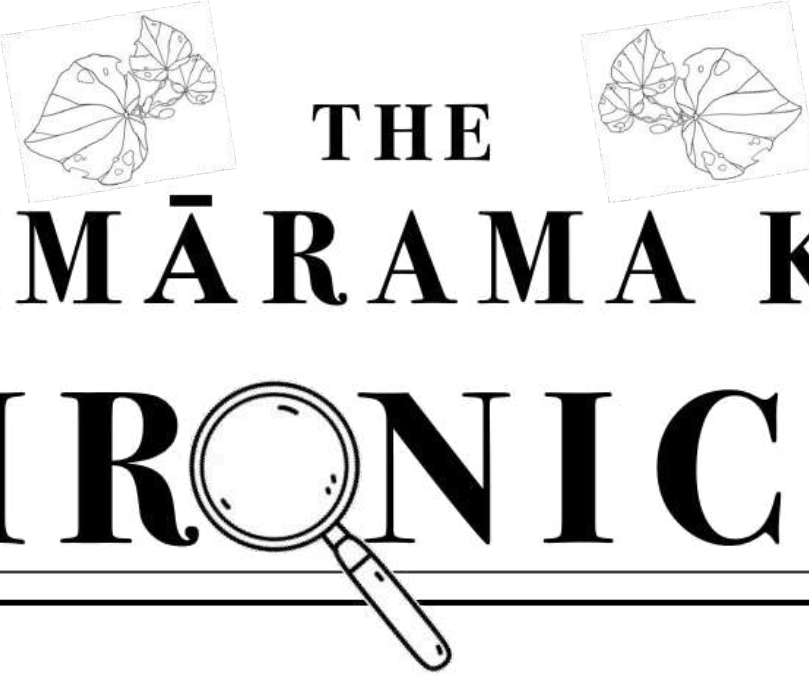
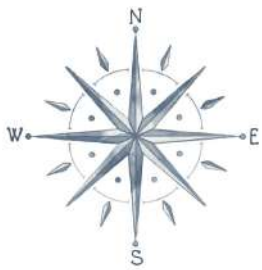



THE WAIMĀRAMA KIDS CHRONICLE



NATURE DETECTIVES

Investigating the Secret Signs of Nature



Nature is full of mystery and intrigue. Every moment of every day is full of hidden surprises when you REALLY know how to look. Who ate that leaf? Who snuck along this path? And who did that poo?! Learning to read all these signs of nature will help you to decipher the secret stories of wildlife everywhere, helping you on your journey to becoming a real Nature Detective!

The most important tools you need to be a Nature Detective are your SENSES... your eyes, ears, nose and hands!

LOOK

Our sense of sight is typically the one we use most often... but can you train your eyes to look even more closely? What can you notice when you slow down and REALLY pay attention?



TOUCH

Sometimes we can take in more details with our fingertips. Feel the bark of a tree... is it rough or smooth? Is the patch of moss damp or dry? Does this leaf feel brittle or supple? We can also feel for clues about the temperature! Is the stream very cold? What is the weather like today?



LISTEN

Close your eyes when out in nature and focus in on what you can HEAR. Can you identify which birds are singing? What is happening in the space between sounds? What noise do your footsteps make as you walk?



SMELL

Take a slow deep breathe through your nose when out for a walk in nature. What do you notice? Did you know that you can predict a rainfall with your nose?! Petrichore is the name of the earthy smell that the ground releases just before it begins to rain!



NATURE INVESTIGATION TIME



*"Every contact leaves a trace."
~Dr Edmond Locard, Forensic Expert*

Turn your senses on to super power, grab your detective kit, and get investigating! Let's see what clues we can use to figure out what's going on in the natural world...



Evidence #1

ANIMAL DROPPINGS (AKA POOP)

You can use your detective skills (and maybe a pair of gloves!) to investigate animal droppings and find out who has been around and what they've been eating... did you know Kiwi Poo is especially musky smelling!?



