

# How New Zealand Became a Nation — Knowledge Organiser

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## Key facts

- After the Treaty of Waitangi (1840), New Zealand was governed as a British colony.
- Over time, New Zealand gained more control over its own affairs.
- New Zealand was one of the first countries in the world where women won the right to vote, in 1893.
- Today New Zealand is an independent nation with its own parliament in Wellington.

## Key vocabulary

- Colony — land settled and controlled by another country.
- Independent — governing itself.
- Democracy — a system where people vote to choose their leaders.
- Suffrage — the right to vote.

## A world first

In 1893, New Zealand became the first self-governing country in the world to give all women the right to vote — a proud moment led by campaigners such as Kate Sheppard.

## A modern nation

New Zealand today is a diverse, independent democracy that values both its Māori heritage and its many cultures, while keeping historic ties to Britain and the wider Pacific.