

The Musket Wars – activities for NCEA 3 History

See also [NZ in the 19th Century in the Classroom \(NZHistory.net.nz\)](http://NZHistory.net.nz)

A. Short-answer and paragraph questions

1. How might the missionaries have reacted to the Musket Wars in terms of their efforts to convert and 'civilise' Maori?
2. Men like Hongi Hika must have found places like London interesting. Other Maori visited England and Sydney. This brought Maori into contact with many Europeans and their way of life. To what extent do you think such experiences might have made Maori wary about engaging with Europe?
3. How did the period of the Musket Wars disrupt Maori life in terms of:
 - o settlement
 - o economy?
4. Having examined the evidence, how accurate a label is 'Musket Wars' for this period of intertribal warfare? Justify your answer.
5. In a couple of paragraphs outline whether you believe the Musket Wars illustrate the notion of fatal impact, i.e., an example of the negative consequences of contact with Europeans? Explain your answer.
6. What role did mana play in these wars?
7. Why were Maori unable to maintain a large-scale war effort?
8. What factors contributed to the ending of the Musket Wars?

B. Achievement standard 3.5: examine a significant historical situation in the context of change

The Musket Wars represent a significant situation for New Zealanders in the 19th century. Describe the changes or developments that occurred during the period of the Musket Wars 1818–1830s. Evaluate the influence of these wars on Maori during this period.

Remember structure is important:

- A good essay must have good paragraphs.
- Each key or new idea in your essay must be a new paragraph.
- Think of a paragraph as having a set layout:
 - o a sentence that outlines what the paragraph is about
 - o sentences to support the topic of the paragraph
 - o a sentence to conclude the paragraph.
- Use the structure outlined below to help you write your answer.

Introduction – write an opening paragraph that:

- identifies the Musket Wars as a significant situation for New Zealand in the 19th century
- introduces your argument about the significance of this issue.

Body – write structured and sequenced paragraphs that:

- describe the historical context of the Musket Wars and apply terms, concepts and/or ideas related to this issue
- examine changes, trends and patterns over time related to the Musket Wars
- evaluate ways in which the Musket Wars influenced people in the historical context.

Conclusion – write a concluding paragraph that sums up your main ideas and argument and links them to the focus of the essay.

You should aim to write about 600–800 words.

For more detail on this achievement standard and criteria open [this Word document from the NZQA website](#)