



Near the end of World War One in 1917, kiwi soldiers came home with physical and mental scars. Some were given **confiscated** Māori land around the Whanganui River. The land was rough, with bush that needed to be cleared, but **the men were used to hard work** and were soon farming.

The soldiers and families were isolated. The government built a new bridge above the river in 1936 to help, but by cutting down the trees the

soldiers had caused many **landslides** on the few roads. They were more cut off than ever. All walked away from their farms, but the Bridge to Nowhere still stands.

Questions (look in the text for highlight clues!)

- 1) Explain the difference between physical and mental scars?
- 2) In what year did the soldiers start to come home from World War One?
- 3) What caused the **landslides** to block the few roads to the soldier's farms?
- 4) What was the main reason the bridge over the Whanganui River was built?
 - a) To get supplies to the farmers.
 - b) To go over the dangerous river.
 - c) To make the community less isolated.
- 5) What was the main reason why the soldiers and their families moved away?
- 6) What do you think the writer meant when they said, **'the men were used to hard work'**?
- 7) Across from this question is a picture and comment. It states that the place was also called the 'Valley of Broken Dreams.' Why do you think it was called this?

Governing and equity

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

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

Does it mean:

- a) The Māori land was sold to the soldiers.
- b) The Māori land was taken away from them.
- c) The Māori land was given to the soldiers.

A word that shows place (Prepositions)

For each sentence find the word that shows the position of something.

- 1) The bridge was over the river.
- 2) The land was around the river.
- 3) The soldiers cut down the bushes.

Another name for the land settled by the soldiers and their families was the 'Valley of Abandoned Dreams.' It got this name when the soldiers and their families left their farms and their dreams behind them.



Valley of
abandoned dreams