

Summer nature exploring Tūhura taiao o raumati

Outdoor connection activity

February, 2022



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai



New Zealand Government





Learning intentions

We are learning to:

- explore and connect with nature in summer
- make observations of the environment, plants and living things
- record findings and express experiences through photos, drawings, writing, notes or music

Curriculum links (Levels 1-4)

Science: Living world; Nature of science

English, The Arts.

He aha ngā kaupapa o waho i te
raumati?

What is happening outside in
summer?



We are all part of nature

He tūhonotanga tātau nā te taiao, ki te taiao



- What can we learn from the living things around us in summer?
- What do you notice about what is living near you?



Outdoor explore

Take a camera, device or paper to record your findings.

Let's explore:

- Te taiao; the environment, Ranginui and Papatūānuku
- Birds in summer
- Insects and invertebrates
- Other living things in summer
- Plants and flowers
- How we connect with te taiao in summer

Let's explore!

Head outside and visit
Ranginui and Papatūānuku.

Make a list of adjectives to
describe what you see and
feel.

How do Ranginui and Papatūānuku look
and feel in summer?



Birds in summer

Many birds raise their families in summer!



Tūi feeding by D. Merton



Fantail/pīwakawaka feeding by David Mudge



Dotterels (shorebirds) nesting by Mithuna Sothieson DOC

- What are the birds doing today?
- Can you see any signs of birds' nests or eggs?
- Are birds feeding their chicks?

Insects and invertebrates

Invertebrates are animals
without a backbone



Stick insects/ rō
(smooth stick insect)



Cicadas/ kihikihi
(chorus cicada)



Dragonflies/kapowai
(Carove's bush dragonfly by
Shellie Evan)



Beetles (Huhu)

Summer bugging

Can you find any... ?



Butterflies/ pūrerehua
(copper butterfly)



Crickets/pihareinga
(north of Kaikoura)



Bees/pī
(bumble bee)



Wasp/ wāpi
(german wasp)

Sounds of summer

What can you hear
outdoors in summer?



Chorus cicada and their song

Moult and exoskeletons

Insects have skeletons on the outside! They moult their exoskeletons as they grow.

Summer is a good time to spot them!



Cicada moult by Shellie Evans (DOC)



Giant bush dragonfly nymph moult by Milen Marinov



Stick insect exoskeleton

Other summer loving native animals

These are more difficult to find!



Geckos/ pāpā



Bats/ pekapeka (photo DOC).
Nocturnal animals



Wētā by Kyle Bland



Tuatara by Sabine Bernert

Which plants are
flowering in your
area?

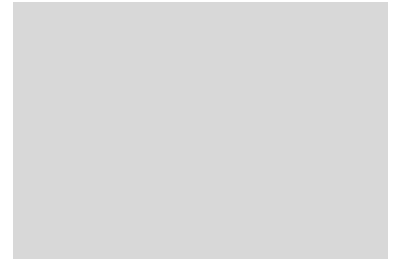
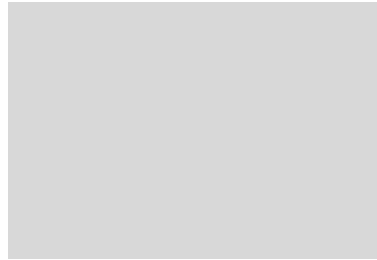
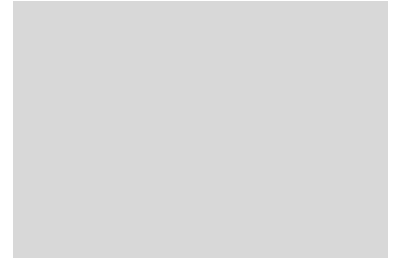
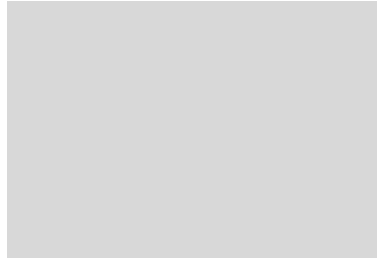
Draw your favourite
flowers



Pōhutukawa and hebe flowering in summer

My summer nature observations

Record your
findings



Take photos from the same points in each season to see how the seasons influence nature.

Back in the classroom

Summer learning

- Reflect on what you saw, heard and felt outside
- Record your findings on [iNaturalist](#)
- Draw or paint what summer feels like to you
- Make music that sounds like summer
- Make a photo story about summer
- Write about and describe summer
- Learn more about local living things. List or survey the species in your area.
- Start a learning inquiry about something you observed and record your questions.

For other conservation and teaching outside

resources, visit: [Resources: Conservation education \(doc.govt.nz\)](#)

How do **you**
connect with
nature in summer?



Whiti ana te rā, ki te pae o mahara,
whiti, whiti ora.

The sun shines, shining on a distant horizon.

