

April 7th 2026

Primate Evolution: A Story of Survival

Our young biologists dive into the complex world of cognitive biology and social dynamics. After learning about the science of animal conditioning and positive reinforcement, the group will participate in "Tool Use Challenges" to simulate wild foraging strategies. The day includes field research on individual recognition, where students learn to identify specific primates by unique facial features and social status within the troop.

Note: The descriptions above are a summary of the core scientific themes for each day. The full KeeperKids experience includes much more—including daily animal enrichment construction, habitat maintenance, and additional keeper-led animal encounters that vary based on the needs of the animals each day!

April 8th 2026

The "Everything" Eaters: The Science of Adaptable Omnivores



This session focuses on dietary biology and the metabolic "superpower" of being an opportunist. Keeperkids will compare dentition between different omnivores, examining their anatomy to see how Kunekune traits differ from a Kea, or a Capuchin. Participants will then move into the "nutrition lab" to formulate specific diets that mimic the nutrient-rich buffet found in an omnivore's natural habitat.

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April 9th 2026

Rodent Republic: The Science of Gnawers



This day explores the incredible diversity of the world's most successful order of mammals. Keeperkids will study rodent dentition—learning why their teeth never stop growing—and investigate tail anatomy to see how it aids balance and communication. Activities include "Habitat Architecture," where kids design burrow systems and nesting sites, followed by a field research session focused on the specialized defense mechanics of the Cape Porcupine and the seed-dispersal role of the Agouti.

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April 10th 2026

Project Aotearoa | Engineering Safety for NZ Birds

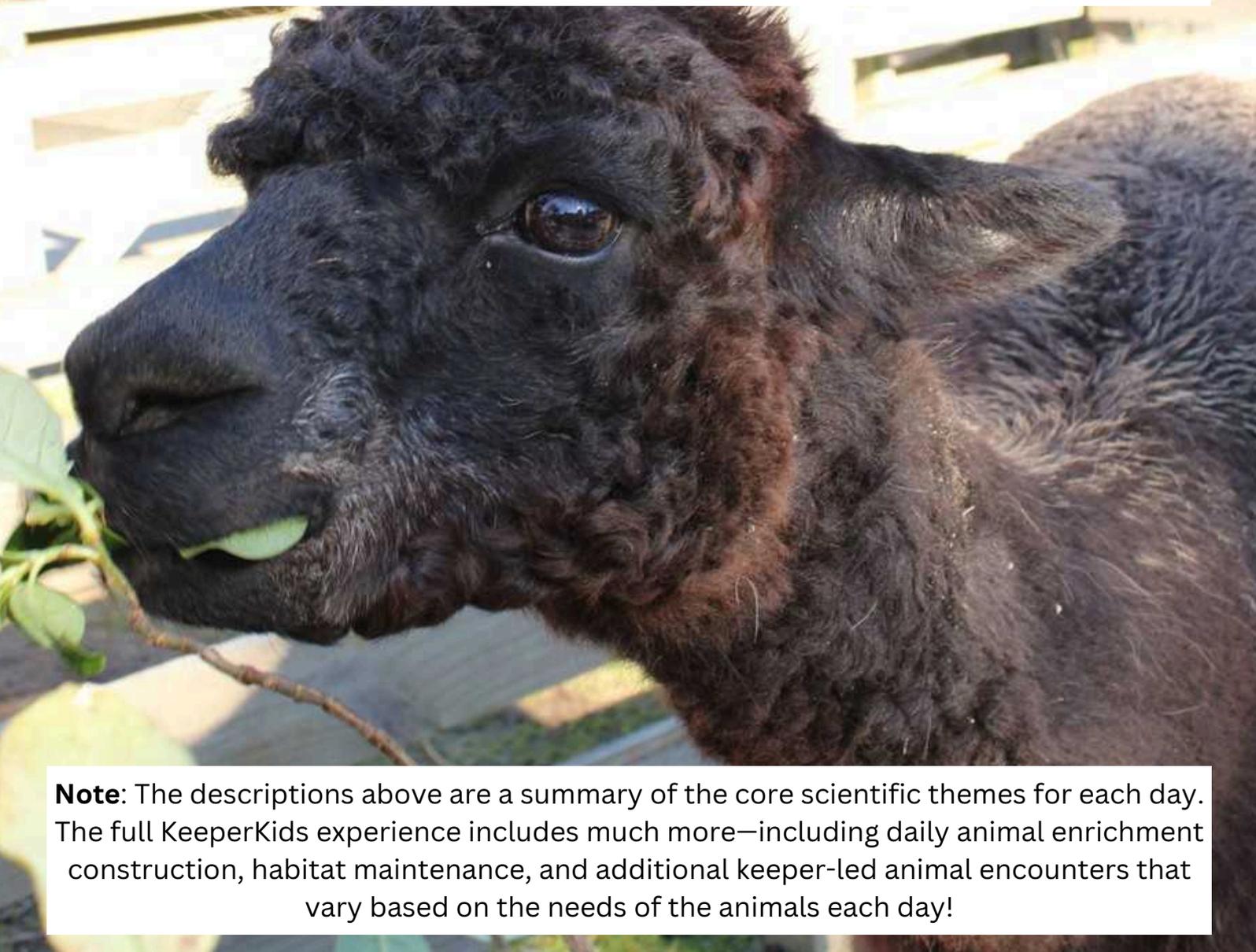
This day is a deep dive into evolutionary isolation and the aero-physics of flight. Through our "Beak and Feet Adaptation Labs," Keeperkids will simulate how different birds have engineered ways to survive in the wild. The session shifts into high-stakes conservation as kids decode footprints to identify predators and learn the technology behind the tactical tracking used to protect our native treasures.

