

Landslides

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hono.

Māori Emergency Management Network



Illustrated by Story Studio
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Acknowledgements | Ngā Mihi

This pukapuka was made possible by Hono: the Māori Emergency Management Network and Te Tira Whakamātaki. The illustration and design was created by Story Studio (Story Hemi-Morehouse).



We'd like to acknowledge the following sponsors:



This pukapuka is part of the TTW and Hono 'He Kaitiaki Tātou' series of books, designed to help tamariki understand, protect, and care for our taiao.

We thank Brenda Rosser (Whaea Brenda) geomorphologist, from Earth Sciences NZ, for sharing her knowledge and time, and our community reviewers for ensuring this resource honours both te ao Māori and earth sciences.

The landslide stories and examples in this book reflect real events from Aotearoa New Zealand, and the kupu used were reviewed for cultural and regional appropriateness.

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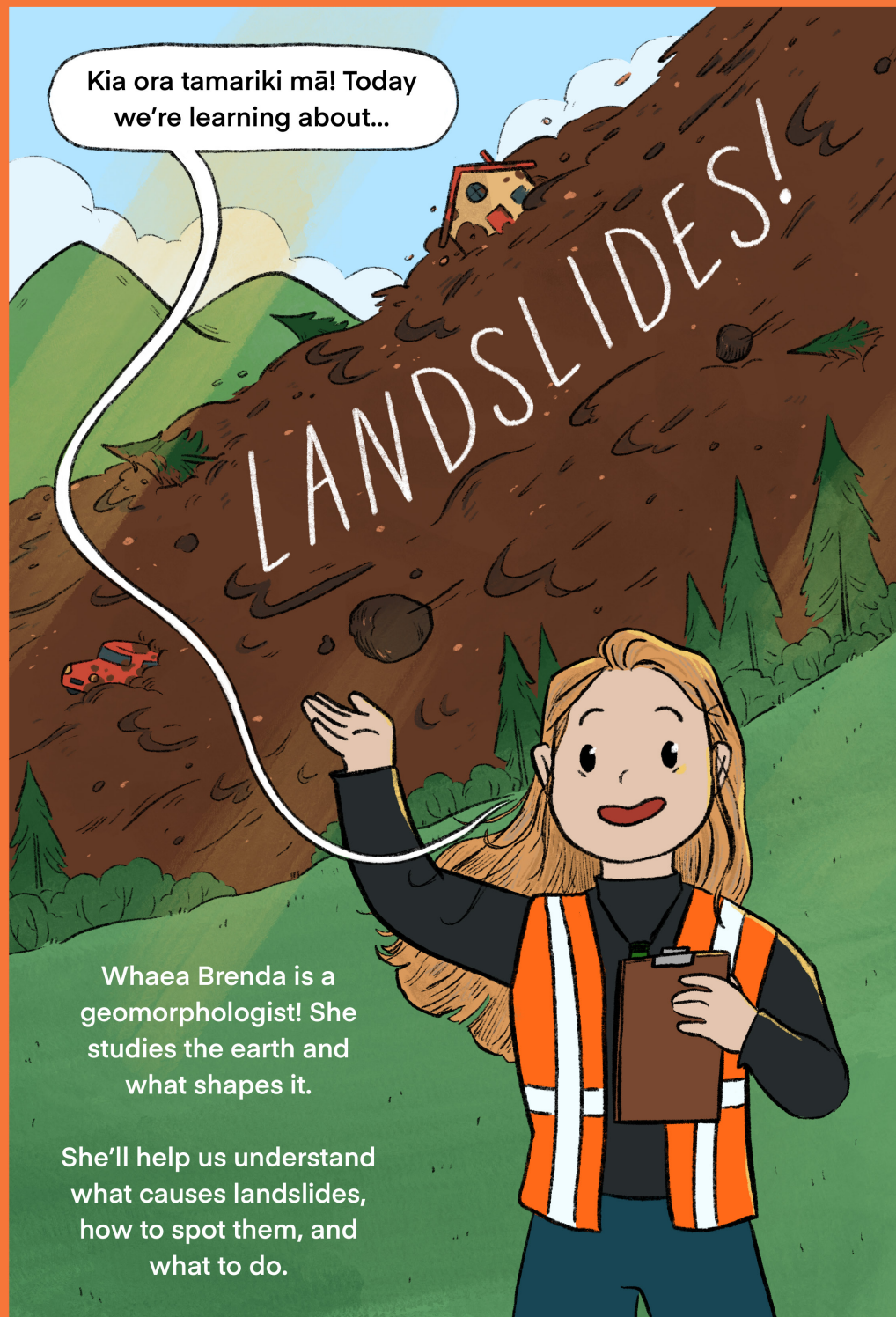
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Landslides can happen
when the ground shakes
during an earthquake —



