

Word Search

Hei mahi māu
Something to do

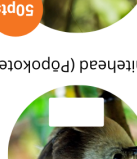
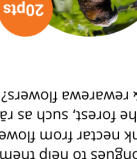
Find the words hidden in the puzzle. Words are hidden

→ ↓ ← and ↑ .



- | | | | |
|------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Aka Vine | Hiji Stitchbird | Manu Bird | Northern rātā |
| Bat | Kākā | Mokomoko Lizard | Rākau Tree |
| Epiphyte | Korimako Bellbird | Nectar | Skink |
| Gecko | Kōura | Ngahere Forest | Tūtī |

Total points:

 Pātē 30pts	 Rangiora 20pts	 Crown fern 10pts
 Northern rātā 80pts	 Mamaku 30pts	 Hen & chickens fern 20pts
 Tūtī 10pts	 Stitchbird (Hiji) 50pts	 Kākā 20pts
 Mī Robin (Pītoitōi) 10pts	 Kerū 20pts	 Whitehead (Pōpokotea) 10pts
 Bellbird (Korimako) 30pts	 Rangiora 20pts	 Crown fern 10pts



Look for the species below while you're on your rātā ramble hike. Add up your points at the end of the walk and see who is the best species spotter in your whānau!

Species Spotter

Name:

sanctuarymountain.co.nz

Te Tūi a Tāne

Rātā Ramble

Self-guided
Activity Trail

Enjoy your visit and toitū te whenua
(leave the land undisturbed).



Rātā (loop) track



Biosecurity Check!

- **Check** - your gear for pests.
- **Clean** - your footwear removing soil & seeds.
- **Seal** - zip your bag closed & put food in sealed containers to avoid attracting pests.

Help us to keep Sanctuary Mountain pest-free by checking your gear before you visit for any soil, seeds or unwanted stowaway pests.

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Kia ora!

Nau mai, haere mai.

1 - Northern rātā tree

This is one of Aotearoa's tallest flowering trees.

How tall can it grow? _____ It gets a height advantage by often starting life in the branches of a host tree like rimu. This rātā is the tallest treetop you can see from the top of the tower. **Read the signs to find out more about this magnificent forest giant.**



Northern rātā

This self-guided activity trail begins at the big Northern rātā (*Metrosideros robusta*) tree standing opposite the tower, and encourages you to continue exploring around the Rātā (loop) track.

Titiro
Look

Often living in the ngahere (forest) with rātā trees are tawa, rewarewa and pukatea. These are the mighty trees that make up most of the canopy (the forest roof). As you continue along the track look for their leaves that have fallen on the ground.

How many different shaped leaves you can find?

Tawa

Rewarewa

Pukatea

2 - Wētā motel

Look for the wētā motel on a tree to the right. **Look inside. Is anyone home?**

I mōhio
rānei koe?
Did you
know?

Wētā sleep during the day inside holes in trees called galleries!

3 - Nature's ultimate recyclers

In 2020, this tree fell to the forest floor. Our rangers cleared it from the track. More sunlight reaches the forest floor here now. The fallen tree will begin to decompose (break down). As it decomposes, rich nutrients will return to the soil and help other new plants to grow. **Can you see the new seedlings racing to reach the sunlight?** The fallen logs have also become home to fungi, and all sorts of invertebrates like this millipede and this giraffe weevil!



Continue along the rātā track...

6 - Supplejack

Look for the supplejack sign on the right. This aka (vine) was called supplejack by the crew of Captain Cook's ship. 'Supple' because it bent in many directions and 'jack' because it was useful for many tasks. Pirita is one Māori name. **What is another Māori name for this aka?**

Now look up into the trees to the left, opposite the supplejack sign. Can you see the epiphytes? These are plants living in the branches of the trees: Some are ferns, lilies (kahakaha) and native orchids.



Take a seat on the next bench & read this story.

