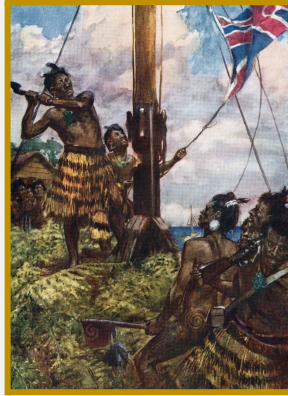


Hone Heke was an influential chief of the Ngapuhi tribe from the far north of New Zealand. His decision to be the first northern chief to sign the Treaty of Waitangi in 1840 saw another 39 northern chiefs sign on too. Heke was hopeful that the Christian missionaries that drafted the treaty, and educated Heke as he was growing up, were right in their assessment that the treaty would be beneficial for Māori.



Just four years later Heke showed how much he disapproved of how the treaty and the British crown had treated Māori. The promised economic benefits had not happened, the British government meddled in Māori affairs and Māori were not being treated equally. Heke ordered the felling of the flagpole that flew over the major European settlement in the north at Russell. Heke had gifted the flagpole in 1835 along with New Zealand's first flag, the Flag of the United Tribes. This flag had been replaced by the British Union Jack after 1840 which Heke saw as disrespectful. He saw the cutting down of the flagpole as a way to protest in a non-violent way, bringing no harm to settlers, and anyway, it was his flagpole!

The British were unimpressed. They re-erected the flagpole and called for sightings of Heke, offering a one hundred pound reward for his capture. Heke responded by cutting down the flagpole twice more in January of 1845. When the British put it back up again they left a garrison of troops to defend the town and the flag. In March Heke's ally Kawiti led attacks on the soldiers that drew them away from the flagstaff. Left unprotected, Heke's warriors chopped down the flagpole for a fourth time. This time war followed. The Flagstaff Wars that raged through the north, killing many British and Māori, had begun.

Te Tiriti o Waitangi | The Treaty of Waitangi
Produced by Paul Tucker@Orewa College (2022)

Questions (look in the text for highlight clues!)

- 1) How many northern chiefs signed the Treaty of Waitangi?
- 2) What was a possible reason that Heke trusted the missionaries?
- 3) In what year did Heke gift the flagpole?
 - a) 1835
 - b) 1840
 - c) 1845
- 4) What is the name of the British flag?
- 5) What were two (2) reasons why Heke chose to chop down the flagpole?
 - 1)
 - 2)
- 6) How was Heke able to cut down the flagpole for a fourth time?
 - a) He waited many months.
 - b) Kawiti led a diversion.
 - c) He started the Flagstaff Wars.
- 7) What are two (2) pieces of evidence that show how the British responded to Heke chopping down the flagpole?

Word Salad

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

- 1) influential
- 2) beneficial
- 3) unimpressed

Describing Verb Words (Adverbs)

For each sentence find the word that describes an action word.

- 1) Heke chopped at the flagpole.
- 2) The flag fluttered on the wind.
- 3) Warriors ran at the British troops.

This is the Flag of the United Tribes and was created in 1834 when many Māori tribes got together in Waitangi. It became New Zealand's first flag and is still one of three official flags of our country.

Could you name the other two?

