

Nature Explorer: Botany for Beginners

Go for a hikoi outside in your backyard, a nearby park, around your neighbourhood or even next time you visit the Zoo...

Try to spot different kinds of tipu or rākau - these could be trees, shrubs, grasses, vegetables, vines or moss. Choose a few to explore more closely.

Use the table on the next page to record information about different parts of the tipu or rākau you have chosen. Try drawing your own table if you need more space for gathering your plant observations. We have used the karaka tree as an example to help you.

Video links:

<https://bit.ly/2WYfTOP>
<https://bit.ly/2X2z9um>



Remember:

Help keep our plant kingdom healthy by only taking samples of parts (e.g. leaves or flowers) that have already fallen onto the ground, rather than straight off the living tipu or rākau.

Seeds

Most plants use a type of kākano to produce new, baby plants.

Some kākano will simply drop on the ground below the plant they come from and start to grow, but many kākano get spread to other places (dispersed) in different ways - by the wind, water or even animals.



You can learn more about kākano from this video:



Leaves

Ngā rau make kai for the plant using energy from the sun - photosynthesis.

What do you notice about ngā rau you can see? Are they all the same size, colour and texture? How are they different?



Did you know?

80% of plants in Aotearoa are native. But these only cover 10-15% of our whenua.

Talk to your whānau about how you can encourage more native flora to grow in your local community.

Plants at the Zoo

Plants are a vital part of any modern Zoo!

Our habitats and gardens are carefully planted to reflect natural environments around the world.

These tipu can be used for kai, shelter, nesting, enrichment or even as a source of water!



Join Hugo to see our horticulture team in action:



Te Reo Māori Kupu (Vocabulary):

tipu plant

ngā tipu plants

rau leaf

ngā rau leaves

kākano seed

ngā kākano seeds

putiputi flower

ngā putiputi flowers

rangahau research

hiako bark

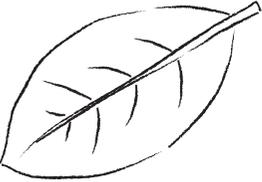
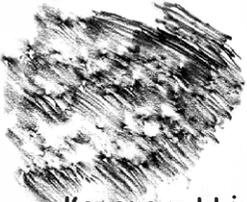
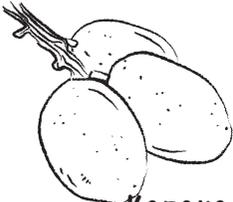
hīkoi walk

whānau family

whenua land

kai food

tuhituhi kitenga
observation notes

Rau (leaf)	Hiako (bark)	Kākano (seed)	Putiputi (flower)	Tuhituhi kitenga (observation notes)	Rangahau (research)
<p>Sketch, etch or sample</p>  <p>Karaka leaf</p>	<p>Rubbing & description</p>  <p>Karaka rubbing</p>	<p>Photo, sketch or sample</p>  <p>Karaka seed</p>	<p>Photo, sketch or sample</p>  <p>Karaka flower</p>	<p>Nearby animals or fun facts</p> <p>Kererū (NZ wood pigeon) seen in the tree.</p>	<p>Species name, status, uses...</p> <p>Karaka (Corynocarpus laevigatus)</p>

Challenge:

Once you have completed your gatherings and tuhitsuhi kitenga (observation notes), do some rangahau (research) about local tipu and try to identify the species you have found!