

Taste of Te Kauri

Animal Pest Module

Framework for Learning Resource

Pre-visit

1. Influences of the past

- Students will explore different perspectives of the history of Waikato natural landscape.
- Students will research and discuss the extent and diversity of local natural ecosystems in the past.
- Students will study how people use and value natural resources in different ways, how people have influenced change to the land cover and biodiversity and learn about historical events specific to their area.

2. Introducing the issue

- Students will explore the concept that there are native and exotic (introduced) species (plant and animal).
- Students will develop their knowledge and understanding of the interrelatedness of a natural ecosystem.

3. Introducing the site

- Students will share their existing knowledge of the site and build on this knowledge through discussion and research.

Visit

Current Situation

- Students will experience a local natural fragment. Through activities, observations and measurements they will gain an understanding of what is currently living in this environment, its inter-relatedness and gain some insight into how the health of the fragment is compromised.
 - *Students will observe and learn to identify key native plants that live here.*
 - *Students will observe and learn to identify key native birds here.*
 - *Students will observe and record different structure or zonation of vegetation within the fragment.*

Post-visit

- Students will review their understanding of the health and values of a local natural fragment and investigate ways they could become actively involved in caring for a natural special place.

4. Exploring alternatives

- Student will learn about what the community and/ or other organisations are doing to help heal local natural fragments.
 - *Students will contribute in some way to the restoration of their natural fragment.*
 - *If pest control is underway in the fragment the students may be able to observe this.*
- Students will learn monitoring skills through hands-on activities and develop an understanding of the need for measuring change through interpretation, discussion and reflection on results (theirs and others).
 - *Students will use rodent tunnels to monitor the presence of these pests.*
 - *Students will learn about signs of pest presence and record any of these.*

5. Taking Action

- Students will work as a group to discuss, plan, design and take action for their local environment.
Possible Options:
 - *Carry out pest monitoring at school or at a nearby fragment.*
 - *Create a presentation to raise awareness of pest issues.*
 - *Design a monitoring or control equipment/technology.*
 - *Write a letter to the local council or paper about what you saw at your local fragment, with possible suggestions for management or monitoring.*

Reflect on Change

- Students will use a range of strategies to reflect on their learning and action.
- Students will celebrate their successes and plan for the future.