

THINGS YOU COULD NOTICE

GEOLOGY

Thousands of years ago a cave covered the whole of the valley - it has collapsed leaving small side passages, Ruakuri Cave and the Natural Tunnel.

Look for

- evidence of collapse (rocks in the stream or on the ground whose layering is vertical rather than horizontal).

BOTANY

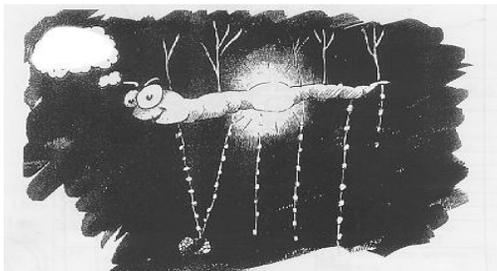
Look for

- Different colours of green in vegetation, different textures of leaves, bark
- Hard, soft, smooth leaves (do not pick)
- Leaves with smooth edges and those with serrated edges (jagged)
- Plants that grow in rock crevices, and those that grow in the trees (epiphytes)
- Tangle of supplejack vines especially at track junction just past Ruakuri Resurgence.

MAN-MADE STRUCTURES

Look for

Objects that occur naturally and those that are made by people. How do the man-made structures protect the environment, and how do they protect us?



QUESTIONS YOU COULD ASK

Ruakuri Resurgence

Here you may have the opportunity to see Black Water Rafters leaving the cave.

- Does the temperature you feel while standing on the bridge feel warmer or cooler than the outside temperature?
- Which way is the stream flowing?

At the bottom of the first set of stairs near the top of the hill

- Why are there little bits of shell in the rock?
- How do you think they got there?

Waitomo Stream

- At each point where you hear or see the stream notice the direction it is flowing.



SAFETY

Please watch your footing and keep the children with you at all times.

RUAKURI WALK

The Ruakuri Walk, approximately 45 minutes return, is over a well-constructed track through picturesque rain forest and limestone landscape. Excellent views of the Ruakuri Natural Tunnel, a remnant cave.

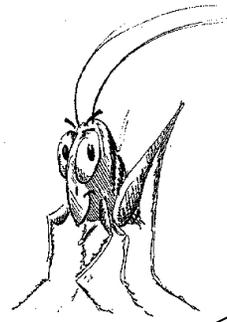
*Take nothing but photos
Leave nothing but
footprints*

Drawings you could do on the the Ruakuri Walk.

1. Draw patterns that you see in the limestone.
2. Draw a smooth-edged leaf and a serrated-edged leaf.
3. Draw the water rushing over the rocks.
4. Draw something that has been made by people.

Compare the temperature and texture of the **rock** with **tree roots**.

Look for **weta** in the cave.



On the cliff at the far side of the swing bridge tiny **glowworms** can be found. Look for their fishing lines. These glowworms are much smaller than the ones in the Glowworm Cave.

Which way is the **water** flowing?

RUAKURI WALK

This gorge is a **collapsed cave**. Look for rocks which may have fallen from the roof of the cave.