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April 13th 2026

Domestication Station: The Genetics of Heritage Breeds

We trace the co-evolution of humans and animals by looking at the genetics of our heritage farm breeds. Keeperkids will participate in "The Ancestry Link," tracing modern animals back to their wild origins to see how selective breeding has changed their traits over centuries. The research focus includes a genetic trait audit, where kids predict how size, fleece, and temperament are passed down through generations.



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April 14th 2026

World of Reptiles | Secrets of the Ancient Cold-Blooded



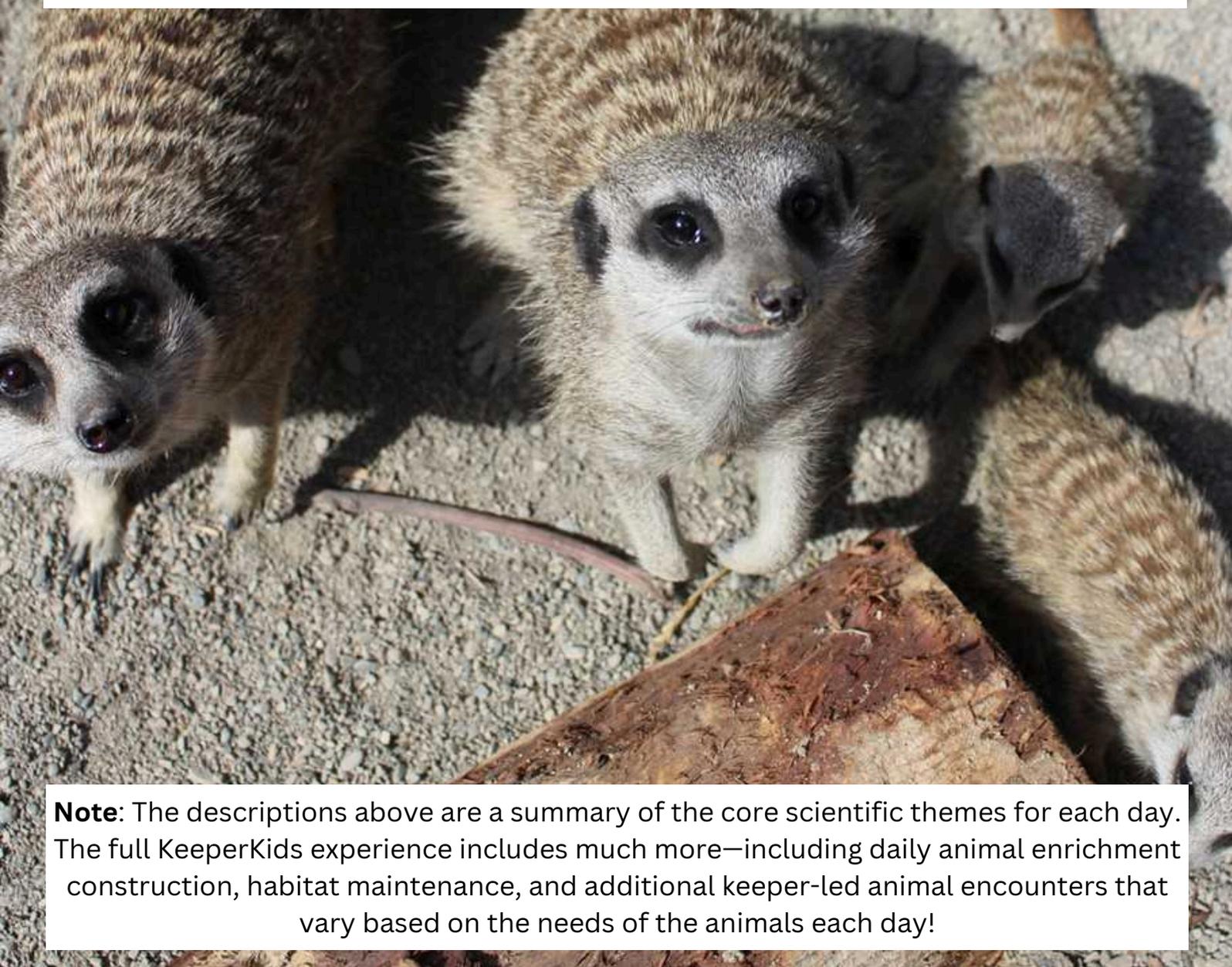
Focusing on ectothermic biology, Keeperkids will explore the ancient secrets of the Tuatara and its relatives. The group will engage in "Lizard Lounge Engineering," building habitats designed for maximum thermal efficiency, and participate in simulations for handling venomous species. We round out the day by examining real sheds and skins to understand the cellular makeup of reptile armor.

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April 15th 2026

Social Survival: Decoding the Language of the Mob

This lesson in ethology explores why living in a group is a vital survival strategy. Keeperkids participate in "Sentinel Training," a communication game that mimics the complex alarm-call systems of Meerkats. Field research focuses on social grooming and communal feeding, allowing kids to map the social "glue" that keeps a troop or mob functioning as a single, protected unit.



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April 16th 2026

Masters of Camouflage: The Physics of Hiding in Plain Sight

In our final day, we explore the optics of survival—how light, shadow, and pattern can make an animal invisible. Through our "Disruptive Coloration Lab," kids experiment with breaking up outlines to hide objects in plain sight. Participants will then conduct a "Stealth Audit" across the park, identifying real-world examples of counter-shading and mimicry used by our resident experts.



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