

Frogs (Pepeketua)

New Zealand has four native frogs; the Hochstetter's frog, the Archey's frog, the Hamilton's frog and the Maud Island frog.

These frogs are all nocturnal. They are small and hard to see because they are good at camouflaging themselves.

Three of the species live in wet, shady, forested areas. The other lives on the edge of streams.

New Zealand's frogs are different to other frogs because they have no outside eardrum, round eyes and they don't croak often.

Did you know?

New Zealand frogs don't have a tadpole stage. They develop inside an egg and then hatch as an almost fully-formed frog.



Hochstetter's frog



Archey's frog



Hamilton's frog



Maud Island frog



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Tuatara

Tuatara are reptiles that are only found in New Zealand. They are medium-sized and a grey-green colour with spines along their neck, back and tail. There are two types of tuatara; the common tuatara and the Brothers Island tuatara.

Tuatara can live over 80 years. They weigh between 300 – 1000 grams.

Tuatara now only live on offshore Islands as most of these islands are free from animals, like rats, that eat tuatara eggs and their small hatchlings.

Did you know?

The tuatara is often called a 'living fossil' because it is the only living relative to Sphenodontians, which lived during the age of dinosaurs, almost 220 million years ago.

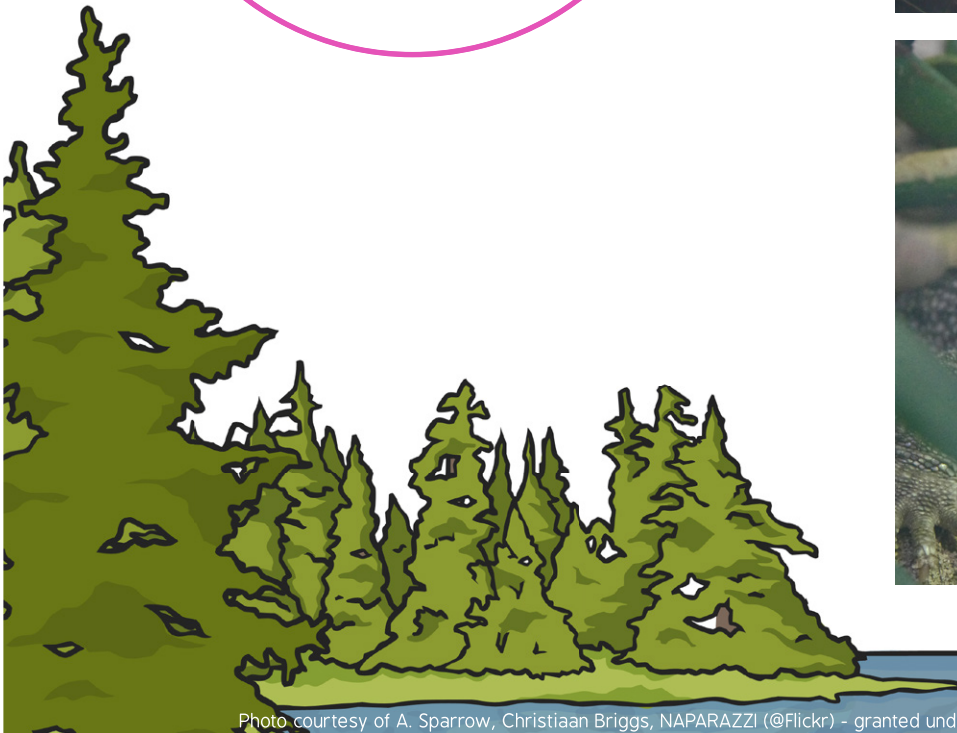


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Geckos (Mokomoko)

Geckos are lizards with wide heads and large bulging eyes. They have soft skin with small scales.

There are at least thirty-nine species of gecko in New Zealand, which are divided into two main groups. The 'hoplodactylus' (brown) geckos are usually grey or brown with stripes or patterns, and are mainly nocturnal. The 'naultinus' (green) are usually bright green or yellow, and are active during the day.

Geckos have sticky feet that help them to climb up walls and even hang upside down. Their tails can fall off when they are threatened and keeps on moving while the gecko runs away. Geckos don't ever blink their eyes. They use their tongue to clean themselves and keep themselves moist.

Geckos usually eat flies and moths but sometimes eat berries and nectar. They live in forests, grass and rocks throughout New Zealand.

Did you know?

New Zealand geckos are one of the only geckos in the world to give birth to live babies as they don't lay eggs.



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Skinks (Mokomoko)

Skinks are slender, fast and shiny lizards that are covered in fish-like scales. They have slim heads and small eyes with a lower eyelid so they can blink.

There are thirty-three types of skink that are only found in New Zealand. New Zealand's skinks all give birth to live young and not eggs.

The Chevron Skink is one of New Zealand's rarest skinks. Maori know the chevron skink as 'niho Taniwha' which means 'teeth of the Taniwha'. This is because of the v-shaped markings on their backs.

Common skinks are dark brown, or brown with stripes. They are often found in the sun on New Zealand's coast.

The Grand and Otago Skinks (which are also known as giant skinks) can grow up to 300mm in length. They are both only found in Otago.

Did you know?

Skinks have transparent lower eyelids so they can see with their eyes closed when moving through leaves and soil.



Chevron skink



Common skink



Otago skink



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