

Kia ora everybody, I'm Arthur GARCIA, I'm French, and I have just lived 2 months in New Zealand. I write this article to speak about my life here, and because I like talking about my life.

First, I'm here because my English teacher organized an exchange program between New Zealand. Now you know why I'm here, this is my story.

When I came here I understood absolutely nothing. Your accent was helpful, you speak really more clearly than the Americans, but you speak unusually fast. In fact, that wasn't a problem, because I just discovered we can communicate without speaking the same language. The expressions of the face, the intonation of the voice, movements of the body, all of that is information that your brain naturally understands and it gives more sense to words. My first week was a week of guessing what others were talking about, but then, wide-eyed, I discovered a new culture.

Step by step, I've understood things, differences and similarities between both our worlds. I have observed that you and your country are more peaceful than France. Although the landscapes in both are so pretty, in France we usually can't see them because of buildings on fire because people want to show they're furious against life, meanwhile in New Zealand people are talking with calm in the parliament. When French people have a greater chance of getting cancer because of smoking, vaping in New Zealand is the thing that is the problem.

But after several weeks, I started to see more than before (and understand English moreover). TV showing statistics of people's opinion about if it's a good idea to delete the translation in Maori on signs, the lack of teacher cause of the privatisation and the new technologies show the country isn't perfect, like all countries in the world.

Finally, I like New Zealand because it's really different to France, a particular culture half-maori, half-britain. But I like because that's similar to what I know: people go to school, works, watch the Barbie movie or Oppenheimer depending of preferences... That's what I love and why I want to study ethnology (anthropology is the old word), we are different but we are human after all. What do I retain about my travel here? The world is more beautiful than I thought, mankind is even more.