



Lesson plan 5

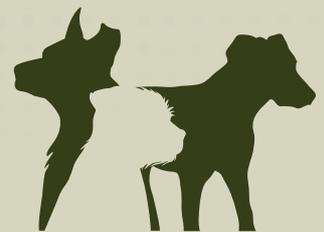
Paws on Patrol

Bella the kiwi detection dog



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

Kiwi
bank.



CONSERVATION
DOGS
NEW ZEALAND

KEY

 = links to videos  = links to websites  = links to pages within this resource

Learning intentions

This lesson plan has been developed to support learning about the Conservation Dogs Programme and how Conservation Dogs help protect our special native species such as brown kiwi. It should be completed after viewing  [Paws on Patrol episode 5: Tash and Bella](#) in the *Fanimals* series.

To learn more about Conservation Dogs, Predator Free 2050, biosecurity and how to take conservation action in your local community, visit  www.doc.govt.nz/education-conservation-dogs.

Upon completion of this lesson plan, students will:

- ▶ understand the important role Conservation Dogs play in protecting New Zealand's unique biodiversity
- ▶ have an increased knowledge and understanding about kiwi
- ▶ begin to understand the role that reserves/ecosanctuaries such as Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari play in protecting our unique biodiversity.



Curriculum links

Achievement objectives

LEVELS 1-4 SCIENCE

Nature of Science: Investigating in science, Communicating in science, Understanding about science, Participating and contributing.

Living World: Ecology. Recognise (and explain) how living things are suited to their particular habitat and how they respond to environmental changes, both natural and human-induced.

Science capabilities: Engage with science.

LEVELS 1-4 SOCIAL STUDIES

Understand how people make decisions about access to and use of resources.

Key competencies

- ▶ Thinking.
- ▶ Using language.
- ▶ Relating to others.
- ▶ Participating and contributing.

Key vocabulary

Biodiversity: The variety of living things in a place. The greater the number of living things, the more 'biodiverse' the place is.

Biosecurity: Actions to keep New Zealand free of unwanted organisms (introduced predators, weeds and diseases such as kauri dieback and myrtle rust) and to control, manage or remove them if they arrive in the country.

Introduced pest/predator: An animal or plant species that has come from another country and is threatening New Zealand's living things and environment. Introduced predators were brought to New Zealand by people via ships and through the transportation of goods.

Native species: A species that arrived in New Zealand by itself and is also found in other countries.

Predator-proof fence: Fencing that isolates a defined area on the mainland to protect and restore habitats through the intensive management of introduced pests/predators.

Mainland island/reserve/ecosanctuary: A protected area that is isolated by fencing, geographical features or, more commonly, the intensive management of introduced pests/predators to keep wildlife safe.

Transmitter: A tracking device to help monitor wildlife.

Activity ideas

Activity 1: Watch  [Paws on Patrol episode 5](#) and have a class discussion to summarise the story. Then watch the video a second time and ask students to think about the three key points in the story. They can then share these points with a buddy and compare ideas. You could ask students the following questions to support the discussion.

- ▶ What characteristics or qualities does Bella have that make her suited to detecting kiwi?
- ▶ How do trained Conservation Dogs benefit the environment and conservation?
- ▶ What can you do at school or in your own backyard to protect and restore nature?

Activity 2: Find out about Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari (featured in the video) or any nature reserves/ecosanctuaries/mainland islands that are close to you. Consider the following questions.

- ▶ Why do we need nature reserves/ecosanctuaries/mainland islands?
- ▶ What are the benefits of them?
- ▶ If you were to create a nature reserve/ecosanctuary near to you, where would it be and why?
- ▶ What actions should people take before visiting a nature reserve/ecosanctuary or pest-free island?

Activity 3: Design a predator-proof fence/enclosure like the one used at Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari.

- ▶ Remember that some predators can climb, jump (including between tree branches) and burrow underground.
- ▶ Think about the required height, distance from trees and strength of the fence.
- ▶ Research materials that would withstand the elements, be sustainable and last a long time, and suggest a list of materials to build the enclosure.
- ▶ Suggest a list of actions people working at the sanctuary would need to carry out to ensure the fence remains effective over time and the enclosure remains pest free.

Activity 4: Help protect kiwi and our other native birds by increasing awareness about being a responsible pet owner in your community.

- ▶ Using information from the [Kiwis for Kiwi](#) and [DOC](#) websites, create posters, blogs, flyers, etc. that include tips for being a responsible pet owner and share these with your community.



Kiwi avoidance training day. Photo: : [Kiwis for Kiwi](#)

Activity 5: Learn more about kiwi using the *Kiwi Forever* education resource:  www.kiwisforkiwi.org/Kiwi-Forever.pdf

Supporting resources

Useful links

Reserves/ecosanctuaries and mainland islands

- ▶ Mainland islands: www.doc.govt.nz/our-work/mainland-islands
- ▶ Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari: www.sanctuarymountain.co.nz

Kiwi

- ▶ Kiwi Forever education resource: www.kiwisforkiwi.org/Kiwi-Forever.pdf
- ▶ Kiwis for Kiwi website: www.kiwisforkiwi.org
- ▶ Brown kiwi: www.doc.govt.nz/brown-kiwi

Responsible pet ownership

- ▶ Kiwis for Kiwi pet owners webpage: www.kiwisforkiwi.org/take-action/pet-owners
- ▶ Dog access on conservation land: www.doc.govt.nz/dog-access
- ▶ Kiwi lessons for dogs going bush: <https://blog.doc.govt.nz/2015/08/11/kiwi-aversion-training>
- ▶ *Coastal wildlife and your dog* flyer: www.doc.govt.nz/help-birds

Further information

For additional resources to support teaching and learning in nature, visit DOC's conservation education webpage: www.doc.govt.nz/education.

To learn more about our amazing Conservation Dogs, check out DOC's Conservation Dogs Programme education resource: www.doc.govt.nz/education-conservation-dogs.

For further information on the Conservation Dogs Programme, visit www.doc.govt.nz/dog-access.