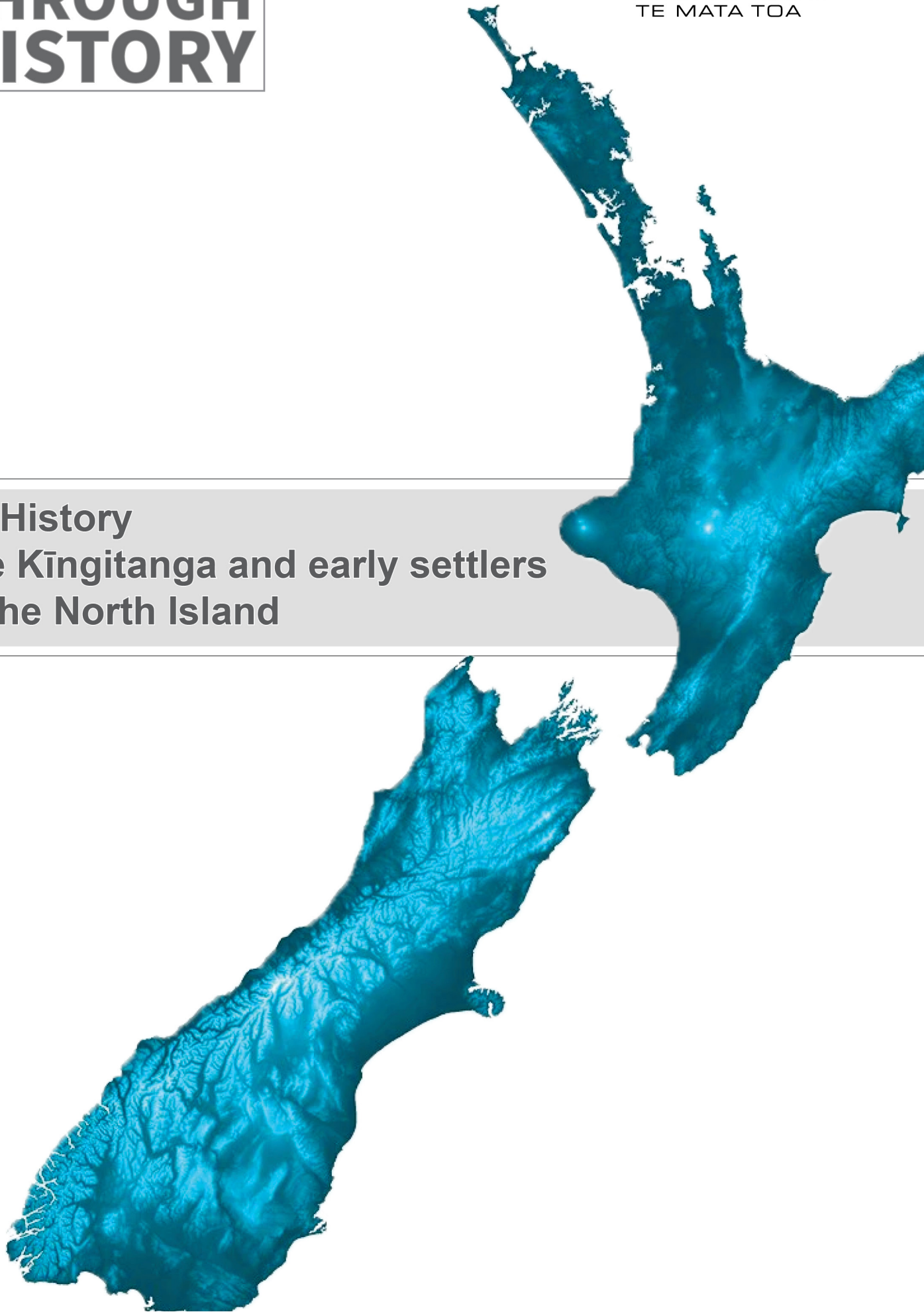


# LIVING THROUGH HISTORY

**NATIONAL  
ARMY  
MUSEUM**  
TE MATA TOA

NZ History  
The Kīngitanga and early settlers  
of the North Island



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## He waka eke noa

We are all in this together

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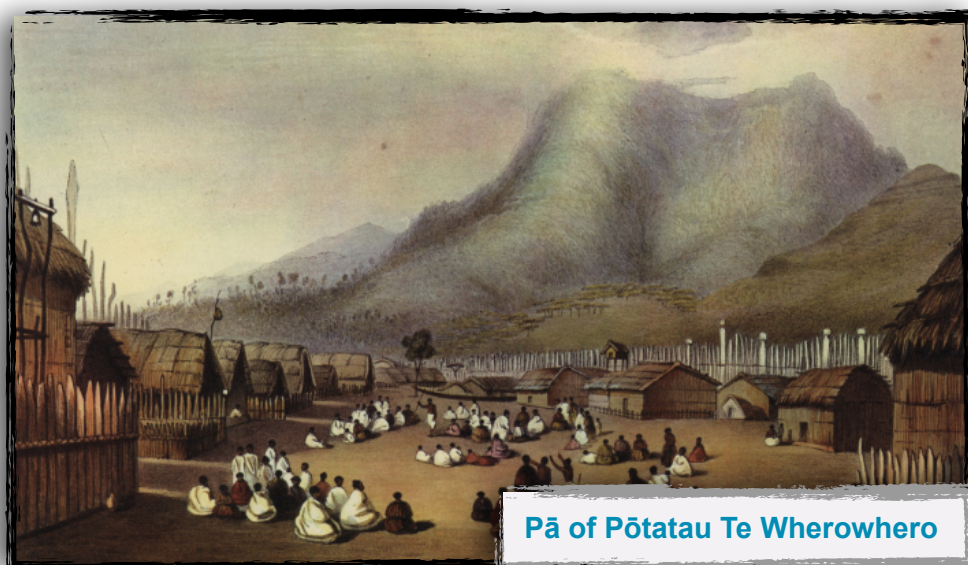
History isn't something that happens to someone else. Right now, you are living through an extraordinary event that is changing the New Zealand way of life: the COVID-19 pandemic. Future students might look back on this moment and ask: how did they feel? How did they make it through?

We can ask the same questions about another generation of Kiwis who lived through extraordinary times: **The people of Waikato and the kingites**. Then, like now, a major crisis affected the way people were living. In New Zealand, settlers looked to the Crown and colonial government for leadership, as did many Māori. But from 1858 another central power emerged - The Kīngitanga movement. Many of the Waikato Māori were facing an uncertain future as the colonial forces prepared for war around them.

For each of the activities below:

- **Read** about the people who were behind the Kīngitanga movement.
- **Reflect** on what people were thinking and feeling, and the reasons why.
- **Respond** to the questions or instructions at the end of each activity.

Share your answers with your classmates and teacher! We'll all have our own unique experiences, and we can all learn just as much from each other as we can from our nation's history.



Pā of Pōtatau Te Wherowhero

