4.13 Reading a mathematical problem

Topic: Measurement
Subtopic: Length
Activity type/skill: Identifying information
Literacy focus: Reading
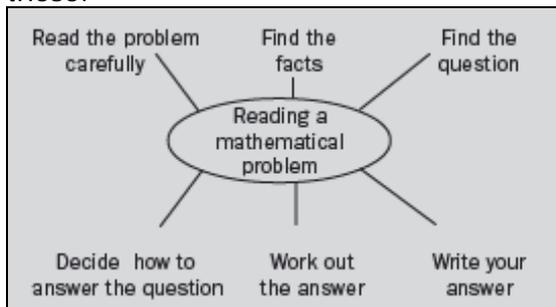**Genre:** Mathematical problems

Objective
- Predict what steps are needed to read and respond to mathematical problems related to measuring length.
- Make links with prior knowledge.
- Link to the mathematics curriculum.

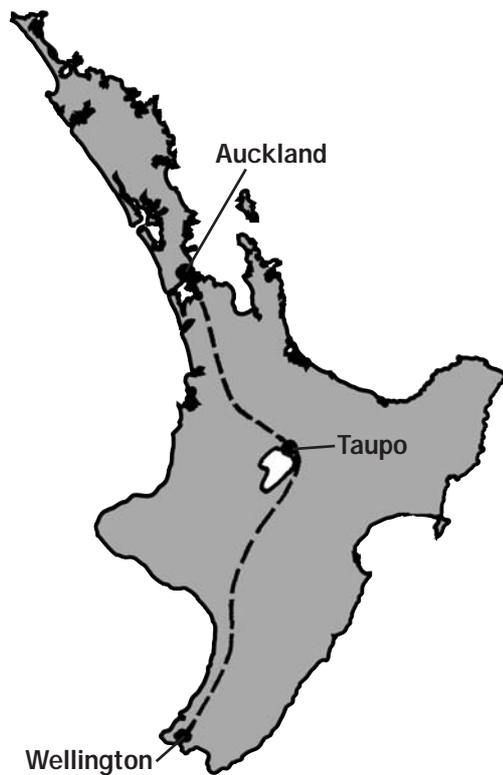### What you need
- Student worksheet (see next page)

What to do
1. Look at the student worksheet and the example of a simple mathematical problem and talk about the steps students need to take to answer it. (New learners of English who have no problems with mathematical concepts may by frustrated by their difficulty understanding the language of mathematical problems. They will need help to work out which parts of problems are factual, essential information and which parts contain the question they have to answer.)

2. Build up a star diagram together on the board. Try to draw out from the students ideas like these:

3. Work out the answer to the problem together (380 kilometres).

Auckland

Taupo

Wellington

The distance from Auckland to Wellington is 659 kilometres.

The distance from Auckland to Taupo is 279 kilometres.

What is the distance between Taupo and Wellington?

Reading a mathematical problem