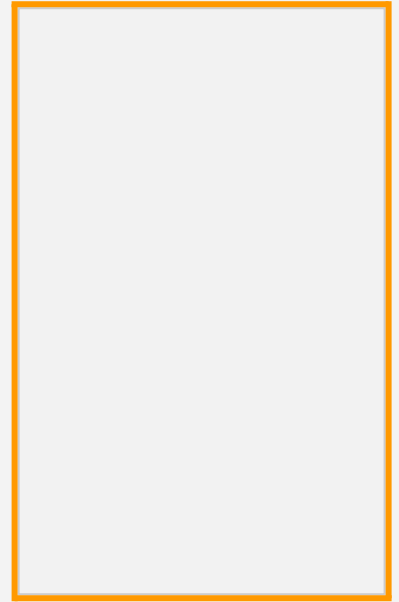


Tāne Mahuta, the mightiest kauri tree, almost as wide as a basketball court, once stood shoulder to shoulder with other giants. Now he stands alone, a relic of what generations of Māori grew up with, cut down for economic gain.

Māori preferred tōtara trees for carvings and buildings, so kauri thrived. Kauri were still valuable to Māori as its gum could be used as a fire starter and for medicinal purposes. The soot from burnt kauri gum was used for tattooing. It was not until the arrival of Europeans that Māori saw that they could make gains by selling Kauri for masts and spars on European ships. The biggest trade was in the north where tribes traded kauri for muskets and European goods.

Kauri was the most favoured timber of Europeans as it had a clean grain, ideal for ship building. By 1897 over three quarters of all kauri forest had been cut and sold, mostly by European companies.



Questions (look in the text for highlight clues!)

- 1) What three things do we know that Māori used kauri gum for?
- 2) What are the 'giants' that the writer refers to in the second line?
- 3) What was the main reason that Europeans favoured kauri to other types of timber?
- 4) Why did Māori start cutting down kauri to sell to Europeans?
 - a) They needed money.
 - b) They hoped to build a trading relationship with Europeans.
 - c) They hoped to gain goods and muskets.
- 5) Why did kauri trees thrive before Europeans arrived in New Zealand?
- 6) **Research** - Find out how wide (girth) and tall Tāne Mahuta is in metres. Can you find something that is a similar height?

Local economies and trade

Produced by Paul Tucker@Orewa College (2021)

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

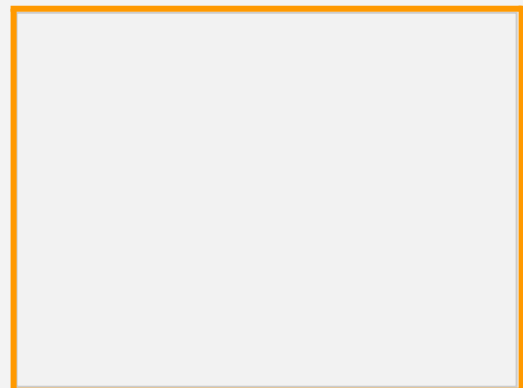
What do you think the word **relic** means in the story? Read the sentence. Does it mean:

- a) Something left behind.
- b) A memory.
- c) A real thing.

A Naming Word used instead of a Noun (Pronouns)

For each sentence find the word that replaces a noun.

- 1) Tāne stood tall, spreading his branches.
- 2) We stood looking at the mighty kauri.
- 3) In less than 100 years they had cut down nearly all the tallest kauri.



An Auckland Museum image from a time when Kauri dominated our forests.