## Activity 1: What was going on?

During the 1850s many more European settlers were arriving in New Zealand. They were starting to outnumber Māori for the first time and they wanted land. Traditionally Māori lived on shared land with iwi (tribe), hapū (sub-tribe) and whānau (family). There was no individual ownership of land in their world. The different territories were governed by their rangatira (chiefs). They were increasingly being pushed off their lands due to dodgy land agents and sales. They were also excluded from politics.

In 1852 Tāmihana Rauparaha visited England where he met Queen Victoria. Upon his return to New Zealand he suggested a similar sort of monarchy could be set up for Māori. Wiremu Tāmihana Tarapīpi of Ngāti Haua then led the search to find a king to unite all iwi under one umbrella, a change from individual tribal leadership which had exposed them to divide and rule tactics. This was not in rebellion to New Zealand's existing parliament. The intention was to work together alongside the New Zealand government with Māori looking after their own people. This was something that had been promised to them in Te Tiriti. A main focus of the King Movement was to stop land sales. The first king – Pōtatau Te Whero Whero was 'crowned' in 1858. He promoted peace and was an ally of the colonial government. He was even gifted a house in Auckland for helping to protect the settlers there. His iwi were also responsible for feeding most of Auckland from their fertile lands in the Waikato. The people of Waikato-Tainui had been very successful with flour mills and farming. They exported to Australia and all the way to California. Some great leaders emerged from the King Movement.

