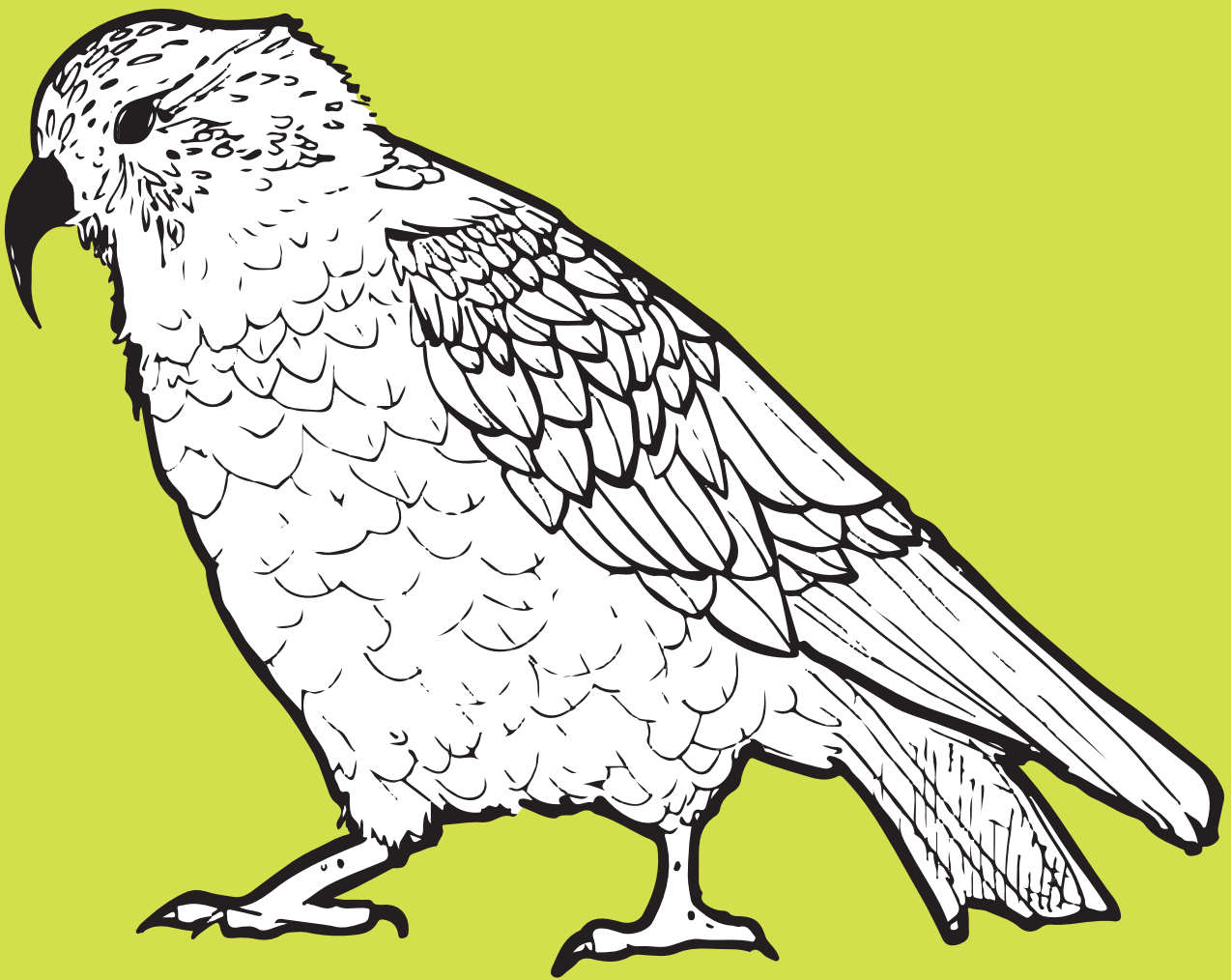


Auckland Zoo Education Pack

Secondary



Theme:
Animal Behaviour

Zoo Lesson plan

Theme: Secondary (ages 12-17) ANIMAL BEHAVIOUR

What will I learn: Understanding animal behaviour will help care for animals in the zoo and in the wild.