Evidence #2

FEATHERS AND FUR

Found a beautiful feather on the ground? Or maybe a patch of fur? Use your detective skills to figure out who it might have come from! You can look at colour, texture and size to help you figure out which animal left it behind



Evidence #3

SIGNS OF NIBBLES...

Investigate the leaves and sources of food... maybe your prized strawberries have been nibbled on, or maybe you find holes in a leaf. What do you think made these holes? Can you see teeth marks? Can you find WHO has been nibbling?



Evidence #4

FOOTPRINTS

Patch of mud or soft sand? Check it for footprints! Who has been this way before you? Was it a bird hopping on two small feet? A tiny mouse with four little toes? Or maybe an insect leaving a winding trail?



PUTTING TOGETHER YOUR NATURE DETECTIVE KIT...

A good nature detective already has all the resources they need..... a curious mind and tuned in senses can help you to learn so much about the natural world. There are some special tools you can use to further your investigations though... to look closer and make careful observations.



Look CLOSE
with a
magnifying
glass



Spot faraway things
with Binoculars



Record things you find
using your notebook
and pencil

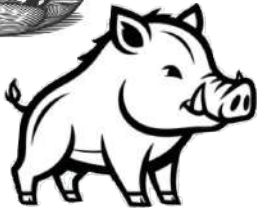


...Or capture your finds
with a camera.



WILD ACTIVITIES FOR WILD KIDS...

MATCH THE FOOT
PRINT WITH THE
ANIMAL...



Find the following words in the puzzle.
Words are hidden → and ↓ and ↘

BIRDSONG
CAMERA
DETECTIVE
DROPPINGS
FEATHERS
FOOTPRINTS

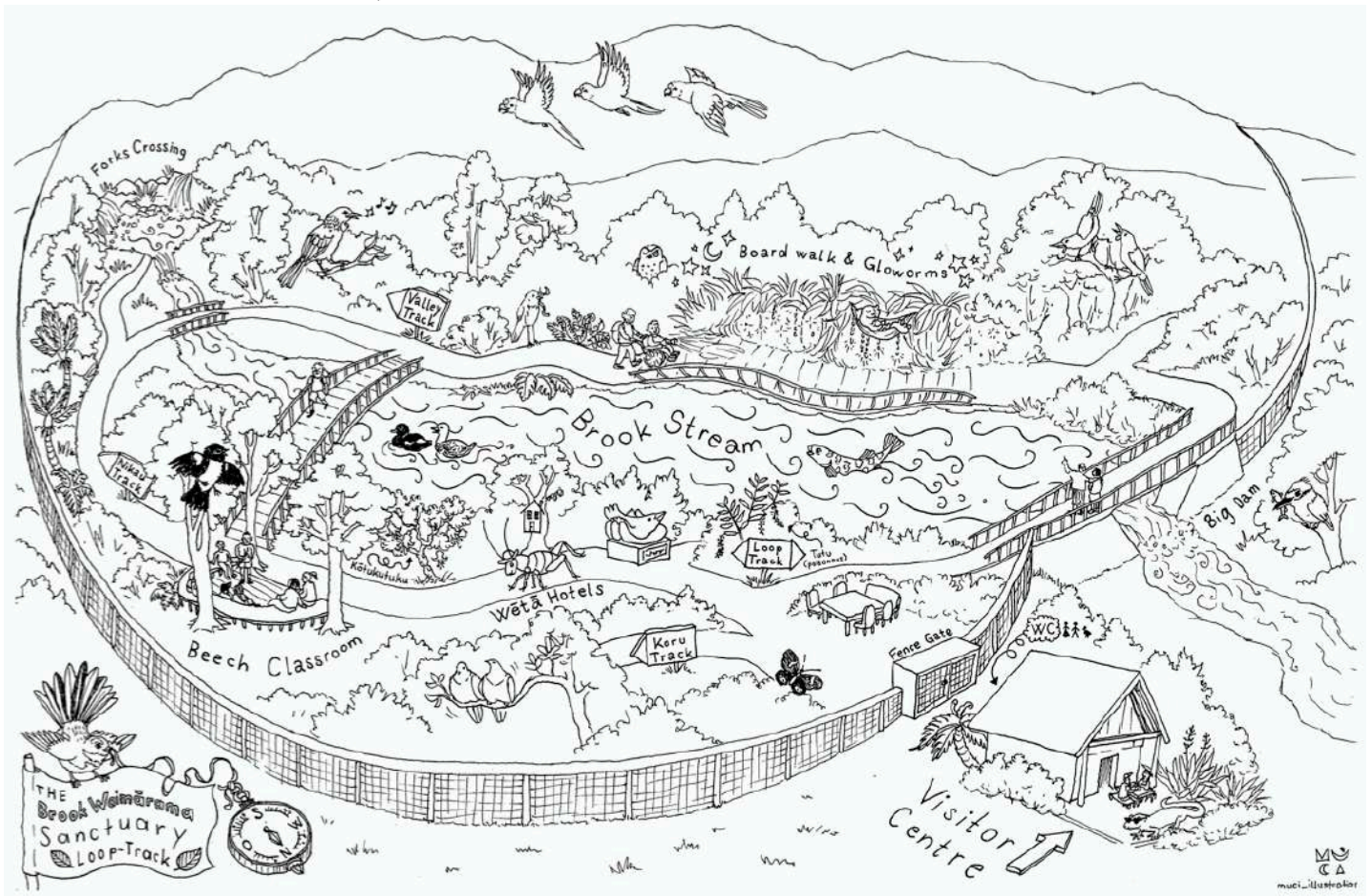
FUR
INVESTIGATE
MAGNIFY
NOTEBOOK
OBSERVE
PENCILS

