

The Moa

This task is about reading to find information and make inferences.

Read the article "The Moa", School Journal, Part 2, No 3, 1982, then answer the questions that follow.

a) Information about moas comes mainly from

- Studies of dried skin and feathers.
- Scientific studies and records of people's observations.
- Remains found in very dry parts of New Zealand.
- Stories told by early Maori.
- Making visits to museums.

b) What is often found together with moa bones?

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Rotting bodies. | <input type="radio"/> Skin and feathers. |
| <input type="radio"/> Small piles of stones. | <input type="radio"/> Birds' gizzards. |
| <input type="radio"/> Ground-up food. | |

c) Which is the best description of a 'gizzard'?

- Container for small stones.
- Part of a bird's stomach.
- What is left when a bird dies.
- Part of a moa.
- Part of a bird's digestive system.

d) How is the basic shape of the moa worked out?

- By looking at the places where muscles attach to the bones.
- From making a model out of plastic material.
- By reading accounts left by people who once saw it.
- From examining dried skins and feathers.
- By putting together a complete set of bones.

e) Compared with emu feathers, moa feathers were probably

Softer and droopier.

Less colourful.

Harder and stiffer.

Faded and streaked.

Brighter.

f) Why has no living person ever seen a live moa?

g) Why would moa skin and feathers only be found in 'very dry' parts of New Zealand?

h) How do scientists know where the moa's muscles were attached to its skeleton?

Published on *Assessment Resource Banks* (<https://arbs.nzcer.org.nz>)