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TEACHERS' RESOURCE KIT

WILDLIFE OF AOTEAROA

Gavin Bishop

A spectacular illustrated picture book exploring New Zealand's unique landscapes and its incredible wildlife by the award-winning author of *Aotearoa: The New Zealand Story*.

Long before waka touched Aotearoa's shores, the land of the long white cloud was home to an array of creatures uniquely adapted to its environments and protected by its isolation.

Encounter New Zealand's incredible wildlife in this spectacular visual exploration.

Journey through ocean, sky and land to meet a marvellous range of organisms.

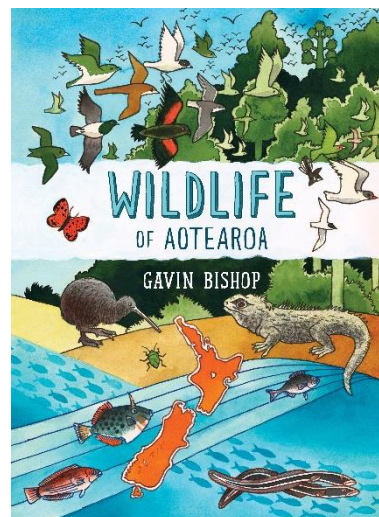
Discover fascinating facts, and learn how we influence the survival of our living treasures.

About the Author

Gavin Bishop is a highly acclaimed children's book author and illustrator of more than 60 books, whose work ranges from original stories to retellings of Maori myths, European fairy stories, and nursery rhymes.

Awards he's won include The Arts Foundation's Mallinson Rendel Illustrators Award in 2013 and the 2000 Storylines Margaret Mahy Medal for lifetime achievement.

In 2018, *Aotearoa: The New Zealand Story* won the supreme Margaret Mahy Book of the Year Award. That same year, *Aotearoa* won a Storylines Notable Non-Fiction Award and Best Children's Book at the PANZ Design Awards.



SPECIFICATIONS:

Imprint: Puffin
Published: 01/10/2019
ISBN: 9780143772514
RRP: \$40.00
Format: Hardback
Extent: 64 pages
Readership: 6+

RESOURCE KIT CONTAINS:

- Before reading
- During reading
- Comprehension questions
- Vocabulary
- Illustrations
- Research and creative responses



Wildlife of Aotearoa

Written and illustrated by Gavin Bishop

BEFORE READING

Pre-reading Questions

- 1) This book is like an encyclopaedia or reference book, because it has many facts about New Zealand wildlife in it. Visit your school library and find other examples of reference books. List them here.
- 2) Look at the back of the book. What description is given? Does this match what you think the book is about? Now look at the contents page. Does this match what you think the book is about?
- 3) Look at the illustrations on the internal cover page. We can see a school of fish and five eel with a description. How do these things indicate what the book will be about? Why do you think Gavin Bishop has started the story of the eel on the internal cover page?

DURING READING

Themes

This book explores several big ideas.

Firstly, the book suggests that **Aotearoa/New Zealand has unique flora and fauna**. Many of the animals in the book are native, or indigenous to Aotearoa.

Secondly, Gavin Bishop looks at **the impact of introduced species to Aotearoa**, and how this has affected native wildlife. Some animals never recovered from the introduction of non-native wildlife by human settlers to Aotearoa.

Finally, the book explores **the life cycle of five kūwharuwharu longfin eels** (Tahi, Rua, Toru, Whā and Rima) **and weaves their story through the text**. This helps us understand the interconnectedness of our world; in this case, the connections between different kinds of wildlife in Aotearoa.

Can you think of ways these themes or ideas affect you in your everyday life?

