

Taste of Te Kauri

Framework for Learning Resource

Weed Module

Pre-visit

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.

Introducing the issue

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

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 through weed invasion.
 1. Students will learn to identify key native plant species
 2. Students will learn to identify key weed species.
 3. Students will observe and measure weed infestations.
 4. Students will observe weed adaptation features and compare these with native plants.

5. Students will participate in some action to contribute to their local fragment restoration.

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.

Exploring alternatives

- Student will learn about what the community and/ or other organisations are doing to help heal local natural fragments.
- 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).
 1. *Students will participate in weed control.*
 2. *Students will monitor and assess weed control methods*

Taking Action

- Students will work as a group to discuss, plan, design and take action for their local environment.

Possible Options:

 1. *Increase sensitivity and awareness to weeds in local fragments through a display or brochure.*
 2. *Increase awareness and sensitivity towards alternatives to planting potential weeds (e.g. planting of native plants – right plant for the right place).*
 3. *Plan and implement a weeding event at a local fragment or your school.*
 4. *Plan, design and implement planting of a native garden.*
 5. *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.