ENVIRONMENT DAYS TERM 2 2024

Kia ora koutou,

There are a few environmental days this term that are a good way to look at a little bit of kaitiakitanga (guardianship / caring for the planet and our local rohe / area). We can link writing and reading to science, and maths too (measuring, graphing etc). An integrated way of learning can help children be inspired / interested, and understand the usefulness of reading, writing, maths.

**DAVID ATTENBOROUGH'S BIRTHDAY - Wednesday 8th May** (he will be 98!)

I'm sure you have all seen stories that Sir David Attenborough has had a hand in over the years - blue planet, life on earth, our planet etc

Here is an inspiring 8 minute video - '[How to save our planet'](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Puv0Pss33M) from Attenborough.

And here is a NZ link - underwater cameraman Steve Hathaway (from Young Ocean Explorers) had [footage of bottlenose dolphins and false killer whales](https://www.1news.co.nz/2017/11/10/im-still-pinching-myself-kiwi-plays-leading-role-on-sir-david-attenboroughs-epic-new-bbc-series-blue-planet-ii/) featured on Blue Planet II.

**INTERNATIONAL BIODIVERSITY DAY - Wednesday 22 May**

Did you know that the Maori word for science ' pūtaiao' contains the word environment / world in it - taiao (tai = tide / ocean; ao = the earth). Here's a great attenborough clip from Our Planet on [Biodiversity](https://www.ourplanet.com/en/video/what-is-biodiversity/) (3mins) - great to start a discussion. And [another video voiced by Attenborough from the Royal Society explaining biodiversity (less than 6 mins)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GlWNuzrqe7U) Another great kiwi resource is the 'bugman' Ruud Kleinpaste. This video on [Yucky bugs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xh6KVhdPHeE) (5 mins) is a great start to encourage tamariki to go and look for bugs in their local environment. An excellent book to inspire and encourage the skills to observe is '[The observologist](https://geckopress.com/bookshop/the-observologist/)' by Giselle Clarkson. Reading to do with biodiversity can be found in [school journals](https://instructionalseries.tki.org.nz/%28keywords%29/biodiversity).

Here's a good little activity from the Science Learning Hub - [build a marine food web.](https://www.sciencelearn.org.nz/resources/1525-build-a-marine-food-web)

**WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY - Wednesday 5th June**

This year's theme ['Generation restoration'](https://www.worldenvironmentday.global/). You might like to plan an action that your tamariki could do to restore an area in your local environment.

Some action ideas:

* Create a habitat for a native creature
	+ DOC - [build a weta motel](https://www.doc.govt.nz/get-involved/conservation-activities/weta-motel/), Meet the Locals video - [Tusked Weta](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ihVlxUOD-S0) (4 mins), meet the locals [Mahoenui](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PTe_15Ex8II) (giant weta) 4 mins
	+ DOC - [make a lizard lounge](https://www.doc.govt.nz/get-involved/conservation-activities/attract-lizards-to-your-garden/#:~:text=Start%20searching%20for%20the%20perfect,make%20for%20great%20hiding%20spots.) , Meet the locals video - [mokomoko](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eDsNlAst9QA) (4mins), Meet the locals video [Kaitorehe lizards](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BWlrRvSotbc) (4 mins), Meet the locals video [Otago skinks](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RiJckIoqSV8) (4 mins), Kids greening Taupo - [Make a lizard friendly garden](https://www.kidsgreeningtaupo.org.nz/activities-nature-connection/lizard)
	+ Kids greening taupo - [construct a bug hotel](https://www.kidsgreeningtaupo.org.nz/activities-nature-connection/construct-a-bug-hotel)
* Plant a native plant - there may be a planting day happening in an area near you - check the DOC
	+ Meet the locals video - [Estuary](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R8iam8AfDWs) (4 mins)
	+ Young Ocean Explorers - [Riley helps save a harbour](https://www.youngoceanexplorers.com/yoe/video/1822336340472#cplayer) (9 mins)
* Feed the native birds
	+ If you are making bird feeders please don’t feed non-native birds - [check which food is good to encourage / support natives.](https://www.forestandbird.org.nz/resources/feeding-native-birds-garden) By feeding imported species we give native birds more competition for food / habitat.
	+ [Make a tui feeder](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CJ7ohlNdpkE) - video from ‘outlook for someday’ (6mins)
	+ Kids Greening Taupo - [Make a bird feeder](https://www.kidsgreeningtaupo.org.nz/activities-nature-connection/bird-feeder)
* Be a weed warrior - pull out some invasive species
	+ Kids Greening Taupo [Weed Scavenger Hunt](https://www.kidsgreeningtaupo.org.nz/activities-nature-connection/weeding)
	+ DOC - [prevent weeds information](https://www.doc.govt.nz/get-involved/conservation-activities/prevent-the-spread-of-garden-pest-plants/)
* Just for fun - get out in nature and enjoy it!
	+ Kids greening taupo - [action scavenger hunt](https://www.kidsgreeningtaupo.org.nz/activities-nature-connection/action-hunt)

[Kids Greening Taupo](https://www.kidsgreeningtaupo.org.nz/activities-nature-connection) have so many amazing resources on their website. The Nature Connectors are simple ideas to connect tamariki with the environment - scavenger hunts, activities, learning etc.

Forest and Bird NZ have some great activity ideas for kids on the [KCC (Kiwi Conservation Club) website](https://kcc.org.nz/activities/).

**WORLD OCEANS DAY - Saturday 8th June**

[This years' theme - One ocean, One climate, One future - together!](https://worldoceanday.org/)

There are lots of videos, learn to draw tutorials, and lesson ideas on the [Young Ocean Explorers website.](https://www.youngoceanexplorers.com/)

Reading:

[Level 2 connected - ‘giving the ocean a voice’](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1_lgCYBARzMfibvcSuXmOgLluWXUpRHqkNZPn3nHKE6M/edit#slide=id.p)

[Level 2 Connected - ‘Sea Science](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/15ksg0vxRcNAXHDUSdn2PGKC6joUrQUiE_cGJoO7mDH0/edit#slide=id.p)’

[Level 4 Connected ‘Under the sea’](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1uKtsY4gS5JPcvMb0MafRaJhtxs_gpoFF/edit#slide=id.p1)