

# my zoo



**WHIO**  
POSTER INSIDE!

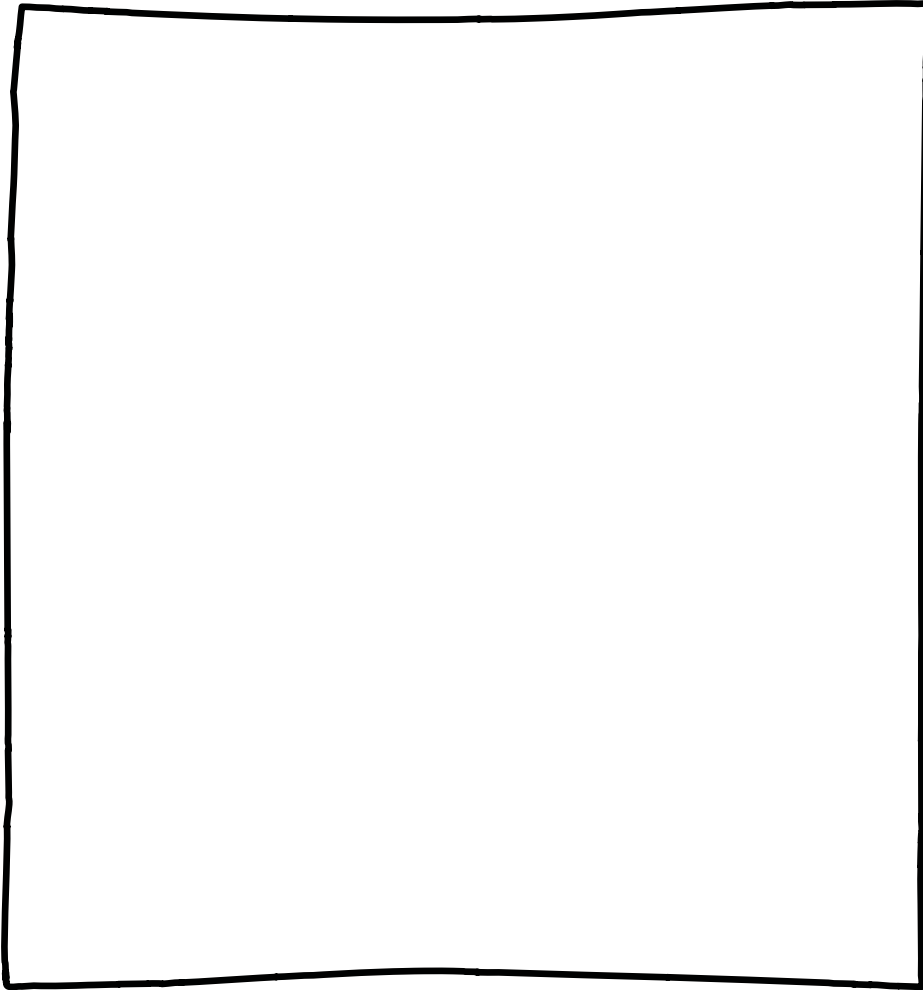
Auckland  
**ZOO**

This book belongs to

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My favourite animal is

Draw it below



I am \_\_\_\_\_ years old

## Auckland Zoo is coming to you!

In this edition, we're celebrating our natural treasures - New Zealand's amazing wildlife! Learn what makes our wildlife unique in the animal world and complete the animal profiles.



This is **my zoo**

# Whio - Blue duck

Habitat	Size	Diet	Conservation status
Fast flowing rivers	50-55cm long	Insects, grubs, fly larvae	<b>[Endangered]</b>

Camouflaged amongst rocks to hide from falcons and harriers

Soft 'lip' which helps them scrape insect larvae from rocks without damaging their bill

Webbed feet that close like an umbrella to reduce drag in the water

Males have a distinctive whistle - 'fee-o fee-o'

Whio are featured on the New Zealand \_\_\_\_\_ note.

# Kea

Habitat	Size	Diet	Conservation status
Forested alpine region	46cm long	Omnivore Do you know what an omnivore is?	<b>[Vulnerable]</b>

Intelligent and adaptable for survival in harsh mountain environment

Named from the sound of its call, 'kee-aa'

Bright coloured feathers on the underside of wings

Strong beak to dig grubs from rotten logs and manipulate objects

Kea are the only parrot in the world found in the \_\_\_\_\_ environment.

