

Beautiful Bush

1

Enter by the amphitheatre. Before you go rushing around, pause to enjoy the bush setting.

How many types of fern can you spot?



Bush City has tree ferns, lots of ground ferns, and also epiphytic ferns, which grow on tree trunks.

Can you hear any birds?



The best times of year for bird watching are spring and early summer, when plants are producing the most nectar. The best time of day is early morning. That's when most birds are at their busiest.

Trees

2

Check out the rimu at the museum end of the swing bridge. It's the only droopy conifer!

Captain Cook brewed beer from its young branches to prevent scurvy.

At the top of the stairs by the other end of the bridge is a *kotukutuku*, the world's only tree fuchsia.

It has super ragged bark and oddly cold wood! Birds go for the green flowers, ripe with nectar. They ignore the red flowers, which have passed their expiry date. This is a strange tree with its back-to-front colours!

The *tī kouka*, or cabbage tree, is common.

Early European settlers made chimneys from the trunks, which are very fire resistant. The leaves made excellent kindling.

More trees

3

Can you spot all of these trees? Draw their leaves on the back of this sheet.



Tree ferns

4

High on the walkway, after you cross the swing bridge, you can see a ponga silver fern – one of our national symbols. Its fronds have silvery undersides.

All around *Bush City*, you can see maku, or black tree ferns. The undersides of their fronds are green, or brown if covered in spores.

Compare a maku and a ponga, looking at features such as the leaves, trunk, dead branches, and height. Name one feature that's the same.

Same:



Different:

Can you find a ground-dwelling fern, eg, the giant pig fern? How about an epiphytic fern (one that likes to grow on trees)? The hound's tongue fern is a good example.

BUSH CITY

ACTIVITY TRAIL for budding biologists

Here's your chance to look at, listen to, and even touch some special plants and animals of Aotearoa New Zealand.

ACTIVITY KEY



More birds

7

Pīwakawaka (fantail)

These little birds rarely stay still. They are named in English after their distinctive fan-shaped tail. Their call is a short, sharp, repetitive cheep.



Riroriro (grey warbler)

This tiny bird is heard more often than it is seen. Its song often starts with three squeaks and then becomes a long, wavering warble.



Kererū (New Zealand wood pigeon)

You probably won't see this spectacular bird in *Bush City*, but you may be lucky enough to see it in or near bushland outside the central city. You'll probably hear its noisy flight before you see it.



Birds

6

Can you spot any of these birds?



Tūi

Tūi have a distinctive white tuft under their chin. Their song includes ringing sounds, clicks, cackles, groans, and whistles.



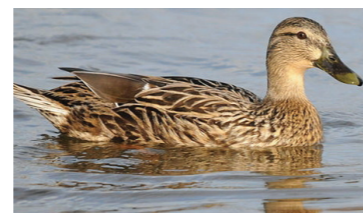
Tauhō (silvereye)

This little bird can sometimes be seen flitting between branches. Its song is like high-pitched whistling.



Mallard duck

This non-native bird can often be seen swimming in the lagoon by *Bush City*.



Traditional plant uses

5

Māori used native plants in many ways. Match each plant to one of its uses.



Harakeke (flax)

Long, straight, fibrous leaves



Mānuka/kānuka

Sturdy branches of various thicknesses



Kawakawa

Broad leaves, often full of holes munched by animals



Tī kouka (cabbage tree)

Roots and stem (especially at the top) are rich in starchy sugar



Whau

A shrub with very broad leaves and very light wood



MEDICINE

WEAVING

CONSTRUCTION

FISHING FLOATS

FOOD

Go to a shrubby area, unfold this sheet of paper, lay it on the ground under a shrub, and shake the leaves and branches above it for 5 seconds.



Draw the leaves of these trees

Look at what has fallen onto the paper and list it on the charts below.

Repeat the exercise with some other plants and see if there are differences in the results. Why do you think critters might be living there?



Plant 1

Leaves	Critters	Seeds	Other

Plant 2

Leaves	Critters	Seeds	Other

Plant 3

Leaves	Critters	Seeds	Other

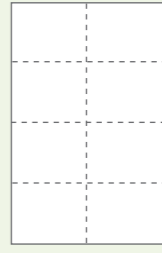
IMAGE CREDITS

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Fold A3 sheet into booklet



Karaka

Koromiko

Rimu

Tōtara

Ti kōuka
Cabbage tree

Kotukutuku