



Kakapo Parrot
By C4A Academy



<https://a-z-animals.com/media/2021/07/Kakapo-Parrot-2.jpg>

The KAKAPO is native to NEW ZEALAND. It is considered one of the world's rarest birds. It is endangered. The Kakapo have one of the longest lifespans of any bird, typically between 40 to 60 years, but reportedly even as long as 90 years. This bird is known as the "night parrot" or "owl parrot" due to its owl-like APPEARANCE and NOCTURNAL (most active at night) habits. It is a large, flightless bird that is unique in many ways, making it an interesting and unique species to learn about.

Spell: APPEARANCE NOCTURNAL KAKAPO

It is considered one of the world's ___ birds. RAREST

The Kakapo is native to where? NEW ZEALAND

It is a large, _____ bird that is unique in many ways. FLIGHTLESS

The kakapo is also known as the ___. NIGHT PARROT, OWL PARROT

What is the definition given for nocturnal? (MOST) ACTIVE AT NIGHT

Kakapos typically live for how long in the wild? 40 TO 60 YEARS
In your own words, explain what it means to be endangered.

The Kakapo is the heaviest parrot species in the world. It can weigh up to 9 pounds (4 kg). It has a **DISTINCTIVE** (distinguishing, particular) round body and short legs. Its large eyes and nocturnal habits give it an owl-like appearance. Its feathers are a blend of green and yellow, which help it blend in with its forest habitat. The bird's wings are short and **STUBBY**, making it unable to fly. The Kakapo has a wingspan of only 3.5 inches (15 cm), making it one of the smallest wingspans of any flightless bird. Instead, it uses its strong legs and beak to climb trees and **NAVIGATE** its forest home. It is capable of climbing trees up to 60 feet (18 m.) tall.

Spell: **DISTINCTIVE** **STUBBY** **NAVIGATE**

It can weigh up to _____. 9 POUNDS (4 KG)

It is capable of climbing trees up to _____ feet tall. 60

It has a distinctive _____ body and short legs. **ROUND**

The kakapo has a ____ of 3.5 inches. **WINGSPAN**

It uses its legs and ____ to climb trees. **BEAK**

Its feathers are a mixture of what? **GREEN, YELLOW**

Give a synonym mentioned for distinctive. **DISTINGUISHING, PARTICULAR**

The Kakapo is an **HERBIVORE**, feeding mainly on native plants such as **RIMU**, **kahikatea**, and **TOTARA**. It has a large beak that helps it to crack open the tough seed pods of these plants. During the breeding season, the Kakapo's diet changes, as it begins to feed on the leaves and bark of native trees, in addition to seeds. This change in diet helps to provide the bird with the necessary **NUTRIENTS** to produce eggs and raise its chicks.

Spell: **RIMU** **DIET** **NUTRIENTS**

Plant eaters are known as _____. **HERBIVORES**

Kakapos feed on native plants like rimu, kahikatea and _____. **TOTARA**

The Kakapo uses its beak to crack open the tough _____. **SEED PODS**

The Kapapo needs nutrients to what? **PRODUCE EGGS, RAISE CHICKS, LIVE**

During the mating season what does the Kapapo begin to feed on?

LEAVES, BARK OF NATIVE TREES, SEEDS

This change in diet helps to provide the bird with the necessary nutrients to _____. PRODUCE EGGS, RAISE ITS CHICKS
In your own words, what is an herbivore?

The Kakapo is a slow BREEDER, with females only PRODUCING one to two chicks every two or three years. It breeds in the spring and summer months and lays one to two eggs at a time. The eggs hatch after about 30 days and the chicks are raised by their mother for about three and a half months. Once the chicks have FLEDGED (developed wing feathers), they are on their own and must find their own food and territory.

