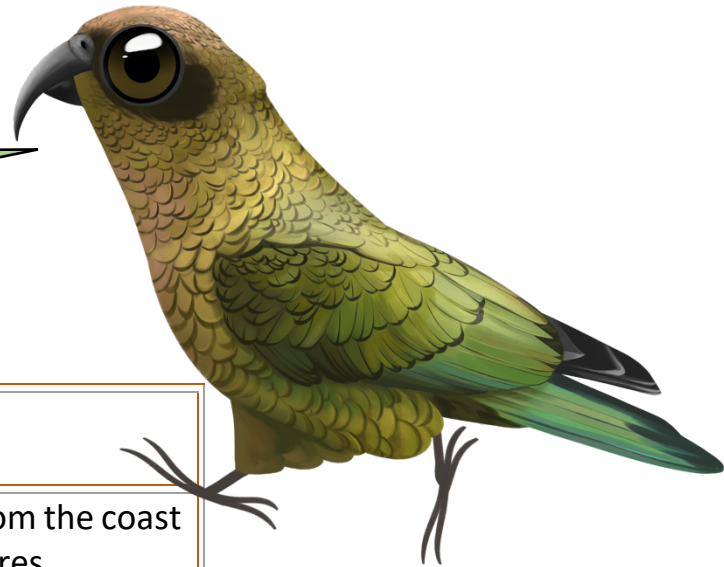


MEET THANEE – THE KEA

Hello kids, my name is Thanee. I am a Kea. I want to tell you some facts about me and my family.



Name	Kea <i>(Nestor notabilis)</i>
Habitat	Forests, bush and grassland from the coast up to an altitude of 2,400 metres.
Diet	Omnivores, mainly fruits and shoots, but also insects and carrion
Age	In human care up to 50 years
Breeding behaviour	Breeding on or near the ground in tree hollows or under roots, lay 3-4 eggs, chicks hatch after 3 or 4 weeks, chicks fledge after 10 weeks
Threats	Invasive species, poaching, habitat degradation



The Kea is endemic to the South Island of New Zealand.

The parrot inhabits a wide variety of habitats, from the coasts to high up in the mountains, up to 2,400 metres.





Keas belong to the genus Nestor. We used to be four species. But today there are only two species left in the group of Nestor, the Kea and the New Zealand kākā.



New Zealand kākā (*Nestor meridionalis*)



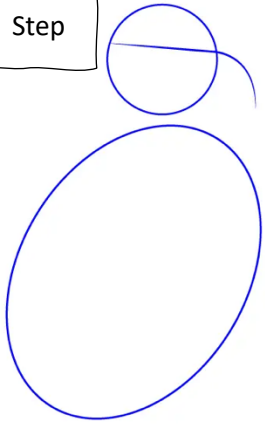
Kea (*Nestor notabilis*)

Keas reach a total length of 48-50 cm and a weight of over 900 g. The plumage is olive green. Every individual feather is dark-edged. Because of this the bird looks as if the plumage is made up of scales. Under the green plumage, the kea is much more colourful. The rump, under-tail coverts and lower arm coverts are orange-red. The unfeathered eye rings and the wax skin of the beak are yellowish.

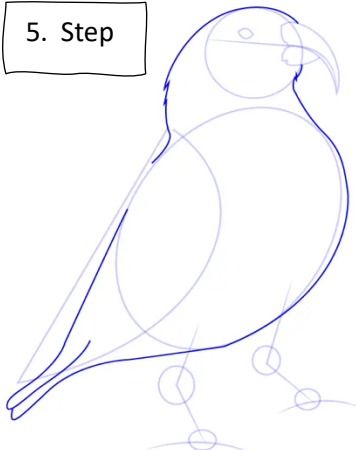


Try to draw your own Kea. Just follow each step of the instructions.