**1a** Search the term '**united**' and its definition.

**1b** How is more achieved from people uniting? Think of three different ways people have united to achieve a common goal, e.g. 15 rugby players unite to make a team.

**1c** Why do you think land is so important to people? Imagine you own a hectare of land yourself. Draw a picture to show what you would do with it.



Pōtatau Te Wherowhero

## Activity 2: Invasion of the Waikato and King Country

Pōtatau Te Wherowhero led for only a short time. He passed away in 1860. A new Māori king emerged; his son Tāwhiao, who also promoted peace. He was to witness massive change during his reign.

During the 1850s, tensions had been rising in Taranaki and in 1860 fighting erupted. Some Ngāti Maniapoto fighters had gone to the aid of their Taranaki allies. This led to the King Movement being accused of being behind the war. A large majority of Kingites in the lower Waikato opposed getting involved, including Pōtatau and his son Tāwhiao. Unfortunately this did not prevent Governor Grey from ordering the invasion of the Waikato in 1863. Grey was a master of propaganda. The kīngitanga were rumoured to have plans to attack Auckland. Grey used it to support his decision to invade Waikato. By the end of the campaign around 14,000 troops and local volunteers, led by Lt. General Duncan Cameron, were involved. Many lives were lost on both sides and the fighting ended at Ōrākau after Rangiaowhia was sacked and destroyed. This was an undefended community with elderly, women, and children, situated close to farms and gardens. Their lands in the Waikato were confiscated. The people of Waikato shifted into their neighbouring Ngāti Maniapoto territory into what became known as King Country. The government confiscated 1.2 million acres of Tainui land. Maniapoto land was not considered valuable which is probably what saved them from confiscation. Unauthorised Pākehā intrusion into King Country was forbidden for many years and many, once strong relationships, were broken.

- 2a** Search the term '**propaganda**'. In your own words say what you think it means?
- 2b** There is currently a lot of misinformation circulating about the COVID-19 virus. See if you can find one of these rumours.
- 2c** A large food resource was lost by the Waikato people from the war and land confiscations. In a paragraph, summarise how your food habits have been changed by the COVID-19 crisis. Has this been a positive or negative change? Explain why.



## Activity 3: The Leaders

Pictured below are leaders of the 1860s in New Zealand:

**King Tāwhiao**

Prominent rangatira and 2<sup>nd</sup> Māori King

*"Beware of being enticed to take up the sword. The result of war is that things become like decaying, old, dried flax leaves. Let the person who raises war beware, for he must pay the price."*



**Lt General Duncan Cameron**  
Commander of British troops in  
New Zealand wars of 1860s

*"I deeply regret the loss of the many brave and valuable officers who fell in the noble discharge of their duty on this occasion."*



**George Grey**

Governor of New Zealand

*"I shall not fight against him with the sword, but I shall dig round him till he falls of his own accord."*



**Wiremu Tāmihana**

Founder of the Māori King Movement

*"We are treated like dogs - I shall not go again." (After a visit to New Zealand Parliament)*



**3a** Select two of these leaders and read their biographies on [www.nzhistory.govt.nz](http://www.nzhistory.govt.nz) or [www.teara.govt.nz](http://www.teara.govt.nz)

**3b** Write down a quality that each of these leaders have. Was this a good leadership quality? Why or why not?

**3c.** In your opinion, what is the greatest achievement of each of your chosen leaders? This is not restricted to the 1860s. It can be any achievement in their lifetime.

## Activity 4: The Queens and Settlements

In May 1966, the first ever queen of the Kīngitanga emerged. Princess Piki was crowned after the death of her father King Korokī. She took on her mother's name - Te Atairangikaahu and was guided by her Aunt – Te Puea Hērangi. Te Puea was the key figure in establishing Tūrangawaewae Marae in Ngaruawahia. Tūrangawaewae means a place to stand and was the seat of the kīngitanga movement.