Spell: FLEDGED PRODUCING BREEDER

The Kakapo is a _____ breeder. SLOW

The eggs hatch after about _____. 30 DAYS

How many chicks do they produce every two to three years? 1 TO 2

After the chicks have fledged they must find their own _____. FOOD, TERRITORY

According to the text, what does fledged mean? DEVELOPED WING, FEATHERS

When the chicks are on their own do you think they stay closer to home in a new territory or fly far away? Why?

During the mating season, males gather in COMMUNAL (shared, common) "LEKS" to perform a COURTSHIP display and attract mates. Male kakapos dig a shallow hole or bowl and make loud, low frequency boom and CHINGS. Their booming sounds like foghorns. The Kakapo's call can be heard ECHOING through the forest for 3-5 months, attracting mates and announcing the presence of a territory. Males with the best territory and loudest boom breed the most.

Spell: COMMUNAL LEKS ECHOING

The males perform a _____ display. COURTSHIP

The males make two sounds a boom and a what? CHING

The Kakapo's call attracts mates and announces the presence of a _____. TERRITORY

Their booming sounds like a _____. FOGHORN

Male kakapos dig a shallow _____. HOLE, BOWL

Give a synonym mentioned for communal. SHARED, COMMON

The booming call echoes through the forest for _____. 3 TO 5 MONTHS

VAKTivity: Kakapo Parrot 'BOOMING' Mating Call (.52 min.)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6IEk57nYb8o>

The Kakapo is found in the dense forests of New Zealand's South Island. The bird was once ABUNDANT (plentiful, rich) in forests throughout New Zealand, with an ESTIMATED population of over 100,000 individuals. But its habitat has been significantly reduced over the years due to human activity and the introduction of MAMMALIAN predators. Today the Kakapo is only found in a few small, ISOLATED populations.

Spell: ABUNDANT ESTIMATED MAMMALIAN
The Kakapo is found in the forests of New Zealand's _____. SOUTH ISLAND
Today the Kakapo is only found in a few small _____ populations.
ISOLATED

Before the bird was threatened their estimated population was _____.
100,000 INDIVIDUALS

The Kakapo's what has been significantly reduced? POPULATION,
HABITAT

Give a synonym mentioned for abundant. PLENTIFUL, RICH

How do you think humans have contributed to the population reduction of the Kakapo?

The main threats to the Kakapo are habitat loss and PREDATION by introduced mammals, such as STOATS, FERRETS, and rats. In addition, the bird is also SUSCEPTIBLE to diseases and PARASITES that can reduce its population. Conservation efforts are underway to protect the Kakapo from these threats, including the RESTORATION of the bird's forest habitat and the control of introduced predators.

Spell: SUSCEPTIBLE RESTORATION STOATS
The main threats to the Kakapo are habitat loss and _____. PREDATION
The birds are susceptible to diseases and _____. PARASITES
_____ efforts are underway to protect the Kakapo. CONSERVATION

One of the three mammals that prey on the Kakapo is the _____. STOATS,
FERRETS, RATS

What conservation efforts are underway to protect the Kakapo?

RESTORATION OF FOREST HABITAT; CONTROL OF INTRODUCED

PREDATORS

ADDITIONALLY, in an effort to protect the Kakapo, the New Zealand DEPARTMENT of Conservation has established a breeding program. This program involves the transfer of eggs and chicks to predator-free islands where they can be raised in safety. The breeding program has been SUCCESSFUL, with the number of Kakapo INCREASING from a low of 51 birds in 1995 to over 249¹ today.

Spell: ADDITIONALLY DEPARTMENT INCREASING

The breeding program has been _____. SUCCESSFUL

This program involves the transfer of eggs and chicks to predator-free islands where they can be raised _____. SAFELY

The number of Kakapo has increased from the low of 51 in what year? 1995

How many Kakapo are there today? 249

Who established a breeding program? NEW ZEALAND, DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

The breeding program transfers what to predator-free islands? EGGS, CHICKS

Can you name another animal that could benefit from a conservation program? Why would they need it?