— or gets too wet
from lots of rain!

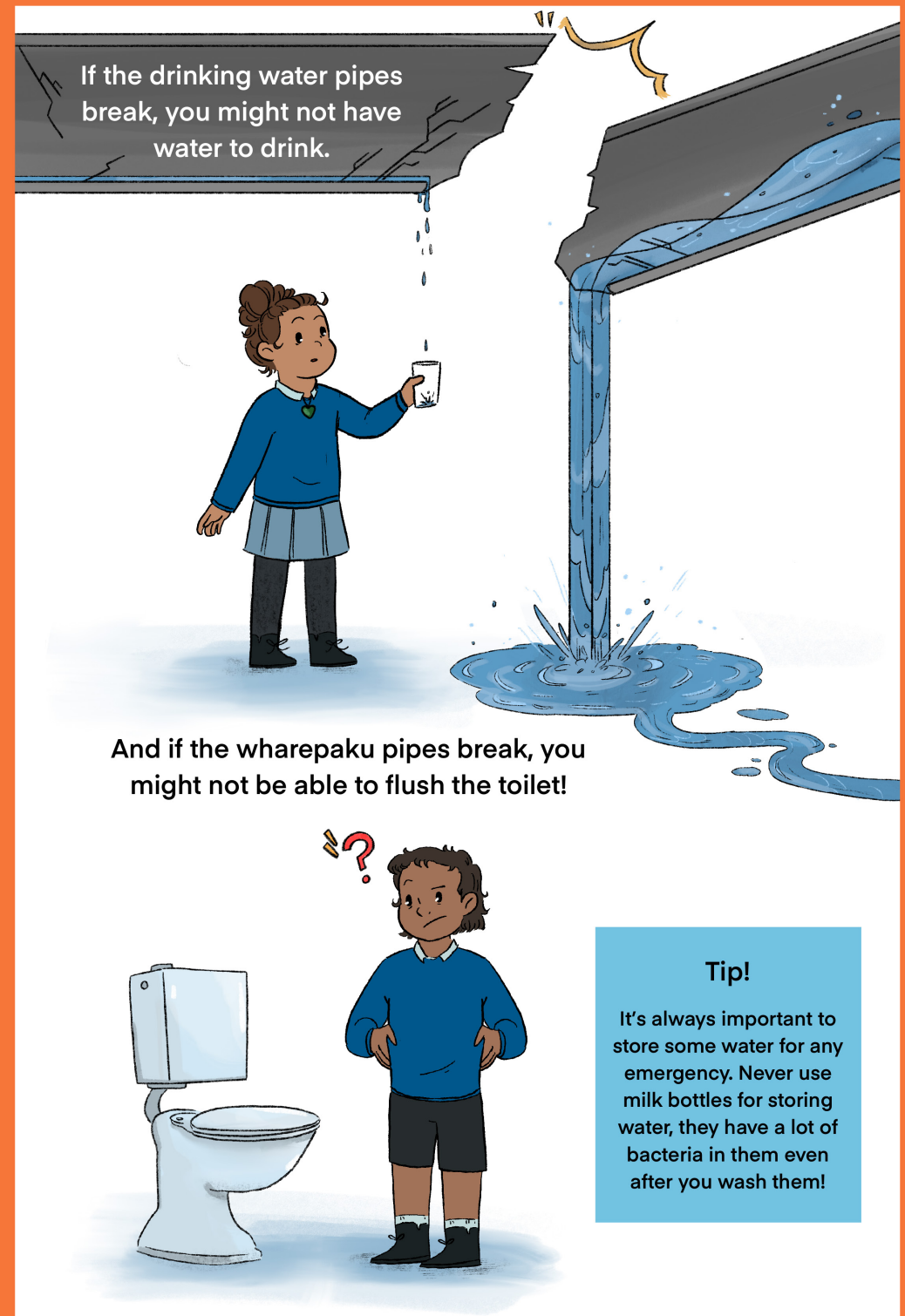


When that happens, the whenua
can break apart and move.

Trees help hold the soil
together, through their strong,
interconnected root systems!



— but if we've cut too
many down, the whenua
becomes weak...



How will we know if there's
going to be a landslide?

But if it's a slow one, the ground
might feel squishy or you'll see
things shift over time.

Sometimes we don't!
If it's a big, fast one, you might feel
a sudden jolt, like an earthquake!
And then the land starts to move.



Sometimes, the whenua
just feels... wrong.

There are signs to
look out for!

