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Fulbright New Zealand
Level 8, Fulbright New Zealand House
120 Featherston St., PO Box 3465
Wellington, New Zealand

Enclosed, please find my completed project. This project is a lesson plan designed for elementary through high school use. The focus is applying the five themes of geography to slides from New Zealand.

Upon return from New Zealand, in addition to working on this lesson, I have been educating the larger community. I have given a lecture on New Zealand's educational system at Loyola, and spoken to many high school classes and faculty around the Chicagoland area.

Thank you for this opportunity to travel to a country so pertinent to my professional goals. Without Fulbright, I would not have reached New Zealand. My commitment to give back this experience by education has only begun.

Sincerely,

Erika Cook
Social Studies Department

From Maori and MMP to Mt. Cook

A Geographic Journey of New Zealand Using the Five Themes

Erika Cook
Fulbright-Hays Scholar
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From Maoris and MMP to Mt. Cook

A Geographic Journey of New Zealand Using the Five Themes

Summary: The five themes of geography, created by National Geographic, are usually taught at the beginning of the school year and forgotten by students throughout the rest of the course. Applying the five themes of geography to a specific country in the region of Oceania will review the themes while learning new geographic information.

New Zealand and the islands of the Pacific are countries that are usually ignored when Oceania even exists in a world geography curriculum. Lessons and published material on these lands are minimal in school and public libraries. Most often, Oceania, if present, consists of Australia in school texts. Therefore, teachers tend not to address these unknown lands; American youth continue to be ignorant about this region of their world. This lesson is an attempt to introduce New Zealand to students by showing slides of twenty chosen sites, people, actions and cultural symbols. Students will apply the five themes of geography to each narrated slide.

Students will be assessed by not only by orally reviewing the five themes of geography, and synthesizing them in a written format, but also creating a five themes of geography travel brochure on a different country in Oceania.

Grade Level: This lesson was created for a ninth grade World Cultures class. However, the nature of this lesson is easily adaptable for other levels.

Objectives: Students will...

Review the five themes of geography.

View the slides while assigning a theme(s) of geography.

Review the results orally.

Synthesize the material in a comprehensive look at New Zealand.

Create a travel brochure based on another country in Oceania.

Materials: The materials necessary for this project include all worksheets, slides and information found in this published lesson. You will need a computer with powerpoint software, and a projection LCD in your classroom.

Key Questions: Teachers should have already taught the five themes of geography. The five themes of geography created by National Geographic include: location, place, human and environmental interaction, movement and region. (Burley)

The key questions they address are:

Location: Where is it located?

Absolute location: exact address

Relative location: address according to landmarks

Place: What is it like there?

Human characteristics: man made descriptions ie: population, buildings, economy

Physical characteristics: natural descriptions ie: mountains, rivers, beaches

Interaction: What is the relationship between humans and their environment?

Depend: people using their environment

Adapt: people modifying their actions

Change: people modifying their environment

Movement: How and why are places connected with one another?

Region: How and why is one area similar to another?

Procedures: The teacher can review or teach the five themes of geography at the beginning of a unit on Oceania. The teacher can give a brief introduction on New Zealand and launch into the slideshow. As students follow along, the teacher can read the captions and offer their own personal information if desired. After the slideshow, review the results with the students.

Assessment: The teacher should review each slide and discuss the differing viewpoints of students' interpreted themes in geography. There are not any right answers as long as students can justify each slide with an appropriate reason. The students will then write their understanding of New Zealand according to the five themes of geography. You can collect and make comments on this. It can also be assessed on a unit test over Oceania.

Follow-Up Activities: After applying the five themes of geography to New Zealand, students may start a travel brochure assignment choosing another country in Oceania and applying the five themes of geography to the country of their choice.

