

HC150 Moa Bones



<https://www.handsontauranga.co.nz/hot-items/science/moa-bones-hc1501-15/>

Pronunciation of the kupu 'moa'

<https://maoridictionary.co.nz/search?idiom=&phrase=&proverb=&loan=&histLoanWords=&keywords=moa>

Please remind your students that they are holding something very precious- a taonga, and that as kaitiaki of the bones for the time they have them in their classroom they are holding something that was once a living being, so to respect and care for the bones. This article and video would be beneficial to show your class how important it is to honour and respect these once magnificent creatures

<https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/national/440005/moa-bones-handed-over-to-museum-after-pre-dawn-ceremony>

NGĀ KŌRERO / ORAL LANGUAGE PRE DISCUSSION

He aha tō mōhio mō te moa? (What do you know about the moa?)

What would you like to know about the moa? (Brainstorm on the board)

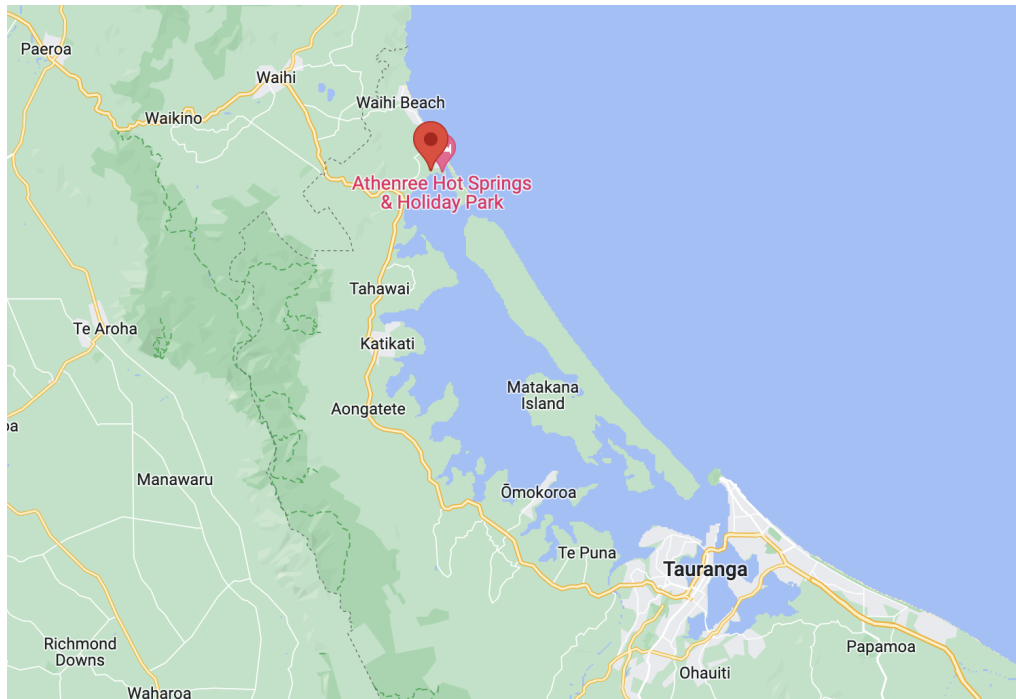
Have you held any type of bone before?

How old do you think these moa bones are?

Use your senses- what do they feel like / smell like / look like?

NGĀ MŌHIOHIO / INFORMATION

The bones in this collection were found in Athenree in the Bay of Plenty.



There are 15 assorted moa bones including upper leg, rib, **vertebrae** and pelvis.

These bones are at least 500 years old. Some moa bones have been dated and found to be 2 million years old.

Moa were hunted by māori, who used the meat for food, made jewellery and fish hooks from the bones, used the skins for clothing, and made water containers out of the eggs.

The moa was hunted using snares, spears, and nooses, or by driving them into pits.

There were 9 species of Moa, from the Ratite family of birds

The largest weighed as much as 250kg.

The name 'Moa' means 'chicken' in many polynesian languages.

Moa were vegetarian, eating a variety of plant material. Large moa could eat whole branches and harakeke (flax) leaves.

Male moa were smaller than female moa.

