



# Tiri Kids



Kia ora, this Tiri Kids is celebrating our oldest insect, the wētāpunga. Search the diagram below to find the words underlined in the text on the left. Enjoy the 'true or false' quiz. Have fun, Stacey.

In 2011, 25 adult wētāpunga were released on our island and another 150 in 2014. We are really lucky to have New Zealand's largest insect on our island. These insects are dinosaurs.

During the day they usually hide, but they can be found along the Wattle Track, often amongst the foliage of nīkau palms, tree ferns and cabbage trees.

Wētāpunga is the largest wētā species and their appearance can be rather frightening; hence their name which means 'God of Ugly Things'. Wētā are related to crickets and grasshoppers. They are nocturnal, most are brown, and they have large back legs which some species use for jumping.

C	A	B	B	A	G	E	W	O	F
F	A	D	U	L	T	D	L	P	H
G	F	E	T	K	L	W	E	T	A
D	R	S	B	H	U	J	I	D	F
I	I	A	W	Q	X	B	N	H	G
N	G	L	A	R	G	E	S	T	D
O	H	F	T	Q	F	A	E	A	F
S	T	G	T	A	E	E	C	X	H
A	E	R	L	D	R	F	T	B	E
U	N	A	E	C	N	O	S	M	D
R	I	Y	T	E	S	L	E	R	N
S	N	W	E	T	B	R	O	W	N
A	G	N	I	K	A	U	P	F	H
D	C	L	E	G	S	E	B	W	E

## True or False

1. Wētāpunga shed their hard outer covering (exoskeleton) 11 times before reaching adulthood. These stages are known as 'instars'.
2. There are 30 endemic species of wētā in New Zealand; including 11 species of giant wētā. Wētāpunga is the largest of these species.
3. Adult females are heavier than males, can weigh on average the same as a mouse (35 grams) and are 10cm in length.
4. Tuatara are older than wētāpunga.
5. Wētā have an ear on each front leg knee joint.

Wētāpunga Quiz Answers. 1 True. 2 False. 3 True. 4 False, wētāpunga are older than tuatara. 5 True