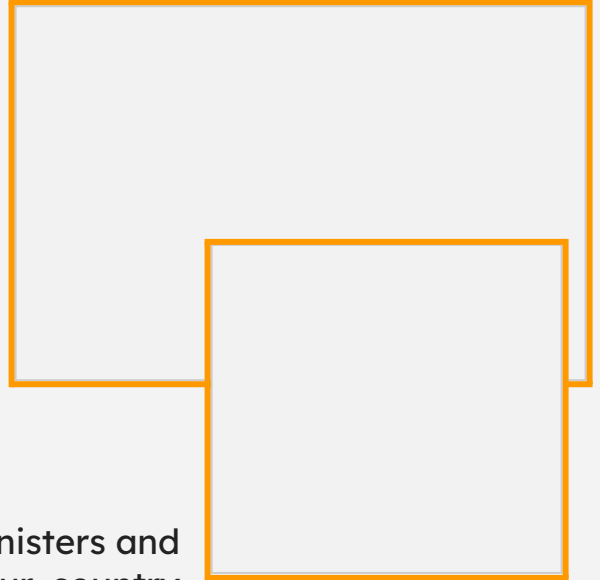


New Zealand is a world leader in many areas but perhaps the most important firsts we achieved were in gender equality.

The mothers and daughters of our country have long had role models that they could **aspire** to be like. 13 Māori wahine of great mana signed the Treaty of Waitangi. Women all around the country petitioned the government to gain the vote from 1891, achieving their goal under the leadership of Kate Sheppard in **1893**. The women of France only voted for the first time in 1944!

By 2001 New Zealand had had two female Prime Ministers and women filled the three top political positions in our country (Prime Minister, Governor General and Chief Justice). This happened again in 2017 under our third female Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern. As my daughter said yesterday, “When I grow up I am going to be in charge too. **If you can see it, you can be it!**”



Questions (look in the text for highlight clues!)

- 1) How many female Prime Ministers has New Zealand had?
- 2) What was the ‘first’ that happened in **1893** in New Zealand?
- 3) How many Māori wahine signed the Treaty of Waitangi?
- 4) What happened in 1891?
 - a) Women gained the vote.
 - b) The Treaty of Waitangi was signed.
 - c) A Petition was presented to the government.
- 5) What do you think the writer’s daughter meant when she said - “**If you can see it, you can be it!**”
- 6) What are the three most powerful political positions in New Zealand?

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

What do you think the word **aspire** means in the story? Read the sentence. Does it mean:

- a) To tower above.
- b) To hope or dream to be like.
- c) To be an object.

Position Words (Prepositions)

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

- 1) The petition rolled over the carpet.
- 2) The women signed the petition on the front.
- 3) The women ran up the steps.



Kate Sheppard appears on the New Zealand \$10 note. Can you think of another female that is on New Zealand currency?