Slide Show Captions:

1. Map: New Zealand is a country located on the southern tip of the Polynesian triangle at approximately 40 degrees south latitude and 175 degrees east longitude. It is isolated in the Pacific Ocean bordered by the Tasman Sea, South Pacific and the Southern Ocean. New Zealand is made up of two islands, and its closest continental neighbor is Australia, 1,243 miles away from its western border. (Hanna, 1)

2. Maori at the Marae: Maoris were the first settlers to New Zealand. Legend states that Kupe, sailing from Hawaiki in 950, discovered and explored Aotearoa, or "Land of the Long White Cloud." After Kupe, many canoes or wakas brought Maori settlers from the Pacific Islands. A marae is the focus of the modern Maori community. In the marae is a whare runanga, which serves as a place for a powiri or visitor's welcome ceremony or a community center. This meeting house is usually decorated with elaborate "carvings representing...ancestors, [and] woven flax panels." (Hanna, 31)

3. Flax Weaving: Dutchman, Abel Tasman was the first European to set eyes on New Zealand in 1642, but it wasn't until 1768, when Captain Cook sailing for England, landed. Following these explorations, came the European traders. They wanted to profit from flax, timber, seal skins and whale oil. These were all valuable resources that were a part of the Maori lifestyle. For example, in this photograph, a flax skirt worn by Maori men is being made. (Hanna 32-33)

4. Treaty of Waitangi: Britain claimed sovereignty over New Zealand on February 5, 1840, when the Treaty of Waitangi was signed by the British Crown and 500 Maori chiefs at this site. It has been controversial since it was signed due to the rough translation into Maori, primarily the misunderstanding of the English term "sovereignty." Initially, land was "purchased" very inexpensively from the Maoris who did not understand the concept of sale of property. Today, as the governing document of New Zealand, the Treaty of Waitangi is used to help Maoris reclaim their original land. (Hanna, 37)

5. Cape Reinga: Located at the northernmost tip of New Zealand lies Cape Reinga, jetting into the South Pacific. The vast geographic beauty of New Zealand consists of glacial blue water surrounded by dramatic cliffs and fjords, untouched vast beaches, pristine rolling hills for grazing sheep, mountains, and thermal springs.

6. Silver Fern: As the symbolic flora of Aotearoa, the silver fern is plentiful in New Zealand's forests. The majority of native trees are conifers consisting of kauri, totara and rimu. The only indigenous mammal to New Zealand is the bat, while many birds flourished before human immigrants. The kiwi (national bird), moa (extinct), and kea are a few of these species. Many animals such as: sheep, possums, rabbits, and deer were introduced by European settlers. (Hanna, 12-15)

7. Auckland: The population of New Zealand is 3.8 million people. Auckland, as New Zealand's largest city, holds one million. A few famous sites in Auckland include: the Auckland Harbor Bridge, Mt. Eden, Queen Street, Kelly Tarlton's Underwater World and the Sky Tower. Wellington, the capital, and Christchurch, located on the South Island are other major cities in New Zealand. (Hanna, 47)

8. Christchurch Cathedral: Christchurch, the main center on the South Island glows with much English heritage, ranging from the architecture of Christ's College to punting along the Avon River. In the photo, two children are leaving their Anglican service at the Christchurch Cathedral. Most Kiwis practice Christianity.

9. Music: Kiwis have eclectic tastes in music ranging from traditional Maori hakas to the Finn brothers. Famous Maori songs include: Haere Mai, Hine e Hine, and Hoki Mai. Split Enz turned Crowded House produced hits such as *I Got You* and *Weather With You*. Kiri Te Kanawa earned fame in 1971 as an opera singer and Dave Dobbyn is a famous acoustic artist today. (nzmusic.com)

10. Edmond's Cookbook: Food in New Zealand is a fusion of classic European dishes with a Pacific flair. As the most widely sold cookbook of New Zealand, Edmond's contains classic recipes of pavlova, ginger kisses, mince pie and pumpkin soup. Seafood, lamb and beef are meat staples usually accompanied by fruits such as kiwis, apricots and tamarillos. Biscuits or cookies are served twice daily at tea time. Wine, abundantly produced in many regions of New Zealand such as Marlborough and Hawke's Bay, usually accompanies meals.

