:

If I could visit either Oamaru or the Waipoua Forest, I’d go to **_________________________** because **________________________________________________________________________________________________________**.

For me, the least-interesting activity mentioned in the article is **_________________________** because **_____________________________________________________________________________________________**.
**Oamaru**

Our first stop is Oamaru, a small coastal town on the South Island, three hours south of the city of Christchurch. It is part of a farming district and is home to only 14,000 people, but it packs a lot of interesting features into its small area.

**Victorian Buildings**

The town of Oamaru was a thriving centre in the Victorian era. As a result, it has a number of beautiful (and very European-looking) Victorian buildings made from limestone. And although practically brand-new in European terms (the oldest buildings are from 1875) it is considered to be the most beautiful and historical streetscape in New Zealand.

**Steampunk**

The Victorian era and buildings inspired something else in Oamaru which is a little more unexpected: steampunk. Steampunk is based on how people think the Victorians of England imagined the future would look, and Oamaru is considered (at least by the locals) to be the home of steampunk culture.

Oamaru is considered to be the home of steampunk culture.

The Victorian centre of Oamaru looks rather like a miniature Edinburgh. Little blue penguins are most active at night, and though tiny, they are infamously noisy.

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**Kia ora** (“hello” in the Maori language) and welcome to New Zealand. A third of the country’s population lives in our biggest city, Auckland, which can feel a little bit too crowded – but you can easily escape the crowds by going to almost any other place in the whole country. So let’s step outside the big smoke and explore.

Jackie Fox (NZ)

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**Penguin City**

For a completely different experience, you can also visit one of two penguin colonies in the area. There’s a colony of rare yellow-eyed penguins just south of town, and in the town’s harbour lives a colony of little blue penguins. These are the world’s smallest (and probably cutest) penguins, at around 30 centimetres tall, and visitors can watch as up to around 100 of them waddle ashore every sunset.

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**GLOSSARY**

- the big smoke – a large city
- streetscape – view of streets, all the features that create the streets’ character
In the North Island, on the way up to Cape Reinga, the most northern part of New Zealand, you can find another wonder of nature deep in the forest. It’s not the Lord of the Rings, but it’s close. It’s the Lord of the Forest.

**Meeting a God**
The Lord of the Forest is a tree. But it’s not just any tree. It is a giant and ancient kauri tree located in the Waipoua Forest. Estimates put its age at between 1,250 and 2,500 years old, and it is over 51 metres tall and 15 metres around. And it’s still growing!

In Maori, the tree is called Tane Mahuta. It's named for the Maori god of trees and birds, who is important in the Maori creation myth. In Maori mythology, Tane Mahuta was the son of the sky father and earth mother. His father and mother held each other so closely that there was not enough space for him to feel comfortable, so he separated them. He forced his father to the sky, and his mother to the ground. And by separating them he created the world.

Local tour guides offer evening tours where you can experience the forest at night and hear this creation myth as well as other Maori legends under the stars.

**Respect for the Trees**
It is free to visit Tane Mahuta without a guide. However, conservationists are worried about the health of the tree, so a walkway has been created so you can see it without stepping on anything you shouldn’t. You also have to use disinfectant on your shoes before entering the area. The reason they are so worried is because of a disease called kauri dieback. This is dangerous to the health of the trees, and no one wants to see this tree die. In fact, it is considered so important that during a drought in 2013, when it was showing signs of dehydration, 10,000 litres of water from a nearby stream were channelled to the tree in order to protect it.

Tane Mahuta is part of Waipoua Forest, which includes other giant trees such as Te Matua Ngahere or the Father of the Forest. This is another kauri tree that is even bigger and older. Some experts even think that it may be the oldest rainforest tree in the world.

**NEW ZEALAND**
**Population:** 4.8 million
**Land area:** 268,021 km²
**Currency:** New Zealand dollar
**Political system:** Parliamentary democracy and constitutional monarchy (the British monarch is the head of state)
**Capital city:** Wellington (418,000)
**Top languages:** English, Maori, Samoan, Northern Chinese, Hindi

**Physical geography:**
Located in the South Pacific Ocean, 1,600 km from Australia (its closest neighbour). Two main islands (North and South) and around 600 small islands. Mountainous on South Island, with a fjord-like coastline; volcanic plateau (= large flat area) on North Island.

**VOCABULARY**
1. thriving [ˈθraɪvɪŋ] – prosperující
2. limestone [ˈlaɪmstəʊn] – vápenec
3. sunshade [ˈsʌnʃeɪd] – slunečník
4. enthusiast [ˈɛnθəsɪst] – nadšenec
5. yellow-eyed penguin – tučňák žlutooký
6. little blue penguin – tučňák nejmenší
7. to waddle [ˈwɒdl] – kolébat se
8. kauri – damaroň jižní
9. conservationist [ˌkɒnsəˈveɪʃənɪst] – ochránce přírody

**FACT FILE**

[Map of New Zealand with Oamaru and Waipoua Forest marked]