

Year 13 NCEA Biology

Student Worksheet : Evolutionary Processes Leading to Speciation

Biology 3.5 Achievement Standard 91605

Speciation - the process by which one species gives rise to two or more species: _____ (slow accumulation of small changes), through bursts of _____ (punctuated equilibrium) when a crucial aspect of the environment changes or _____ by changes in chromosome number (polyploidy)

Allopatric Speciation occurs when a population is _____ resulting in separate populations eg New Zealand parrots and land snails.

Sympatric Speciation occurs when one species gives rise to two or more species _____ eg NZ skinks, cicadas and when polyploidy causes _____, more common in plants.

In order to understand the uniqueness of New Zealand's fauna and flora the changes to the landscape needs to be taken into account.

Key events Geological Timescale for New Zealand

Ice ages in Pleistocene _____

Building of Alps _____

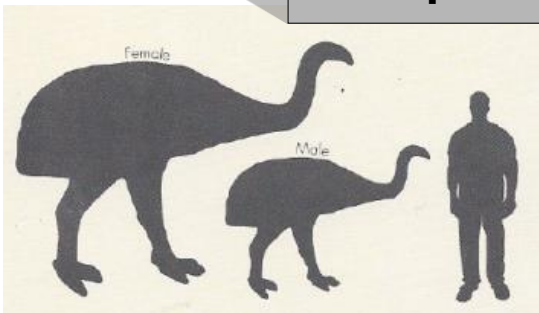
Lake Manuherikia when New Zealand was _____

The _____ of New Zealand in Oligocene 30 mya

Factors that are important in causing speciation eg in the creation of barriers to gene flow in NZ plants and animals -

- Several _____ in the Pleistocene - sea 100m lower than today
- _____ when North, South and Stewart Islands separated
- Building of _____ in the last 5-8 mya - tectonic movement
- South Island divided by Southern Alps into _____
- Mountains can create _____ of higher rainfall and lower temperature.

Speciation of the Moa



Small flighted ancestor _____ arrived **60mya** via Sth America & Antarctica (kiwi flighted ancestor came from Australia – kiwi is more closely related to rhea and cassowary).



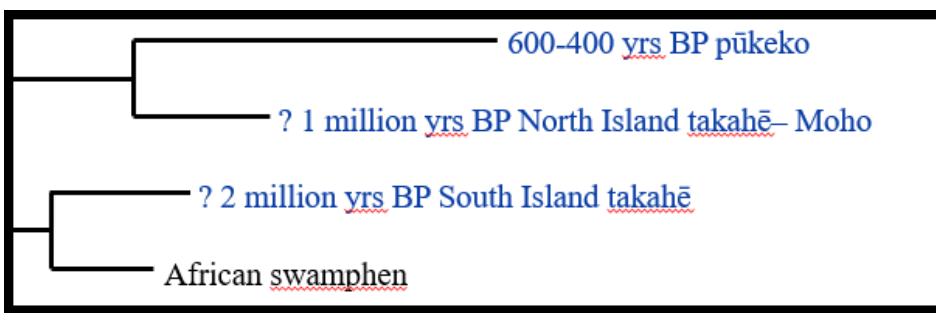
Little is known for 40myrs except the moa ancestor became flightless and larger bodied.

19mya Lake Manukerikia (in Central Otago in South Island and nine times the size of Lake Taupo), two species of moa found in fossil finds at St Bathans during fossil digs during 2000s.

5-8mya _____ created new niches for today's _____ species of extinct moa with Upland moa as the base moa species to: **North Island giant moa, South Island giant moa, Little bush moa, Eastern moa, Stout-legged moa, Mantell's moa, Heavy footed moa, Crested moa.**

Recommended reading: *Moa, The Life and Death of New Zealand's Legendary Bird* by Quinn Berentson 2013. P223 Moa family tree. (In Auckland Public Library)