By 1445 all Moa were **extinct**, due to hunting, along with the Haast eagle, which as the moa's only animal **predator** relied on the Moa for food.



Image from Te Papa Museum

[South Island Giant Moa, *Dinornis robustus*](#). Commissioned 1996. [CC BY 4.0](#). Te Papa (S.035329)

To put 1445 into perspective when we think about Moa becoming extinct in the 1400's, this is around the same time that

- *King Richard II of England died (1400)*
- *Joan of Arc led the French against the British (1428)*
- *the Incas rule Peru (1438)*
- *Italian painter Botecelli was born (1445)*
- *the world's first printing press was invented by Gutenberg (1450)*

In 1840, Richard Owen, the man who first used the name dinosaur and founded London's Natural History Museum, announced to the world that a bird nearly the size of an ostrich had once lived in New Zealand. He based this on the discovery and examination of a 15 cm long bone found in Poverty Bay.

The discovery and identification of their bones was a worldwide sensation, claimed by many to be the zoological find of the century.

NGĀ HUINGA KUPU / VOCABULARY

Vertebrae: series of small bones forming the backbone

Extinct: a species, family, or other group of animals or plants) having no living members; no longer in existence

Predator: an animal that naturally preys on others

NGĀ KUPU MĀORI

He wheua: bone

He huru: feather

Mate ā-moa: extinction

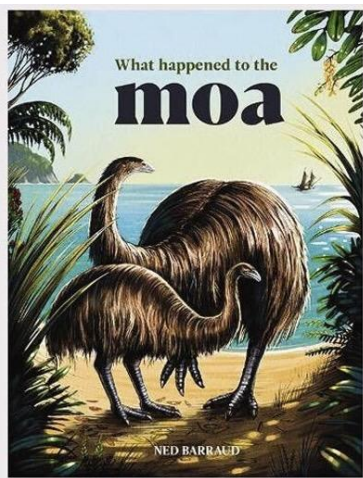
Te Ngahere: forest/bush

Te Wao: forest

He manu: bird

Tāne-mahuta: Atua (God) of the Forests and Birds

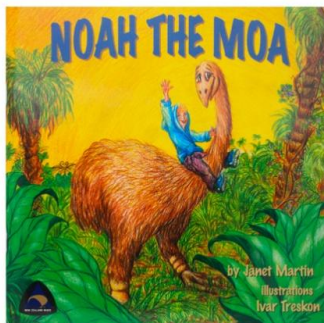
NGĀ PUKAPUKA PIKITIA / PICTURE BOOKS



What Happened To The Moa

By Ned Barraud

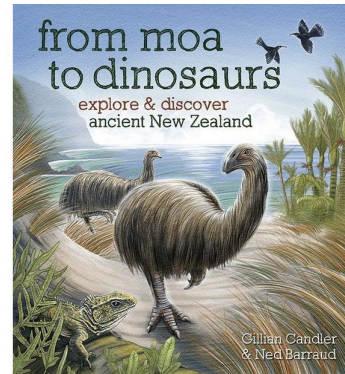
> This children's book unravels the fascinating story of what happened to the moa, the legendary flightless bird of Aotearoa New Zealand.



Noah the Moa

By Janet Martin

> A young boy visits a moa at the museum, and imagines what it would be like if Noah the Moa came back to life, taking him back into the past.



Explore & Discover

Ancient New Zealand -

From Moa To Dinosaurs

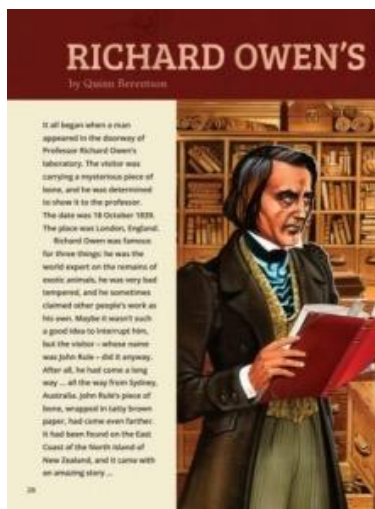
By Gillian Candler and Ned Barraud

> From Moa to Dinosaurs, the fifth title in the acclaimed 'explore & discover' series for children, looks back in time to reveal what lived in ancient New Zealand.

