

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
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Fun Facts



- New Zealand Falcons (Kārearea) are commonly found in pine forests where there are lots of small animals to hunt and plenty of places to nest.
- Falcon species are found all over the world but New Zealand Falcons are found only in New Zealand.
- New Zealand Falcons sometimes lay their eggs on the ground in a nest called a 'scrape'.
- New Zealand Falcons defend their nest very well and will often chase off people and dogs if they get too close.
- From the day an egg is laid to the day it hatches takes 33 days.
- When a falcon first hatches it weighs around 20g, which is about the same as a large strawberry.
- From the day an egg hatches it takes between 33 and 36 days until the chick starts flying.
- The New Zealand Falcon can be seen on the \$20 banknote.
- When a falcon sneezes or has a runny nose it is called the 'snurts'.
- If humans were to grow as quickly as falcon chicks they would reach full adult size by the age of 1 ½ years old.
- Falcons only eat meat (chicken, pigeon, sparrow, finch, duck, rabbit, hare).
- Falcons have hollow bones so that they are light and can fly fast.
- Falcons use their tails to steer and brake and their wings to gain height and speed.
- New Zealand Falcons can fly 200km per hour at their fastest.
- Falcons have forward-facing eyes like people. They also have binocular vision and can see eight times better than humans.
- Some people confuse New Zealand Falcons with hawks but they are very different birds.



ATTRIBUTION: Content for this lesson plan including photos has been provided by Wingspan, and the teaching and learning activities have been developed with the support of Wingspan and teachers from Milford School and Takapuna Grammar School in Auckland. The SneezeSafe® team at Kleenex® Tissues appreciates your support.

200
KPH

Sneeze Safe®



HEALTHY FORESTS
LESSON
PLAN



AIM

Students will appreciate the importance of keeping New Zealand's pine forests healthy and how that can support threatened New Zealand Falcons (Kārearea).

Weblinks
www.sneezesafe.co.nz
www.wingspan.co.nz
www.nz.fsc.org/en-nz

Level 3 Science

Living World – Ecology

Students will explain how living things are suited to their particular habitat and how they respond to environmental changes both natural and human induced.

Participating and Contributing

Students will use their growing science knowledge when considering issues of concern to them. They will explore various aspects of an issue and make decisions about possible actions.



Dear Teachers and Parents

"A healthy forest is like a puzzle with pieces made up of soil, insects, sunlight, clean air and healthy trees. Once all of these pieces are in the right places there is a whole picture; a healthy forest." Wingspan National Bird of Prey Centre, Rotorua, New Zealand

We are all dependent on forests for the oxygen in the air we breathe, and **Kleenex**® Tissues are playing their part in New Zealand and world-wide to help keep forests healthy.

In an extension of the **SneezeSafe**® programme which has been helping children learn good flu hygiene habits for more than a decade, the team has developed a new mini-lesson. The new teaching content aims to help children understand the importance for New Zealand of keeping our pine forests healthy, which in turn helps conservation efforts to look after our threatened species.

In the lesson children learn about the New Zealand Falcon or Kārearea. They learn how this species has adapted very successfully to living in pine plantation forests including Kaingaroa Forest which has become home for the birds. Kaingaroa Forest extends from Rotorua all the way to Taupo and is the largest man-made pine forest in the Southern Hemisphere. More New Zealand Falcons live in the Kaingaroa Forest than in any other forest in New Zealand.

Kleenex® Tissues have teamed up with Wingspan Birds of Prey Trust, the national guardians of Kārearea, to bolster conservation efforts to save them. Click on 'Letter from Wingspan'.



LESSON PLAN

Activity 1

WHAT'S IN YOUR BACK YARD?

- The teacher takes the class outside.
- Students are asked to identify the different parts that make up a healthy forest: soil, insects, sunlight, fresh air, trees and birds.
- The class conducts a bird-count.



Activity 2

HOW FAST IS 200 KILOMETRES PER HOUR?

- Students name other things that can move at up to 200 kilometres per hour like the New Zealand Falcon.
- Together the class explores the top speeds of other things that travel fast.
- Suggestions include: cheetah, Lamborghini; drones (photographic); jet boats and people's untrapped sneezes.



Activity 3

UNDERSTANDING NZ'S 'FOREST FALCON'

- The class makes one corner of the classroom an imaginary pine forest.
- Three levels are shown either on the walls or by hanging strings from the ceiling:
 1. Ground level: nests containing eggs or newly hatched chicks often sit among the cut-over areas on the forest floor;
 2. Newly developing trees: fledgling birds learn to fly among the new trees;
 3. Mature trees: adult birds fly to the highest tree tops.
- Students are asked to place images of New Zealand Falcons (maybe pictures drawn in class or photos) showing how the three levels of the forest are used at different stages of the birds' development.

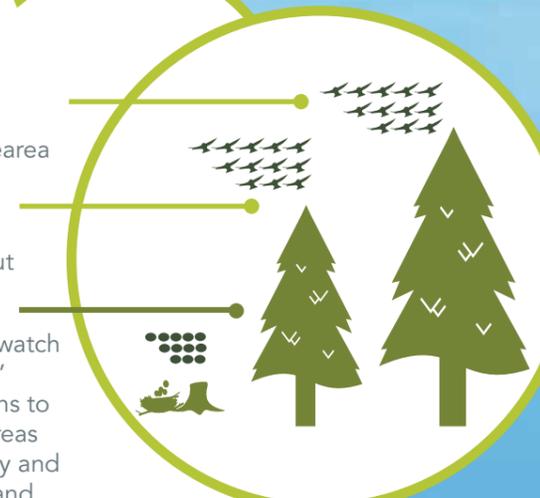


MESSAGE FROM WINGSPAN:

Kārearea evolved in New Zealand without mammal pests such as feral cats, rats, possums, stoats and hedgehogs. Because of this, they often lay their eggs on the ground in a 'scrape' or nest which makes their eggs and small chicks vulnerable to being attacked. In fact, only 25% or 1 in 4 Kārearea chicks survives to be one year old.

The great thing about pine forests is that new plantings and mature trees are used by the New Zealand Falcon throughout their lives.

The tall mature trees are great vantage points for falcons to watch over their territory, and watch for food to hunt. The 'cut over' areas, where trees have been cut down, are perfect for falcons to nest in because they have lots of little hiding spots. Those areas are also a great place for young falcons to start learning to fly and hunt. They will start by jumping up and climbing onto logs, and eventually flying up to the bigger trees. They chase insects and small birds, and the parent birds encourage their chicks to chase them holding food in their talons, or they deliver food to the nest. It pays to be the biggest, loudest and fastest falcon in the nest! Pine forests have everything a falcon could ever need.



Activity 4

CONTRIBUTING AND REPORTING SIGHTINGS

- The class is asked to design a poster or t-shirt encouraging people to report sightings of Kārearea to Wingspan. See weblinks.
- Students research how to identify Kārearea, and in particular how to distinguish them from the Australasian Harrier. These hawks are a more common native bird (known as Kahu); however they are not an endemic or threatened species like Kārearea.