11. All Blacks Rugby: With colonialism, Britain brought its favorite sports to New Zealand such as cricket, yachting and rugby. Rugby is the most beloved game in all of New Zealand, with the All Blacks as the award winning national team. This photograph was published in the Star Times possessing the headline, "Boks office smash" when New Zealand was victorious over South Africa. This match-up is historic because in the 1980's, a massive riot broke out opposing the Springbok's home country's apartheid sports discrimination policies. (Johnstone)

12. Tangaroa College: The educational system in New Zealand is controlled on the federal level in attempts to equalize the schools. Tangaroa College, equivalent to an American high school, has many students who emigrated from different islands of the South Pacific. This school is considered a decile ten institution, or impoverished. It receives extra money from the government to provide great teachers, adequate resources, and similar opportunities to wealthy schools.

13. Dame Clay: Dame Marie Clay at Auckland University, created Reading Recovery, an international program which achieved great notoriety in teaching every child to read. Dame is a term borrowed from Britain to honor a few of the most noted people in New Zealand. This distinction is no longer awarded to outstanding citizens. Kiwis enjoy reading a vast array of books including famous authors such as: Alan Duff (Once Were Warriors), Keri Hulme (The Bone People), and Katherine Mansfield (The Collected Stories of Katherine Mansfield). (nzbooks.com)

14. Barefoot Child: The seasons of New Zealand are opposite to those of the United States because it is located in the Southern Hemisphere. Spring is from September to November, summer from December to February, autumn from March to May, and winter from June to August. Temperatures range from 55-75 degrees Fahrenheit on the North Island and 45-70 degrees Fahrenheit on the South Island. Kiwis seem very acclimated to the cold, wet weather. In the winter, this young boy is a typical Kiwi, barefoot on a cold, but sunny day. (Hanna, 254-255)

15. Traffic Sign: English and Maori are official languages in New Zealand. The Maori language was almost extinct until Maoris forced schools and the government to revive it. As indicated with this traffic sign, most of society is conducted in English, with some slang to which Americans are not familiar such as: crook as sick, cheeky as mouthy, heaps as a lot of, bit and pieces as this and that, loo as toilet, lollies as candy, muck up as mess up, tramping as hiking, wee bit as a little and deserving a chocolate fish as doing a good job. (Orsman)

16. MMP Campaign: New Zealand built a parliamentary system like Britain, except possessing only a unicameral body. As the first country in the world giving women suffrage, voting is considered an important privilege to most Kiwis. This photograph is a Member of Parliament representing the Labour Party campaigning for an election. In New Zealand, elections are classified as MMP in which every citizen has two votes, one for a Member of Parliament and one for their favorite party. This encourages political participation and minor party power. The Prime Minister is leader of the Labour Party, Helen Clark. She and Parliament meet in Wellington, at the Beehive.

17. Sheep Farming: One of New Zealand's main exports is wool with 24,000 sheep farms containing over 50 million sheep. Sheep are also raised for their meat. Suffix, merino and romney sheep are three main types which are turned into wool products exporting ninety percent. New technology has created a way to eliminate a pest, the possum, and use its fur infused in wool to create a beautiful upscale fabric. Other popular agriculture includes dairy and deer farming. (Hanna, 12)

18. Rainbow Warrior Memorial: New Zealand created an anti-nuclear stance in 1972 during the American Vietnam War. In 1985, the Rainbow Warrior, a Greenpeace protest vessel, sailed into Auckland Harbor opposing French nuclear testing in the South Pacific. This flagship was victim to an international act of terrorism after a bomb went off in the ship killing a photographer and sinking the boat. The suspects were found to be members of the French secret police. (Hanna, 18-19)

19. Milford Sound: On the South Island lies Fjordland National Park, home of Milford Track, considered one of the best hikes in the world. Milford Sound is one of 14 sounds along the west coast. This most famous sound is a large wide inlet of the Tasman Sea where a tourist can see beautiful waterfalls and fjords, where steep cliffs surround this waterway. (Hanna, 239)

