

## Exercise 3

**Bob:** Welcome to another edition of *We Are The World* – our weekly wander through nations in the news with me, Bob Hancock, and of course, our very own Jo Kaye.

**Jo:** Hello.

**Bob:** Now, New Zealand's the country in the news this week, isn't it, Jo?

**Jo:** It certainly is, Bob, because the mighty New Zealand rugby team – the All Blacks – are currently here on tour in Britain and Ireland, and indeed New Zealand is going to be hosting next year's rugby World Cup.

**Bob:** That's right, New Zealand, the most feared nation on the planet in terms of rugby, with their famous haka – the Maori war dance that the All Blacks do to inspire terror in their opponents.

**Jo:** Scary stuff! It certainly inspires terror in me! But, apart from rugby, what else is there to know about this country of just 4 million people and 50 million sheep? We thought we'd have a little look.

**Bob:** That's right. So, New Zealand has given us the first man to scale Everest, Sir Edmund Hillary, the actor Russell Crowe, the director of the *Lord of the Rings*, Peter Jackson and a lot of jokes about sheep. But who were the original inhabitants of this place?

**Jo:** Well Bob, these are the Maori, who make up just 14% of the present population. Here are some parts of their history and legend. What we now call New Zealand is known in their language as Aotearoa, and that means 'land of the long white cloud'. Legend has it that the Maori people migrated from their ancestral homeland, the island of 'Hawaiki', sometime before the 13<sup>th</sup> century. The commonly accepted theory today based on DNA sampling says that the Maori originally came from China, and travelled via Taiwan and the Philippines to Indonesia, then onto Melanesia until they reached Fiji. From there they eventually went to Samoa, then on to the Marquesas, where they turned south west to get to Tahiti, then on to the Cook Islands and finally to Aotearoa – that, of course, is known today as New Zealand.

**Bob:** That's certainly some journey!

**Jo:** It is indeed! But it did take quite a long time. Many thousands of years, in fact.

**Bob:** So the Maori got to New Zealand centuries before the Europeans arrived in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Now we all know one of their traditions – the haka that we mentioned earlier – as the All Blacks perform this war dance before every game – and quite fierce it is too, as we said, but what other Maori traditions remain in use today?

**Jo:** Bob, The traditional formal Maori welcome ceremony is called a 'powhiri'. This involves what's called a 'hongi' – and I'm sure you'll like this Bob – it's a greeting that involves pressing your nose against someone else's nose as opposed to kissing them or shaking hands. Shall we try it? Now another prominent feature of Maori culture is the striking tattoos that are worn. Full-face tattoos, or 'moko', were predominantly sported by males in the Maori tribes. Female tattoos were generally restricted to the chin area, the upper lip, and the nostrils. Today the 'moko' still lives on as an increasing number of Maori are opting to get a 'moko' in an attempt to preserve their culture and identity.

**Bob:** So that's the 'moko' and here's one more thing before we go-go. Feeling hungry? Check out this Maori traditional form of cooking called a 'hangi'. That's a dish cooked in the earth. What they do is heat up stones in a dug-out pit and cover them in cabbage leaves to stop the food from burning. Lamb, pork or chicken, potatoes and 'kumara' – that's a vegetable like a sweet potato – are then lowered into the pit in a basket. The food is then covered with flax. Finally earth is placed on top to keep in the steam. The dish takes about 3 hours to cook, but it's well worth the wait – it's yummy!

**Jo:** It certainly is! Well, that's all we have time for this week, but join us at the same time next week for another edition of *We Are The World*. Bye for now!

**Bob:** Bye.