VAKTivity: Kākāpō Cam highlights a trial live stream of a kākāpō nest

<https://www.doc.govt.nz/our-work/kakapo-recovery/what-we-do/kakapo-cam/>

¹ <https://www.doc.govt.nz/our-work/kakapo-recovery/>



(Source: <https://nzbirdsonline.org.nz/species/kakapo>)

The Kakapo is a unique bird in many ways. It is the only flightless parrot in the world and the only nocturnal parrot. It also has a **DISTINCTIVE**, musty (stale, damp) odor that is used by males to attract mates during the breeding season. The bird's **VOCALIZATIONS** are also unique, including a loud booming call that can be heard for miles [kilometers]. Its unique, barrel-shaped chest helps it produce its distinctive call. The Kakapo is also known for its large, **SPHERICAL** nests, which are made from branches, twigs, and leaves.

Spell: **VOCALIZATIONS** **DISTINCTIVE** **SPHERICAL**

Its loud booming call can be heard for ____ **MILES [KILOMETERS]**

Its nests are made from branches, leaves, and ____ **TWIGS**

Kakapos have a ____-shaped chest. **BARREL**

Give a synonym mentioned for musty. **STALE, DAMP**

What is the male Kakapo's musty odor used for? **ATTRACT MATES DURING BREEDING SEASON**

Give a synonym for spherical. **ROUND, GLOBULAR, BALL-SHAPED**

The Kakapo is an important species for several reasons. As a flightless bird, it has evolved unique ADAPTATIONS that make it well suited to life in its forest habitat. These adaptations make the Kakapo an important part of the ecosystem, helping to DISPERSE seeds and POLLINATE plants. The Kakapo is also a cultural ICON for the INDIGENOUS MAORI people of New Zealand, who consider it a TAONGA, or treasure.

Spell: ADAPTATIONS INDIGENOUS DISPERSE
The indigenous people of New Zealand are called the _____. MAORI
The Maori word for treasure is _____. TAONGA
The Kakapo is a cultural _____. ICON

These adaptations make the Kakapo an important part of the ecosystem, helping to do what? DISPERSE SEEDS; POLLINATE PLANTS

The Kakapo is a rare and FASCINATING bird that is important to the ecosystem and culture of New Zealand. It is a valuable source of GENETIC DIVERSITY, as it is a primitive species of parrot that has remained unchanged for millions of years. Despite conservation efforts, the Kakapo remains ENDANGERED, with a current population of APPROXIMATELY 249 individuals. Ongoing efforts are necessary to ensure the survival of this unique and fascinating species.

Spell: APPROXIMATELY GENETIC ENDANGERED
The Kakapo is a valuable source of genetic _____. DIVERSITY
The Kakapo is important to the ecosystem and ____ of New Zealand.
CULTURE

Why is the Kakapo a valuable source of genetic diversity? HAS NOT CHANGED; UNCHANGED FOR MILLIONS OF YEARS

Ongoing efforts are necessary to ensure the survival of this _____ and _____ species. UNIQUE, FASCINATING

VAKTivity: Kakapo: Flightless Parrot (2:33 min.)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E3a88_SjJR0

The Bizarre Beast That Honks in The Night (6.39 min.)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7foAsAfuAXo>

What do you think about the Kakapo?

This lesson was adapted from text generated by ChatGPT.

Additional References:

<https://animals.net/kakapo/>

<https://www.wired.com/2014/03/creature-feature-10-fun-facts-kakapo/>

<https://www.doc.govt.nz/our-work/kakapo-recovery/>

<https://www.doc.govt.nz/nature/native-animals/birds/birds-a->

[z/kakapo/#:~:text=perhaps%20the%20longest%20lived%20bird,prior%20to%20a%20breeding%20season.](https://www.doc.govt.nz/nature/native-animals/birds/birds-a-z/kakapo/#:~:text=perhaps%20the%20longest%20lived%20bird,prior%20to%20a%20breeding%20season.)