



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.



Learn more
about this
task here!

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

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 for our animals.

The ones we are responsible for 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.

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 bird team at Auckland Zoo.

You will get to know the kiwi and learn how to care for these endemic birds*.

*endemic means that you can only find kiwi here in Aotearoa (New Zealand) and no where else in the world.



Learn more about this task here!

Start your training off by *learning* more about brown kiwi

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

To start off with, gather information about kiwi to help improve your understanding of this ratite*.

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 about kiwi 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.

Questions you may ask:

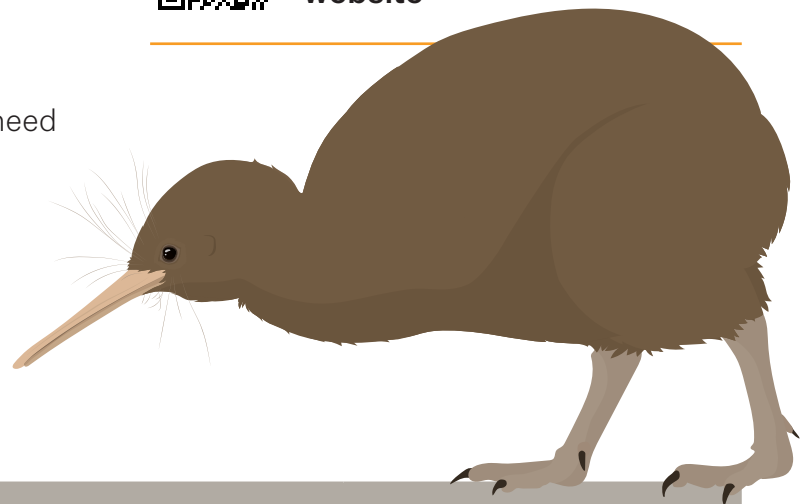
What do they eat? Where do they live? What adaptations* do they have to thrive in their environment?

Fill in the KWL (Know-Wonder-Learn):

Write in the chart below, or make your own chart, to let us know what you learn along the way.



Learn more about the brown kiwi on our website



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

* **Ratites** are a family of flightless birds.

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



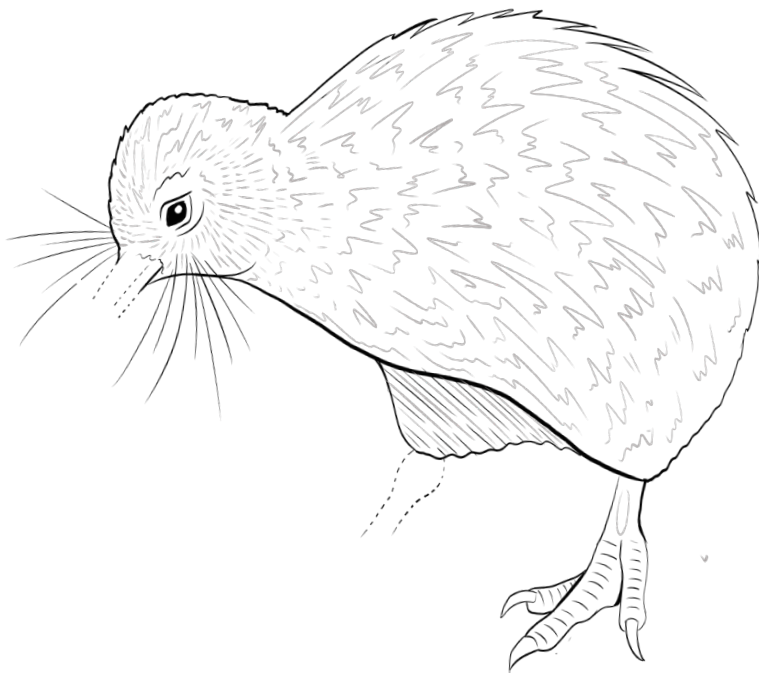
Learn more
about this
task here!

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

Now that we know a lot more about kiwi 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” aspect).

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 look at how they are moving, eating and even look at their feet and beak!

Complete this activity and learn about important physical features of the kiwi



Kiwi have two layers of feathers to help them survive in the forests of Aotearoa. They have an outer layer of feathers that are waterproof and a layer of soft downy feather to keep them warm. Their feathers are brown to help them to blend in to their surrounding habitat (camouflage).

Observe the kiwi in the video and match the colour on your drawing.

Kiwi are nocturnal, yet they have poor eyesight and so rely on their sense of smell. Kiwi have long beaks with their nostrils located at the end of their beak to help them to search for food such as insects under the ground. They sleep in a burrow during the day and then use their excellent sense of smell to move around and find food at night.

