

MAKING CONNECTIONS

SOME IDEAS TO TALK ABOUT BASED ON STUDENT-LED INTEREST



Experiential learning will create lasting memories.



WHY NATIVE SPECIES NEED NATIVE TREES

Relate to the animal's food, safe place to hide/nest, bark/leaf litter created to allow insects to hide/feed/recycle and be food for others.



INTERDEPENDENCY

Discuss how plants, insects and birds rely on each other for survival Eg: link beak shape to flower shape; kawakawa leaves and caterpillars; kererū and seed dispersal.



ECOSYSTEMS

Discuss what an ecosystem is and how life is connected; in a healthy ecosystem, there is a balance. A comparison to the Jenga game can help make this connection.



LIFE IS EVERYWHERE

Life can be big or small- discuss what could be in the leaf litter and why this is important. This can be related to why we stay on the track.



NESTING MATERIALS

Importance of trees for nesting material and homes- what happens when lots of trees are cut down or we take feathers.



A (W)HOLE LOT OF PROBLEMS

Why do species that nest in holes in trees have particular problems on the mainland? (e.g. tītīpounamu/rifleman, hihi, kākārīki, tīeke, wētāpunga).



POLLUTION PROBLEMS

What's the connection between rubbish and pollution, and the survival of our native species?



REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE

Nature is the ultimate sustainability model. Relate to the concepts of reduce, reuse, recycle Eg: fungus reduces, birds reuse for nests, etc.



KEEPING THE BALANCE

Ask about problems when the balance is disturbed e.g. introduction of mammal predators or browsing animals which destroy the habitat, human use of the land



MARINE HEALTH

How does marine health affect other species on the island? Do you think our marine areas need more protection?