Inspire

Behavioural enrichment provides our animals with opportunities that encourage their natural behaviour.

Browse this Zoo Tales [Animal Enrichment playlist](#) and spot all the different animal behaviours.

Reflect

We use **positive reinforcement training** with many of our animals to provide both enriching activities and stress-free health checks.

- Watch [Preparing our parrots for health checks!](#) and see how this is done.
- Think about how this promotes positive animal welfare.
- Think about how and when you see this in your own lives.

Act

Try some **positive reinforcement training** with a pet at home. Remember that for the best animal welfare, training is voluntary, enriching and of practical benefit. Watch how zookeeper Lucy works with [Cyril](#) for some tips.

Create

Activity budgets or ethograms are a useful way to collect an entire range of a species' behaviours. It helps us to understand what is 'normal' for an individual animal or species so that we can better care for animals in the zoo and in the wild. To make an activity budget, scientists need to observe an animal and make note of their behaviour at regular intervals. This can be done over the course of an hour or many years. More frequent and longer observations will give a more accurate picture of the animal.

Try making your own activity budget. Look at **Our Behaviour** (resource attached) and make your own. Note the behaviour of yourself or your pet every hour for a day. Alternatively, you could note the behaviours of our zoo animals at [Animal cams at Auckland Zoo](#).

- Compare! Make a second activity budget on a different day or for a different animal for comparison.
- Was the activity budget different? Why?
- How will this information help us? At the zoo? In the wild?

Create a behavioural enrichment item for the animal you observed.

- Watch [Meerkat mealtime](#) and our video [Make your own behavioural enrichment](#) for your pets for inspiration.

Explore

Using our **Fabulous and Funky Animal Feature** worksheet (resource attached), watch an animal documentary and note examples of behaviours that you see. [BBC Earth](#) is a good place to start. For each behaviour determine the adaptive advantage.

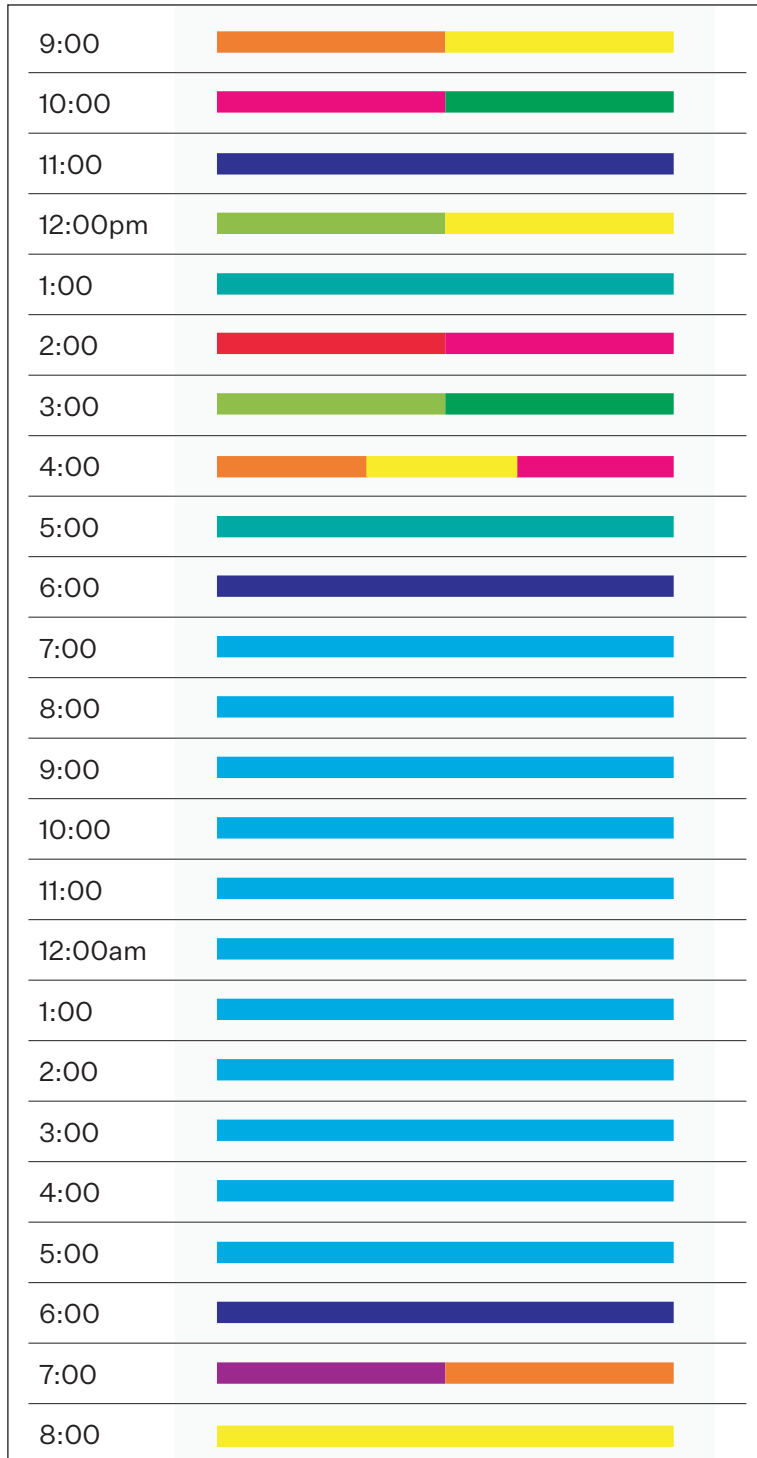
Curriculum links:

