

Trend Task: Wallabies in New Zealand

Approach: Independent

Focus: Comprehension

Resources: Story in recording book; red pencil

Year: 4 & 8

Questions / instructions:

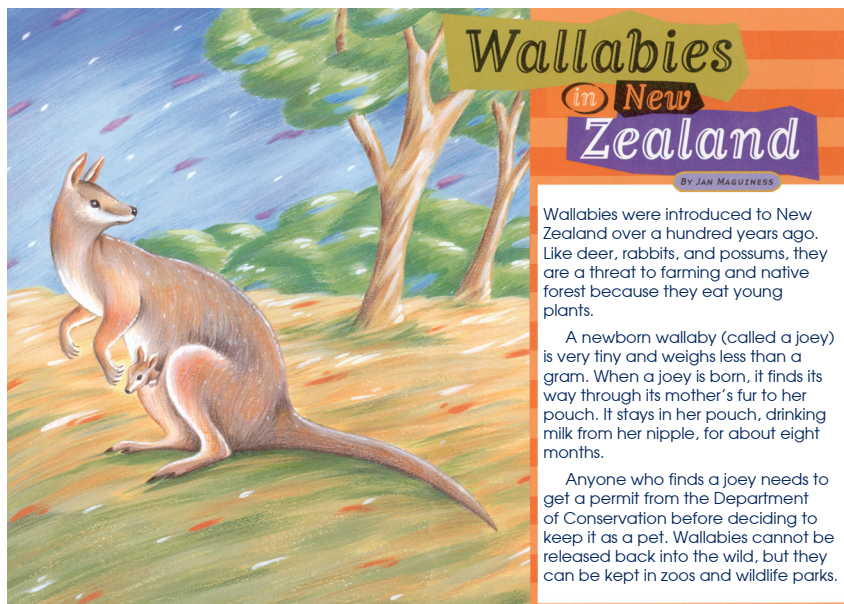
In this activity everyone works on their own, and does their best without getting help from others.

I'm going to give each of you a story about wallabies.

The instructions in your answer book tell you what to do with the story about wallabies. When you have finished, check your work then bring it to me.

DO NOT help students with reading the instructions.

Note that there is no time limit on this task.



		% response 2004 ('00)				% response 2004 ('00)	
		year 4	year 8			year 4	year 8
1. Put a <u>ring</u> around the name of a newborn wallaby.				5. A wallaby is not a New Zealand native animal. <u>Underline</u> where it tells you this.			
Ring around:	"a joey"	73 (75)	88 (95)	first sentence, or at least word "introduced", underlined		39 (40)	69 (64)
2. Put a dotted line under the time a joey stays in its mother's pouch.							
Dotted line under:	"about 8 months"	6 (13)	19 (16)				
	"8 months"	40 (40)	46 (55)				
3. Put ticks ✓ above the places where wallabies can be kept.							
Tick above:	"zoos"	61 (75)	80 (82)	Total score:	10–13	1 (1)	4 (7)
	"wildlife parks"	57 (61)	79 (82)		8–9	14 (15)	30 (30)
	"pouch"	14 (13)	16 (13)		6–7	23 (22)	32 (34)
	no tick above anything else	72 (73)	83 (82)		4–5	32 (29)	22 (20)
4. Put crosses X above all the threats to farming and native forests.					2–3	19 (26)	9 (8)
Cross above:	"deer"	30 (24)	44 (47)		0–1	11 (7)	3 (1)
	"rabbits"	31 (25)	45 (49)				
	"possums"	31 (26)	45 (50)				
	"wallabies" (also "wallaby", "joey")	4 (3)	8 (20)				
	no cross above anything else	50 (54)	51 (52)				
				Commentary:			
				About 20 percent more year 8 than year 4 students demonstrated a high level of comprehension (total score of eight or more) through their responses to the instructions. There was no meaningful change in performance, for year 4 or year 8 students, between 2000 and 2004.			