



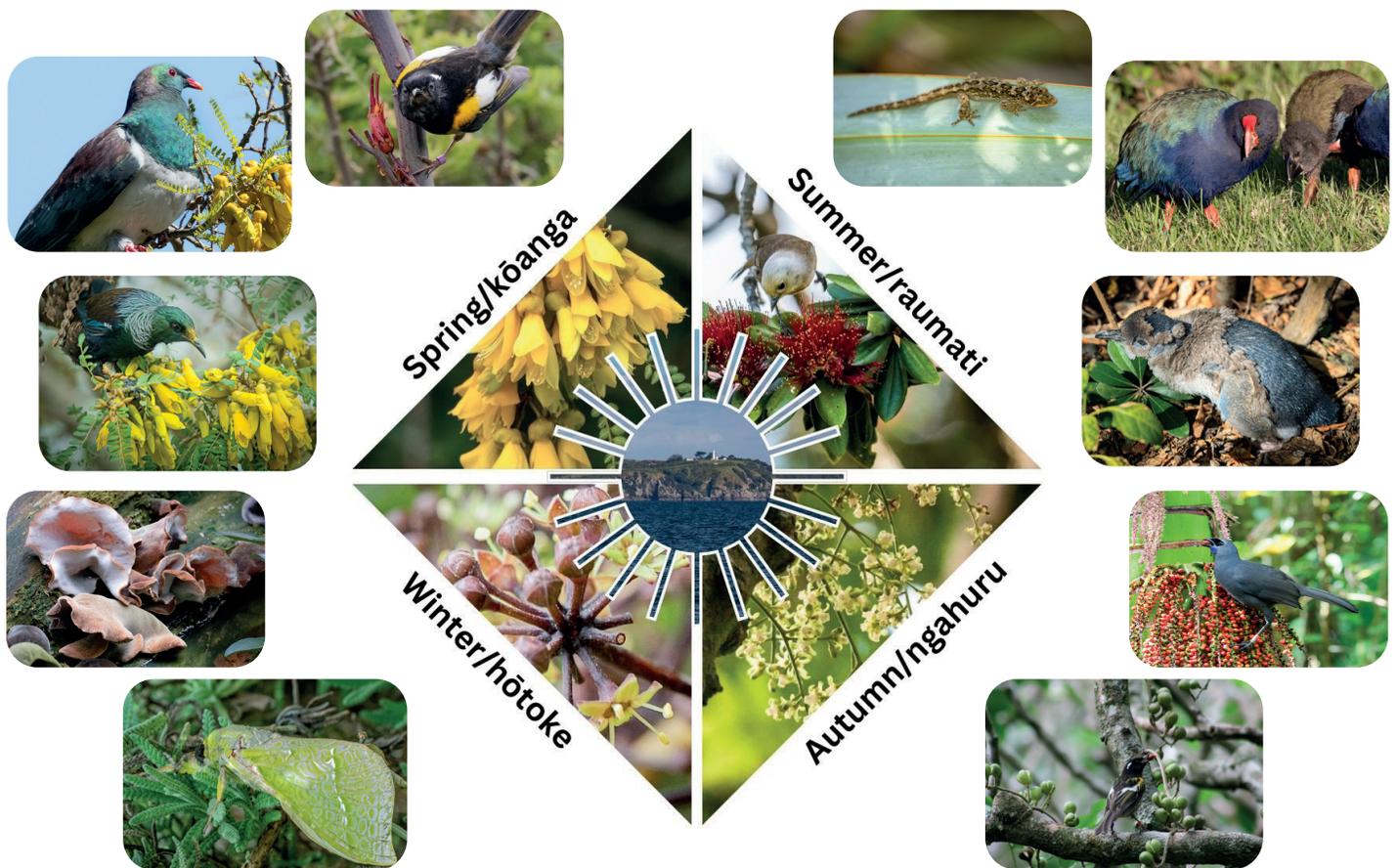
Tiritiri Matangi Kids,

by Stacey

Nature is always changing! Can you spot clues that a new season is here? Are flowers blooming? Do birds sound different? Is the air warmer or cooler? Start your own nature journal to track the changes you see! Read the seasonal stories from Tiritiri Matangi, explore what's happening around you, and answer the questions below!

In spring, Tiritiri Matangi bursts into life. Kōwhai trees bloom, their golden flowers drawing tūi and korimako to sip nectar. Harakeke sends up tall flower stalks, feeding hihi and tīeke. Birds gather twigs, weaving intricate nests in preparation for new life. In the early morning, a dawn chorus of birdsong greets the breaking day. Skinks bask in the warming sun, and fresh green shoots emerge across the forest floor.

Summer brings abundance and warmth. Pōhutukawa trees burst into red bloom, attracting tūi, tīeke, korimako, and hihi. Confident takahē chicks forage with their families. Kororā / little blue penguins begin their annual moult along the coast. Geckos emerge to feed on nectar, while young birds test their wings and call for food.



Winter is quieter, but life continues. Birds forage more to conserve energy, feeding on fruit from trees like pūriri. Fungi thrive in the damp. At night, ruru call and kiwi search for insects. Hidden in trunks, pūriri moths complete their life cycle, awaiting emergence.

In autumn, fledglings become independent. Beneath the canopy, fungi emerge, their shapes and colours decorating the damp forest floor and breaking down organic matter. Kohekohe trees start to flower, offering late-season nectar for birds.

Can you find the answers to these questions below?

1. How do kōwhai and harakeke plants help birds like tūi, korimako, hihi, and tīeke in spring?
2. Why do fungi grow well in winter, and where can you find them?
3. What changes happen to young birds in autumn?

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Answers: 1. Kōwhai and harakeke have flowers full of nectar, which gives birds like tūi, korimako, hihi, and tīeke food in spring. 2. Fungi love damp places, and winter is wet! You can find them on the forest floor, tree trunks, and rotting wood. 3. Young birds become independent in autumn, learning to find food and care for themselves.