

Teaching the Topic

Waitangi Day is unique; we have Labour Day instead of May Day; ANZAC Day is special in New Zealand and Australia; Queen's Birthday is a Commonwealth holiday; New Year is almost international. Public holidays may be important for religious or other reasons, or they may be just a welcome break in the year. They are often a topic of conversation. There are also days that are special but not holidays.

Resources

A New Zealand calendar; the calendar of the school year; *Password* articles; newspaper stories.

Activities

- Find public holidays on the calendar. Identify which days are school holidays. Find the date of Easter and the day of Christmas Day. Identify holidays that always come on Mondays.
- Talk about ANZAC Day and Waitangi Day – what happens if they fall on the weekend?
- Discuss special days that are not holidays – Guy Fawkes, Mothers' Day, Fathers' Day, Valentine's Day, Halloween.
- Ask and answer questions about holidays – *Are you going away at Easter? Do/Did you do anything special on Waitangi Day? What's the weather going to be like at Easter? Do you have Mothers' Day in your country?*
- Talk about public holidays in the learner's country, make comparisons – what do public holidays mark in the learner's country?

Language

- Vocabulary about public holidays: *Labour Day/ Queen's Birthday weekend, the Dawn Parade, the cenotaph.*
- Question forms – asking and responding.
- Comparing holidays in other countries – reasons, dates, functions, customs.

Using the Worksheet

A possible introductory activity:

Talk about public holidays in the learner's country.

How many are there? What about in New Zealand? What public holidays does the learner know about here?

The worksheet is a list of public holidays in New Zealand, with dates for 2008.

The tutor needs to amend the dates for later years. The learner matches the holiday with the date.

Main learning points

Know the dates of these days and be aware of changes in other years – some holidays are always on Monday but the dates changes (for example, Labour Day), some holidays are on the same date every year but the day of the week changes (for example, ANZAC Day). Know how to predict dates for next year (for example, Queen's Birthday is always the first Monday in June).

What else could be learnt?

Some public holidays are celebrated by all or most Kiwis, with special activities or food (New Year, Easter) and some are just a holiday for most of us (for example, Queen's Birthday). Discuss which holidays involve special things. The tutor and learner also have a holiday for the area of New Zealand where they live – Anniversary Day. This is a different date for different parts of the country – discuss the local Anniversary Day.

There could be some discussion about the reasons for public holidays – religious (Easter), an historical event (ANZAC Day), political (Labour Day).

Look at next year's calendar to see how dates will change. Be aware of how we ask about this: *What day is Christmas this year?* but *What date is Labour Day this year?*



Public holidays in New Zealand

Discuss:

How many public holidays are there in New Zealand? (There is one more too – it's your local Anniversary Day!) How many are there in your home country?

Match the dates to their holiday

With the help of your tutor, see if you can match these public holidays for 2010 with their dates. Draw a line  to the correct date.

Monday 25 October	New Year's Day
Saturday 6 February	ANZAC Day
Sunday 25 April	Christmas Day
Friday 2 April	Day after New Year's Day
Monday 5 April	Boxing Day
Friday 1 January	Waitangi Day
Monday 7 June	Queen's Birthday
Saturday 25 December	Good Friday
Saturday 2 January	Easter Monday
Sunday 26 December	Labour Day

For more information visit http://www.ers.dol.govt.nz/holidays_act_2003/dates/2010_13.html