

# Quirky and curious tuna kūwharuwharu (longfin eels)



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*Reminder:* turn on captions

1. What kind of zoo keeper is Georgia?
2. What are the tuna (eels) being fed?
3. Do tuna have a better sense of sight or smell? Why?
4. What species of tuna is Georgia feeding?
5. Where do the tuna spend the majority of their lives?
6. Where do tuna go to breed and lay their hēki (eggs)?
7. How long does it take for the young tuna to swim back to Aotearoa/New Zealand?
8. Why is it important that we do not overfish our wild tuna?
9. Do you think you should try and touch the tuna at the Zoo? Why or why not?
10. Why do you think it is important for us to look after our freshwater systems in Aotearoa/New Zealand?

### ***Interesting vocabulary to learn more about:***

Latch, nocturnal, demonstrate, complex, arduous, currents, eventually, quote, maliciously, quirky, curious, awa, roto, hēki, hongī, heihei, ngau, koi.

# Quirky and curious tuna kūwharuwharu (longfin eels)



**Faufaua!** (Tongan for well done!)

Now it's time to check your answers.

1. An ectotherm keeper.
2. Raw heihei (chicken).
3. Hongi (smell). They are primarily nocturnal hunters so rely on their sense of smell when hunting in the dark.
4. Long fin eels. Their te reo Māori name is tuna kūwharuwharu.
5. Living in freshwater awa (rivers), streams, and roto (lakes).
6. They swim all the way to Tonga!
7. Around 15 months.
8. To ensure that our tuna population stays at a sustainable level so they are still here in the future.
9. No! They have a very strong ngau (bite) and very koi (sharp) teeth.
10. So that native freshwater animal species like tuna kūwharuwharu (long fin eels) have a healthy home.

### Challenge:

Look on an atlas or Google Maps to see how far the tuna kūwharuwharu swim to get all the way to Tonga!

*How long does it take the tuna to swim to Tonga?*

*How long do you think it would take for you to fly to Tonga on a plane?*