20. Mt. Cook: Today Kiwis experience all adventurous activities in the Southern Alps such as: bungy-jumping, skydiving, parapenting, and whitewater rafting in addition to traditional hiking, kayaking and ballooning. This adventurous spirit is found not only in sporting activities, but throughout New Zealand society in history, education, politics, cultural inclusion and the environment. Rising at its majestic beauty in the South Island at 12,317 feet, is the spectacular Aoraki to the Maori settlers, and Mt. Cook to the European ones. Together, these two groups have created a progressive and successful country that should serve as a model to the rest of the world. (Hanna, 197)

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Five Themes of Geography and New Zealand

Directions: As your teacher shows the slide show, for each slide write what you see, the theme or themes in geography it represents, and the reason(s) why. The five themes in geography are: **location, place, interaction, movement** and **region**.

The photo is...	Geographic theme(s)...	Reasons why...
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		

The photo is...	Geographic theme(s)...	Reasons why...
7.		
8.		
9.		
10.		
11.		
12.		
13.		

The photo is...	Geographic theme(s)...	Reasons why...
14.		
15.		
16.		
17.		
18.		
19.		
20.		

Five Themes of Geography New Zealand

Directions: Under each theme in geography, use your slide show notes and describe New Zealand. Write a paragraph for each. Make sure you apply the major theme and all of its components.

Location (absolute and relative):

Place (human and physical characteristics):

Interaction (depend, adapt and change):

Movement:

Region:

Travel Tips Brochure Follow-Up Activity

Directions: You have been hired to make a travel tips brochure to give to international travel customers about a country in the region of Oceania (you may not choose New Zealand). Your job is to create a super large travel tips brochure and give a presentation to people who will be traveling to Oceania.

Mandatory Supplies: Poster Board
Optional Supplies: Markers
Ruler
Glue
Construction Paper for Mounting

Travel Brochure: You will design this brochure on a poster board folded into thirds. You may organize the following required information however you choose.

Location: You must provide a map of your country. Also, write a paragraph describing both the absolute and relative location.

Place: You must provide a visual of at least one characteristic.

Physical Characteristics- You must provide a paragraph about the terrain and climate to customers.

Terrain: What are the land and water forms like? ie: mountains, coasts, rainforests

Climate: What is the weather like? What seasons does your country have? When are they? What is the best time of the year to travel?

Travel Tips Brochure Follow-Up Activity

Human Characteristics-You must provide information about the people and culture of your country in a realistic fashion so your clients will know how to prepare for a visit.

Religion: What is the country's most widely practiced religion?

Language: What language(s) is (are) official? What language do most people speak?

Food: Name one food specialty of your country.

Currency: What type of money do the people of your country use? How much is it worth in American dollars?

Population: How many people live in your country?

Art/Sports/Traditions: Pick an example of a famous museum, cultural activity, artist, musician, holiday, tradition or sport that you would recommend experiencing when there.

History: Choose two major events in history that are important and tell us the significance and when it happened.

Interaction: You must provide a packing list of at least ten items a traveler to your country might need in order to adapt to the environment. Not only do you have to provide the list, but give a brief explanation for each item.

Movement: Souvenir: List one good for which your country is famous. Travelers enjoy bringing souvenirs back to the United States for friends and relatives. List one item they could get a good deal on in your country and is representative of the travel destination.

Recommendations: You need to list two things you would recommend travelers should go and see while in your country.

Region: Make sure you put the name of the political region (country's name) somewhere on the front flap of your brochure in large decorative letters as a title.

Travel Tips Brochure Follow-Up Activity

Presentation: You will present to all people traveling to your country, the class. Your presentation should include the following:

Present: Talk about your country by presenting your travel tips from your brochure to your clients. Your goal is to excite us about going on our future journey.

Creativity: To really motivate and excite your audience, bring creativity into your presentation. You can do this by teaching us some of the language, playing native music, bringing in an artifact, etc.

