Native butterflies

This task is about understanding science vocabulary.

Most people in New Zealand recognise this butterfly.



It is a ...

o cabbage white gum e	emperor omonarch	o red admiral
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Not many of us, though, know much about New Zealand *native* butterflies because we don't see them very often.

Here is some information about a New Zealand native butterfly.



Red Admiral

Scientific name: Vanessa gonerilla

Māori name: Kahukura

Distribution: Throughout New Zealand

Habitat: Gardens and forests

Wingspan: 50-60mm

Words like **distribution**, **habitat** and **wingspan** have precise meanings in science. Use the information about the Red Admiral to match each word to its correct meaning.

The geographical area(s) where a species can be found distribution wingspan habitat

The sorts of place where a plant or animal naturally lives, and from which it gets everything it needs to survive such as food water, shelter and oxygen distribution wingspan habitat

The total length between the tips of each wing when the wings are spread out distribution wingspan habitat

Scientists think it is important to know about distribution, habitat and wingspan.

The next three questions are about why these are important.

0	butterflies that are not found in many places are at risk if their habitat is destroyed.		
0	butterflies that are found in lots of places are at risk because there are more butterflies to eat food.		
0	butterflies that are found only at high altitude are at risk because of the cold.		
Whe	n thinking about a butterfly being at risk, its habitat gives us clues about		
0	how it protects itself from predators.		
0	how many life cycles it goes through in a year.		
0	the conditions in which the butterfly survives best.		
Wha	t does knowing about the wingspan of a butterfly help us to do?		
0	Understand how the butterfly is camouflaged		
0	Identify a butterfly you see flying around		
0	Decide if it is a native or not.		
• • If yo	ing out what is already known about native butterflies gives us some clues to what might: help them survive put them at risk. u wanted to be involved in a conservation project to protect the Red Admiral butterfly, t are two other things it would be helpful to know?		
Writ	e both of your questions here.		
1.	2. Published on https://newzealandcurriculum.tahurangi.education.govt.nz		

When thinking about butterflies being at risk, it is important to know about **distribution**

because