



New Zealand and the South Pacific



KEY VOCABULARY

Maori

people living in New Zealand from the earliest times, **before the arrival of settlers** or colonists

earthquake

a **shaking of the surface of the earth**: some earthquakes are caused by tectonic plates moving

tectonic plates

huge **pieces of the earth's crust** and mantle that move around causing earthquakes and volcanoes

tsunami

earthquake under the sea can cause **huge waves** called Tsunamis: the word means "harbour wave" in Japanese

biome

a community of plants and animals that have **shared characteristics** due to the environment they live in

industry

activity where **raw materials are changed in goods** that can be used and traded

commonwealth

a group of **countries that voluntarily work together on issues such as human rights**: many of these countries used to be part of the British Empire



a vent in the Earth's surface that sometimes ejects water and steam in a jet (Rotorua)

geyser



an opening in the earth's surface, usually in a mountain, where gas, magma and ash can escape (Mount Ruapehu)

volcano



a place where two tectonic plates meet: New Zealand is located on a plate boundary (a plate boundary runs through the South Island)

plate boundary



a large landform that rises up above the surrounding land, formed by tectonic plates or volcanoes (Aoraki Mount Cook)

mountain