

A giraffe is shown in profile, facing left, against a solid orange background. The giraffe's long neck is extended upwards, and its body is covered in a pattern of dark brown spots. The giraffe's legs are visible, and it appears to be standing on a flat surface.

# Trainee Keeper at Auckland Zoo

We're *bringing*  
the Zoo to you!



Watch this video to learn about  
the training in this workbook.  
You can print off this pack or use  
it as a digital guide for the tasks.



# Have you ever wanted to work at Auckland Zoo as one of our amazing zookeepers?



Learn more about this task here!



Read about our Science of Care here

## Well, here is your opportunity to become a keeper for the day!

**The hardworking team of keepers at Auckland Zoo are always considering what our different animal species need to be healthy.**

We use the Five Domains of Animal Welfare to ensure that we cover all aspects of health and welfare for our animals. The ones we can influence and

help manage are; nutrition, environment, physical health, and behaviour.

Go through the stages of our at-home Keeper Training Camp and learn more about each of these areas to become a Trainee Keeper at Auckland Zoo - you can then share what you have learnt with us or your friends and whānau.

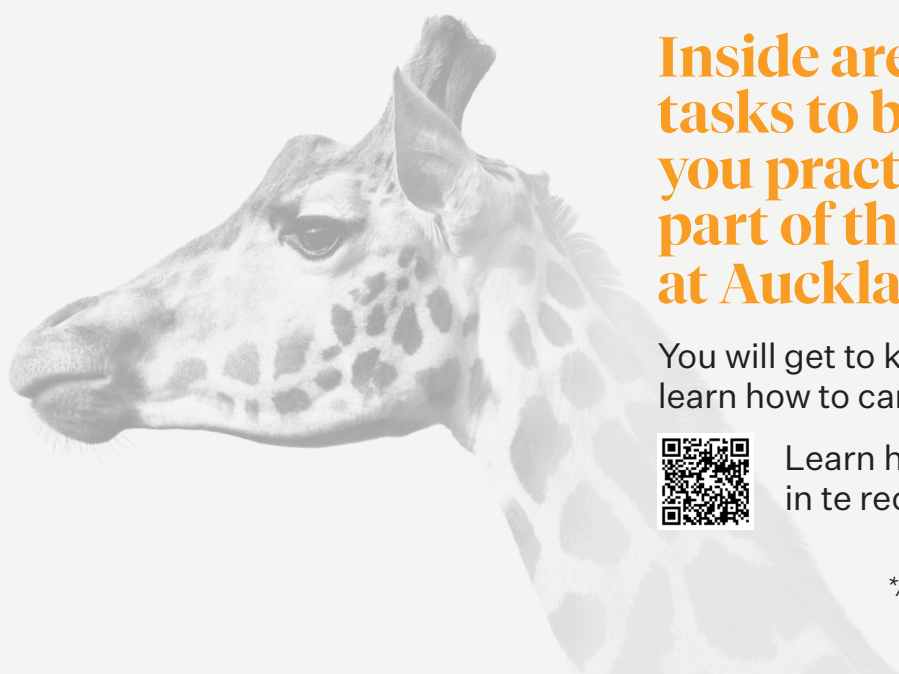
## Inside are different tasks to be completed as you practice becoming a part of the ungulate\* team at Auckland Zoo.

You will get to know the kakīroa (giraffe) and learn how to care for these towering mammals!



Learn how to say giraffe in te reo Māori here.

*\*An ungulate is an animal that has hooves.*





# Start your training off by *learning* more about giraffes



Learn more about this task here!



Watch the start of our video to learn more about giraffes or read about the species on our website

## Welcome to the ungulate team! Are you as excited as we are?

To start off with, you will gather information about the giraffes to help improve your understanding of this hoofed animal.

Watch our video to learn more about the species and how we use the Five Domains of Animal Welfare to look after them. You can also read more about giraffes by using the QR code to visit our website.

Think about what information you may need to do your job as a keeper, caring for these animals each day.

### You might ask questions such as:

What do they eat? Where do they live?  
What adaptations\* do they have to thrive in their environment?

Fill in the KWL (*Know - Wonder - Learn*) below, or make your own chart, to let us know what you learn along the way.



What I already KNOW	What I WANT to know/ What I am WONDERING about	What I have LEARNT

\***Adaptations** a body part, feature or behaviour that helps an animal or plant succeed in it's environment.





