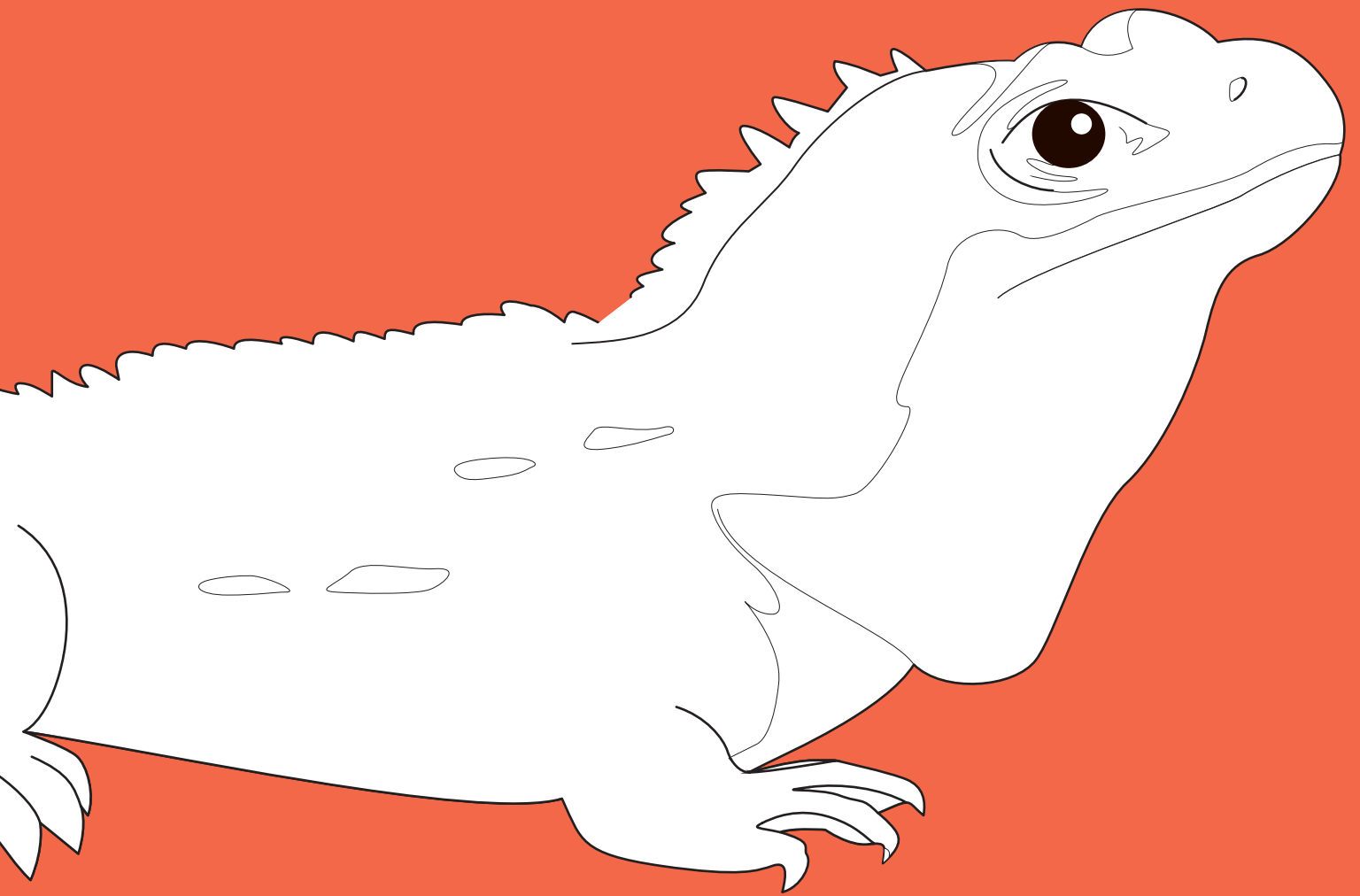


# Auckland Zoo ▶ Education Pack

**ECE**



**Theme:  
New Zealand species**

# Zoo Lesson plan

Theme:

Early Childhood (ages 0-4) **NEW ZEALAND SPECIES**

What will I learn:

How to identify and encourage endemic species in your backyard.

