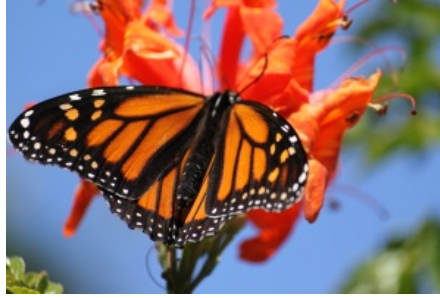


Native butterflies

This task is about understanding science vocabulary.

Most people in New Zealand recognise this butterfly.



It is a ...

cabbage white

gum emperor

monarch

red admiral

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.

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

- butterflies that are not found in many places are at risk if their habitat is destroyed.
- butterflies that are found in lots of places are at risk because there are more butterflies to eat food.
- butterflies that are found only at high altitude are at risk because of the cold.

When thinking about a butterfly being at risk, its **habitat** gives us clues about

- how it protects itself from predators.
- how many life cycles it goes through in a year.
- the conditions in which the butterfly survives best.

What does knowing about the **wingspan** of a butterfly help us to do?

- Understand how the butterfly is camouflaged
- Identify a butterfly you see flying around
- Decide if it is a native or not.

Finding out what is already known about native butterflies gives us some clues to what might:

- help them survive
- put them at risk.

If you wanted to be involved in a conservation project to protect the Red Admiral butterfly, what are **two other** things it would be helpful to know?

Write both of your questions here.

1.

2.