

# FEATHERED FRIENDS



## LESSON PLAN

### Curriculum Achievement Objectives

#### Science:

Living World - Ecology, Evolution  
Understanding about Science -  
Participating and Contributing

#### Technology:

Brief Development

### Physical Resources

15x Wild Bird Guide checklists  
15x whiteboard markers  
1x bird's nest  
1x stone egg  
Colouring crayons

1x reference sheets for facilitators

## 1 FINDING FEATHERED FRIENDS (30 mins)

Students use the laminated Wild Bird Guide pamphlets to identify birds they find in the Botanic Garden. Whiteboard markers can be used to tick the boxes beside found birds. Give students half an hour to roam the garden areas, and advise them to use the suggested search areas mentioned for each of the birds.

Discuss how this relates to different birds being suited to different living environments based on their physical features and preferences (**Living World - Ecology**).

## 2 KĀKĀ COLOURING/MORPHOLOGY/ECOLOGY (20 mins)

Sit students on the grassy patch at a respectful distance from the kākā enclosure, and quietly observe the birds.

**Juniors:** complete the Kākā Colouring worksheet, and discuss how kākā are camouflaged from extinct Haast eagles that hunted from the sky.

**Seniors:** fill out the Kākā Morphology/Ecology worksheet and discuss how kākā features and behaviour means they are vulnerable to mammalian predators (**Living World - Ecology, Evolution**).

### **3 KĀKĀ ENCLOSURE (20 mins)**

After observing and learning about kākā behaviour and needs, design an enclosure that would keep captive kākā safe and comfortable while they are part of a breeding program to boost their numbers. Use the reference card to talk your class through requirements as they design and draw. Use the aviary kākā enclosure as inspiration, or think about Orokonui Ecosanctuary and how it keeps birds safe and happy  
**(Technology - Brief Development).**

### **4 EGG-SNATCH GAME (20 mins)**

Use the instruction card to carry out the Egg-Snatch game.

Discuss with students how having fewer introduced predators around would help the native birds that are not able to defend themselves or their nests. For thoughtful students, you could encourage discussion about the ethics of trapping/killing one type of animal to save another type of animal, and the motivations behind these actions.