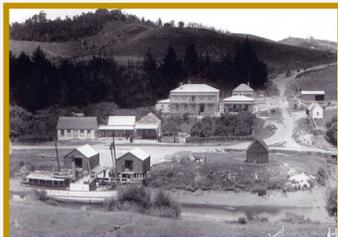


One group of travellers that came to New Zealand in 1863 were families from Bohemia, a small region near southern Germany. With little chance of owning their own land or becoming prosperous at home, 83 Bohemians of all ages voyaged to the other side of the world with the promise of free land from the New Zealand government. Their 106 day sea journey saw terrible bouts of sickness, one death and two births before they reached the muddy streets and shacks of Auckland. Worse was to come.

The Bohemians made the small trip to the mouth of the Puhoi River in June, where Māori living at the pā, ferried them up the river in waka. The Bohemians despaired as they scanned the shore, seeing high steep slopes and thick forest. There was barely a flat acre of land. It would take them years of hard work to recreate the farms they were used to back in Europe. That first terrible winter saw many wish to go home but they had spent all of their money to get this far. They began to clear the land so they could farm, finding much needed food sources in native birds, wild pigs and the heart of the nikau palm which when cooked tasted a bit like cabbage. Their survival in that first winter would not have happened had it not been for the generosity of Māori Chief Te Hemera Tauhia. He supplied the Bohemians with a great deal of extra food by waka and gave them knowledge of edible plants from the surrounding forest.

Slowly over many years the Bohemian community at Puhoi began to prosper. More groups arrived from the old world and by the late 1870's the settlement was described as a, "thriving, busy-looking German settlement". Hard work, perseverance and a steadfast faith were hallmarks of the Bohemian inhabitants of Puhoi.



Origins, Voyaging and Adaptation

Produced by Paul Tucker@Orewa College (2022)

Questions (look in the text for highlight clues!)

- 1) Why was the first winter in NZ described as 'terrible' for the Bohemians?
- 2) How does the reader know that local Māori had a positive relationship with the Bohemians?
- 3) Where do you think that the 'free land' given by the NZ government came from?
- 4) Can you think of a reason why the NZ government would give away land for free?
- 5) What were two (2) reasons why the Bohemians decided to make the long and dangerous trip out to New Zealand?
 - 1)
 - 2)
- 6) What were two (2) pieces of evidence from the story that explain why the Bohemians despaired when they first sighted their new land?
- 7) What do you think the writer means when he uses the term 'old world'?

Word Salad

Find the meaning of these words and put each of these words into a sentence.

- 1) prosperous
- 2) generosity
- 3) hallmarks *(take care to get the right meaning!)*

Describing Noun Words (Adjectives)

For each sentence find the word that describes a naming word.

- 1) Māori used their long waka for the trip.
- 2) The streets were very muddy.
- 3) The settlement was German looking.

