

Approach: Station

Year: 4 & 8

Focus: Making connections within and across text

Resources: Information card

Redback Spider

What they look like

Females have black bodies. There is a red stripe on their back which has a white edge around it.

Where they are found

Redbacks only live in Central Otago in the South Island and in New Plymouth in the North Island. They live around peoples' houses because they like warmth.

Bites

It is rare to be bitten by a redback as they will only bite when they are disturbed or trapped in clothing. The bite feels like a sharp pin prick and may lead to redness and pain where the bite occurred. If you are bitten you MUST go to a doctor.



Actual size of an adult female redback

White-Tailed Spider

What they look like

All white-tailed spiders are black with a white patch at the end of their abdomen.

Where they are found

White-Tailed spiders live in all parts of New Zealand. They mostly live around peoples' houses and gardens.

Bites

The bite can be painful but the burning, swelling, redness and itchiness quickly goes away and there are no long lasting effects. Putting ice on the bite can make it feel better.



Actual size of an adult female white-tailed spider.

Questions / instructions:

Ana has been bitten by a spider. Read the information about two spiders that have dangerous bites.

Use the clues below and tick the boxes to show which spider or spiders fit each clue.

	1. Redback	2. White-Tailed	3. Redback & White-Tailed
The bite was painful			
Ana was sitting at her back door			
Ana lives in New Plymouth			
The spider had a black body with a white spot			

The bite was painful: column 3 ticked OR both columns 1 and 2 ticked

Ana was sitting at her back door: column 3 ticked OR both columns 1 and 2 ticked

Ana lives in New Plymouth: column 3 ticked OR both columns 1 and 2 ticked

The spider had a black body with a white spot: column 2 ticked

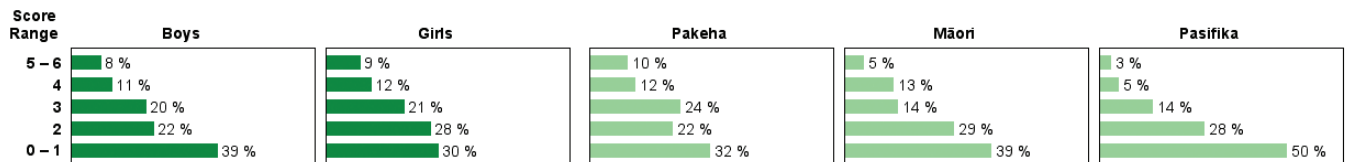
1. Which spider has bitten Ana? **White-Tailed**

2. What should she do now? **put ice on the bite (to make it feel better)**

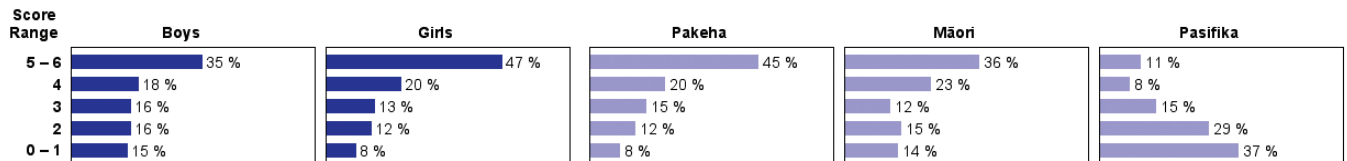
	% responses	
	y4	y8
The bite was painful	29	46
Ana was sitting at her back door	23	54
Ana lives in New Plymouth	21	49
The spider had a black body with a white spot	74	91
1. Which spider has bitten Ana?	45	73
2. What should she do now?	33	67
Total score:	5-6	9
	4	11
	3	21
	2	24
	0-1	35

Subgroup Analyses:

Year 4



Year 8



Commentary:

It would have been better if the table which the students filled in was designed differently, either with column 3 (Redback and White-Tailed) omitted or with the word "only" added before the name of the spider in columns 1 and 2. Sixty percent of year 8 students and 20% of year 4 students scored more than half marks. Year 8 Pasifika students scored poorly compared to the other four subgroups.