

# LONG WEEKEND.....SHORT WEEK!

## Special holidays

*Talk about the special days celebrated in your country with your tutor*



1. What are they and when do you celebrate them?
2. Are any of them the same as in New Zealand?
3. Do you have a public holiday to celebrate them?
4. Do you get a long weekend?



## Public holidays

People in New Zealand always look forward to a **long weekend**.

We get a **long weekend** when there is a **public holiday** and it falls on a Monday, so a long weekend is a Saturday, Sunday and Monday.

This means people can have three days off work and more time to spend with their family and friends. They have time to relax at home, enjoy some fun activities together or go away on a trip.

A **short week** means some people only have to work four days after a long weekend, yet they still get paid for five days. This makes them very happy!



## Working in the food or service industry



Of course, some people still have to work on a long weekend, especially if they work in the food or service industry.

Supermarkets usually stay open every day. Workers in a supermarket may have to work on a Saturday, Sunday and Monday, so they don't always get a long weekend.

Sometimes people have accidents, so people who work in a hospital or medical centre may have to work on a long weekend too.



However, people who work every day from Monday to Friday are lucky to get a **long weekend** and a **short week** when there is a public holiday which falls on a Monday.

Some people who have to work on a public holiday get paid extra for the time they work and a day off later. This day is called a day-in-lieu.



## How many public holidays are there in NZ?

Here are the holidays celebrated in 2006-2007 in New Zealand.



Labour Day	23 October 2006
Christmas Day	25 <sup>th</sup> December 2006
Boxing Day	26 <sup>th</sup> December 2006
New Year's Day	1 <sup>st</sup> January 2007
Day after New Year's Day	2 <sup>nd</sup> January 2007
Waitangi Day	6 <sup>th</sup> February 2007
Good Friday	6 <sup>th</sup> April 2007
Easter Sunday	8 <sup>th</sup> April 2007
Easter Monday	9 <sup>th</sup> April 2007
ANZAC Day	25 <sup>th</sup> April 2007
Queen's Birthday	4 <sup>th</sup> June 2007
PLUS one provincial Anniversary Day	



## A public holiday is celebrated for a special reason

This may be to celebrate a historic event, such as **Waitangi Day** or **ANZAC Day**, a religious festival such as **Easter** or **Christmas**, or some other important part of NZ culture.

Ask your tutor to help you find out why we celebrate these special days

**Waitangi Day (our national day)** \_\_\_\_\_

**ANZAC Day (a day of commemoration)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Queen's Birthday** \_\_\_\_\_

We also celebrate another public holiday called **Anniversary Day**, but this day is celebrated on a different day for each region in NZ.

For example, if you live in Auckland province, Anniversary Day was celebrated on Monday 30 January 2006 and if you live in Westland province, Anniversary Day will be celebrated on Monday 4 December 2006.

**Anniversary Day** celebrates the *founding* or *beginning* of the province where you live, in other words, when the arrival of the first European settlers happened.

## Match the dates to their holiday

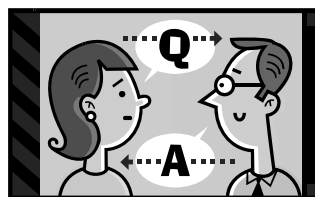
*With the help of your tutor, see if you can match these public holidays for 2007 with their dates. Draw a line -----→ to the correct date.*

Monday 22 October	New Year's Day
Tuesday 6 February	ANZAC Day
Wednesday 25 April	Christmas Day
Friday 6 April	Day after New Year's Day
Monday 9 April	Boxing Day
Monday 1 January	Waitangi Day
Monday 4 June	Easter Sunday
Tuesday 25 December	Queen's Birthday
Tuesday 2 January	Good Friday
Wednesday 26 December	Easter Monday
Sunday 8 April	Labour Day

## Labour Day

One of the last public holidays of the year before Christmas is in October. It is called **Labour Day** and because the holiday falls on a Monday, it makes a long weekend which we call **Labour Weekend**. Many people go away for the long weekend. Some people go to the beach for the first time after the winter. There is often a lot of traffic on the road. Many people look forward to Labour Weekend because it is a sign that warmer days are coming and also it has been 4 months since the last public holiday!

## Why do we celebrate Labour Day and why in October?



## Labour Day in New Zealand

In NZ we have an 8 hour working day and a 40 hour working week.  
Most people work 5 days a week.

There is a **minimum wage** in NZ for all people over 16 years.  
The adult rate (over 18 years) is \$10.25 per hour.  
The youth rate (16-17 years) is \$8.20 per hour.



A *minimum wage* means you *cannot* be paid *less* than this amount of money when you are working. People who work *overtime* are paid *more*.

However many years ago during the 1800s in NZ, many people worked for much longer than 8 hours a day and they worked for low wages in sometimes difficult conditions.

In 1840 a carpenter named Samuel Parnell refused to work for more than 8 hours a day. He believed a person should have 8 hours for work, 8 hours for sleep and 8 hours for recreation. Many people agreed with him. 50 years later on **28 October 1890**, Samuel led a parade through the streets to celebrate the first Labour Day in NZ. This became law in NZ in October 1899 and we still celebrate it today on the fourth Monday in October.



*Using the text above see if you can fill in the missing words below*

In 1840 a \_\_\_\_\_ named Samuel Parnell refused to \_\_\_\_\_ for more than 8 hours a day. He believed a person should have 8 hours for work, 8 hours for sleep and 8 hours for \_\_\_\_\_. Many people \_\_\_\_\_ with him. 50 years later on 28 \_\_\_\_\_ 1890, Samuel led a \_\_\_\_\_ through the streets to celebrate the first \_\_\_\_\_ Day in NZ. This became law in NZ in October 1899 and we still celebrate it today on the \_\_\_\_\_ Monday in October.



### **In your country**

*Talk about these things with your tutor.*

1. What is the minimum wage? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What is the youngest age you can start work? \_\_\_\_\_
3. How many hours a day do most people work? \_\_\_\_\_
4. How many days a week do most people work? \_\_\_\_\_