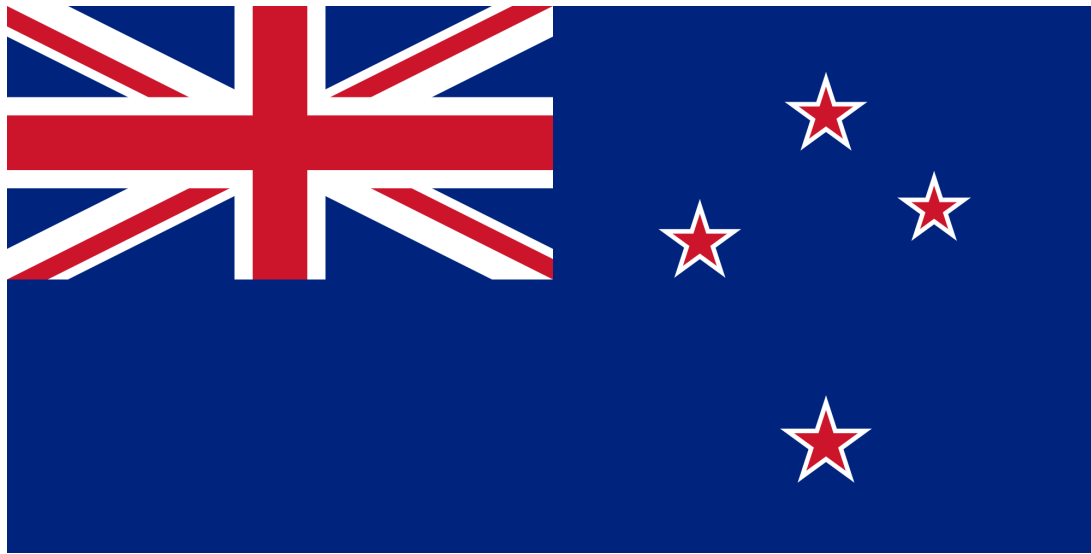


A New Flag?

Discussion Worksheet 1

1. This is the present New Zealand flag. The Union flag is the British flag: New Zealand used to be a colony of Great Britain. The stars symbolise the Southern Cross- a Southern Hemisphere constellation.



Below is the Australian flag.



Can you suggest reasons why New Zealand might want to change its flag?

2. New Zealand held a referendum on changing the flag. These are the designs that were submitted:



Many of the designs show a fern leaf – the silver fern is one of the symbols of New Zealand and is often used as a sport logo, for example by the All Blacks rugby team or the Silver Ferns netball team. Others show a koru: this is the curling new growth of a fern leaf and is a Maori symbol for growth and new beginnings. One shows the Maori symbol for ‘together’.

Which designs do you like best? Which would you choose and why? Discuss in your group.

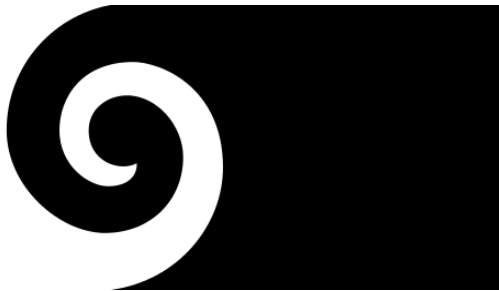
3. In your group, design a new flag for your country. Be prepared to explain to the other groups what your flag symbolises and why.

Discussion Worksheet 2

1. There has been a lot of discussion about changing the flag: some people think it is a good idea, others think it is unnecessary. What do you think? Is it necessary to change the flag?

2. The flag committee chose four designs for people to vote on.

1.



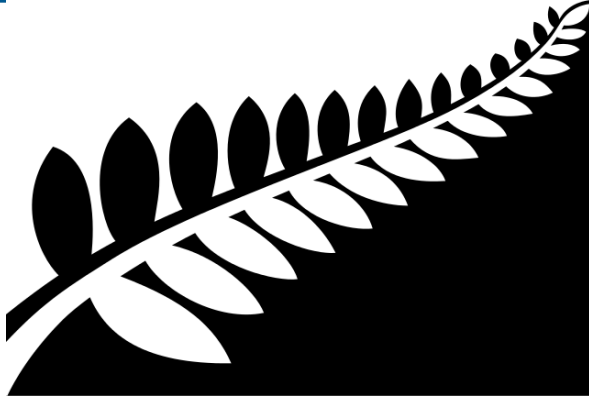
2.



3.



4.



Are these 4 designs the shortlist that you would have chosen?

3. The first referendum asked the public to vote for one of the four designs, the second, later, referendum asked them to vote for either the new flag or to keep the old flag. Is this the best/ most democratic way of organizing the referendum?

4. Changing the flag will cost \$NZ 26 million. Is this a good use of money?

Images for new flag designs

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