## Inspire

Find out about our unique species. Watch some ZooTales from our [New Zealand Species playlist](#).

## Explore

**Explore your garden!** Draw or make a tally of the birds, lizards, bugs and other creatures you come across. You could use this **scavenger hunt** to help (resource attached).

**Take a walk with your family!** Stop every 25 steps to see what plants/animals are sharing your space – keep track. Draw a picture of what you saw.

**Whio Bootcamp** – help these blue ducks get ready for the wild in an interactive game from our friends at DoC!

## Act

Plant some native trees to encourage New Zealand native birds, lizards and bugs in your garden. Why is this important?

Do you have any native plants in your garden?

## Create

New Zealand is home to many unique species of reptiles, birds and bugs. Lots of them are in trouble but you can help!

- Build a **lizard home** in your garden to help our native skinks and geckos! [Check out our video](#) and instructions (resource attached).
- Make a **nectar feeder** to encourage local birds in your garden (resource attached).
- **Decorate a tuatara** and its habitat using our template (resource attached).

## Reflect

Endemic animals are only found in one place; nowhere else in the world.

Can you name 3 endemic animals? Count them out loud and say their names! What letter do they begin with?

Curriculum  
links:

All lessons include aspects of the main strands of Te Whāriki the early childhood curriculum  
WELLBEING | MANA ATUA, BELONGING | MANA WHENUA, CONTRIBUTION | MANA TANGATA, COMMUNICATION | MANA REO, EXPLORATION | MANA AOTUROA

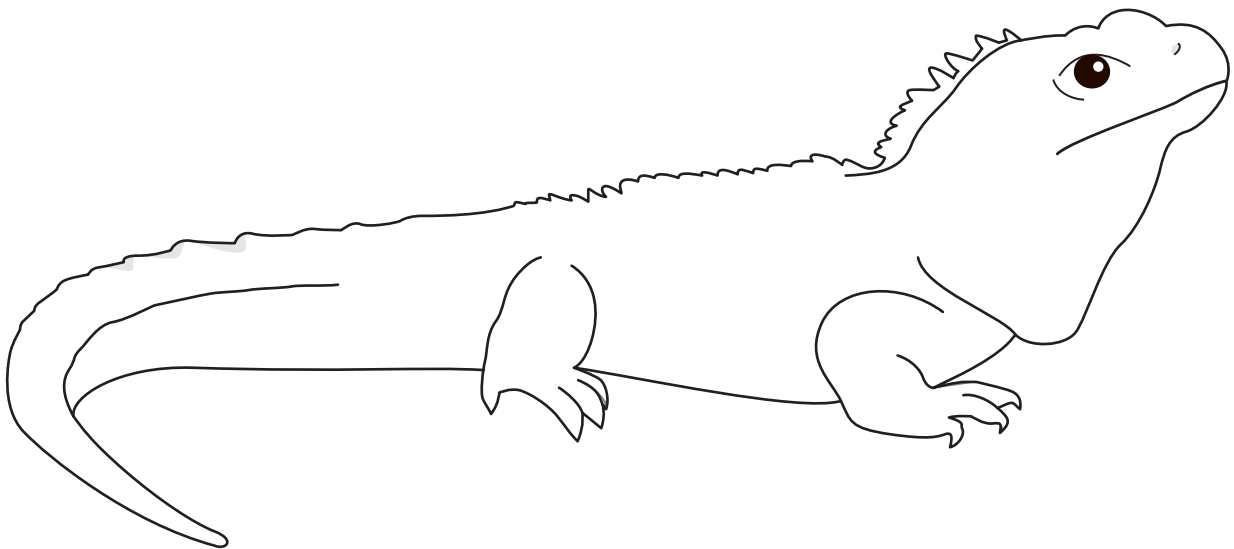
Auckland  
**ZOO**  
Wildlife conservation  
science at work

# Decorate your tuatara

**Tuatara are a type of reptile which means they are covered in scales!**

Use this template and find some bark to take a rubbing and give your tuatara some scaly skin!

Decorate its habitat by drawing in the things it might need in the wild or using things you find in your garden.