— Cracks in
the ground

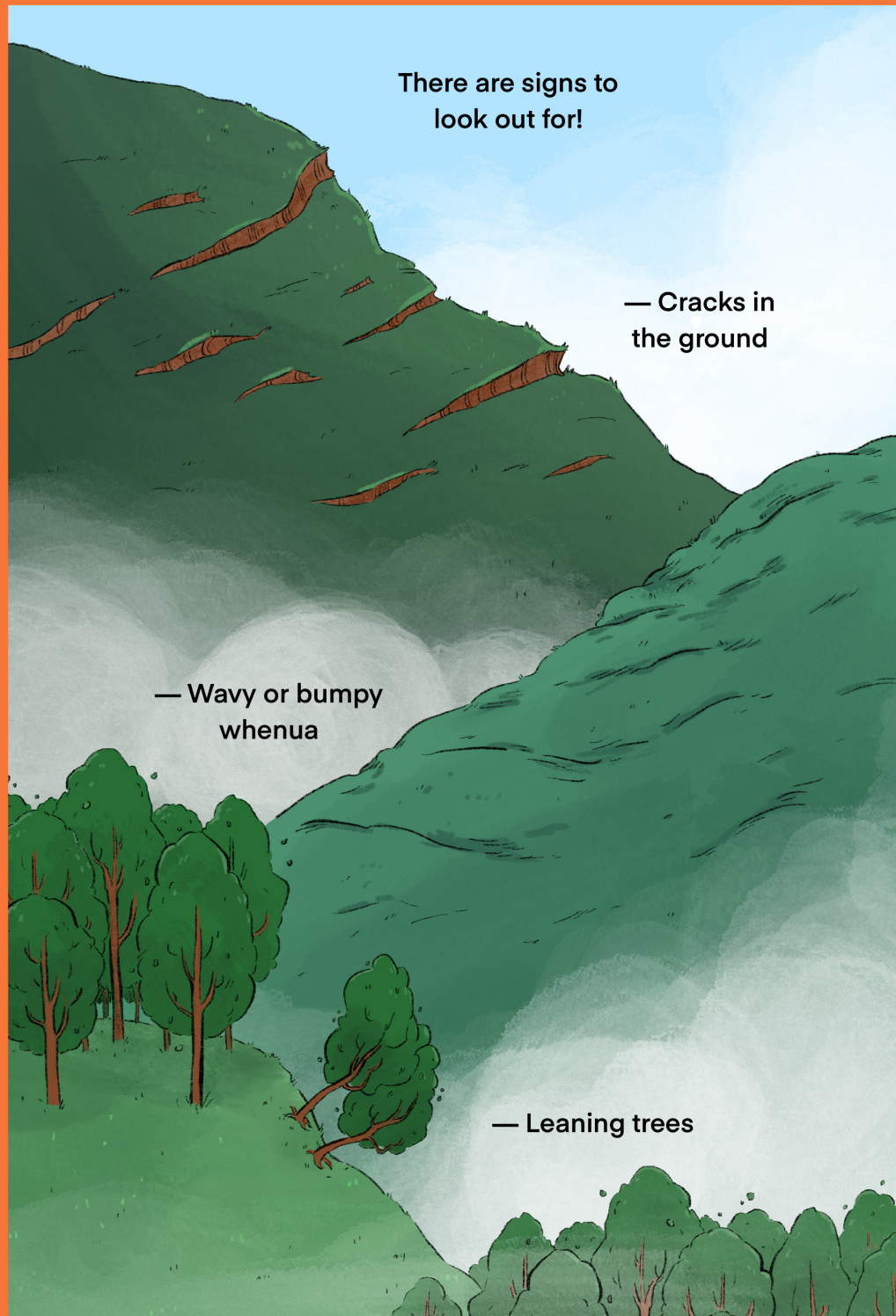
— Wavy or bumpy
whenua

— Leaning trees

— New puddles or
swampy ground