Draw a long beak on your kiwi with the nostrils at the tip of their beak.

Kiwi call at night to defend their territory and communicate with their mate. Female kiwi lay a single egg that weighs on average 20% of their body weight.

Draw a kiwi egg.

Kiwi have two powerful legs and long claws to help them to move around their habitat and search for food. They also use their powerful legs to protect their territory from other kiwi. Kiwi have four toes on each foot which is unique for a member of the ratite family.

Draw the second leg on your kiwi.



Learn more
about this
task here!

Keep that zookeeper creativity flowing and *create* a kiwi habitat!

Now we are going to design a new habitat for the kiwi at Auckland Zoo!

We will have to make sure it has everything they need as part of the “environment” aspect of the Five Domains of Animal Welfare.

Follow our 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 kiwi interact and move in their habitat.



*Watch our video to see the
night habitat, Te Pō that we
have at Auckland Zoo.*

Design Brief:

- You need to design a space for two adult kiwi
- They are nocturnal birds so you need to think about lighting and switching day into night in the habitat so that they are awake during visiting hours
- Kiwi have a long beak and an excellent sense of smell so you need to design a space that lets them display their natural foraging behaviour while searching for food
- Kiwi sleep during the day in a burrow so they will need an individual space to sleep in that is sheltered
- Kiwi share this space with ruru (a New Zealand owl). Include a space for them to nest in your habitat design.

Draw a sketch of your design here:





Learn more
about this
task here!

Now it is time to *develop* a kiwi behavioural enrichment item or activity

Well done on getting this far through your training!

At Auckland Zoo our keepers create enrichment tasks for our kiwi. This ties into our “behaviour” and “physical health” aspects of the Five Domains of Animal Welfare.

As keepers it is important to provide enrichment activities for our kiwi. One of the ways that this is done is during feeding time for our kiwi in their night habitat, Te Pō. The kiwi are given a special mix of food that includes lean beef, crushed up insects, peas, corn, wheatgerm, apple, pear, banana, calcium and

phosphorous powder, and more. This mix is then put in tubes that are buried under the ground so the kiwi have to use their beak to forage for their food as they would in the wild.

The kiwi also have earthworms offered to them daily as part of their enrichment. Kiwi can smell an earthworm up to 3cm underground and offering earthworms encourages them to display their natural behaviour.

Your task is to design an enrichment activity for the kiwi that they can enjoy in their habitat.

Design Brief:

- Needs to be safe for the animals and keepers
- Consider their adaptations and natural behaviour
- Make sure it can be done in their habitat
- Consider the use of food
- Our keepers can be in the habitat with the kiwi

Plan your activity here:

Finally, spend some time *advocating* for and *caring* for the native wildlife of Aotearoa.

Now for a really important part of your job as a keeper: **Protecting birds in Aotearoa with some Wild Work action!**

The kiwi is New Zealand's national icon and is in need of help. Auckland Zoo is proud to be partnered with the Department of Conservation (DOC) and Save the Kiwi to support a kiwi recovery programme called Operation Nest Egg. As part of this programme, Auckland Zoo has hatched and released 400 kiwi back into the wild (and counting)!

In 2016, DOC launched Predator-Free 2050 in order to protect and restore the native species of Aotearoa. Auckland Zoo is involved in a wide range of wild work and advocacy such as Operations Nest Egg to support the native wildlife of Aotearoa.

In order to help kiwi and the other native wildlife of Aotearoa, there are conservation actions we can do in our own lives. Your task is to pick a conservation action to help the native wildlife in your area to thrive.

Task 1

Create a bird feeder or lizard home to encourage native wildlife to your garden at school or home.



Learn how to make a bird feeder here



Learn how to make a lizard home

Task 2

Or research and create a resource (*video, booklet, poster etc*) about actions people can do to support the wildlife of Aotearoa that you can share in your community (*local vet, school, display at a park etc*)

Some ideas are:

- Planting native trees and shrubs
- Responsible pet ownership
- Trapping pests such as possums and rats

Draw or write your idea here



Learn about animal behaviour here to help you with your task

TRAINEE KEEPER EXPERIENCE

Congratulations

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

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:

Kiwi trainee keeper for a day <https://bit.ly/3DKC4dR>

Learn more about the kiwi <https://bit.ly/3Rq5gM1>

Moving day for the kiwi <https://bit.ly/3Deq0BQ>

Make your own nectar feeder <https://bit.ly/3x01VLp>

Build your own lizard home <https://bit.ly/3RpjoFd>

