

The Little Lambs' Great New Zealand Easter Egg Hunt



Teacher's Notes

Story Summary

Near mountain, scrub and oceanfront, we tiptoe on our Easter hunt. We look over. We look under. And then...

A group of lambs are on an Easter egg hunt. They find all kinds of eggs - Kiwi, Tui, Kererū, Little Blue Penguin (Korora) and Kakapo - before the little lambs finally find what they've been looking for: Easter eggs to share with all their Whānau. This colourfully illustrated picture book takes the celebration of Easter and uses it to highlight the beauty of New Zealand's flora and fauna.



©Kate Green
Photography

About The Author, Yvonne Mes

Yvonne Mes is a children's author, illustrator and devourer of books. She writes short stories, picture books and junior novels. Her stories are published in School Magazine, on the Kids Book Review website and as part of anthologies.

Yvonne has a Bachelor of Children's Services, a Certificate in Professional Children's Writing, and a Certificate IV in Visual Arts and Crafts. Yvonne coordinates Write Links, the Brisbane children's writers and illustrators group, and is vice president of Book Links QLD (Inc.) She writes reviews for Buzz Words magazine and is a member of SCBWI, CBCA, Book Links and the ASA.

About The Illustrator, Aleksandra Szmidt

Aleksandra Szmidt grew up in a town in the south of Poland and currently resides in New Zealand. In Poland, she worked as a graphic designer. Upon moving, she decided to pursue her dream as a freelance illustrator. From her home studio, Aleksandra creates one-of-a-kind artworks for clients across the world.



Suggested Shared Reading Prompts

There are several birds and NZ native plants throughout the story. How many can the children name? How many have the children seen? Which birds are local to your area?

Te reo Māori kupu (Source www.maoridictionary.com)

Over	runga
Under	i raro
Near	tata
Far	tāwhiti
High	teitei
Low	iti
In	i roto i
Out	i waho
Behind	muri
In front	Tuhinga o mua



Suggested Activities

Te reo Māori kupu

Use the words from the te reo Māori kupu list to adapt a game of statues or ‘Simon Says’, or ask the children to take turns to demonstrate a word and ask the other children to guess what word the child is being.

Nests

Each of the birds in the story have different nests. What are the advantages and disadvantages of each type of nest? Provide the children with loose parts to design and build a small nest or work together to build a box nest for several child-size birds to lay their eggs in.



Story Starter

Ask the children to pick one of the birds in the story. Their story starts as the egg begins to crack. What comes out? How does it get out? What happens next?

Rainbow Nature Walk

Nature always puts on an Autumn display in the weeks before Easter. Take a walk around the school grounds or local streets to find as many colours as you can. Collect items for later art projects or take photos. A useful opportunity to discuss different hues of the same colours or to consolidate te reo Maori colour words.



String Eggs

A quick and fun (but potentially messy!) egg craft that can be used as a gift. You will need balloons, string and PVA glue. Blow the balloons up a small amount (you can add small eggs). Dip string into glue and wind it around the egg. Wait to dry and pop the balloon. These can also be strung as a garland. You'll find a 3-minute tutorial here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LjFTWIYr6EI>



Painted rock egg hunt

Smooth oval stones can be painted and hidden around the school or centre, or local park for others to find. Most paint types can be used but its best to use a paint sealant to protect the designs. For a quicker and less messy version use glue and cut out magazine pictures for decoupage effect.lay their eggs in.



Class Theatre

Ask the children to pick one of the birds in the story. Their story starts as the egg begins to crack. What comes out? How does it get out? What happens next?



Describing Words

Put a picture of each bird on the board with describing words all around the board. Ask the children to match the bird with its adjectives.

Using the Story in Provocations and Invitations to Play

Provide pictures and real nests of birds and their nests with some small natural loose parts for the children to create their own nest designs.

Provide larger materials for building nests in the sandpit for children to create nests big enough for them and others to lay their eggs in.

Decorate stones as eggs (glue pictures, stickers, crayons, paint) Perhaps the children will create a stone egg hunt around your ECE centre.

Provide cotton balls, chenille stems/cotton buds and glue for creating lamb crafts.