Learn more  
about this  
task here!

# Next, get *creative* and try *drawing* a giraffe to *learn* about their different body parts

Now that we know a lot more about giraffes and their adaptations, we need to learn what they look like to be able to do their daily health checks (following the Five Domains of Animal Welfare “physical health” domain).

Every day as keepers, we need to make sure we carefully observe the animals to see if they require any extra attention or maybe even vet care. As keepers we need to look at how they are moving, eating, their activity levels and behaviour!

## Complete this activity and learn about important physical features of the giraffe



Giraffes have multiple adaptations on their head. They have long eyelashes that help to protect their eyes from the sun's glare and help them to be able to see far in the distance. They are one of only two living animal species that have ossicones on top of their heads.

**Draw long eyelashes and ossicones onto your giraffe.**

Giraffes have tongues that are blue/black in colour and that are up to 45cm long! Their tongues are so long that they use them to lick their eyes and nostrils to help keep their face clean. They also use their tongues to help them to reach the top leaves while browsing.

**Draw the tongue onto your giraffe and match the colour by observing the giraffes in our video.**

Giraffes have large hearts that can weigh up to 11kg! Their large heart helps them to pump blood all the way up their long neck and to their brain. This adaptation allows them to lower their head without having blood rush to their brain.

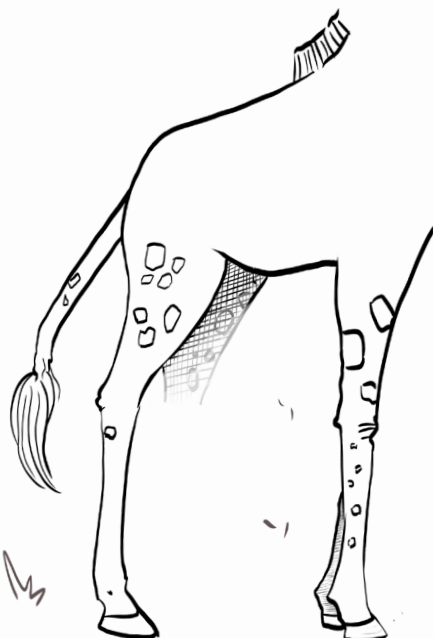
**Draw a heart on your giraffe and veins with valves going up their neck to their head.**

Giraffes are covered in an intricate pattern that help them to blend in to their surrounding environment (camouflage). Each giraffe has their own unique markings that you can use to tell them apart!

**Draw the pattern on your giraffe and then colour your giraffe in by observing them in our video.**

Giraffes have long and powerful legs that can kick out in any direction. They can use their legs to defend themselves against predators and a kick from them can be lethal for a lion. Their long legs help giraffes to reach speeds up to 60km/hr for short sprints

**Draw a strong, powerful leg onto your giraffe.**





# Keep that zookeeper creativity flowing and *create* a giraffe habitat of your own!



Learn more about this task here!



Watch this video to learn more about the giraffes and how we have designed their habitat.

## Now we are going to design a new habitat for the tower of giraffes at Auckland Zoo!

The giraffes at Auckland Zoo live in a multi-species habitat. This means they live with other species similar to how they would in the wild. Our giraffes share their space with our zebra, ostriches and guinea fowl.

We will have to make sure their habitat has everything they need as part of the

“environment” domain under the Five Domains of Animal Welfare. Follow the design brief outlined below to make your model habitat- you could draw it, use items from around your house to build it or make it out of recycled products (get creative!). Make sure you explain all of the features you include in the habitat too.

To get some ideas, you can watch the video to see how the giraffes interact and move around their habitat.

### Design brief:

- Design a multi-species space. It needs to house- four giraffes, four zebra, three ostriches and a flock of guinea fowl
- A space that allows all of the animals to move naturally, including running
- Giraffes are browsers which means they eat their food from up high, how can you get the food up high for them?
- There needs to be access to fresh water for the different species

### Draw a sketch of your design here:





Learn more  
about this  
task here!

# Now it is time to *develop* a giraffe behavioural enrichment task



Watch this video to find out about how  
we care for our giraffes.

## Well done on getting this far through your training!

At Auckland Zoo our keepers create behavioural and environmental enrichment for our giraffes. This ties into the “behaviour” and “physical health” domains of the Five Domains of Animal Welfare.