— Doors or windows
that stop working
properly

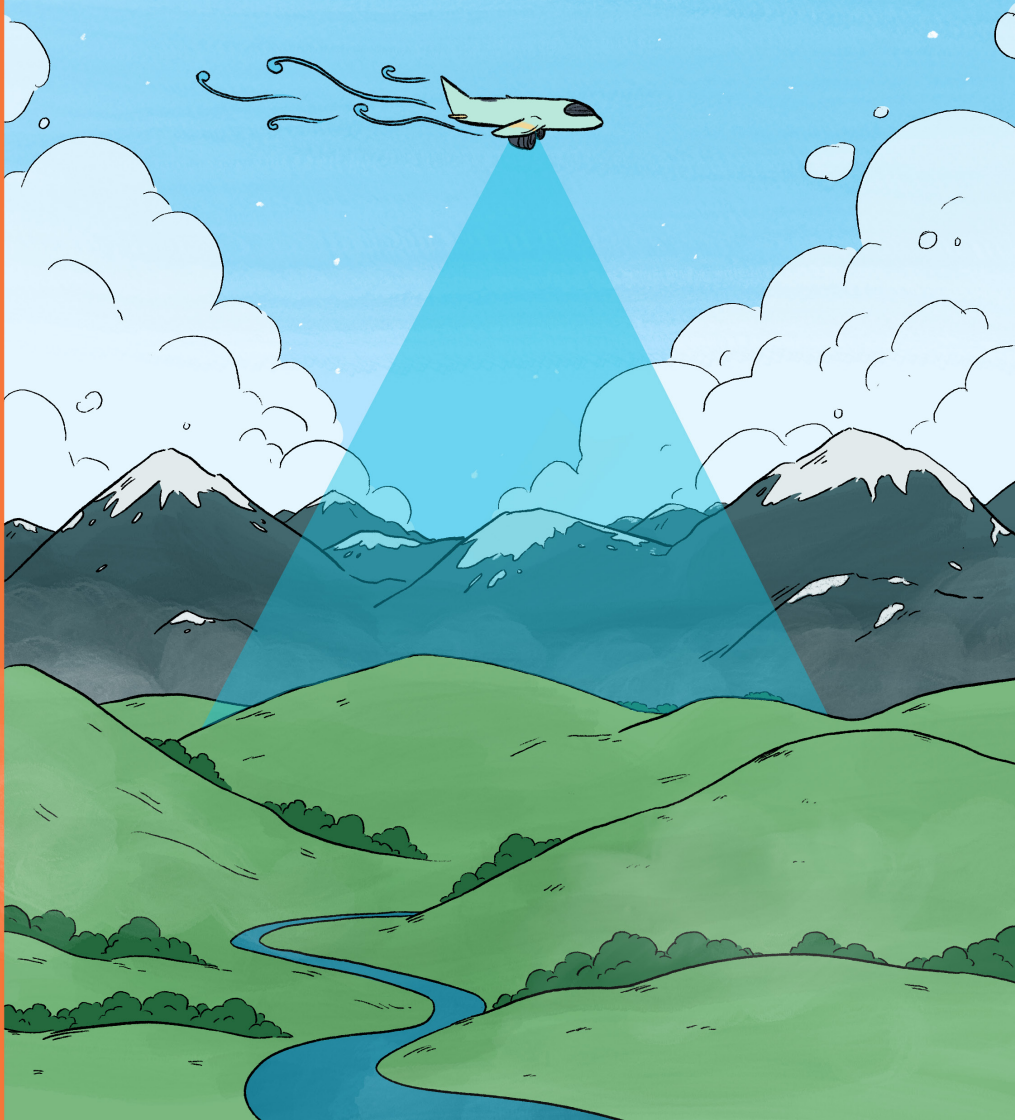
If you see any of
these, tell an adult,
and keep away!



