

Kupe was the first person to find New Zealand around 800 years ago.

Our tiny island in the Pacific was far behind us now. My wife, and many other villagers, now looked to me to carry them safely to a new home. Sounds of the ocean filled our ears. The water pulled at our boat, taking us along on its strong current. The sky was black but I looked to the stars shining brightly to help me find the way.

I had promised that I would find our people new land which I **knew** must be south. Each year I had seen birds and whales travel to and from that direction. There had to be land.

After many weeks of travelling another dawn began to lighten the heavens when my wife shouted, “He ao! He ao!” This meant cloud and I knew that **clouds usually meant land**. I pointed our boat in that direction. Others on the boat were now awake and they called out, “Aotea! Aotea!” - the white cloud. Our trip was almost at an end. When we stepped **ashore** we found many birds and trees but no people. We called this place the land of the long white cloud, Aoteroa.

Many places in Aotearoa still carry Kupe’s name. He told many others of this new place and gave them directions, carrying many Māori to their new home.



Questions (look in the text for highlight clues!)

- 1) What are two ways that helped Kupe know he was going in the right direction?
- 2) How did Kupe **know** there must be land to the south of his home?
- 3) Why do you think **clouds usually mean land**?
- 4) Who saw **clouds** first?
 - a) Kupe
 - b) Kupe’s wife
 - c) The people on the boat
- 5) Why do you think that many birds travel long distances each year from NZ through the Pacific?
- 6) Do you think Kupe was brave to try and find a new island? Why do you think that?

Māori origins, voyaging and adaptation

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

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

- a) They stepped onto the boat.
- b) They stepped into the water.
- c) They stepped onto the land.

People, place or thing Words (Nouns)

For each sentence find the noun.

- 1) The crew shouted out loudly.
- 2) Pigs travelled on the long trip too.
- 3) There were many plants that made the journey as well.

Opinion

Why do you think that many New Zealanders think Captain Cook discovered New Zealand first?

