

## TREND TASK

## Which Book?

**Approach:** Station

**Focus:** Choosing appropriate reference book for task.

**Resources:** Front covers of dictionary, thesaurus, atlas and encyclopedia

**Level:** Year 8

**Questions/instructions**

These are covers of four books that can be used to get information. They are a dictionary, a thesaurus, an atlas and an encyclopedia.

Tick (✓) the best book to use:

1. to check the **spelling of measles.**

- dictionary  
 thesaurus  
 atlas  
 encyclopaedia

2. to find out **what pukeko eat.**

- dictionary  
 thesaurus  
 atlas  
 encyclopaedia

3. to find the **meaning of mutiny.**

- dictionary  
 thesaurus  
 atlas  
 encyclopaedia

4. to see **the shape of the Lake Taupo coastline.**

- dictionary  
 thesaurus  
 atlas  
 encyclopaedia

5. to find **3 words that mean angry.**

- dictionary  
 thesaurus  
 atlas  
 encyclopaedia

6. to **read about the Māori chief Te Rauparaha.**

- dictionary  
 thesaurus  
 atlas  
 encyclopaedia

% responses

2001 ('97)  
**year 8**

92 (92)

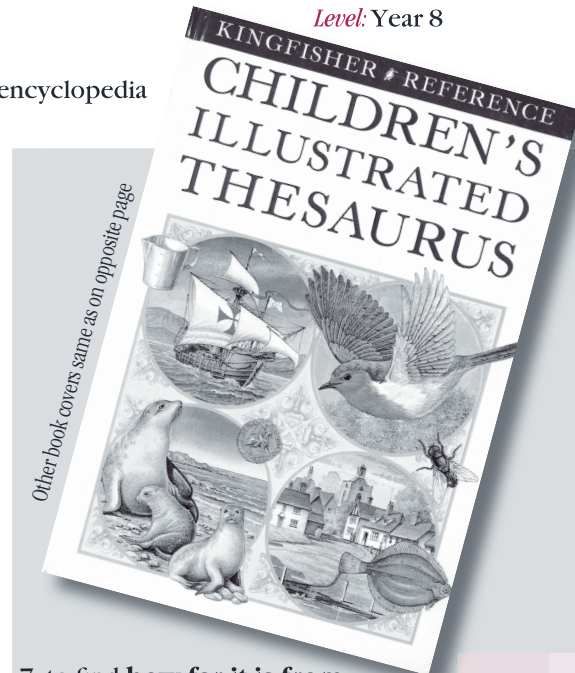
81 (80)

71 (72)

92 (95)

69 (65)

92 (94)



7. to find **how far it is from Auckland to Napier.**

- dictionary  
 thesaurus  
 atlas  
 encyclopaedia

8. to find out **how to use the word "conceal" in a sentence.**

- dictionary  
 thesaurus  
 atlas  
 encyclopaedia

9. to find **2 words that mean the opposite of survive.**

- dictionary  
 thesaurus  
 atlas  
 encyclopaedia

% responses

2001 ('97)  
**year 8**

93 (97)

59 (59)

67 (65)

**Total score:** 9 29 (26)

8 25 (24)

6-7 26 (33)

4-5 17 (15)

0-3 3 (2)

**Commentary**

Students appeared less familiar with the use of a thesaurus than with the use of other reference books. There was little change from 1997 to 2001. This task is parallel to the year 4 task *Which Book (Y4)* (opposite).