**Draw as a scientist**

**Ako: Learn about eDNA and how it can be used as a pest detector**

Science communication takes many forms – most often through text and diagrams. Whichever form is used, it is really important for scientists to be able to communicate their ideas. With this activity, you can express your understanding of a science article via a drawing or a painting.

There are three articles to choose from – each article makes use of eDNA to discover which species are – and aren’t – present in a local ecosystem:

* [Scientists vacuum zoo animals’ DNA out of the air](https://www.npr.org/2022/01/09/1071238185/vacuuming-airborne-zoo-animal-dna) (NPR) is about scientists who vacuum clean the air to find out what animals and plants live in the area.
* [Why won’t scientific evidence change the minds of Loch Ness monster true believers?](https://theconversation.com/why-wont-scientific-evidence-change-the-minds-of-loch-ness-monster-true-believers-97307) (The Conversation) is about scientists using eDNA to investigate whether the Loch Ness monster is real.
* [A mysterious intruder in paradise](https://edna.cawthron.org.nz/case-study-zealandia/) (Cawthron eDNA Services) is a case study involving a potential threat to Zealandia Te Māra a Tāne restoration efforts.

**Mahi:**

* Read all three articles and choose the article that appeals to your artistic and scientific interests.
* Think about what the authors are trying to communicate via their article.
* Note key words or phrases that interest you or help to tell or illustrate the narrative.
* Imagine a scene. This could be the physical setting where the eDNA testing is taking place or it could feature the animals/people mentioned in the article.
* Sketch, draw or paint this imaginary scene.
* Use some of the key words or phrases to annotate and add context to your drawing.
* If desired, keep the article you used anonymous. Share your drawing with someone else. What are they able to pick up via your work?

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