

Tuatara

This task is about finding information in a text.



Fact file:

- The tuatara is found only in New Zealand.
- Tuatara are now found only on small islands off the coast of New Zealand because of animals such as wild cats, rodents, and pigs.
- Tuatara are carnivores, they eat insects and sometimes small lizards.
- A tuatara can live up to 100 years.
- The female lays 8-15 eggs once every 3 to 4 years.
- There are 50,000-60,000 tuatara left; but half of these are found on one island; Stephens Island in Cook Strait.

a) Why are tuatara not found in the North or South Island?

b) Which one of the following animals would the tuatara be most likely to eat?

Small birds

Rats

Beetles

Frogs

c) Which one part of the tuatara breeding pattern may have helped cause a decrease in their numbers?

d) On some offshore islands where tuatara are found there are still kiore or Polynesian rats. How could this rat affect the numbers of tuatara?