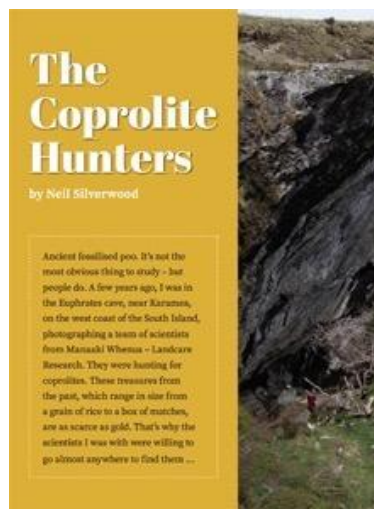
NGĀ HAUTAKA KURA / SCHOOL JOURNALS



<https://instructionalseries.tki.org.nz/Instructional-Series/School-Journal/School-Journal-Level-3-August-2015/Spirit-of-the-Bird>



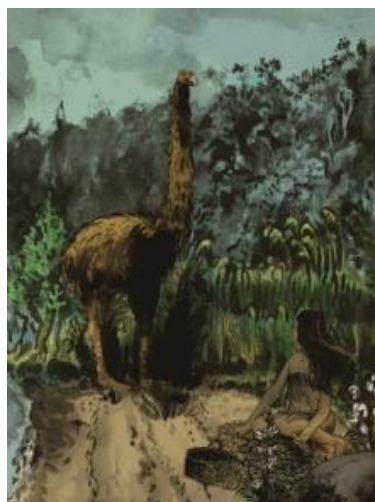
<https://instructionalseries.tki.org.nz/Instructional-Series/School-Journal/School-Journal-Level-3-August-2015/Richard-Owen-s-Giant-Mystery>



<https://instructionalseries.tki.org.nz/Instructional-Series/School-Journal/School-Journal-Level-3-November-2020/The-Coprolite-Hunters>



<https://instructionalseries.tki.org.nz/Instructional-Series/School-Journal/School-Journal-Level-4-October-2015/Return-of-the-Moa>



<https://instructionalseries.tki.org.nz/Instructional-Series/School-Journal/School-Journal-Level-4-November-2017/The-Moa>

MAHI / DO

Writing Ideas:

Past: You are in the ngahere (bush) hunting for Moa. Tell us all about your experience.

Present Day: You are out hunting or tramping in the ngahere. You see what looks like a moa running through the trees. How could that be?! Write a story about your experience.

or

Write about your experience in holding the moa bones today. How did you feel? What questions do you have? What would you like to tell your whānau about the Moa?

Kahoot: Play this kahoot to see what you know about the Moa

<https://create.kahoot.it/share/all-about-the-moa/8a47c37b-710b-4ad5-a558-230e0bc8f14a>

Maths: <https://nzmaths.co.nz/resource/moa-mystery>

<https://nzmaths.co.nz/sites/default/files/MoaMystery.pdf>

Craft: Make a paper fold up moa from Glenn Jones Artist

https://cdn.shopify.com/s/files/1/0689/8109/files/make_a_moa.jpg?v=1629506002

Art: draw a Moa <https://www.paulbeavis.com/tumeke> (step by step below)

NGĀ RAUEMI / LINKS + RESOURCES

Youtube

New Zealand's Giant Bird Monsters | Wild New Zealand

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6jfz0xr0t2M>

Websites

Te Papa- Moa images <https://collections.tepapa.govt.nz/search/moa/results?pager=1>

Richard Owen <https://teara.govt.nz/en/photograph/11388/richard-owen>

News articles

Moa footprints discovered in South Island for the first time 10/5/2019

<https://www.newshub.co.nz/home/new-zealand/2019/05/moa-footprints-discovered-in-south-island-for-the-first-time.html>

A moa sighting?

<https://teara.govt.nz/en/video/11386/a-moa-sighting>

Moa bones handed to museum in dawn ceremony

<https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/national/440005/moa-bones-handed-over-to-museum-after-p-re-dawn-ceremony>

Moa: the life and death of New Zealand's legendary bird

<https://www.nzgeo.com/stories/moa-the-life-and-death-of-new-zealands-legendary-bird/>