Lessons include a range of aspects from the main strands of the NZ Curriculum English, the arts, health and physical education, learning languages, mathematics and statistics, science, social science and technology.

They also consider the Key Competencies Thinking, Using language, symbols and text, Managing self, Relating to others, Participating and communicating.

OUR BEHAVIOUR

Activity Budget for a *Kea*



Key

- Resting/sleeping
- Preening
- Moving
- Feeding
- Bathing/ cleaning
- Flying
- Vocalising
- Training
- Regurgitating*
- Foraging

Glossary:

Preening: making your feathers look tidy

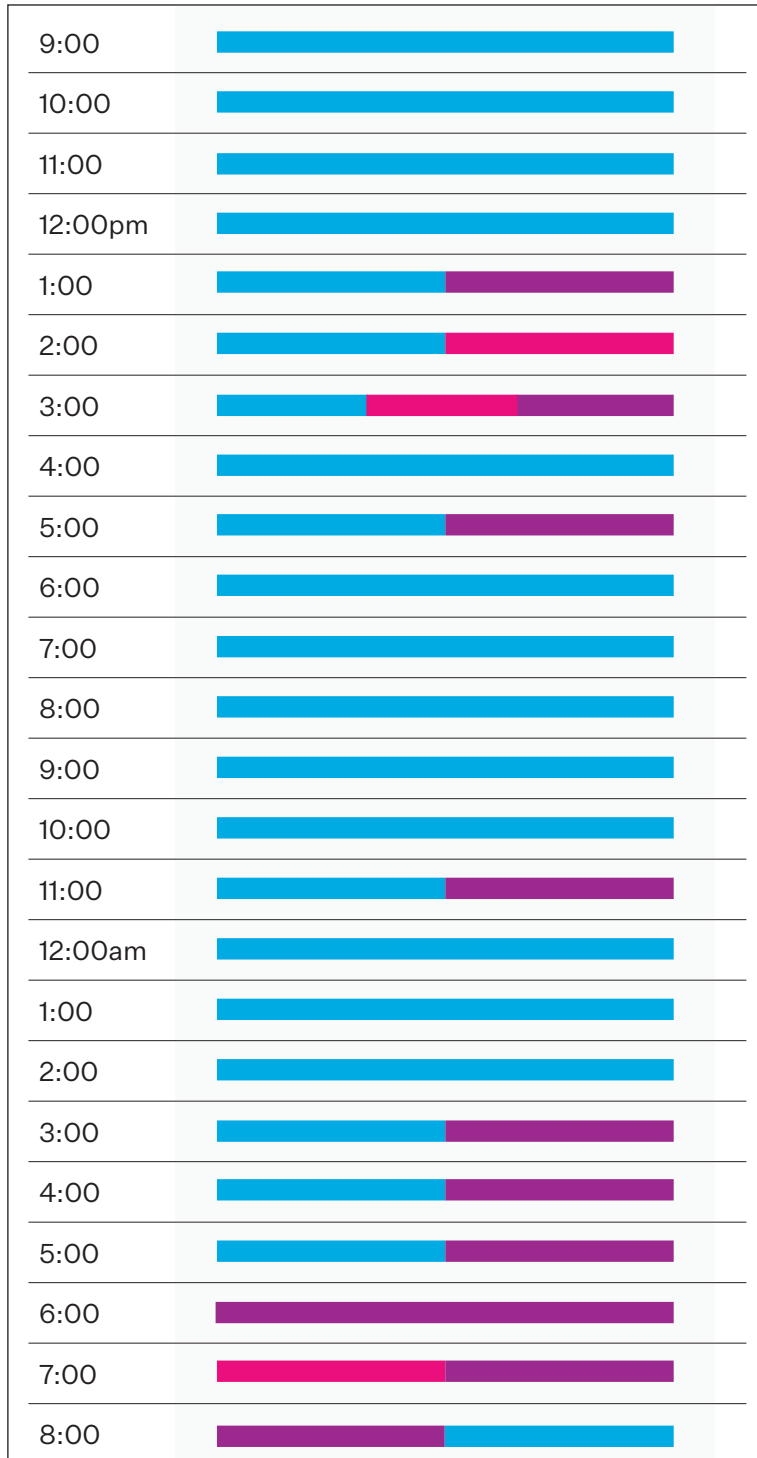
Regurgitating: throwing up food in beak

Foraging: looking for food

* Dominant bird forces the sub dominant birds to regurgitate food to them – often occurs after eating.

