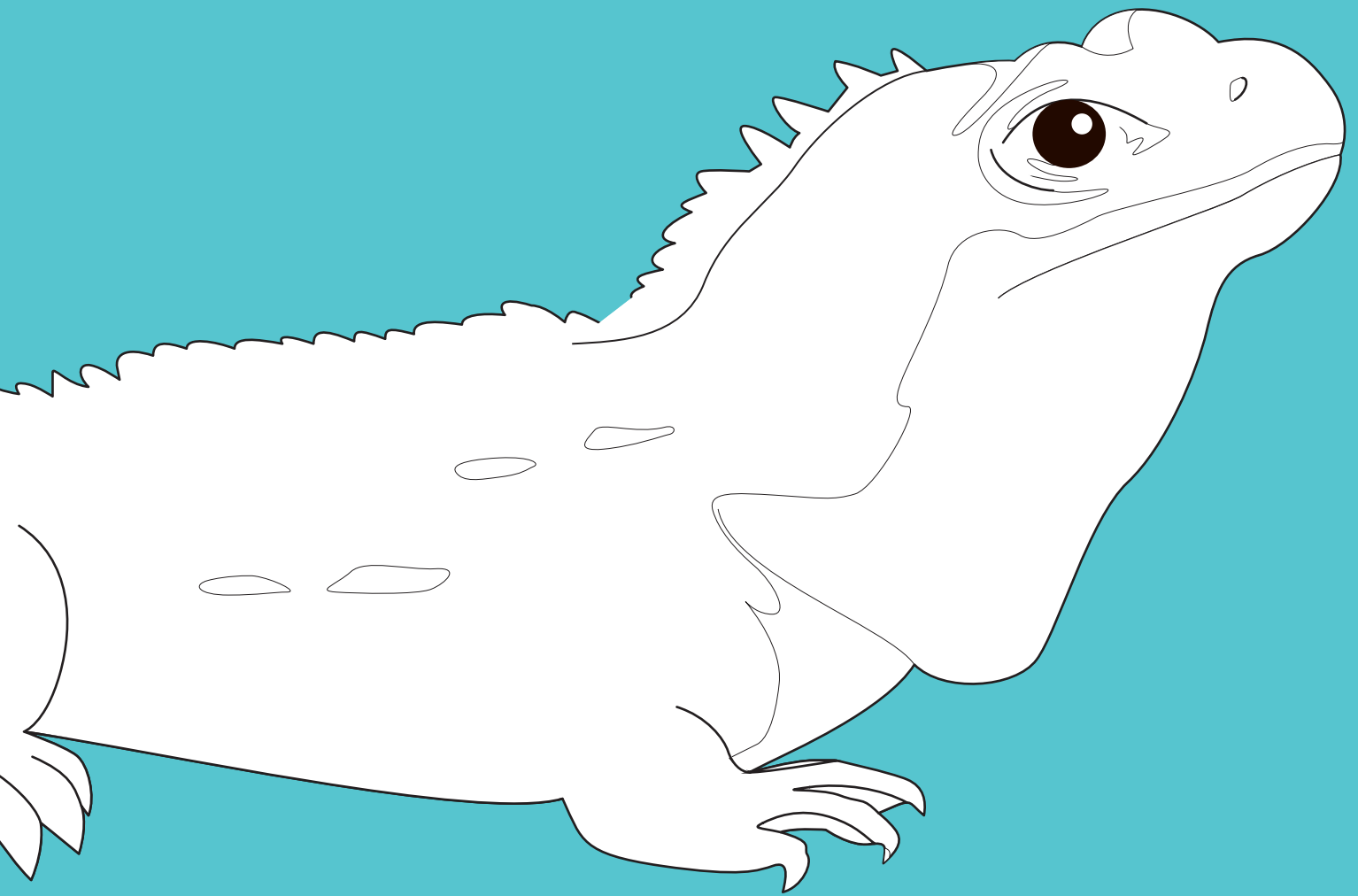


# Auckland Zoo

# ► Education Pack ◀

## Primary



**Theme:**  
**New Zealand species**

# Zoo Lesson plan

**Theme:** Primary (ages 5-11) **NEW ZEALAND SPECIES**

**What will I learn:** How to support and encourage the unique endemic species in New Zealand

## Inspire

Browse this Auckland Zoo ZooTales [New Zealand Species playlist](#) and find out more about our unique animals. Some of our favourites are [New Zealand Geckos](#) and [Truly Unique Tuatara](#).

Read about **whitebait in this informative comic** (resource attached). What are some of the things we can do to protect these vulnerable species?

