

CITIZENSHIP REQUIREMENTS

To be used as a replacement for part II MY COUNTRY, A I
FLAG KNOWLEDGE only.

LEARNING...

VEXILLOLOGY

The many flags of different nations and other authorities has caused a great increase of people's interest in the study and history and modern development of flags. Flag societies have been formed in many countries and have named this study 'VEXILLOLOGY'.

THE ORIGINS OF FLAGS

Since ancient times man has felt the need of some sign or symbol as a mark to distinguish himself, his family or country, and such symbols have taken many different forms, of which one is the flag.

The word 'flag' seems to have come into use in the sixteenth century and soon became the general name for the many types of flags, such as banners, ensigns, standards and so on. These however, can mean different things to different writers. It is generally agreed that the word flag is derived from the old Saxon or Germanic word 'fflaken or ffleogan', meaning to fly or float in the wind.

We knew that the ancient Egyptians marched to war beneath the sacred emblems of their gods, and that the insignia of the

Assyrians were discs with impressions that looked like bulls in some form or another. Also the Greeks used symbols of their deities such as the owl of Athens, or legendary animals.

The first 'flag' in the western world of which there is historical evidence and of which illustrations exist, was the Roman vexillum and specifically the Labarum.

Some people assume that flags originated in China, travelled westward until they arrived in the Middle East, and the Romans, finding them there adopted them for their own use. Here again, no hard and fast rule, different writers have different ideas.

THE NEW ZEALAND ENSIGN

The New Zealand flag is about a hundred years old. New Zealand's first flag was hoisted on 20 March 1834. It was chosen by the Maori chiefs and was later known as the 'flag of United tribes of New Zealand'.

In 1840 New Zealand became officially a colony of Great Britain and so the Union Jack became our national ensign. At this time there were three flags in use in New Zealand which caused confusion as to which one was the actual national ensign.

It was only until the New Zealand ensign Act, 1901, was introduced that we do not see any changes in the design of our flag. Even though the Act has had a few minor changes brought into it (e.g. when New Zealand became a dominion, 1907) it didn't cause any changes in the ensign itself.

DOING...

- 1) The Roman Vexillum is believed to be the first flag in the western world. (100 BC). a) Give a description of the Labarum and colour it in.

- b) What was the sign on the flag and where do we see this today.

- 2) The word flag is the general name for many types of flags. List for each of the following flags:

a) What it looked like (e.g. shape, approximate sizes) and make a small sketch.

b) Where was the flag in use (e.g. flying on a mast or staff, carried by a person and if so who carried it?)

Pennon _____

Banner _____

Guidon _____

Pennant or Pendant _____

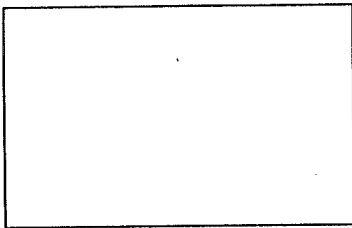
Standard _____

Gonfalon _____

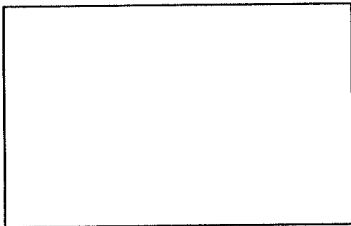
3) What was the main reason for New Zealand to choose its first flag?

4) In the spaces provided, find out and draw the flags that New Zealand was flying at the corresponding dates.

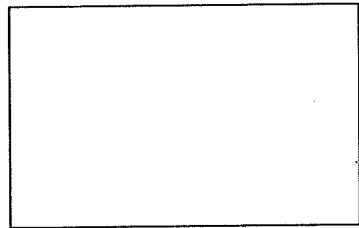
1834



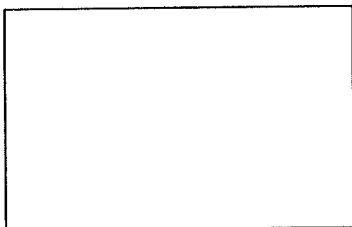
1840



On Shore

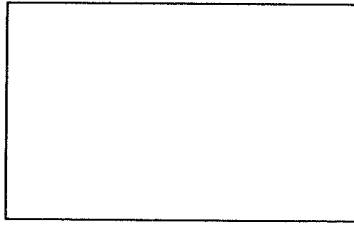


Merchant Vessels



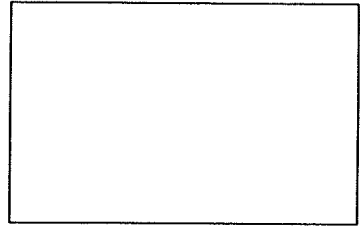
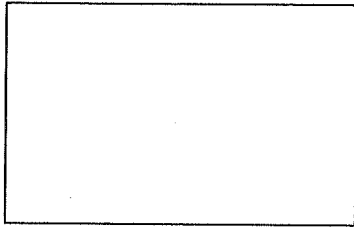
Government Vessels from 1865 forwards

1867



For all Government Vessels except those commissioned as Vessels of war (Merchant Vessels flag had not changed at that time).

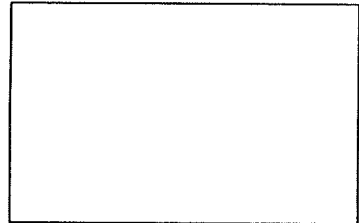
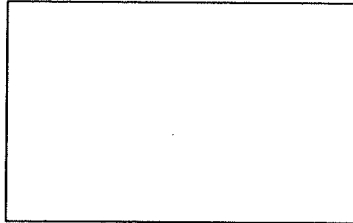
1869



On Shore

Government Vessels

1899

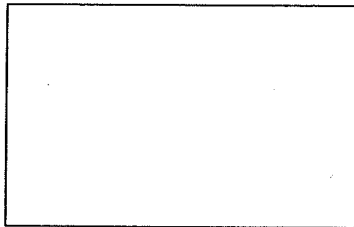


Merchant Vessels

Government Vessels

The flag flying on Government Vessels was often used on shore but this was not officially allowed.

1902



- 5) Give the exact positioning of the stars in relationship to one another.

 - 6) All stars are pointing upwards. What was believed to be the reason for this? Why weren't they pointing downwards?
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BIBLIOGRAPHY

A good encyclopaedia

New Zealand Ensign - W.A Glue - Government Print

Flags of the World - Barraclough and Crampton - Frederick
Warne