1. Step



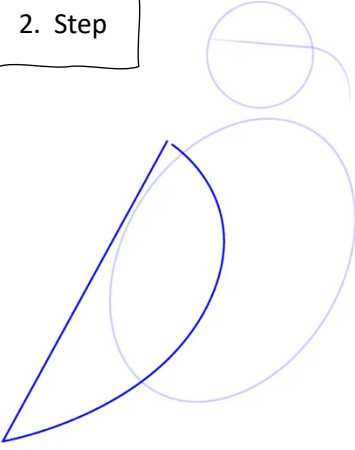
5. Step



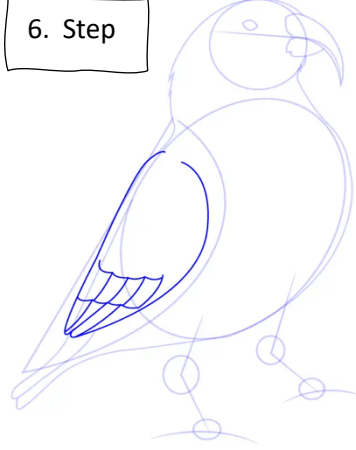
9. Step



2. Step



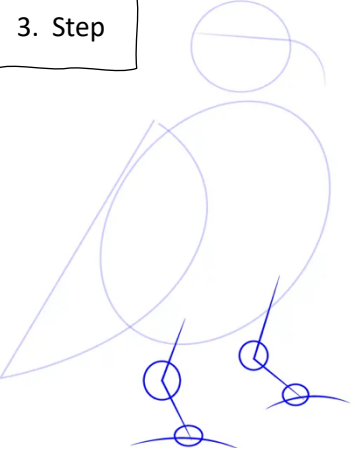
6. Step



10. Step



3. Step



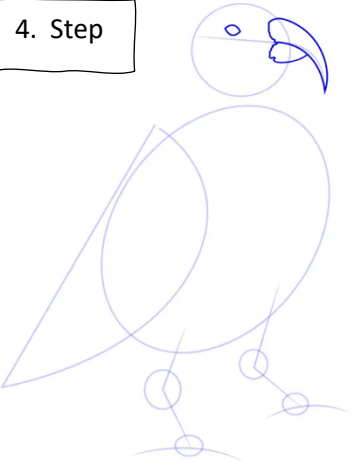
7. Step



11. Step



4. Step



8. Step



Show your Kea to your friends on  & .
#WorldParrotDay #Kea



WORLD PARROT DAY - May 31st





My conspecifics and I are real gourmets. We eat lots of fruit, buds, blossoms, tubers, roots and fresh shoots. But we also like insects, eggs and carrion.

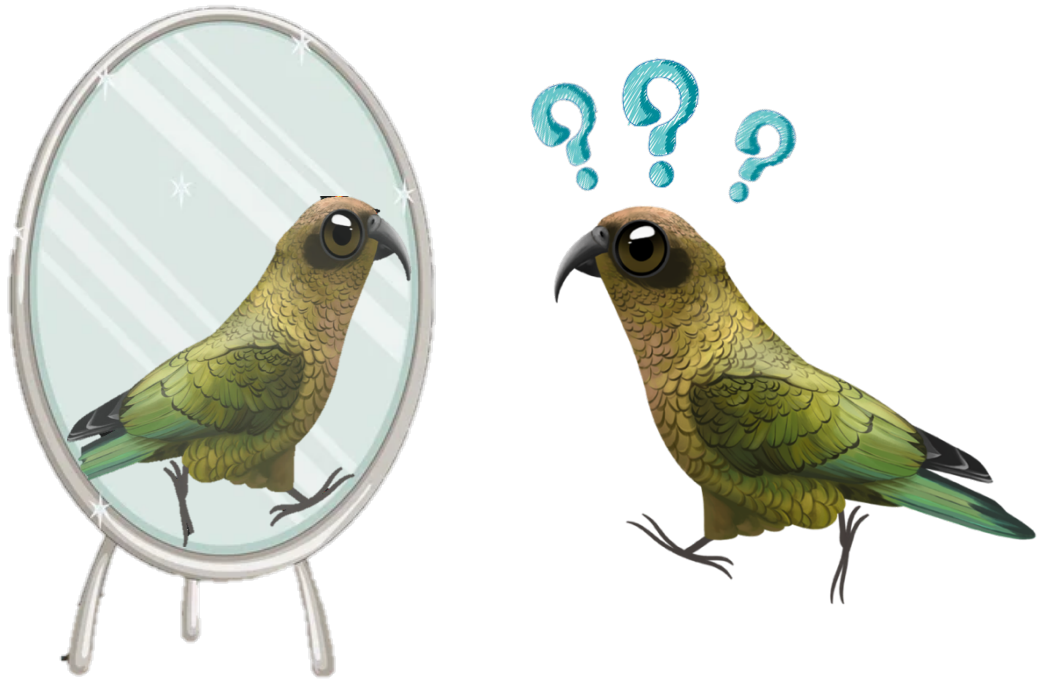
The kea is a real omnivore. In some regions of New Zealand, populations have become more specialised. Birds that live close to settlements rummage through rubbish bins, just like crows and ravens. In the Kaikoura Ranges, a mountain range in New Zealand, keas have specialised in hunting the offspring of the petrel. In other regions, they have started to tear open the skin of live sheep to get at the fat under the skin. This does not cause the sheep to die, but it does result in large wounds that require veterinary treatment to prevent further infection. As the treatment costs a lot of money, the kea is not popular with farmers.

