

The first confirmed meeting between Māori and Europeans came in 1642 at the top of the South Island. Abel Tasman had been sent by a Dutch company to find a 'South Land' which they thought was part of Australia.

Tasman and his crew looked to gather fresh supplies of water, vegetables and meat to be able to safely travel back home. Māori paddled out to the large ship where they saw white ghostly figures. It is reported that Māori loudly blew 'shell trumpets', likely to have been conch shells. Māori academics believe they were trying to scare these 'ghosts' away. Tasman's crew responded by playing their own trumpets, which Māori saw as accepting a challenge. This cultural misunderstanding resulted in four of Tasman's crew dying the following day. Tasman quickly sailed away up the west coast of the North Island, picking up supplies on the way. It would be another 127 years before Māori would meet another European.



**Questions (look in the text for highlight clues!)**

- 1) Why did Māori blow their conch shells?
- 2) What were the white ghostly figures?
- 3) What three (3) things did Tasman and his crew need to safely get back to their home?
- 4) What was Tasman looking for on his trip?
  - a) Australia.
  - b) The South Island.
  - c) A South Land.
- 5) Who sent Tasman to New Zealand?
- 6) What was the cultural misunderstanding between Māori and Tasman's crew? How could this lead to bloodshed?
- 7) Is it true to claim that Abel Tasman discovered New Zealand? Explain.

*Origins, voyaging and adaptation*

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

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

Does it mean:

- a) The call to fight.
- b) To see whose trumpets were loudest.
- c) To make music together.

**Describing Words (Adjectives)**

For each sentence find the describing word. This is the word that describes concretions.

- 1) The boat was very tall.
- 2) The warriors gave a fearsome haka.
- 3) Europeans had white skin.



The drawing here was produced in 1642 by one of Tasman's crew at what is now known as Abel Tasman National Park.