

Activity Title:  
**Dune Wildlife – field trip**

### Focusing questions

Who lives in the dunes?  
Why do they live there?

### Resources required

- Field activity worksheet – Who can be found in the dunes?
- Pens
- Copying: copy field activity worksheets.

### Prior learning

1c Beach diagram  
1e Beach sketch  
2a Native dune plants – who lives where and why?  
2e Plants of the local sand dune community  
2g (i) Coastal wildlife overview

### Method

- 1 Visit a local beach and dune environment. In buddy pairs, encourage students to explore, looking for evidence of animals and insects – either the animals or insects themselves (look and leave, or return them to their home) or their tracks in the sand.  
  
OR  
  
Have students take photos of sand dune animals and insects and their tracks, and bring these back to class for discussion.
2. Questions for discussion and reflection (could be done back in the classroom):
  - What animals, birds and insects did you see?
  - What tracks did you find?
  - In what part of the beach or dune system did you find evidence of the different creatures?
  - Which animals are sand dune visitors and which are permanent dwellers?
  - Which animals are good (native) and which are bad (introduced) for the sand dunes? Why?
  - What else would we like to learn?
  - How might we find this out?
  - What did we learn?

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### Environmental Education Aspect:

About and In the environment

### Environmental Education Concept:

- Biodiversity
- Interdependence

### Curriculum Links:

- Social Science
- Science

### Suggested Curriculum Level:

Level 1 – 4

### SUSTAINABILITY TIP!

Follow the Coast Care Code and stick to established paths to avoid trampling dune plants.



## Possible next steps

- 2h Introduced dune animals – rabbit case study – an activity investigating the real life impact of rabbits on dune plants.
- 2i Interrelationships – dune animals and plants – an investigation into some of the special relationships that exist between animals and plants on the dunes.
- 2j Species lost from the beach – exploring species that have been lost from our beach and the possible reasons.



Field activity worksheet

# Who can be found in the dunes?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Beach: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## What organisms live in the dune environment?

Below (and on the following page) are some sketches of insect and animal tracks. See how many of these tracks you can find. Tick the ones you find and write next to the animal's picture where on the beach you found evidence of this animal.



RABBIT, RĀPETI



CAT, NGERU



STOAT, TORIURA



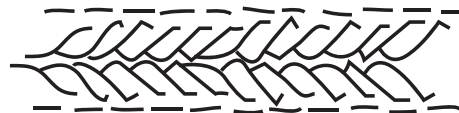
HEDGEHOG, TUATETE



MOUSE, KIORE



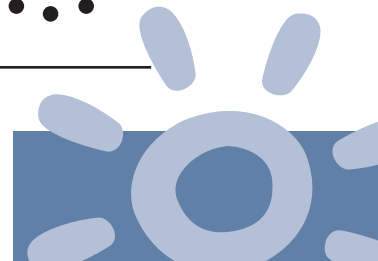
SAND SCARAB, MUMUTAWA PANGO



SAND SCARAB LARVA

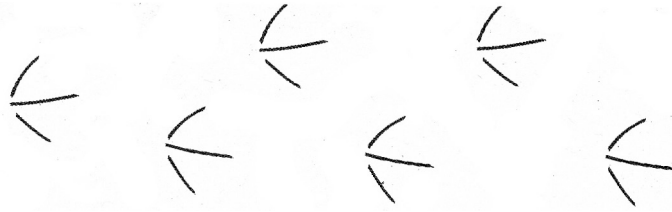


PHOTOS: Department of Conservation: Stoat, hedgehog  
Simple Designs: Cat, mouse  
Neil Hutton: Sand scarab beetle

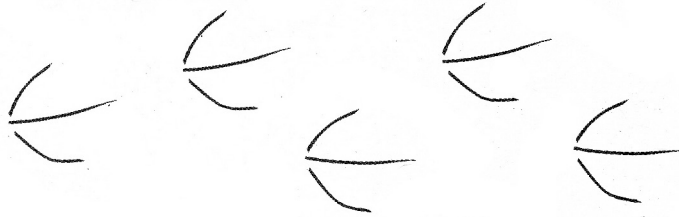




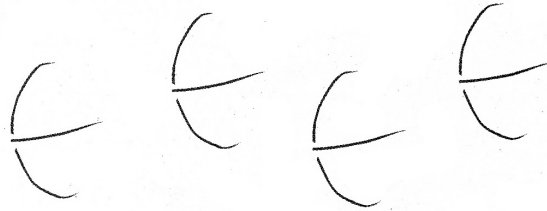
**BANDED DOTTEREL, TŪTURIWHATU, POHOWERA**



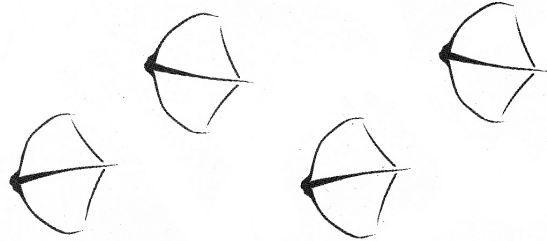
**NEW ZEALAND DOTTEREL, TŪTURIWHATU**



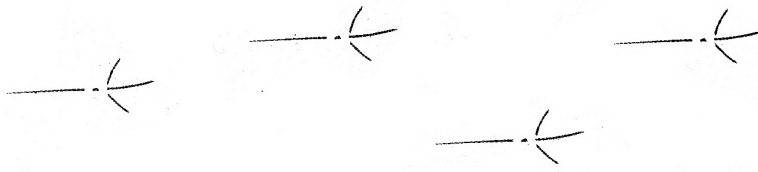
**VARIABLE OYSTER CATCHER, TŌREA PANGO**



**RED BILLED GULL, TARĀPUNGA, AKIAKI**



**SKYLARK, KAIREKA**



**SPARROW, TIU**