Take a closer look at the pictures. Circle everything that the kea would eat.



WORLD PARROT DAY - May 31st

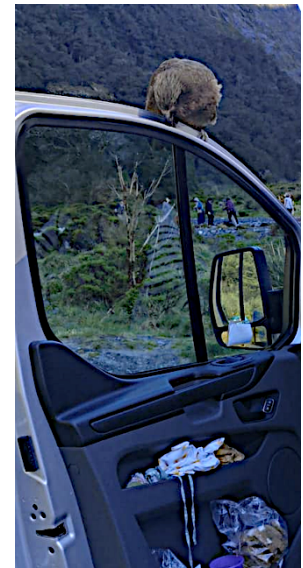
Keas are very curious and intelligent birds. They are even able to recognise themselves in their own reflection. Other birds, however, regard their reflection as a stranger. The kea even uses mirrors to examine areas of its body that it would otherwise not be able to see.



Everything that could be exciting is examined with their beak. It doesn't matter whether it's the leg in a pair of jeans, shoelaces or even cars. With their long, pointed beaks, they pick off seals and can literally take cars apart.

Due to their high intelligence, the keas have developed very different adaptation mechanisms. Some of them have started to interrupt traffic by pushing objects onto the road. Traffic cones are a good example of this. Once the cars have stopped and the drivers have opened the car to get out, the keas have the opportunity to get into the vehicle and scavenge for edibles.

In another region, the kea have realised that if you throw stones at hikers, they drop things during their escape, including some food.



Ha, ha, ha that is funny.
Be smart and creative,
be more parrot!



WORLD PARROT DAY - May 31st

Quiz-Time!

Are you as clever and creative as a Kea?



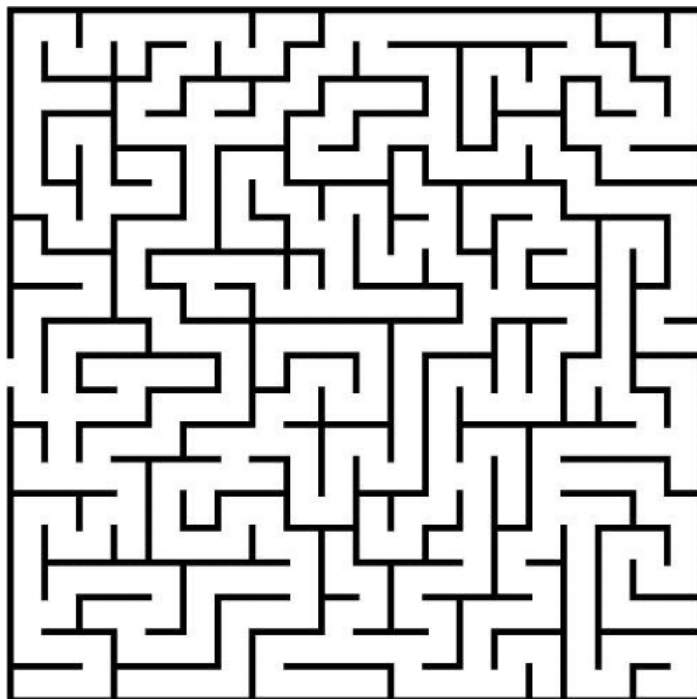
Solve the sudoku. Each column, each row and each block must contain all numbers from 1 to 9.

Compare the keas. Try to find the bird that is different from all the others.

