

MOA

Moa are now extinct but they used to live in New Zealand! They are one of the biggest birds to have ever lived on earth! Moa were endemic to New Zealand – that means they were native to New Zealand!

Moa became extinct after the arrival of people to New Zealand – they were hunted by humans and Haast's Eagle.

- Reached up to 3.6 metres tall That's around twice as tall as the average height of a man
- Weighed up to around 230 kg ... that's around twice as heavy as a tiger!
- Had rough brown or black feathers
- Couldn't fly but could run really fast
- Ate plants like ferns, twigs and leaves
- Swallowed pebbles or stones to help digest their food – these are called gizzard stones!
- You can see a skeleton of a moa and also real moa footprints preserved in mud (recovered from the Kyebrun River) at the Otago Museum in Dunedin

Ref: Softschools.com 'Moa facts', accessed 30 March 2020

Ref: "Moa Facts for Kids" accessed 30 March 2020

Ref: Wikipedia 'Moa' accessed 30 March 2020

Ref: Otago Daily Times (21 Nov 2018) Perry E 'Drying Moa footprints on display at museum' Otago Daily Times (21 Nov 2019)