There are also other ways to predict landslides. Scientists use a tool called LIDAR.

It's a kind of laser scanner we use from planes!

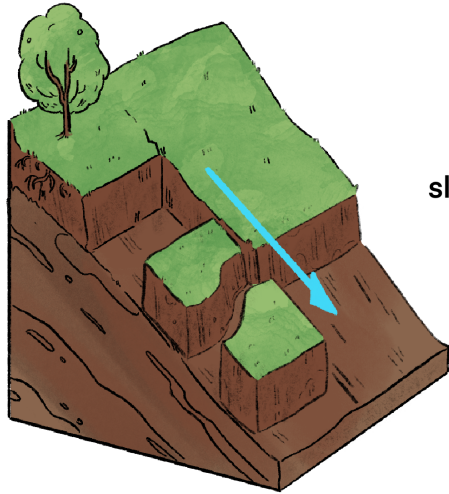
It helps us see the shape of the land, even through trees.



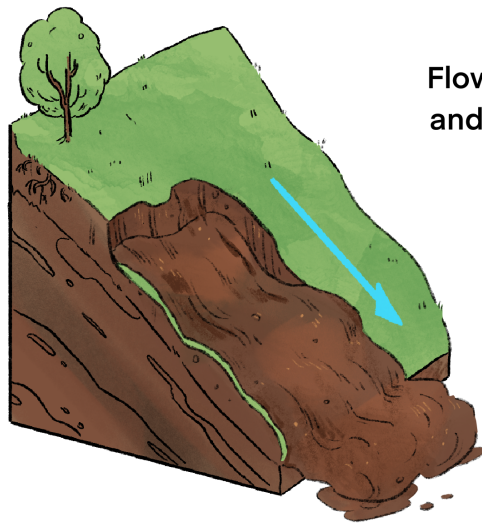
We can find old landslides and places that might slip in the future, and help protect you from them!



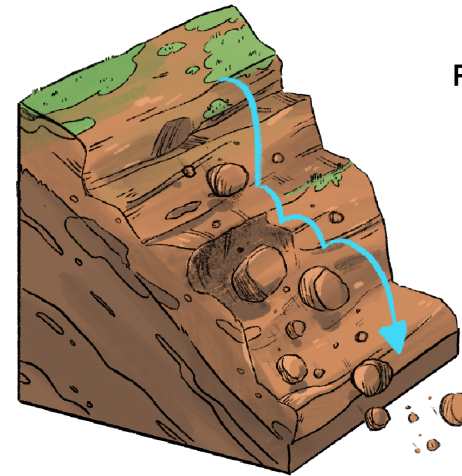
There are many types of landslides that move in different ways.