# Tieke - Saddleback

## Habitat

Forests

## Size

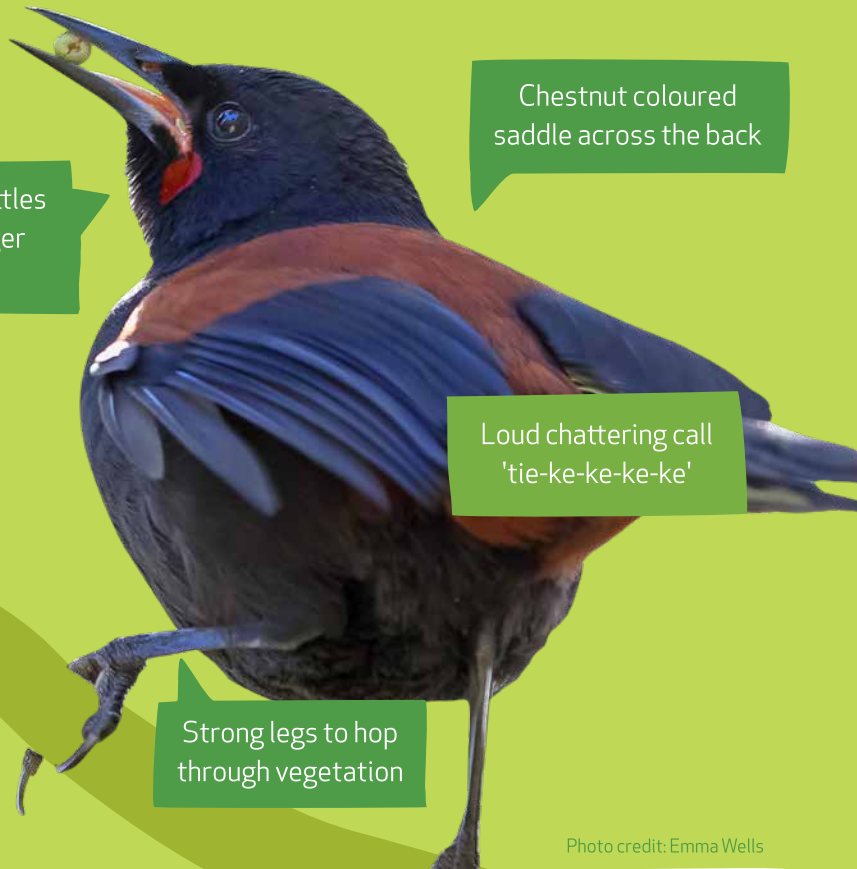
25cm long

## Diet

Insects, fruit  
and nectar

## Conservation status

**Near  
threatened**



Bright red wattles  
that get larger  
with age

Chestnut coloured  
saddle across the back

Loud chattering call  
'tie-ke-ke-ke-ke'

Strong legs to hop  
through vegetation

Photo credit: Emma Wells

Tieke are today only found on protected reserves and islands,  
because they are easily caught by \_\_\_\_\_. \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

# Tuna - New Zealand longfin eel

## Habitat

Waterways

## Size

Females 2m long  
Males 1m long

## Diet

Omnivore

## Conservation status

**At risk**



Excellent sense of smell,  
with nostrils sticking out  
from the end of their nose

Slime on body helps with breathing  
and protects skin on land

Biggest freshwater  
eel in the world

Rows of small sharp teeth  
that point backwards in  
their mouth

Photo credit: Brian Cairns

Longfin eels only breed once in their lives, swimming into the  
\_\_\_\_\_ Ocean near Tonga to lay their eggs.

# North Island brown kiwi

## Habitat

Forests

## Size

40cm long

## Diet

Insects and grubs

## Conservation status

[Endangered]

Can't fly – but still have small wings under their feathers

Sensitive whisker-like facial feathers to help find their way around in the dark

Powerful strong legs used to defend themselves

Nostrils at the end of their beak help to sniff out grubs and worms in leaf litter

Kiwi are nocturnal, meaning they rest during the \_\_\_\_\_ and come out at \_\_\_\_\_ to feed.

# Tuatará

## Habitat

Forest floor

## Size

65cm long

## Diet

Mainly insects

## Conservation status

[Least concern]

A third 'eye' on head that can sense light

Don't move a lot. Can survive only taking one breath an hour

Ambush predators - sit and wait until prey gets close enough to catch in their mouth

Colouring helps to camouflage in the forest floor to hide from predators and prey

Tuataras have been around for \_\_\_\_\_ million years. That is before the dinosaurs existed!

# Kororā - Little penguin

**Habitat**  
Coastal areas

**Size**  
25cm tall

**Diet**  
Fish, squid and  
crustaceans

**Conservation  
status**  
[Least  
concern]

Smallest penguin  
in the world

Wings adapted as  
flippers for swimming

Blue and white feathers give  
camouflage from predators  
above and below the water

Special gland produces  
oil that keeps feathers  
waterproof

Kororā are found on the coasts of New Zealand and

# Operation Nest Egg - Giving kiwi a head start

Operation Nest Egg (ONE) is a conservation programme helping young wild kiwi get through their first year of life – a time when they are most vulnerable to predators.



