KĀKĀ MORPHOLOGY

MORPHOLOGY: the form and structure of an animal or any of its parts

KĀKĀ COLOURING

Beak: _____

Head: _____

Cheeks: _____

Chest: _____

Back: _____

Wings: _____

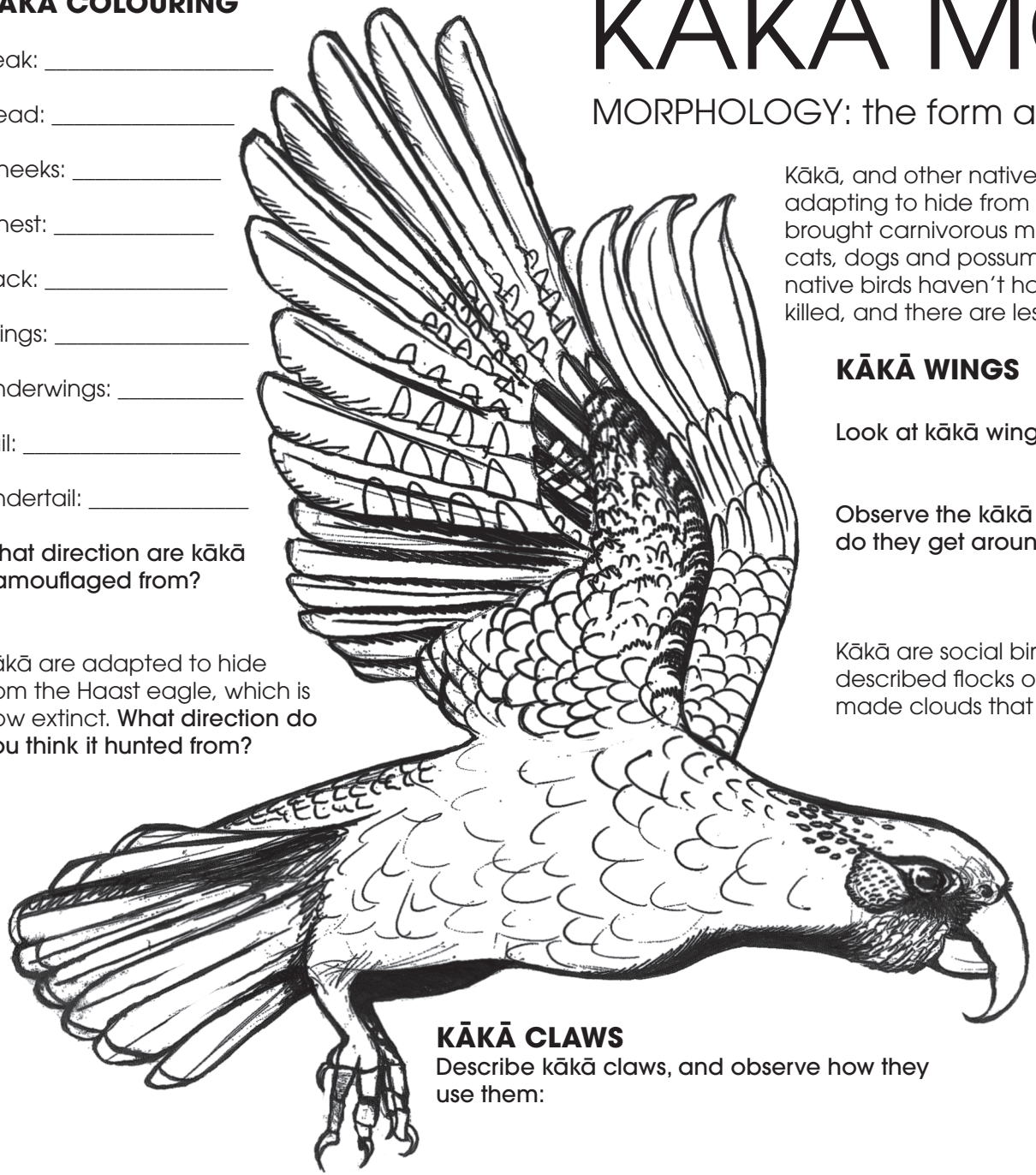
Underwings: _____

Tail: _____

Undertail: _____

What direction are kākā camouflaged from?

Kākā are adapted to hide from the Haast eagle, which is now extinct. **What direction do you think it hunted from?**



KĀKĀ CLAWS

Describe kākā claws, and observe how they use them:

Kākā, and other native birds such as kiwi and kākāpō, spent a long time evolving and adapting to hide from the Haast eagle, which was the main predator before humans brought carnivorous mammals to New Zealand. Mammals such as stoats, weasels, rats, cats, dogs and possums were introduced very recently in the big picture, and our native birds haven't had time to adapt. This makes them very vulnerable and easily killed, and there are less and less of them. Soon some might even go extinct.

KĀKĀ WINGS

Look at kākā wings. Do you think kākā are good fliers?

Observe the kākā in the enclosures. Where do they hang out most of the time? How do they get around? What body parts do they use?

Kākā are social birds that like to form flocks. When European settlers first arrived, they described flocks of kākā to be so loud and noisy that they were deafening and made clouds that blocked out the sun.

KĀKĀ BEAK

Describe a kākā beak shape:

Kākā are mostly vegetarian, strip bark from trees and have a tongue like a brush to mop up liquids.
Circle the foods below you think are part of a kākā's diet:

Grubs Chocolate Fruit Bread Honeydew Mushrooms
Seeds Butterflies Leaves Tree sap
Rats Mice Flies Flowers Nectar
Sticks Sand Lizards Other birds

KĀKĀ ECOLOGY

ECOLOGY: how organisms interact with each other and with their physical environment.

KĀKĀ NESTING

Nesting begins in early _____. Nests are built in the holes of large old trees.

Entrance holes are often surprisingly _____. The same nesting holes can be used over multiple _____. Nests are shallow bowls of decayed _____ dust. Timing of breeding is linked to "mast events", which are random fruiting times of native trees.

The small opening of the nest means there is no escape when _____ attack.

KĀKĀ CHICKS

Juveniles (_____) leave the nest at four or five weeks old in the South Island.

When they first leave, they cannot _____. They perch on low _____ or on the _____, and are still fed by their _____.

This _____ was helpful when they were hiding from Haast eagles in the sky, but now it makes them very _____ to ground-based predators like rats, stoats, and weasels. Kākā chicks are easy _____.

KĀKĀ COMPETITION

Different species _____ over time so they don't _____ with other species for the same _____ or food or jobs.

Kākā have not had time to adapt to introduced species which are competing for the same _____. Introduced wasps eat the _____ that kākā need for energy.

_____ eat the mistletoe that kākā eat, leaving less for them.

WORD BANKS

WOOD
NARROW
YEARS
SUMMER
STOATS

PREY
GROUND
PARENTS
CHICKS
BRANCHES
BEHAVIOUR
VULNERABLE
FLY

HONEYDEW
POSSUMS
COMPETE
ADAPT
SPACE
FOOD