

Information Reports

Example of an Information Report

Purpose: To describe and classify information using a logical sequence of facts.

All About Kiwi

Kiwi are one of Aotearoa's native birds. They are nocturnal, flightless and known for their long beak. Kiwi live in the bush in certain areas of New Zealand. Many kiwi are vulnerable to predators and are endangered in some parts of the country. The scientific name for their species is Apteryx, which means wingless.

Kiwi have a unique appearance. There are five species: brown kiwi, great spotted kiwi/ roroa, little spotted kiwi, rowi and tokoeka. Kiwi are flightless, so have underdeveloped wing and chest muscles. They don't have a sternum (breast bone) or a tail. Kiwi have brown hair-like feathers, nostrils at the end of their beaks and are mostly nocturnal. They also have powerful legs that they use for running, fighting and digging burrows. Kiwi have excellent senses of smell and hearing.

Kiwi live in the bush in Aotearoa. They tend to be in areas that are steep and wet, usually among shrubs and trees. Kiwi dig burrows in swampy or grassy areas for the female to lay her eggs. They will let plants grow over the entrance as camouflage. During the day, kiwi rest in their shelter or inside logs on the ground. At dusk, they will stick their beak out to sniff and see if it's safe to come out to forage for food. Kiwi are omnivores and use smell to find their food. They live on grubs, worms, insects, berries and seeds. They can sneeze out dirt that they sniff up while they're hunting! Kiwi also use their strong legs to kick open rotting logs to find beetles to eat.

Kiwi lived in Aotearoa for many years with no predators besides the laughing owl (now extinct), so they did not develop protective features. This makes them very vulnerable to predators. In the late 1800s, kiwi numbers dropped because of the dogs, cats, ferrets, stoats and rats that arrived with British colonisation. These animals ate kiwi eggs and

even birds. In 1908, a law was passed banning the hunting of kiwi. Today there are about 68,000 kiwi left, and 2% die every year; that's 20 kiwi every week. The Department of Conservation and some iwi-led groups are trying to control pests in the wild to protect kiwi from becoming extinct.

Kiwi are a taonga (treasure) in New Zealand, and it is important to protect both the birds and their habitat so that they don't become extinct. They can then be part of our country's identity for generations to come.

