

# WONDERFUL WĒTĀPUNGA



## Research

Watch a video [here](#).  
Download a factsheet [here](#).  
Click each thumbnail for books  
about wētāpunga.



## Present

Create your own poster,  
slideshow, factsheet, quiz  
or video to share what you've  
learnt with others.



ARE	CAN	HAVE
Insects	Not jump	Long antennae
Big	Weigh 30g	6 legs
Herbivores	Feel vibrations	An exoskeleton
Nocturnal	Be eaten by rats	Spiky legs

## Write



Write a story or poem about  
wētā. Here's some inspiration:  
Wētā by J Stephens and J Lambert  
Letter to a Wētā by L and M Kimber  
Waata The Wētā by J Carson Barr  
There's a Wētā on my Sweater  
by D McMillan and S Thatcher

## Move and Play

Wētāpunga are too heavy  
to jump but cave wētā can  
leap 2m high – that's 50 times  
their body length!

Hold a wētā race, crawling or  
jumping with your friends.

## Design and Build

You can help the wētā in your  
garden or school by making  
them safe homes in  
pieces of bamboo.



A simple design  
can be found [here](#).

## Listen and Learn

Click [here](#) to learn these words  
in te reo Māori:  
*endangered species*  
*insect nocturnal forest*  
*herbivore exoskeleton*



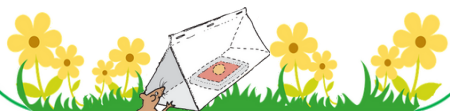
## Measure and Compare

Adult wētāpunga usually  
weigh 35g. One female weighed  
a record breaking 71g!  
Their bodies can reach 11cm  
long and legs span 17.5cm.  
Find objects to compare  
these measurements with.



## Investigate

Discover what's living in your  
garden or school grounds  
by making a tracking tunnel.  
You can find instructions  
for how to make one [here](#).

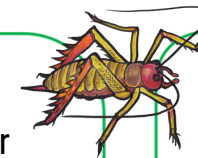
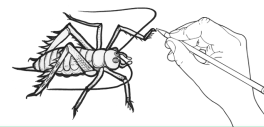


## Understand

Watch a [video](#) to learn how the  
arrival of rats and other pests  
has affected Aotearoa's  
native birds and other wildlife,  
including wētāpunga; and find  
out what people are doing  
to help protect them.

## Draw

Wētā look very similar  
to grasshoppers.  
Learn how to draw one [here](#).  
Add wētā features e.g. spikes on  
legs and an ovipositor.



## Share your work

We'd love to see photos  
of your wētā projects.  
You can e-mail us [here](#).