## Explore

**Learn some new vocabulary** related to New Zealand Species. Which words are new for you? Create a quiz or some flash cards and get your family to practice these words too (resource attached).

**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). Write a little summary of what you noticed to share with family and friends online.

## Act

**Spread the Word!** You could create a little video about your favourite NZ Species or take a picture of your conservation project (e.g. lizard home) to inspire others! Share with your family and friends and with us!

## Create

**Create a tuatara in its habitat** using natural resources with our **Decorate a Tuatara template** (resource attached).

Feel like an expert? Try drawing your own using our **How to draw a tuatara guide** (resource attached).

Here are some things you can create to support our native species!

**Make a tracking tunnel** – find out which animals are in your neighbourhood. Do you have any pals or pests? (resource attached).

**Make a lizard home** – [Watch our video](#), and read some of our tips and tricks (resource attached).

**Make a nectar feeder** – to invite more birds into your garden (resource attached).

## Reflect

Take a [Mindful moment with Cathryn – Papatuānuku](#)

Check out this [video from Hohepa](#) – reflect on this idea of Kaitiakitanga and how you can be kaitiaki of the NZ environment.

What is one endemic NZ species that you care about conserving for the future? Why is it important for us to help support the endemic species that are here in New Zealand? Share your thoughts.

**Curriculum links:**

Lessons include a range of aspects from the main strands of the NZ Curriculum - English, The arts, Health and physical education, Learning languages, Mathematics and statistics, Science, Social science and Technology.

They also consider the Key Competencies - Thinking, Using language, Symbols and text, Managing self, Relating to others, Participating and communicating.

# ◀ 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!

# 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

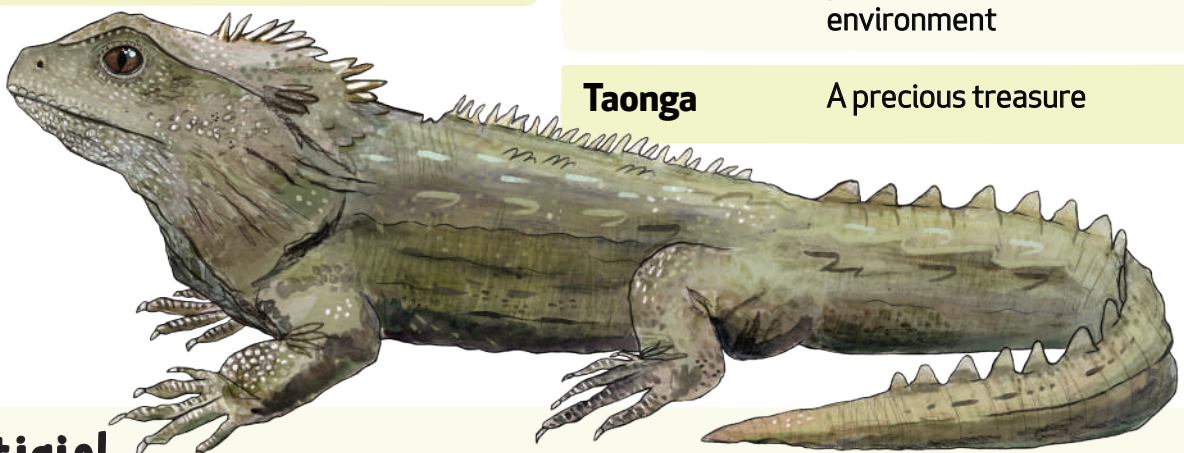
**Camouflage** A way of hiding something by colouring or covering it to look like its surroundings. Some living things also change their behaviour too