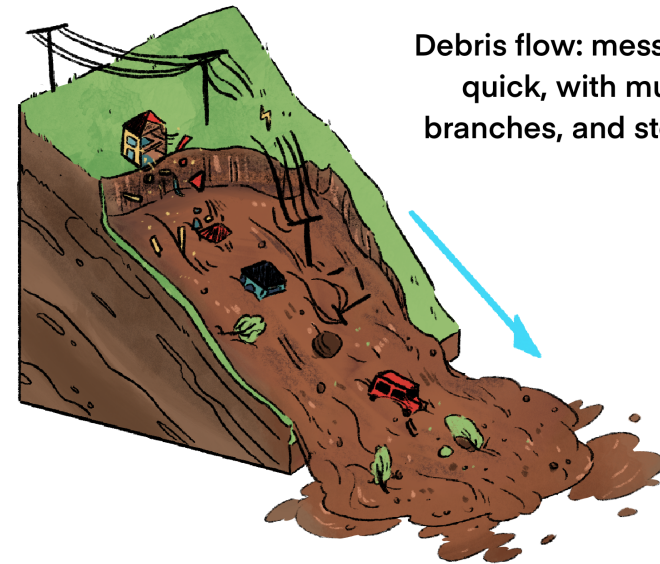
Slide: a chunk of land slips down in big pieces.



Flow: soil and water mix and move like porridge.



Rockfall: big rocks tumble fast.



Debris flow: messy and quick, with mud, branches, and stones.

Some are fast and some are slow, but all can change the land forever.

In Aotearoa, landslides can happen anywhere. Big landslides can create dams, block rivers and form new lakes. If those dams break, they can flood everything below.


So landslides don't just hurt people, they hurt the taiao too?

Āe. Watching the land is part of being a good kaitiaki.

If we protect the whenua, the awa and the moana, they will stay healthy for future generations.

The soil that moves is called sediment. It clouds the water, smothers ika, kōura and tuna homes, and stops oxygen flowing.

That makes it hard for them to grow or have babies.

An illustration of a woman with long blonde hair, wearing a black shirt and an orange high-visibility vest with reflective white stripes. She is standing between two children, a girl on the left and a boy on the right, both wearing blue school uniforms. The woman is gesturing with her right hand raised. The background is a bright blue sky with soft white clouds. Three speech bubbles are present, containing safety instructions.

So, if you see or feel a landslide, move away, fast!
Even a small slip can grow into a big one.

Don't go back until someone says it's safe.
And always tell an adult if you see cracks, leaning trees, or bumpy ground.

Remember,
Kaitiaki don't just watch, they act!

Here's what kaitiaki can do to keep the whenua safe!

Watch for changes in the whenua

Plant trees to hold the land

Learn about your local awa and maunga

Tell someone if you see slips or cracks

Stay safe during storms or earthquakes

If we care for Papatūānuku,
she'll care for us too.

An illustration of a landscape with rolling green hills and a winding blue river. The sky is blue with soft white clouds. The overall scene is peaceful and natural.

Glossary

(Kupu Māori — English Word)

āe — yes

Aotearoa — Māori name for New Zealand, translates as “land of the long white cloud”

auē — heck! oh dear!

awa — river, stream, creek

ika — fish, marine animal, aquatic animal

kaitiaki — guardian, caregiver, steward

kōura — salt-water crayfish

maunga — mountain

moana — sea, ocean, large lake

Papatūānuku — Earth, Earth Mother and wife of Rangi-nui (all living things originate from them)

taiao — world, Earth, natural world, environment, nature, country

tamariki mā — children

tuna — eel of various species, including the longfin eel

Whaea — mother, aunt, aunty

wharepaku — toilet, lavatory

whenua — land, nation, state, country

Additional Information | Ko Etahi Atu Korero

For activity sheets, a reo Māori version of the pukapuka, and information about landslides across Aotearoa, scan the QR code below:



<https://www.ttw.nz/hono/resources>



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The logo for Te Tira Whakamātaki is a stylized representation of three mountains. The largest mountain on the left is dark red. To its right are two smaller mountains: the one in front is dark red with a white triangle in the center, and the one behind it is black with a white triangle in the center.

ISBN 978-1-8678694-1-4

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