

Goodbye to kauri



Dairy products and meat are top New Zealand exports today but Kauri timber was an early natural resource sent to other countries and it left our shores in bulk!

Great Kauri forests once covered 1.6 million hectares (4 million acres) of the northern half of the North Island, but logging, fire and clearing for farms has left about 7,000 hectares (18,000 acres). Some sheep farms in NZ cover more land than that.

Design a
flow chart



What sequence of events led to New Zealand's kauri forests almost disappearing?
Cut out the boxes below and arrange them in the right order to find out.

Kauri becomes the favourite timber for building houses boats and furniture. It's soft but strong, very easy to work with and lasts.	It's 1897 and 75% of the kauri forests had been cut In 10 more years logging will reach its peak.
A group of Australian businessmen form the Kauri Timber Company and take over many of the smaller mills . They ship heaps of logs to Australia and the USA.	Kauri dams are built to carry logs downstream from remote, hard to get to places and on to the sea.
Kauri gum becomes popular for making paint, varnish, jewellery and linoleum - a floor covering. People bleed trees for gum causing many to die and others dig the gum up in old buried forests.	22 years later a British Royal Navy ship takes 200 trees home for masts and spars -the first export!
Sawmills spring up around the sheltered harbours of Northland, the Coromandel Peninsula and Auckland.	By now many New Zealanders want to save the Kauri forests
Merchants from Australia and the British Navy actively trade in kauri logs.	It's 1973 and kauri becomes the first indigenous tree in NZ to be protected by government laws.
It's 1838 and European trading ships enter the Kaipara Harbour to trade for timber.	Ship's captain Marion du Fresne, at anchor in the Bay of Islands in 1772 has a kauri cut down for his ship's foremast.
Pit sawyers moved into the forest to cut logs into boards for local and export markets.	The very early exports are young straight trees close to the coast. They are great for masts and spars and easy to get and transport.