Princess Piki met Queen Elizabeth of England for the first time when she was a young woman, during the royal tour of 1953.

*“The government consented to a Waikato request that the royal couple stop outside Tūrangawaewae marae, but Princess Piki invited the Queen and Duke to come inside. They agreed, to the cheers of the assembled crowd. Princess Piki led the royal couple onto Tūrangawaewae and into the meeting house Māhinārangi, with Korokī falling back. Many saw this as signalling his endorsement of Piki as his heir apparent. For Waikato, the brief visit was a symbolic recognition of the mana of the Kīngitanga.”*

<https://teara.govt.nz/en/biographies/6t4/te-atairangikaahu-koroki-te-rata-mahuta-tawhiao-potatau-te-wherowhero>

Their paths crossed again many times, the next when Piki herself was a queen.

The Māori queen achieved much throughout her reign, the longest serving in the movement to this day. She worked hard for the betterment of her people. In 1970 the Māori queen became a Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire, the first female Māori to do so. Waikato-Tanui reached their Treaty settlement in 1995 as re-dress for the incidents of the 1860's. They received money and land to the value of \$170 million and a formal apology from the Crown.

Dame Te Atairangikaahu passed away in 2006. Her tangi was attended by so many that the army had to be called in to help with food supplies.



**Queen Elizabeth being led by Princess Piki onto their Marae 1953:**



**The Queens 1974:**



**The Queens 1995:**

**4a** A picture speaks a thousand words. Select one of the photographs of the queens and add hashtags to describe it in your own words.

**4b** The New Zealand Army has performed many civil services during national emergencies/events. Name one of these and write a short summary of how they assisted.

## Beyond the Worksheet

These activities have covered just a few examples of how past New Zealanders kept up with a national crisis and came through it. But history doesn't stop happening, and there's more you can do to understand.

- **Poi/tī rākau:** You can choose either or both! Use materials you can find in your home to create poi (plastic bags are scarce these days but get creative – one idea is using an old sheet or curtain and stuffing for the inner) or tī rākau (magazines are an easy one). Tutorials on how to tākaro (play) can be found on YouTube.
- **Take a photo** with a leader in your house. Use hashtags to summarise some of their great leadership skills.
- **Dress Up.** Using items in your home dress up like a king or queen. Make a TikTok video of your choosing. It could even be a comedy!
- **Check out the websites below to understand more:**

The Māori King Movement: <https://teara.govt.nz/en/kingitanga-the-maori-king-movement>

Invasion of the Waikato: <https://nzhistory.govt.nz/british-forces-invade-the-waikato>

The Aotearoa History Show Episode 5: <https://www.rnz.co.nz/programmes/the-aotearoa-history-show/story/2018717836/5-new-zealand-wars-part-1>

NZ Army Civil Defence: <http://www.army.mil.nz/about-us/what-we-do/community-support/civil-defence.htm>

Photo Links:

Tāwhiao - <https://teara.govt.nz/en/photograph/2100/tawhiao-the-second-maori-king>

Lt. General Cameron - <https://nzhistory.govt.nz/keyword/duncan-cameron>

Gov Grey - <https://nzhistory.govt.nz/media/photo/george-grey-painting>

Wiremu Tāmihana - <https://nzhistory.govt.nz/media/photo/wiremu-tamihana-tarapipipi-te-waharoa>

Pōtatau Te Wherowhero - <https://teara.govt.nz/en/artwork/2107/potatau-te-herowhero-with-two-other-chiefs>

Pā of Pōtatau Te Wherowhero (Taupiri in background) - [https://anyquestions.govt.nz/many\\_answers/maori-history](https://anyquestions.govt.nz/many_answers/maori-history)

Confiscated Land 1864 - <https://teara.govt.nz/en/map/27791/confiscation-of-maori-land>

King Country Northern Boundary at Puniu River - <https://www.nzgeo.com/stories/king-country/>