As keepers we work closely with the animals to make sure they are healthy. In the video you can see that our ungulate

team do training with our giraffes in the chute to do a close physical check to see that they are healthy.

The habitat they live in is also enriching; where they can interact with other animals, see animals in other habitats, and are presented with food in different ways such as hay balls and ice blocks.

Your job is to design an enrichment activity for our four giraffes.

## Design brief:      Plan your activity here:

- Needs to be safe for the animals and keepers
- Consider their adaptations and natural behaviour
- Think about the location of where you would present the enrichment
- Consider the use of food.



# Finally, learn what an ambassador animal is and how we can help to promote the species. Also learn about how you can be more sustainable in your own life!

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## **Now for a really important part of your job as a keeper: *Educating other people about the animals you care for and looking after the environment!***

At Auckland Zoo, our tower of giraffes are ambassador animals for their wild counterparts. In the wild there are only about 110,000 giraffes left and so our giraffes raise awareness and help support these wild animals.

The conservation fund at Auckland Zoo supports the Giraffe Conservation Foundation and has done so since 2012. Since then, Auckland Zoo has contributed more than \$160,000 to help support this foundation and giraffe conservation in the wild.

Every time you come to the Zoo and visit our giraffes you are helping to support this conservation fund and save wild giraffes and their habitat.

One way you can be more sustainable at home or at school is to have a go creating your own compost out of food scraps. Composting is a great way to look after the environment and reduce the amount of waste that goes to land fill. You can even use your compost to then grow fruit and vegetables for your friends and whānau.

### **Act Local**

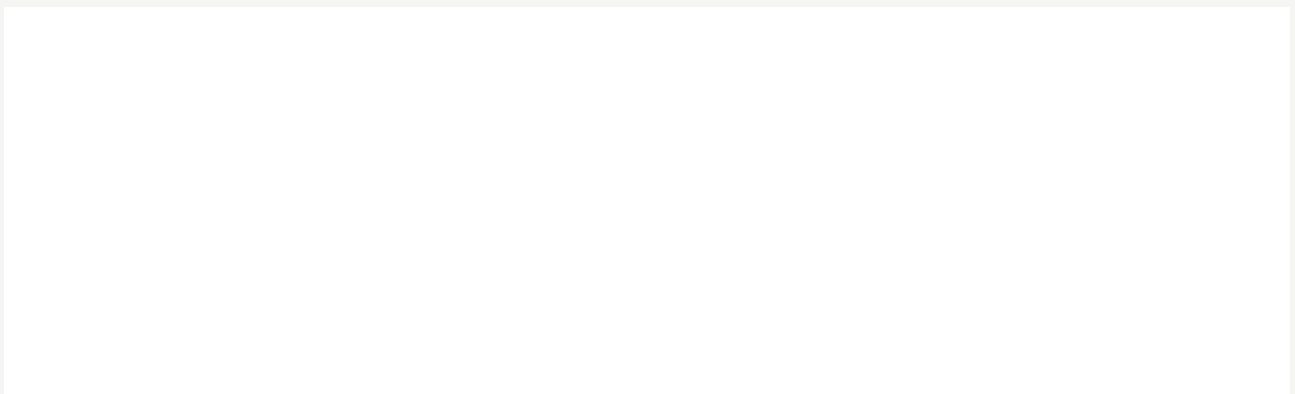
Research composting and make your own compost either at home or at kura (school).

### **Support Global**

Create a poster promoting the conservation of giraffes.

Use your poster to educate other people about why they are important ambassador animals and what actions they can do to support them.

**Draw or write your idea here**





## TRAINEE KEEPER EXPERIENCE

# Congratulations

You have completed your training  
and are now well-equipped to be a Trainee Keeper  
for giraffes at Auckland Zoo!

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Share what you have learnt with your whānau  
as well as with us at Auckland Zoo!

[#createwithaucklandzoo](#)



## Write or draw any important thoughts you have below.

What was your favourite part of your training?  
What important information did you learn?  
What animal would you like to study next?



## Video links:

**Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori** <https://bit.ly/3FqiCm2>

**Learn more about giraffes at Auckland Zoo** <https://bit.ly/3FpR7sM>

**Enrichment for our giraffes** <https://bit.ly/3P6atI1>

**Animal behaviour** <https://bit.ly/3OwmM00>

