

The Kiwi

Activity 1 - Are these statements True (T) or False (F)?

1. A kiwi is someone from the South island of New Zealand _____
2. The male bird is larger than the female _____
3. Kiwis live in higher areas _____
4. Kiwis are herbivorous, ie they eat only vegetation _____
5. They can't see well. _____
6. The female lays one egg per year _____
7. The birds go to sleep at sunset _____



Activity 2

Answer the following questions:

1. Where exactly do kiwis live?

2. How tall are they?

3. How much does a female bird weigh?

4. How many birds remain?

5. Apart from smell, how else does it find food?

6. Why don't they live in high nests in trees?

7. What percentage of kiwi eggs will hatch and survive to adulthood?

Activity 3

Listen and complete the gaps

Kiwi is a _____ term for somebody from New Zealand, which derives from the very particular bird native to the country. Listen up to learn all about this unusual animal.

The most common species is the Great Spotted Kiwi and is the largest of the kiwi _____. The females are bigger than the males, weighing around 3.3 kilos compared to 2.4 kilos for the males and are about half a metre tall. Their size means that they are better _____ to protect themselves from predators, which include dogs, pigs and ferrets. However, this hasn't stopped their numbers _____ to such an extent that although they are not yet an endangered species they are classed as vulnerable. In fact, only around twenty thousand birds remain. If you want to see one, you'll have to go to the South island, specifically the north west part; these are the higher areas, as the kiwi lives at _____.

It has a terrific sense of smell, with nostrils at the end of its long, _____ beak. It uses this beak for digging into the ground to look for food, including earthworms, beetles, snails, slugs, grubs and various other bugs and insects. The beak is also great for touching the ground to feel _____ of their potential meal before digging to find it. These abilities help to offset the fact that they have pretty poor eyesight.

The birds are also unusual because they don't live in _____ but instead use their short, strong legs to dig burrows, or holes in the ground, in which they sleep during the day and come out only at _____. Mind you, considering that the kiwi cannot fly, it would be inconvenient to have their nest high up in a tree, wouldn't it! Once awake, they go out looking for food and the males in particular make sure that no other birds come into their _____. It is in these burrows that the female will lay her one egg per year, and on which the male will sit for three months to incubate it. What's a real pity is that after all that time an incredible 95% of the eggs or the young _____ will be eaten by predators - it's no wonder that their numbers are so small.

TRANSCRIPT

Kiwi is a colloquial term for somebody from New Zealand, which derives from the very particular bird native to the country. Listen up to learn all about this unusual animal.

The most common species is the Great Spotted Kiwi and is the largest of the kiwi family. The females are bigger than the males, weighing around 3.3 kilos compared to 2.4 kilos for the males and are about half a metre tall. Their size means that they are better equipped to protect themselves from predators, which include dogs, pigs and ferrets. However, this hasn't stopped their numbers declining to such an extent that although they are not yet an endangered species they are classed as vulnerable. In fact, only around twenty thousand birds remain. If you want to see one, you'll have to go to the South island, specifically the north west part; these are the higher areas, as the kiwi lives at altitude.

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The birds are also unusual because they don't live in nests but instead use their short, strong legs to dig burrows, or holes in the ground, in which they sleep during the day and come out only at sunset. Mind you, considering that the kiwi cannot fly, it would be inconvenient to have their nest high up in a tree, wouldn't it! Once awake, they go out looking for food and the males in particular make sure that no other birds come into their territory. It is in these burrows that the female will lay her one egg per year, and on which the male will sit for three months to incubate it. What's a real pity is that after all that time an incredible 95% of the eggs or the young chicks will be eaten by predators - it's no wonder that their numbers are so small.