PETRICHORE
SENSES
TOUCH



Can you spot these animals in the map of the Sanctuary below?

Kākāriki karaka (Parakeet) Wētā Koaro (fish) Tūī
South Island Robin Kotare (Kingfisher) Ruru (Morepork)



JUNIOR RANGER'S IN ACTION!

"If children don't grow up knowing about nature and appreciating it, they will not understand it. And if they don't understand it, they won't protect it. And if they don't protect it, who will?" ~Sir David Attenborough

WE NEED TO build a sense of wonder and curiosity about the natural world around us. This is just as important, if not more so, than planting native trees, clearing weeds, and setting traplines. When we use our senses to investigate our natural world, we connect with nature and learn so much about what is worth protecting in our world. Have a go at observing nature when you're outside, and recording what you find within a nature journal. Draw what you observe, write down some notes, and don't forget to put in some other data- like the date, the location and maybe the weather. Your nature journal can be full of treasured memories, scientific findings and important nature detective notes!

Send in a picture of your actions for conservation to brooksanctuary.junior.rangers@gmail.com to feature in our next newsletter!

I WONDER..?

THINK LIKE A SCIENTIST... WHAT DO YOU WONDER?



Nature is full of patterns, and scientists (and detectives) can use these patterns as clues to find out answers to their questions. When you observe nature, what patterns do you notice? What could be causing the pattern? What does the pattern remind you of?

CAUSE AND EFFECT...

We can think of nature as a world full of mysteries, or "effects" and try to describe what might have caused what we see. What happened here? What caused this to happen? Are there any other possible explanations?

WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

The Brook Waimārama Sanctuary is the South Island's largest fully fenced eco-sanctuary—690 hectares of protected native forest alive with rare and threatened species. This is a place where you can reconnect with nature, breathe deeply, and experience the mauri (life force) of Aotearoa's unique environment.

Alongside the Junior Ranger Program, we offer individual, household and business memberships. Become a Brook Sanctuary supporter – in doing so you help to build and maintain sustainable Sanctuary operations for the enjoyment of current and future generations.

Find out more information on our website,
<https://www.brooksanctuary.org.nz/>



Become a Junior Ranger



Annual Membership

Individual	- \$24
Two children	- \$44
Three children	- \$60
Four children	- \$75

For five or more children, please contact us for discounted pricing

[Explore. Learn. Protect](#)