

Why do kōtare/Kingfishers have large beaks?

Why do kōtare have large, bill-shaped beaks?

The reason has to do with how they eat. Kōtare often swoop down to grab a small fish from the water or an insect from the ground.

Have a go at the game below and see if you can work out how and why a larger beak can be super handy!



1. Put some stones in a bowl - these will be your 'bugs' or 'fish'.



2. Optional - add some water if you want to pretend you are a kōtare diving to catch a small fish.



3. Grab a set of chop sticks or two straws to represent narrow, small beaks. Grab some tongs to represent the kōtare beak.

4. Now have a go at picking up the rocks with both "beaks". What type of beak do you think is easier to catch dinner with?