# ◀ Lizard homes ☺

## Your challenge:

Can you create a lizard home in your garden?



**Copper skink**

*Oligosoma aeneum*



**Forest gecko**

*Mokopirirakau granulatus*

**New Zealand has over 100 species of native lizards and they are all geckos and skinks!**

## Key Steps:

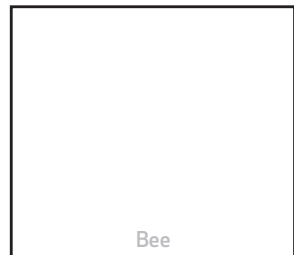
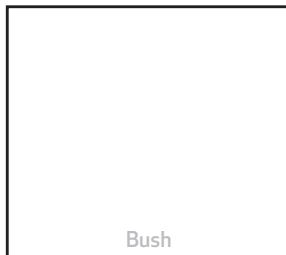
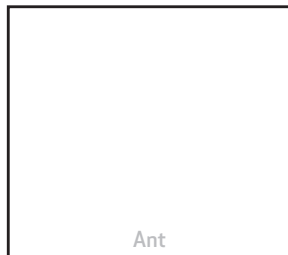
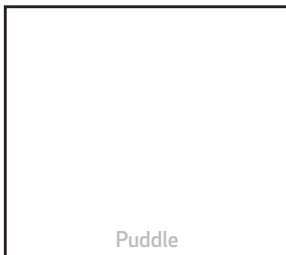
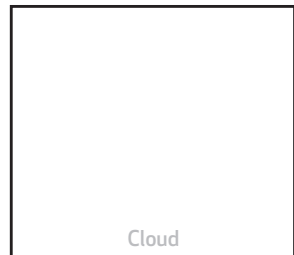
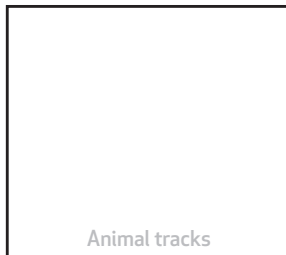
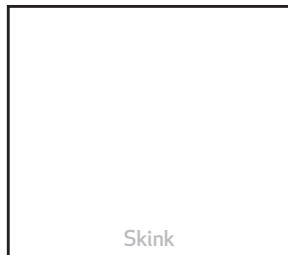
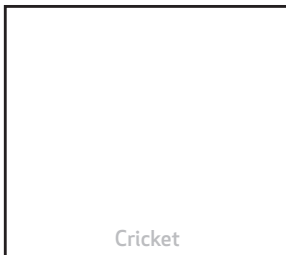
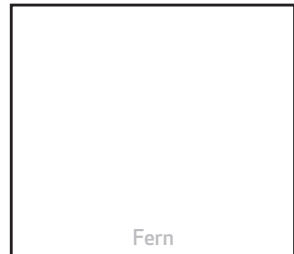
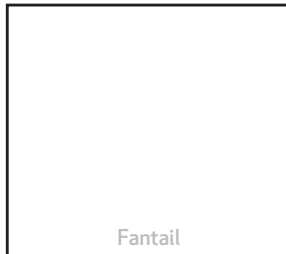
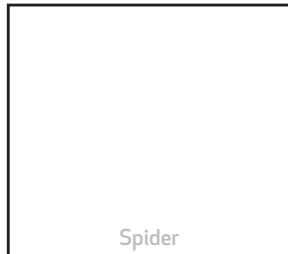
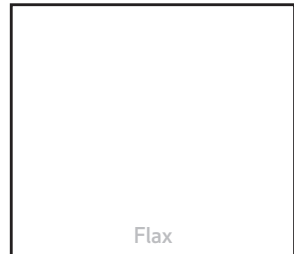
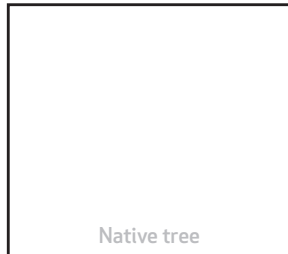
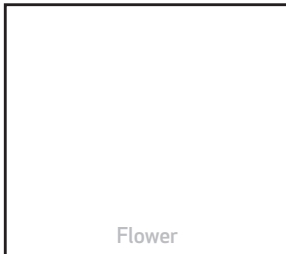
1. Find a warm, sunny, dry spot with some bushes or long grass for hiding
2. Gather up some old branches, corrugated tiles, rocks, dead logs or big pieces of bark
3. Assemble these materials by stacking them loosely around and on top of each other. Make sure there are lots of gaps and crevices for lizards to hide in or find insects
4. Put out a little dish of water, especially in the summer
5. Enjoy seeing lizards come and use your garden lizard home! Remember to keep watch from a distance, and to keep their area safe from pets or other predators

