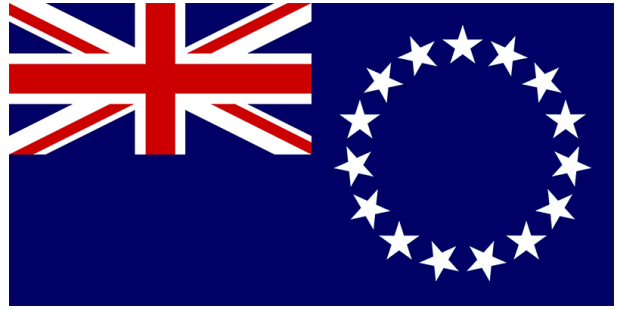


Cook Islands Language Week



Information sourced from [Kiddle](#) and [NZC - TKI](#).

The annual 'Epetoma o te reo Māori Kūki 'Āirani: Cook Islands Language Week is being held from Sunday 1 August to Saturday 7 August 2021. This year's theme is 'Ātuitui'ia au ki te Oneone o tōku 'Ui Tupuna which means, connect me to the soil of my ancestors.

The Cook Islands were first settled in the 6th century by Polynesian people who migrated from Tahiti, an island 1,154 kilometres (717 mi) to the northeast.

There are 15 islands in Cook Islands. They are Manihiki (Te Fuinga o Niva), Nassau (Te Nuku o Ngalewu), Penrhyn Atoll (Tongareva or Mangarongaro), Pukapuka (Te Ulu o te Watu), Rakahanga (Tapuahua), Suvarrow also called Suvorov, Tema Reef, Atiu (Enua Manu or Island of Birds), Ma'uke (Akatokamanava), Mitiaro (Nukuroa), Takutea, Aitutaki (Araura Enua), Mangaia (Auau Enua), Rarotonga (Tumutevarovaro), with the capital, Avarua, Palmerston Island (Pamati), Manuae, Winslow Reef (submerged).

The Cook Islands community are the second largest Pacific ethnic group in New Zealand making up 20% of the Pacific population (Census 2013). In the 2018 New Zealand census, 80 532 people identified as Cook Island Māori.

There are three distinct Polynesian languages spoken in the Cook Islands:

- Cook Islands Māori is an Eastern Polynesian language with a number of dialects. This language belongs to the same language family as New Zealand Māori and the languages of Hawai'i and Tahiti.
- Pukapuka is a Western Polynesian language, belonging to the same language family as the languages of Sāmoa, Tuvalu, and Tokelau.
- Palmerston Island has its own unique and distinctive mixture of Cook Islands Māori and English.