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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Oamaru</th>
<th>The Lord of the Forest (Tane Mahuta)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What it is:</td>
<td>What it is:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location:</td>
<td>Location:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three top attractions in the area:</td>
<td>Named after:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Two things that endanger it:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.
   Corrected: 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.
   Corrected: A penguin accidentally wandered into the centre of Oamaru last year.

3. You have to pay to visit Tane Mahuta on your own.
   Corrected: 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.
   Corrected: 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.

The town hosts the annual Steampunk NZ Festival, which has become the largest and longest running steampunk event in the southern hemisphere. It includes events such as historical fashion shows, steam-train rides, parasol duelling (a humorous sport similar to “rock-paper-scissors” played using old-fashioned sunshades) and teapot racing (a race between toy teapots in homemade remote-controlled cars).

But you don’t have to wait for the festival to experience steampunk in Oamaru. There is a steampunk art gallery in the town, and enthusiasts will often visit throughout the year and walk through the town dressed in their finest steampunk attire (= clothes).

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.

The little blue penguin colony is the most visited tourist attraction in Oamaru, with over 75,000 visitors a year. That doesn’t mean big crowds, though: it’s about as many as visit Prague Castle in just 10 days. The area is also home to seals, so you can see a few of these around as well. Last year a seal even got lost and made it all the way into the centre of town by accident. Luckily, locals were able to help it back to the water.
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, 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.

VOCABULARY
- thriving [ˈθraɪvɪŋ] – prosperujúci
- limestone [ˈlaɪmstəʊn] – vápenec
- sunshade [ˈsʌnʃeɪd] – slnečník
- enthusiast [ɪnˈθjuːziæst] – nadšenec
- yellow-eyed penguin – tučniak žltooký
- little blue penguin – tučniak najmenší
- to waddle [ˈwɒdl] – kolembať sa
- kauri – damarovník južný
- conservationist [ˌkɒnsəˈveɪʃənɪst] – ochranca prírody