## How it works

**Eggs:** Kiwi eggs are gathered from the wild in the Coromandel and brought to our facility at Auckland Zoo, where they are incubated and hatched.



### 3-4 weeks old:

The chicks are released onto predator-free 'crèche' islands Rotoroa and Motutapu where they live and grow in safety.

### 1 year old:

The young kiwis are released back into their original forests, now big and strong enough to fight off most predators.



## Success

ONE is an important part of kiwi conservation, and has seen the survival rate of young kiwis go from 1 in 20 to more than 13 in 20.

As part of ONE, Auckland Zoo has given more than 300 kiwi chicks a fighting chance against predators in the wild.

A New Zealand Whio bird is shown in its natural habitat, standing on a rock in a shallow stream. The bird has a dark brown head and neck, a bright yellow eye, and a long, straight, pinkish-brown bill. Its body is covered in grey feathers with prominent reddish-brown spots on the neck and upper breast. Both wings are spread wide, revealing the underside of the primary feathers. The background consists of grey rocks and the flowing water of the stream.

# Whiō



**Sarah Brill - Ectotherm Keeper**  
with tuatara

**My favourite part of the day is** helping visitors find our very cryptic animals.

**My favourite facts about tuatara are** that they were around when the dinosaurs were alive, and that their teeth are part of their jawbone - instead of being individual pieces like ours. Many people might be surprised that the crest along their backs isn't sharp or hard - it's actually quite soft.

**What I love about my job** is that I get to work with New Zealand's most rare and interesting species and help them in the wild, and I get to share my passion for them with our visitors.

**What I like about ectotherms** is that there are lots of them unique to NZ and because of their differences to other animals, they are interesting to look after.

# What animal am I?



My name means  
'god of ugly things'

I moult (grow out of my skin) 10  
times before beginning adult life

I am found only in  
New Zealand

I am one of the largest and  
heaviest insects in the world

I am too heavy to jump

I am a \_\_\_\_\_

S	W	J	S	F	O	R	E	S	T	F	L	O	O	R	A	N	S	D	F
G	B	J	K	L	W	A	D	Y	Z	A	V	A	P	O	W	I	U	Y	T
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U	U	M	R	Q	P	R	E	D	A	T	O	R	F	R	E	E	Y	T	Q
G	H	T	I	E	K	E	Z	U	E	I	A	U	U	W	T	C	R	I	E

## Word-find

Kiwi  
Island  
Weta  
River  
Logs  
Mountain  
Alpine

Wattles  
Tieke  
Vegetation  
Nocturnal  
Forest Floor  
Adapted  
Camouflage

Predator Free  
Egg  
Whio  
Ectotherm  
Beach  
Natural  
Omnivore

# Play spy the eye



## Who's eye is whose?

Tuatara

Kea

Kiwi

Tieke

Whio

Kororā

# WHAT IS WHITEBAIT?

Have you ever eaten a whitebait fritter? You might have wondered where those tiny fish came from.

"Whitebait" is what we call the young of five different fish from the Galaxiidae family. They are native to Aotearoa/New Zealand.

They look very different when they are grown up. Giant kōkopu can grow to 40cm long!



BANDED KŌKOPU



INANGA

## THE GALAXIIDS



GIANT KŌKOPU



KŌARO



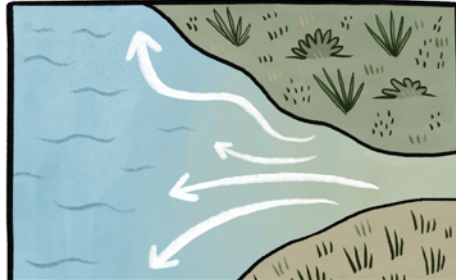
SHORTJAW KŌKOPU



WHITEBAIT



Adult galaxiids lay their eggs amongst the plants near the mouth of a river.



When the eggs hatch, the river carries the larvae to the sea where they spend the winter feeding on small crustaceans.

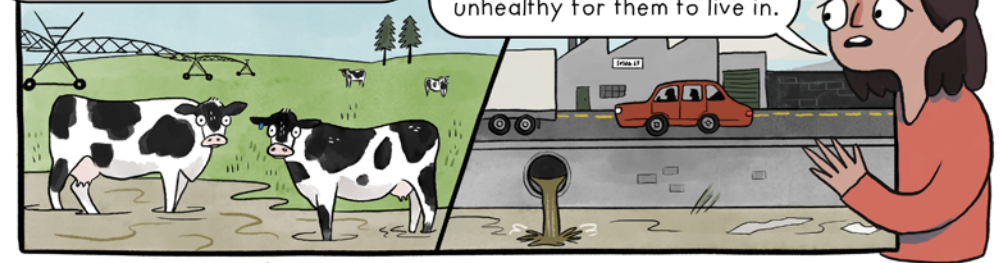


In the springtime, the young fish swim back up the river to finish growing in the fresh water.