Pūrākau - story

Ko Rata me ngā tamariki a Tāne

Rata, a descendant of Maui, decided to build a waka for his people. Upon finding a suitable rākau, he felled it and left it where it once stood with the intent of returning the next day to finish the mahi. However, when Rata returned, to his surprise the rākau was standing again. He cut it again, this time removing all the limbs to ensure that the tree stayed down. However, the tree was standing and the limbs were all intact upon returning the next day. Frustrated, Rata hatched a plan: after felling the tree a third time, he pretended to leave for the evening but instead remained, hiding in the bushes nearby. The tamariki of Tāne, the insects and birds, soon emerged and put the tree back together. Rata asked, "What do you think you're doing?" They told him that he was being disrespectful by not offering prayers to Tāne. Ashamed, Rata asked for forgiveness and they pardoned him, for he was only trying to help his village. The tamariki of Tāne gifted Rata a waka that eventually helped to lead his people to Te Ika a Maui.

This story reminds us to remember to give thanks to Tāne Mahuta every time a waka is launched and we enjoy the gifts from the ngahere.



Rewarewa

7 - Rewarewa (NZ Honeysuckle)

Look for the rewarewa sign on the left. The leaves of rewarewa change as the tree ages. The young tree leaves are longer and sharply toothed. Mature trees have shorter, thicker and more coarsely toothed leaves. **How many seedlings can you see by the track?** _____

I mōhio
rānei koe?
Did you
know?

New Zealand has 11 rātā species:

- 3 tree species
- 1 shrub species
- 6 climbing rātā species (these are vines and do not form trees).

4 - Climbing rātā

Find the climbing rātā sign on the left. Look into the trees behind it. **Can you see the thick climbing rātā vine?**

The beautiful red flowers of rātā provide nectar for:

- Bats and geckos at night.
- Tūi, korimako (bellbirds), hihi (stitchbirds), tauhou (silvereyes), kākā and both native bees & honey bees visit the flowers by day.

Bats may roost & many native birds nest in the hollow trunks.

5 - Explore your senses!

Take a seat and take a little time to look & listen!

Try to name:

- 5 things that you can see
- 4 things that you can hear
- 3 things that you can feel
- 2 things that you can smell
- ... and if you have a snack with you...
- 1 thing that you can taste!

Mātakitaki
Observe

Which sense was the easiest for you to focus on?

Which sense was the most difficult?

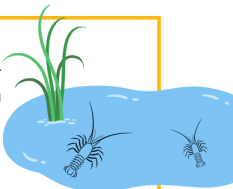
Whakarongo - Keep listening...

Sit or stand still for a minute...or two.

Close your eyes. Each time you hear a new bird call hold up a finger. How many different species can you identify? Add them to your species spotter!

8 - Life under water

It may not be obvious at first, but look closely at the water in the pond. There is life in the pond! You might see kōura (freshwater crayfish), kōkopu (native freshwater fish), or dragonflies hunting for insects above the water. The water needs to be clean, clear and cool for these animals. **How do you think the forest helps to keep the stream clean and cool?**



How many kōura can you count? _____

9 - Rākau (plants) & their traditional uses

Look for the following plant signs as you continue along the rātā track. Draw a line to match the photo, plant name and traditional use.



Hangehange

New fronds were eaten raw or cooked. The Māori name also refers to a garment made of flax.



Rangiora

Leaves were applied to cleanse wounds. Leaves and flowers are poisonous if chewed and swallowed.



Mamaku

Food was wrapped in the leaves of this plant before being placed in a hangi - hence the name.



Crown fern

Māori used the base to make food stores to protect the food from rats.

10 - Become a kaitiaki (guardian)

Look for the Kiwi Guardian post at the crossroads track junction. Write down the code word: _____

Go to kiwiguardians.co.nz and enter the code word to claim your medal for going on an adventure at Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari.

Keen to help biodiversity at your place and earn more medals? Visit the Kiwi Guardians actions page to learn more about activities you can do at home to help protect our precious native wildlife.