1) Aotearoa/New Zealand has unique flora and fauna:

2) The impact of introduced species to Aotearoa:

3) The interconnectedness of our world:

Comprehension Questions

- 1) Look at the contents page. Which section interests you the most? Why?
- 2) The Pacific Ocean is _____ times bigger than the United States.
- 3) Is the Dark Ghost Shark actually a shark? What does it feed off?
- 4) Where do Toroa/Southern Royal Albatross breed? How often?
- 5) The Māori name for the Yellow-eyed Penguin is 'Hoiho. What does this mean?
- 6) Settlers from Polynesia brought two animals with them, starting with K. What were they? What are their names in English?
- 7) Kea are cheeky. What happened outside the Homer Tunnel in Fiordland concerning kea, and what was done about it?
- 8) In Māori legend, who separated Ranginui and Papatūānuku? Who was he?
- 9) Why is the kererū an important bird in Aotearoa?
- 10) Does the kākā eat meat?
- 11) Name one famous animal that interests you and copy out their bio from the book.
- 12) Who discovered a dinosaur tailbone in 1975, and where?
- 13) How many waterways in Aotearoa are now unsafe to swim in due to pollution?
- 14) How many marine reserves are there now around Aotearoa?
- 15) Where do the longfin eels end up?

Vocabulary

Here are some interesting words from the story Gavin Bishop has written.

- a) amphibian
- b) camouflage
- c) endemic
- d) dormancy
- e) glaciated
- f) indigenous
- g) marsupial
- h) nocturnal
- i) nomadic
- j) plankton
- k) scree
- l) Tangaroa
- m) tucker
- n) venomous
- o) vertebrae

- 1) Choose five that you like.
- 2) Look up their meanings in the glossary ('Words in the Book') at the back of the book and write them down.
- 3) Use them in a new sentence. Share with a partner.
- 3) Write your own story using these five words. Your story doesn't have to match Gavin Bishop's. You can choose what you write about.

Illustrations

Gavin Bishop has written and illustrated a beautiful description of how we got to where we are with wildlife in Aotearoa. The eels provide a connection between all pages and living things in the book.

- 1) On the contents page, the eels are circled by fish.
 - a) Why did Gavin Bishop choose to do this?
 - b) Why do you think he choose the colours on this page?
- 2) Why do you think Gavin Bishop chose red and grey colourings on the page about seabirds?
- 3) On the page 'Wildlife at the Beach', how does Bishop draw our attention to the Pepe Para Riki/Common Copper Butterfly?
- 4) On the page 'Settlers from Polynesia', why do you think Gavin Bishop chose blue and browns for the travellers and red/orange tones for the eagle and moa?
- 5) The page 'Below the Treeline' depicts a stunning image of the separation of Ranginui and Papatūānuku. What is your favourite part of this image? Why?
- 6) Why are the trees red on the page 'Ata Mārie - The Beginning of a New Day'?
- 7) There is also a lot of red and rust tones used on the following page - 'The New Colonists'. Why do you think this is?
- 8) How do the final pages match the first pages in colour? Why? What effect does this have on you as a viewer/reader?

Research and Creative Responses

- 1) Write a short play about the eels (Tahi, Rua, Toru, Wha and Rima) and the journey they go on in this book. Cast the play, practice and perform for your class.
- 2) Research some of the flora (plantlife) that is mentioned in this book and make a poster in the style of Gavin Bishop (choose your favourite page here to model your response).
- 3) The introduction of foreign wildlife to Aotearoa has mostly had a negative impact on native species. Choose one issue mentioned in this book and write a letter to your local MP asking them to outline what they are doing to counter this.
- 4) Take a trip to your local stream or beach. Take pictures or draw any wildlife you see on your trip. Try to identify them using this book.
- 5) Write a song about the many animals that are indigenous to Aotearoa. You don't have to name them all! Perform your song for the class.
- 6) Have you ever seen a penguin in New Zealand? Ask your teacher, parent or guardian if you can visit a sanctuary, using the list given in Gavin Bishop's book.
- 7) Research the Orokonui Ecosanctuary in Dunedin. Create a poster and present to the class. If you live close to any bird sanctuaries listed on page 57, even better! Visit one.
- 8) Write a short article for your class, or the newspaper, explaining why native wildlife in Aotearoa is important to protect. Edit with your teacher's help, and send to your local newspaper.
- 9) Choose your favourite page from this book. Write a letter to Gavin Bishop explaining why it is your favourite. Try to use lots of details, like: colour, composition, word choice, font, and shading. Your teacher can help you understand these things further.