It's during this journey upstream that they are caught in nets and known to us as "whitebait".

Sadly, there aren't as many galaxiids as there used to be and whitebait is getting harder to find.

Pollution from our cities and farms has made many rivers unhealthy for them to live in.



But it's not too late to change this, and we can all do something to help!

Build fences between farm animals and waterways

Keep drains clean

Grow native plants near rivers and streams

And tell your friends what you have learned



PLEASE DON'T EAT US! LET US LIVE AND GROW.

THANK YOU!



GISELLE CLARKSON '17



# Where do we live?



Help each animal find its home



Forest

Alpine

Waterways

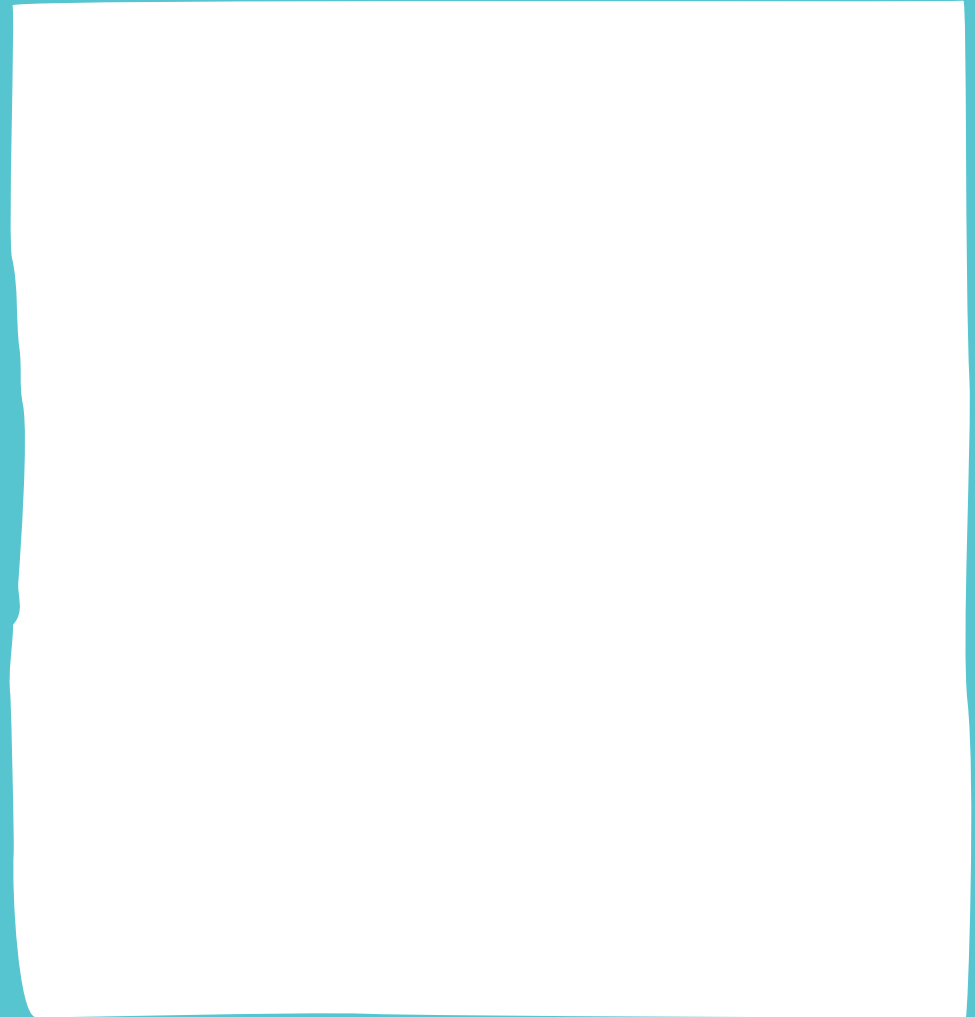
Forest floor

Forest

Rivers

# Draw the habitat

Draw the habitat that one of the New Zealand animals lives in.



## ANSWERS:

Whio: \$10; Kea: alpine; Tieke: rats, cats, stoats; Tuna: Pacific; Kiwi: day, night; Tuatara: 200; Kororā: Australia; What animal am I? wētāpunga