

In 1838 a French whaling captain **purchased** land on Bank's Peninsula in the South Island. He hoped to make the country French so he returned to France to pick-up settlers.

When they arrived in 1840 they found that the British had just signed the Treaty of Waitangi. The French, **disappointed**, settled on their land. They called their town Akaroa. Here they created a little France with French families, language, street names and foods.

If the French had arrived a little sooner it is possible our national sport would be football, we would be eating croissants instead of pies and our country would be called Nouvelle Zealande!



Questions (look in the text for highlight clues!)

- 1) What did the French captain do for a job?
- 2) What two countries wanted to make New Zealand a part of them?
- 3) What two things did the French captain do to try and make our country French?
- 4) In what year did the French find out that the British had signed the Treaty of Waitangi with Māori?
 - a) 1838
 - b) 1840
 - c) The story does not say.
- 5) What do you think the French were 'disappointed' about?
- 6) Give a description of where the township of Akaroa is in New Zealand.
- 7) Think about if New Zealand was a French colony. What do you think the best part of being French would be?

Origins, voyaging and adaptation

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New Words (look in the text for highlight clues!)

What do you think the word **purchased** means in the story? Read the sentence.

Does it mean:

- a) The captain saw the land.
- b) The captain paid to buy the land.
- c) The captain took the land from Māori.

Describing a Naming Word (Adjectives)

For each sentence find the word that describes a noun (naming word).

- 1) The fresh bread was sold.
- 2) Akaroa has a French flag in the town.
- 3) He wore a blue beret on his head.

Akaroa is the most French town in all of New Zealand. Some historians believe that the British speed up the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi because they thought the French settlement might be the first part of France wanting to take over all of the country.