Speciation of the Takahē



Notes

Speciation of NZ Parrots

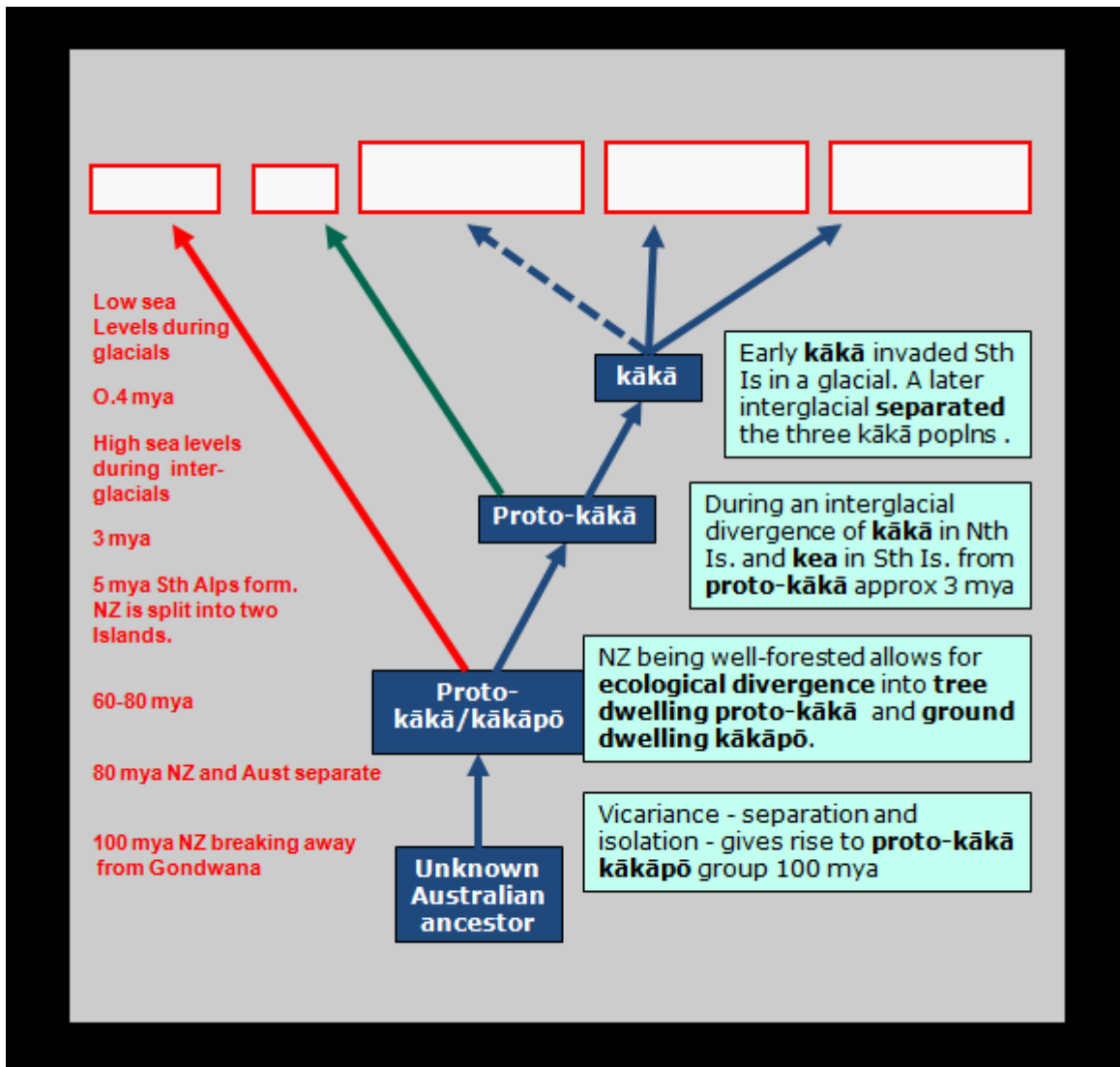
<http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/qualifications-standards/qualifications/ncea/subjects/biology/>

Parrots represented on Tiritiri:

- **Nth Is kākā** - frequent visitors
- **kākāriki** - red crowned parakeet - first animal to be translocated to Tiritiri.

Recent **mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) analysis** has confirmed the existence of two distinct groups of New Zealand parrots:

- the kākāpō - kākā - kea group as represented in the flow chart below.
- the kākāriki group- five species of parakeet



Scientists from New Zealand, Ecuador, Australia and the United States identified a new songbird family – the Mohouidae – in New Zealand through the analysis of the DNA of three bird species: August 30, 2013 by Sci-News.com

- the _____ - pōpokotea, (*Mohoua albigilla*) on Tiritiri and found in the North Island
- the _____ - mōhua (*Mohoua ochrocephala*) found in the South & Stewart Islands.
- the _____ - pīpipi (*Mohoua novaseelandiae*) found in the South Island

Despite the differences in location, the whiteheads and yellowheads are more closely related to each other than the Brown Creepers.

Speciation of yellowheads and whiteheads is _____

Speciation of yellowheads and brown creeper is _____

Further study suggestions:

- Ancient NZ group - wrens eg rifleman
- Plants - hebe
- Insects - weta and cicada



**Mahoenui
Giant Wētā**

Having shared habitat with dinosaurs, these giant wētā are one of New Zealand's oldest surviving creatures. They are named after the area where they were discovered, in 1962, living in a patch of gorse in the King Country.

- Molluscs - NZ land snails & NZ flax snails
- Dolphins - Maui and Hectors
- Tuatara



Notes

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