

# Matariki

## Language

Latin-based adjectives; word-building (nouns with the prefix *re-*)

## Level

Intermediate to upper intermediate (equivalent to CEF level B2–C1)

## Comment

This eLesson is about the New Year festival of the Maori people of New Zealand / Aotearoa.

## How to use the lesson

- 1 Draw an outline of New Zealand on the board and see if any students recognise it. If you wish, draw an outline of Australia next to it, as an extra clue. Put the students in groups for a few minutes to share anything they know about the country. Then ask them to tell the rest of the class. Some of them may know, for instance, that English is spoken there, that rugby is a big sport and that the Kiwi is the national bird – and also the informal word for a New Zealander. Some may know that Maori are the indigenous people and may have seen the traditional challenge (for example, at the beginning of international rugby matches) called the *haka*.
- 2 Give out the worksheet. Students read the text to complete exercise 1. Encourage them to read quickly to improve their skimming skills. In feedback, consider asking students to summarise the main points of each paragraph.
- 3 Exercise 2 gives detailed reading practice. Encourage students to underline in the text where they found the answer, so that in feedback, they can explain their answers.
- 4 Exercise 3 focuses on an area of vocabulary that may be new to your students. Even if they recognise some of the words, they may not have realised the connections between the nouns and adjectives. Students could use their dictionaries to help them complete the exercise and also to check the pronunciation. In feedback, highlight the syllable stress: *terrestrial*, *feline*, *lunar*, *floral*, *maritime*, *stellar*, *aquatic*, *urban*, *canine*, *domestic*, *solar*
- 5 Exercise 4 helps students to consolidate the vocabulary students have studied in exercise 3. Explain or encourage them to look up any words they might not know, eg *tribute*, *terrestrial*. If necessary, explain that terrestrial TV requires an aerial, unlike satellite or cable, and in many parts of the world is being replaced by digital TV. You may also point out that the *-ing* form can often be used as a noun, not only as a verb, as in *recycling*. As a follow-up, students could write their own sentences including the other five adjectives.
- 6 Exercise 5 focuses on another area of vocabulary relevant to the theme of the article. You could introduce the exercise by pointing out the verb *reappear* (paragraph 2) and the noun *reappearance* (paragraph 3). The exercise will raise students' awareness of some of the different ways English nouns are formed. It would be another good opportunity for them to use a dictionary to check their answers. In feedback, highlight the /j/ sound between *re* and the initial vowel in *reappearance* and *reunion*.
- 7 Exercise 6 gives students further communicative practice on the topic. Ask them to discuss the questions in small groups. In feedback, you might want to extend students' ideas on the topic. For instance, they could discuss whether the traditional customs will continue to be a part of their national identity in the future.
- 8 For homework, students could be given different topics (eg sport, economy, film, tourism, food) to research about New Zealand / Aotearoa and present to the class or prepare a wall display.

**Answer key**

**1**

1 para 3            2 para 2            3 para 4            4 para 1            5 para 5

**2**

- 1 F (the Thai festival Song Kran has *aquatic customs*)
- 2 F (it takes place when they *reappear after a short midwinter break*)
- 3 T
- 4 T
- 5 F (it *has recently been revived*, which means it is an old custom)
- 6 T
- 7 T
- 8 T

**3**

cat: feline  
 city: urban  
 countryside: rural  
 dog: canine  
 earth: terrestrial  
 flower: floral  
 home: domestic  
 moon: lunar  
 sea: maritime  
 star: stellar  
 sun: solar  
 water: aquatic

**4**

- 1 maritime
- 2 solar
- 3 aquatic
- 4 Domestic
- 5 Terrestrial
- 6 rural
- 7 floral

**5**

revive: revival  
 reappear: reappearance  
 refer: referral  
 renew: renewal  
 reconnect: reconnection  
 rediscover: rediscovery  
 recycle: recycling  
 reunite: reunion

**Related websites**

The following websites might be useful, for either yourself or your students.

- <http://www.teara.govt.nz/en/matariki-maori-new-year> (online New Zealand encyclopaedia)
- <http://www.korero.maori.nz/news/matariki> (facts and figures about Matariki and Maori culture)
- <http://www.newzealand.com> (information for tourists and business visitors to New Zealand)