OUR BEHAVIOUR

Activity Budget for a *Tiger*



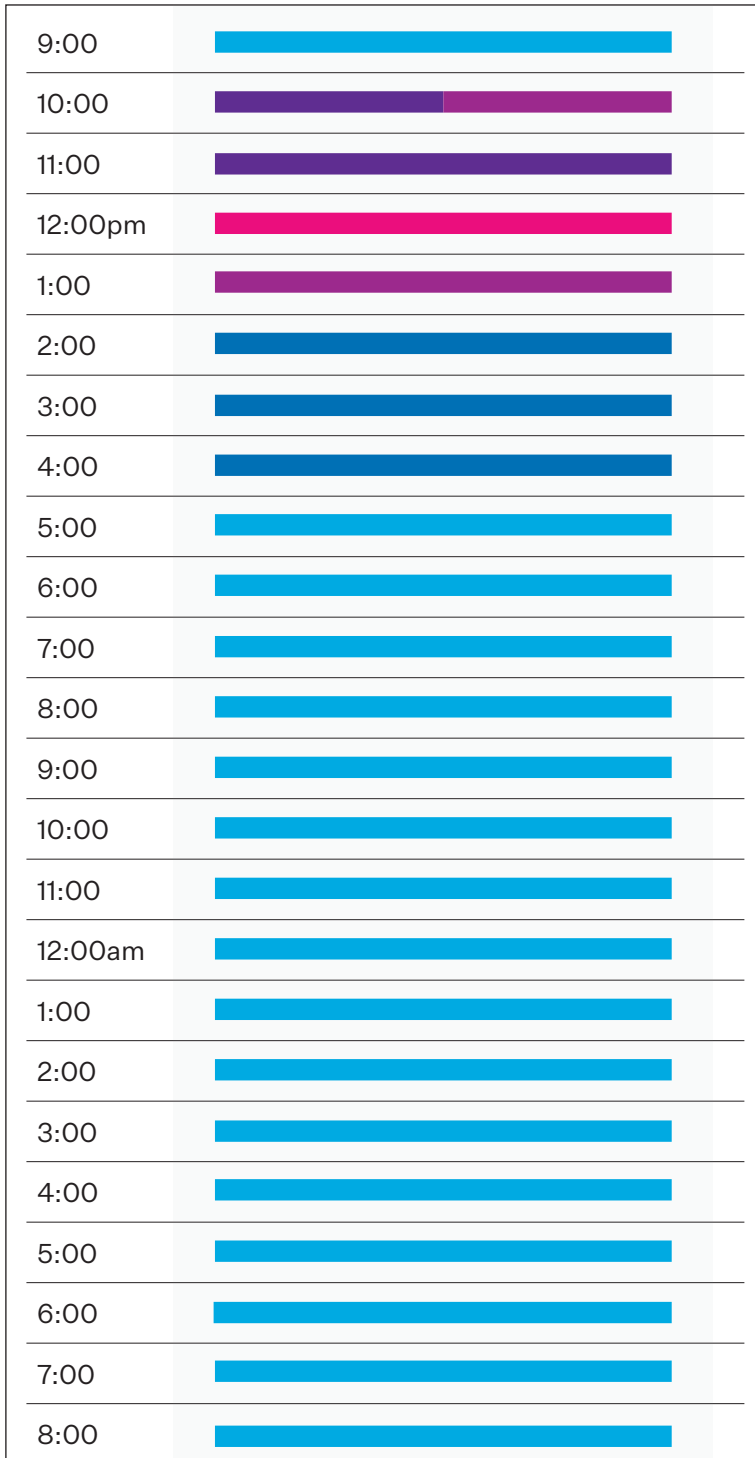
Key

- Resting / sleeping
- Moving
- Feeding
- Cleaning / self grooming



OUR BEHAVIOUR

Activity Budget for a *Galápagos tortoise*



Key

- Resting / sleeping
- Moving
- Feeding
- Bathing
- Basking
- Wallow



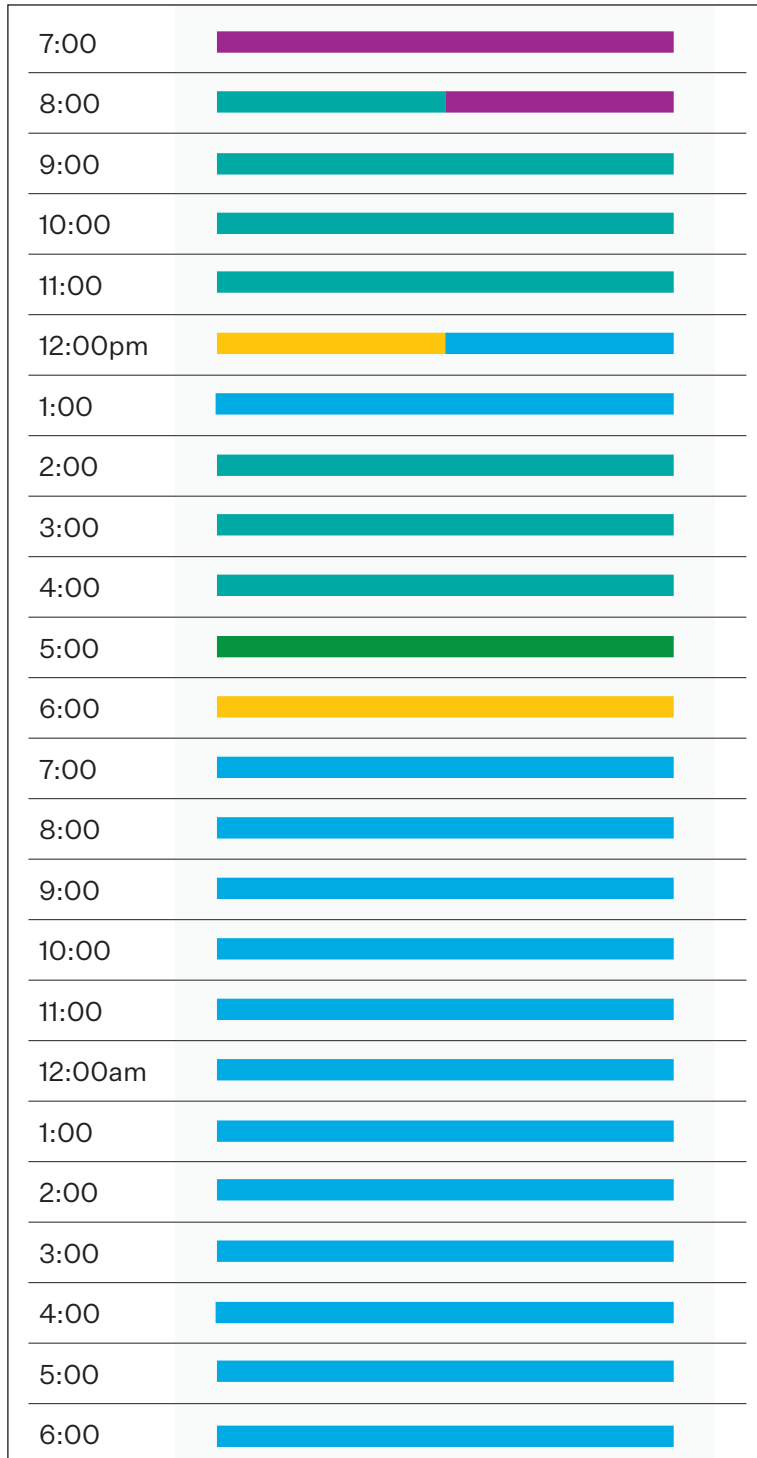
Glossary:

Basking: staying still in the sun

Wallow: relaxing in mud

OUR BEHAVIOUR

Activity Budget for a *Orangutan*



Key

- Resting / sleeping
- Moving / travelling
- Foraging
- Nesting / nest making
- Select a site



Glossary:

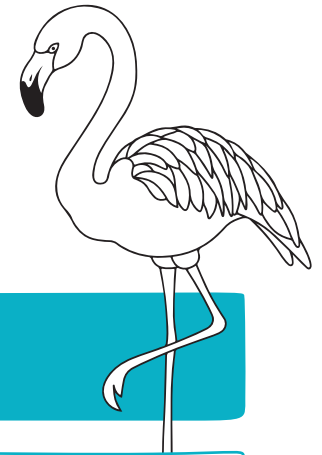
Foraging: finding food

Nesting / nest making: building a tree bed

Fabulous and funky ▶ animal feature

Your task is to carefully observe the animals.
How many of the behaviour strategies below can you spot?

Explain the **ADAPTIVE ADVANTAGE** for each of the behaviour strategies you observed. How did each of the behaviours help the animal succeed?



To succeed in their habitat, all animals need to raise young, protect themselves from predators and find food, shelter and mates.

Note any **INTERSPECIES** interaction

Which species are **SOCIAL**?

Which are **SOLITARY**?

Is there a pattern? Why?

COURTSHIP ...
maybe a dance?

A female dominated
HIERARCHY ...

PREY behaviour...

GROOMING...

Defending a
TERRITORY
use your senses...

A **HIERARCHY** with a
power couple...

PREDATORY
behaviour...

PARENTAL care...

A male dominated
HIERARCHY ...

MONOGAMY ...

PREENING...

A **HIERARCHY** with
a harem...

If you didn't see some of these behaviours today, why might that be?