Government: New Zealand’s national government is very similar to Canada’s, it’s a constitutional monarchy with a parliamentary system of government. They use a Mixed Member Proportional voting system which makes it extremely unlikely that any one party will win majority of the seats in the house, and it’s common for parties to form coalitions to gain power. The 5 currently running political parties are the Labour Party, National Party, Green Party, ACT, and the Māori Party. The country is current led by Jacinda Ardern who is the head of the Labour party. Their three branches of government are the Legislative, Executive and Judicial.

Military: Military enlistment in New Zealand is entirely optional, though they did have a conscription between the years 1909-1972 which required that all military age men go through their basic training. New Zealand took part in many major wars including both world wars, Vietnam, and the war in Afghanistan, among many others. Currently they have a nonexistent navy and air force, but they have 12,000 available military personnel.

Economy: New Zealand’s major trade exports are agricultural products, such as meat, dairy products, fruits and vegetables. Crude oil, wood and paper products are also significant. Their major trading partners are China, Australia, the US, Japan, Germany, and South Korea. Manufacturing has always been a large part of New Zealand’s workforce. Due to their geographic isolation, the government has implemented protectionist policies to increase local manufacturing to maintain independence from other nations during hard times, these policies were strengthened during the two world wars.

Flora + Fauna: A large portion of New Zealand’s land area is covered with native plants, from tall Kauri and Kohekohe forests to rainforests dominated by Rimu, Beech, Tawa, and Matai, (Which are all ferns and flax). 80% of their plants are endemic, which means found nowhere else in the world. The level of endemism among New Zealands plants and animals is among the highest in the world. Due to New Zealands isolation from other land masses, and there being no native predators other than small bats, much of the countries native animals are small and defenceless. The Kiwi is the national bird of New Zealand, depending on the specific type they stand between 20-40cm tall, 10 pounds being the largest. They’re flightless birds that walk around on two back legs and have straight hair-like feathers. Approximately the size of a domestic chicken.