



Governor George Grey's Mansion House still stands where he built it. A few of the exotic animals introduced by Grey are still there including kookaburra, possums and wallabies (some species of which have been reintroduced to Australia when they became extinct there).

The job seemed like it would be perfect for me - *Governess wanted to teach children all academic subjects including te reo Māori on Kawau Island.* I dressed in my best **pākehā attire**, with a beautiful korowai cloak my mother had made over the top. As the ferry approached Kawau Island I thought of my ancestors that had inhabited this land since the original migration here across the Pacific. It had always been an important place for Māori tribes to control, as it was perfect for seeing any passing vessels, ensuring control of the surrounding area. Now no Māori called this place home. Pākehā had bought the island from some nearby Māori after the signing of the Treaty of Waitāngi.

As we entered the bay my eyes set upon the large white building that dominated the landscape. An old man who introduced himself as George met me and walked me towards what he called Mansion House. Two striped horses ran past unlike any I had seen before, I could not tell if they were black or white as their striped hindquarters disappeared from view. George looked very pleased with himself and announced to me that these were his zebras. George called his home Mansion House, and pointed out the bird calls of the kookaburra from Australia and the beauty of the peacock from India that he had also introduced to the island from his travels. Soon, other calls grew louder from the forest. I was quite frightened at the echoing sound of the cries but George, sensing my discomfort, patted my hand and said, “those are just my monkeys. Damn noisy things!”

“You know, you were named after the Queen that I used to serve.” He explained to me that he used to be Queen Victoria’s representative in New Zealand and that Wikitoria was used by many Māori to honour his queen. A lightbulb lit in my head. George was Sir **George Grey, Ex Governor-General** of New Zealand! He was the man most responsible for crushing Māori resistance and ordering British troops to invade the Waikato region.

Despite enjoying his company, I politely declined Sir George’s offer of the job. I explained that I could not overlook his actions of the past. He walked me down the long slope towards the pier and his boat which he had arranged to take me back to Sandspit. Animals called wallabies stopped to stare at our progress, each of them having incredibly long back legs. This had undoubtedly been one of the strangest days of my entire life!

- 1) Why was Kawau Island important to Māori?
  - a) It was near the shark fishing grounds.
  - b) It had many strange animals.
  - c) It was great to see passing boats.
- 2) Which animals were introduced to Kawau Island from India?
  - a) Monkeys
  - b) Wallabies
  - c) Peacocks
- 3) Why did Wikitoria become unsettled?
  - a) George made her frightened.
  - b) She was afraid of some of the animals.
  - c) She was worried she would not get the job.
- 4) Where did Wikitoria catch the ferry from?
  - a) Waitangi
  - b) Sandspit
  - c) The story does not say.
- 5) What are two facts that Wikitoria knew about George when he had been **Governor General George Grey**?
- 6) Why do you think that Wikitoria decided to dress in **pākehā clothes** with a korowai over the top?
- 7) Briefly state why Wikitoria decided to turn down the job at Kawau Island?
- 8) Which of the following best describes the impression that George wanted to make on guests coming to his island?
  - a) That he was very clever.
  - b) That he was well travelled.
  - c) That he was very wealthy.
- 9) What was the clue that convinced Wikitoria that George was actually George Grey?
- 10) Describe why you think Wikitoria stated that the day had been one of the strangest in her life?

### Word Salad

*There are many unusual words and phrases in the story you have just read. Complete the following tasks to ensure your understanding:*

- 1) Find the definitions of the following English words.
  - a) attire
  - b) migration
  - c) dominated
  - d) responsible
  - e) pier
- 2) Use each of the five words/phrases in five separate sentences using your own words.

### Parts of Speech:

The following sentences have many different parts of speech. Identify a adjective, an adverb and a pronoun in each sentence:

- a) Eyes wide, she watched with amazement.
- b) Their loud cries echoed through the tall trees.
- c) The white mansion stood proudly before them.

### Did You Know?

*There once was a strong copper mining industry on Kawau Island. Copper was discovered in 1844 and for the next eight years around 300 people lived on the island mining the metal, many in what would become Mansion House. It was difficult to extract from the rock as much of it was below sea level and required the use of pumps. In 1849 a smelting works was made to process the copper so it could be more easily shipped overseas. You can still see this today.*



*Local Histories / Mātauranga Māori*

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