New Zealand has over 100 species of lizards which are all gecko and skinks. Throughout much of the Auckland region and many other places in the North Island, most of the lizards you see dashing around in the daytime will actually be the introduced Australian rainbow skink – sometimes referred to as the plague skink because they are spreading so fast! When you build your lizard home see if you can identify the skinks that use it and record the species. Use this [link](#) to help you!

All you need is:  
Paper, colouring pencils or pen  
and your backyard.

# Explore your backyard

Print out this scavenger hunt or if you don't have a printer you can draw your own! Find the listed items and draw them in the boxes below.



Share your art work! [Zoofriends@aucklandzoo.co.nz](mailto:Zoofriends@aucklandzoo.co.nz)

# New Zealand Species

## Vocabulary

### Essential words

**Endemic** Unique plants and animals found only in one place

**Introduced Species** Non-native plants and animals brought to a new habitat by people either accidentally or on purpose. Many can cause problems with endemic species and become invasive

**Endangered Species** When a plant or animal is in danger of disappearing forever

**Adaptation** A body part, feature, or behaviour that helps an animal or plant succeed in its environment

**Habitat** The place where animals and plants live and connect with each other

### Extras for experts

**Nocturnal** Animals who are most active during the night time

**Diurnal** Animals who are most active during daylight

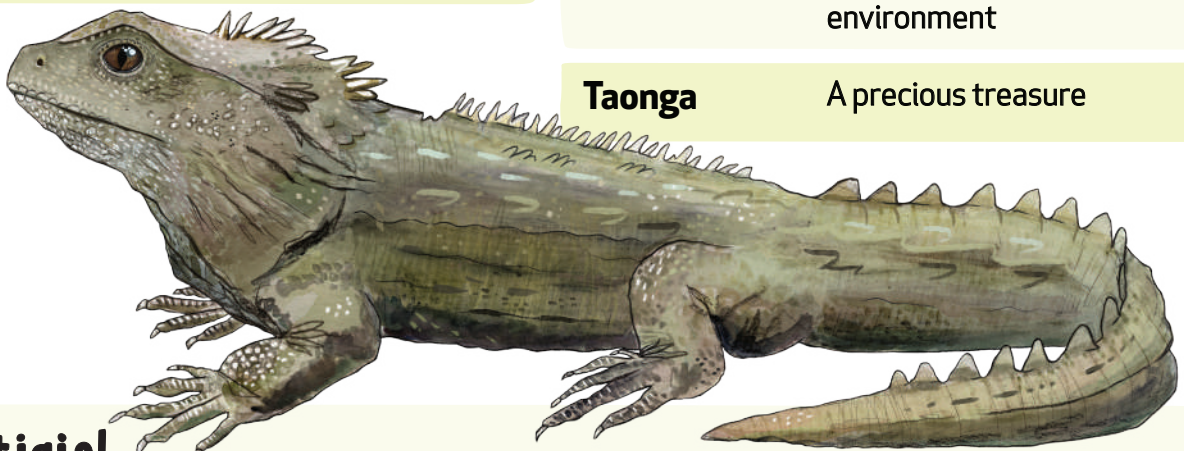
**Camouflage** A way of hiding something by colouring or covering it to look like its surroundings. Some living things also change their behaviour too

**Predator** An animal that lives by hunting and eating other animals

**Ecosystem** All living and non-living things in an area connecting and interacting with each other

**Kaitiakitanga** Guardianship and protection of the environment

**Taonga** A precious treasure



### Vestigial

Tuatara have a vestigial third eye on the top of their head, meaning that it doesn't use it for sight anymore.

What might our animals look like in a few million years? How might evolution change their bodies to be more suitable in a different landscape?