

## The world speaks English

Here are some further important Commonwealth countries you might be interested in.



### NEW ZEALAND

**Population:** 5.1 million (120th)

**Area:** 268,000 sq. km (75th)

**Independent from UK since:** Independence in several steps. Full legal independence in 1947

#### Interesting facts:

- Unlike in the US or Australia, where the indigenous populations are extremely small, the Maori<sup>1</sup> people of New Zealand make up a large, visible<sup>2</sup> minority at around 15%.
- In 1893 New Zealand became the first country in the world to give all women the right to vote.
- The country's spectacular beauty (e.g. at Milford Sound) has been the setting for some of the most successful films ever, e.g. *The Piano*, *Avatar*, *The Hobbit* and *Lord of the Rings*.
- New Zealand is extremely volcanic, while Australia isn't at all.



### CANADA

**Population:** 38 million (38th)

**Area:** 9.9 million sq. km (2nd)

**Independent from UK since:** Full legal independence in 1982

#### Interesting facts:

- 60% of Canadians list English as their mother tongue<sup>3</sup>, 20% French, 20% other languages.
- Québec, the large French province of Canada, has held two referendums on independence for the province (1980, 1995). Voters chose to stay in Canada both times.
- Two of the most famous Canadians share the same first name: Justin Trudeau (prime minister from 2014) and Justin Bieber (pop superstar).
- Canada has the world's longest coastline at 202,000 km.



Facts and figures on this page are based on data from 2018–2021

1 Maori [ˈmaʊri] Maori (indigene Bevölkerung Neuseelands) 2 visible [ˈvɪzəbl] sichtbar 3 mother tongue [ˈmʌðə ˈtʌŋ] Muttersprache