

The Treaty of Waitangi — Knowledge Organiser

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Key facts

- The Treaty of Waitangi was signed in 1840 between the British Crown and many Māori chiefs.
- It is often seen as New Zealand's founding document.
- It was written in both English and te reo Māori — and the two versions did not say exactly the same thing.
- Waitangi Day, on 6 February, marks the signing each year.

Key vocabulary

- Treaty — a formal agreement between groups or nations.
- The Crown — the British monarchy and government.
- Rangatira — a Māori chief.
- Partnership — working together with shared respect.

Why it still matters

Because the English and Māori versions differed, people have disagreed for many years about what was promised — especially over land and authority. Today the Treaty is seen as a living agreement and a partnership between Māori and the Crown, and it shapes how New Zealand is governed.

Teaching with care

The Treaty is important and sometimes sensitive. We explore it fairly, listening to different perspectives, especially Māori voices.