3		1			8			
4		2	3	7		1	8	9
5		9	6	2	1		4	7
	2	8					7	3
		7			6			
	4		2			5		1
		4	7	5				
	1						5	
				6	4	7		8



Help the kea to find his way through the labyrinth to its nest.



WORLD PARROT DAY - May 31st

My conspecifics and I are very curious and learn quickly. The most important thing we learn to survive is from our parents. Is it the same for humans?



Sarah has read about keas in various books with different facts. Now she can't decide which information is right. Help her to decide for each statement and find out how our grey parrot is called.

1.a) Keas are the only parrots that are not able to fly.

G

1.b) Keas can fly very well.

T

2.a) Female keas have a yellow eye ring.

O

2.b) Female keas are slightly smaller and have a shorter beak.

H

3.a) They stay together with their partner for life.

A

3.b) They have a new partner every breeding season.

N

4.a) Keas live in the savannahs of Africa.

Z

4.b) Keas live in the grasslands and mountains of New Zealand.

N

5.a) On average, a clutch consists of 10 eggs.

S

5.b) On average, a clutch consists of 3 to 4 eggs.

E

6.a) Keas are considered endangered.

E

6.b) Keas are extinct in the wild.

O

Name of the kea _____





There are not that many of us keas left, the people from the IUCN say we only have about 4.000 left. That's why they have classified us as "endangered".



In the text you can find out why keas are endangered. Unfortunately, there are some gaps in the text. Try to match the words below to the appropriate gap and find out why the Kea is endangered.

_____ have to face various threats. One major threat is _____ species. This is the term used to describe alien species that have been introduced by _____ and have a _____ impact on the native flora and fauna. In New Zealand, these include the domestic _____, the stoat and the _____. They hunt keas and raid their nests. Keas are very curious and nibble on everything. In _____, buildings are often built and clad with _____. Since keas like to be close to humans, it is not surprising that they also _____ on leaded parts of houses. The lead accumulates in the keas until they slowly die of _____.

invasive, Kea, cat, New Zealand, lead, negative, poisoning, nibble, humans, possum





Conflicts with humans are the main threat to the Keas. For example, due to conflicts with sheep farmers in the highlands, a state bounty was offered in the late 1860s, which led to the killing of an estimated 150,000 kea until the early 1970s. As a result, the population collapsed.

Thankfully, today there are various organisations that are trying to reduce the potential for conflict and thus protect the kea.



KEA
CONSERVATION
TRUST

In addition to the in-situ conservation carried out by NGOs such as the Kea Conservation Trust, zoos also implement breeding programs to support ex-situ conservation. These are the so-called EAZA ex-situ programs (EEP).

In the breeding programs, animals should always mate with others that have as different genes as possible.

The genes of the Keas are represented by different symbols. Can you help the studbook keeper and find out which symbol is missing in the gaps?



1



2



In-situ = conservation programs that are implemented in their habitat

Ex-situ = conservation programs that are implemented outside of their habitat



WORLD PARROT DAY - May 31st



Zoos do a good job of protecting us. But my friends from the Kea Conservation Trust are also very active.

Until the 1990s, a lot of lead was used to build houses. If we nibble on the parts, we slowly poison ourselves with the lead and die from it.

The Kea Conservation Trust regularly launches programs to replace the lead-containing components in the houses with non-toxic alternatives.

In New Zealand, it was common practice until the 1990s to produce covers on the roof, nails, chimneys or paints with lead. Over the past two years, the Kea Conservation Trust has offered homeowners the opportunity to replace these components with non-toxic alternatives free of charge.

Try to protect Thane and her family from the lead. Try to find at least three places on the house where lead may be present. Circle the location and name them in the list



- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____



WORLD PARROT DAY - May 31st



Over time, a variety of animals that did not previously exist in New Zealand have come with the people. These include cats, rats, possums and stoats.

These species cause damage to native wildlife. Such animals are known as invasive species. Keas are also on their menu.

Oh my God, that was close. I only just managed to escape. A possum was after me. Ever since you humans brought these animals to New Zealand, my conspecifics and I have lived in constant fear of being eaten.



Do you know these invasive species? Try to name them and collect information to create a fact sheet about them.



Name _____



Name _____



Name _____



Name _____