**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.

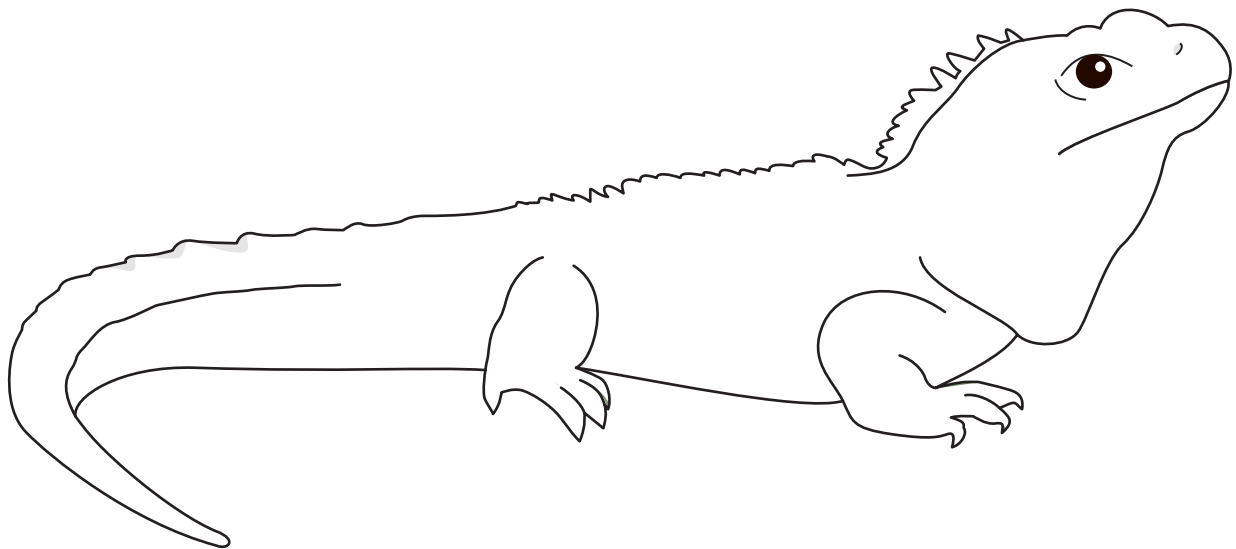
What might our animals look like in a few million years? How might evolution change their bodies to be more suitable in a different landscape?

# 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.





# HOW TO DRAW

## a Tuatara



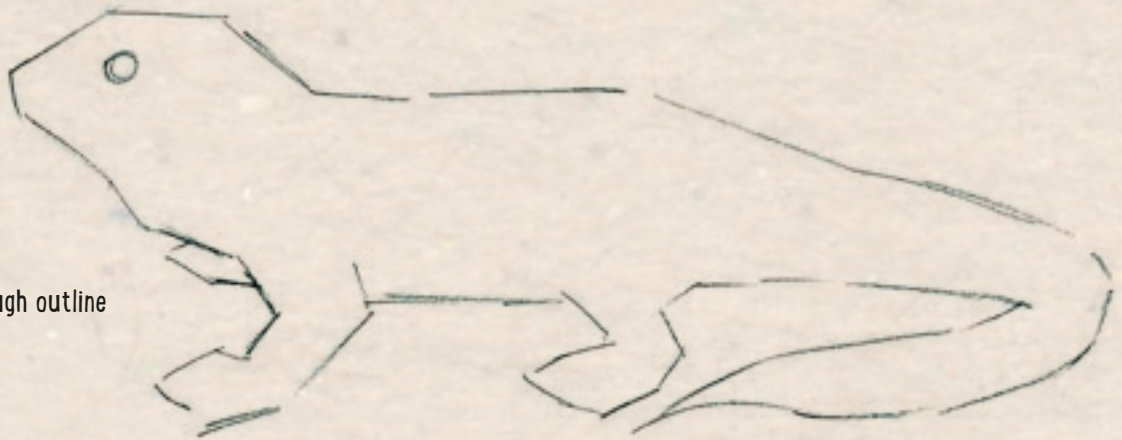
1

Use a pencil to sketch out simple shapes



2

Create a rough outline



3

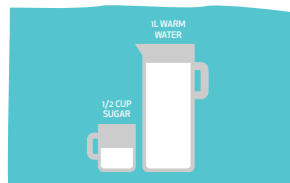
Add colour and detail



# Make a nectar feeder

Attract native birds like tui to your garden by creating your own nectar feeder.

1. Sit a 1L plastic milk container in a shallow dish or saucer.
2. Make 2-3 very small holes  $\frac{1}{2}$  a centimetre from the bottom of the bottle – this will allow sugar solution to come out of the bottle up to the height of the holes.
3. To make sugar solution, dissolve  $\frac{1}{2}$  a cup of sugar in 1L of warm water.
4. Fill the bottle of your automatic feeder and screw the lid back on tightly.
5. Place the feeder outside in a spot cats can't reach.



# Make a tracking tunnel

Find out if pests or pals live in your garden

## you will need:

- A3 size white card
- plastic lid
- stapler
- 1 tissue
- 1 teaspoon of food colouring, mixed with 2 teaspoons water
- 1 teaspoon peanut butter



# Who left the tracks?



Auckland  
**ZOO**  
Wildlife conservation  
science at work

Auckland Zoo is working hard  
to make the Zoo **pest free**



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.

 Flower	 Native tree	 Tui	 Flax
 Pebble	 Spider	 Fantail	 Fern
 Cricket	 Skink	 Animal tracks	 Cloud
 Puddle	 Ant	 Bush	 Bee

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