

# Jewelled gecko

Use pastel and dye to draw an action shot of this amazing gecko. Your picture should show at least some information from every box. One look at your picture should tell the viewer all about the jewelled gecko.

## Colour

Bright green with white or yellow stripes or splotches that run the length of its back.

Bright blue inside its mouth with hazel eyes and vertical slit pupils.



## Features

160 mm long.  
(Its tail is half its length.)

Long clawed toes help it climb the trees and bushes they live in.

A long tail that is used like another leg, just like a monkey!



## More features

The skin looks loose and grainy like a bucket of small beads.

Its head is wider than the rest of its body and unlike a skink you can see a neck.

A gecko's eyelids are always closed, but are transparent so that it can still see. When a gecko's eyelids get dirty, it will lick them clean with its tongue.



## Habitat

Lives in forests, shrubland and tussock grasslands.

Lives on beech trees in the montane forest, broadleaf in the lowland forest and kanuka and manuka in the shrublands.

Also lives on exotic species like pine trees and gorse.



## Habits in their habitat

They like forest trees less than 2 metres high and they're expert climbers.

Their slender clawed toes help them climb branches easily and their tail is strong enough to hang by.

Their markings help hide them in the leaves and because they are cold blooded and active during the daytime they move in and out of the shadows to keep their temperature just right.



## Food

They're diurnal - active during the day

They're insectivores. They stalk flies, beetles, and other insects very slowly then quickly lunge and capture their prey with their mouths.



## More on food!

Geckos don't catch prey with their tongues, but they do hold it down with their tongue after prey has been caught in their mouth.

Geckos will also eat soft fruit and berries, but hardly ever eat dead insects.



## Predators

Only a few native birds ate the jewelled gecko before humans arrived and the kingfisher was the only bird to eat quite a few.

Tuatara would eat them when they were in the same place.

These days rats are biggest threat with cats, stoats and weasels close behind.

Introduced bird like myna and starlings eat them too.