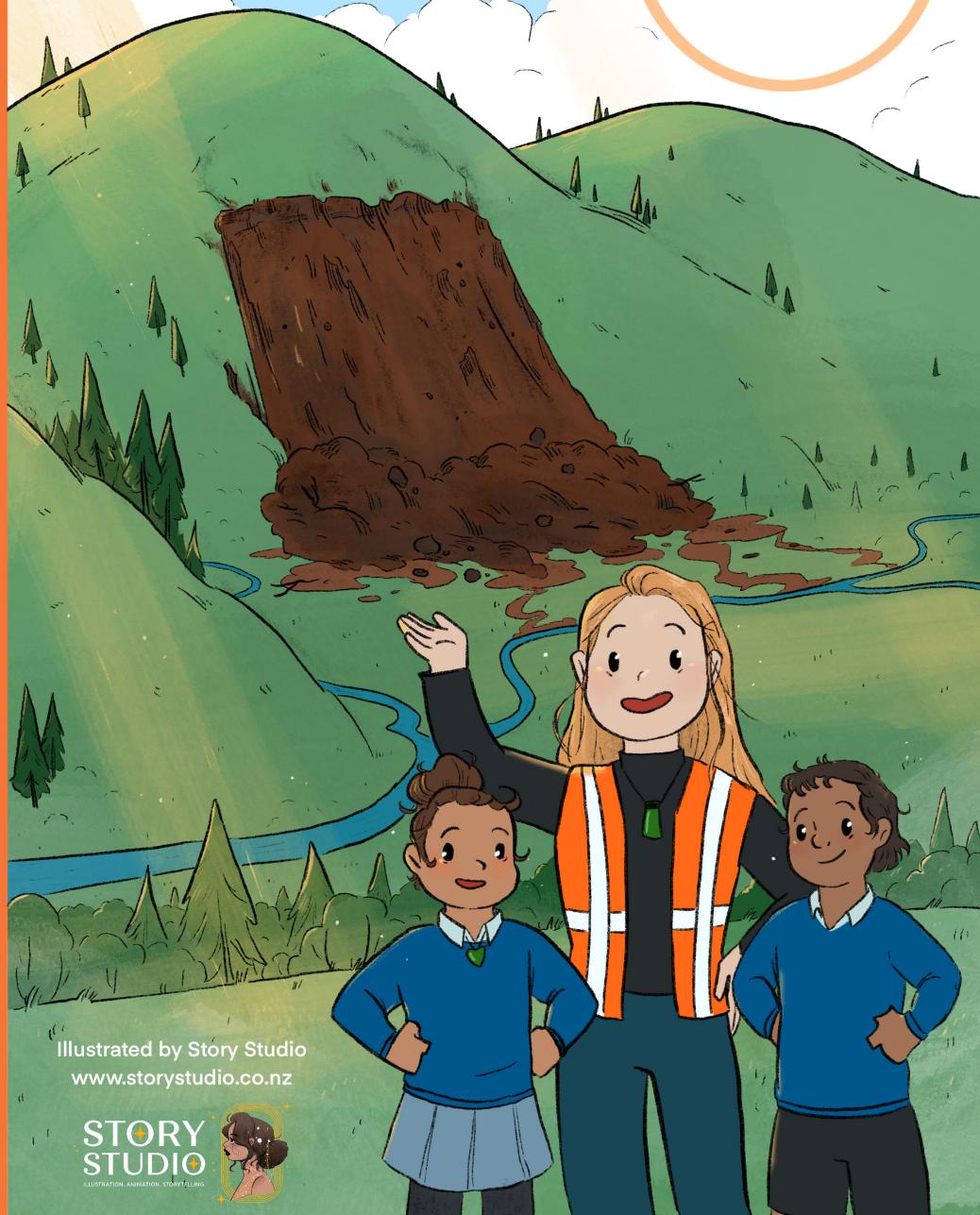


# Landslides

Written by Latasha Wanoa and  
Melanie Mark-Shadbolt

**hono.**

Māori Emergency Management Network



Illustrated by Story Studio  
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## Acknowledgements | Ngā Mihi

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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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Authors: Latasha Wanoa and Melanie Mark-Shadbolt

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Kia ora tamariki mā! Today we're learning about...

# LANDSLIDES!

Whaea Brenda is a geomorphologist! She studies the earth and what shapes it.

She'll help us understand what causes landslides, how to spot them, and what to do.

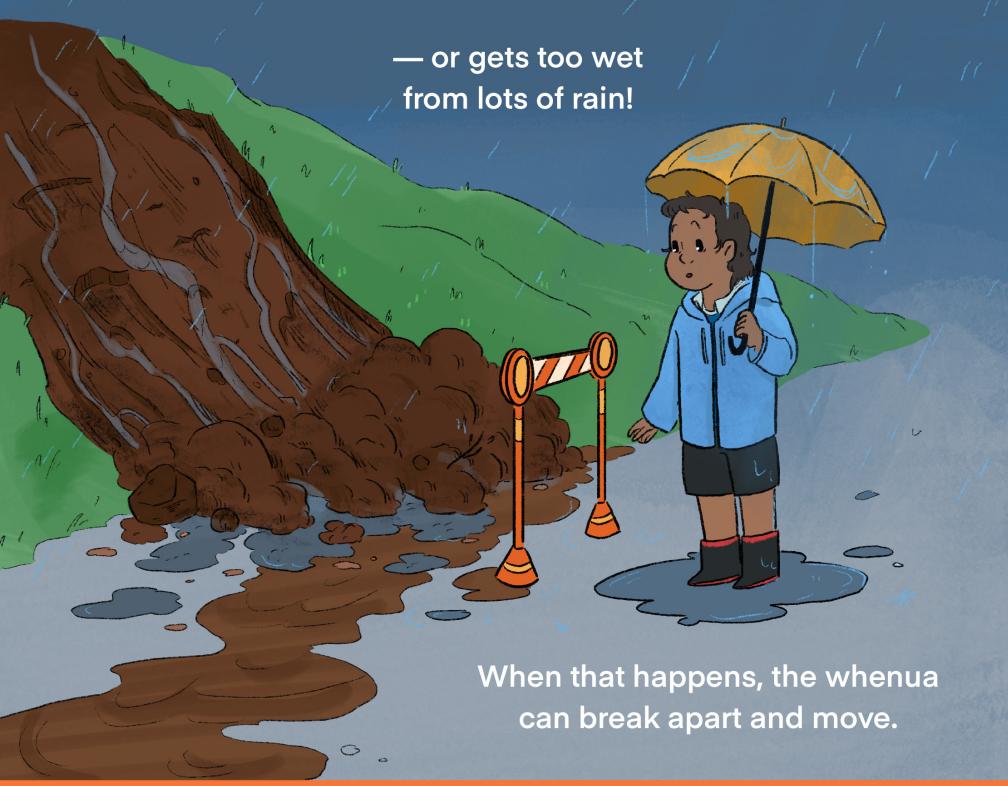
A landslide is when a big part of the land, including soil, rocks, or trees, suddenly slides down a slope. It's almost like the whenua gets tired or broken and can't hold on anymore.

Aue!



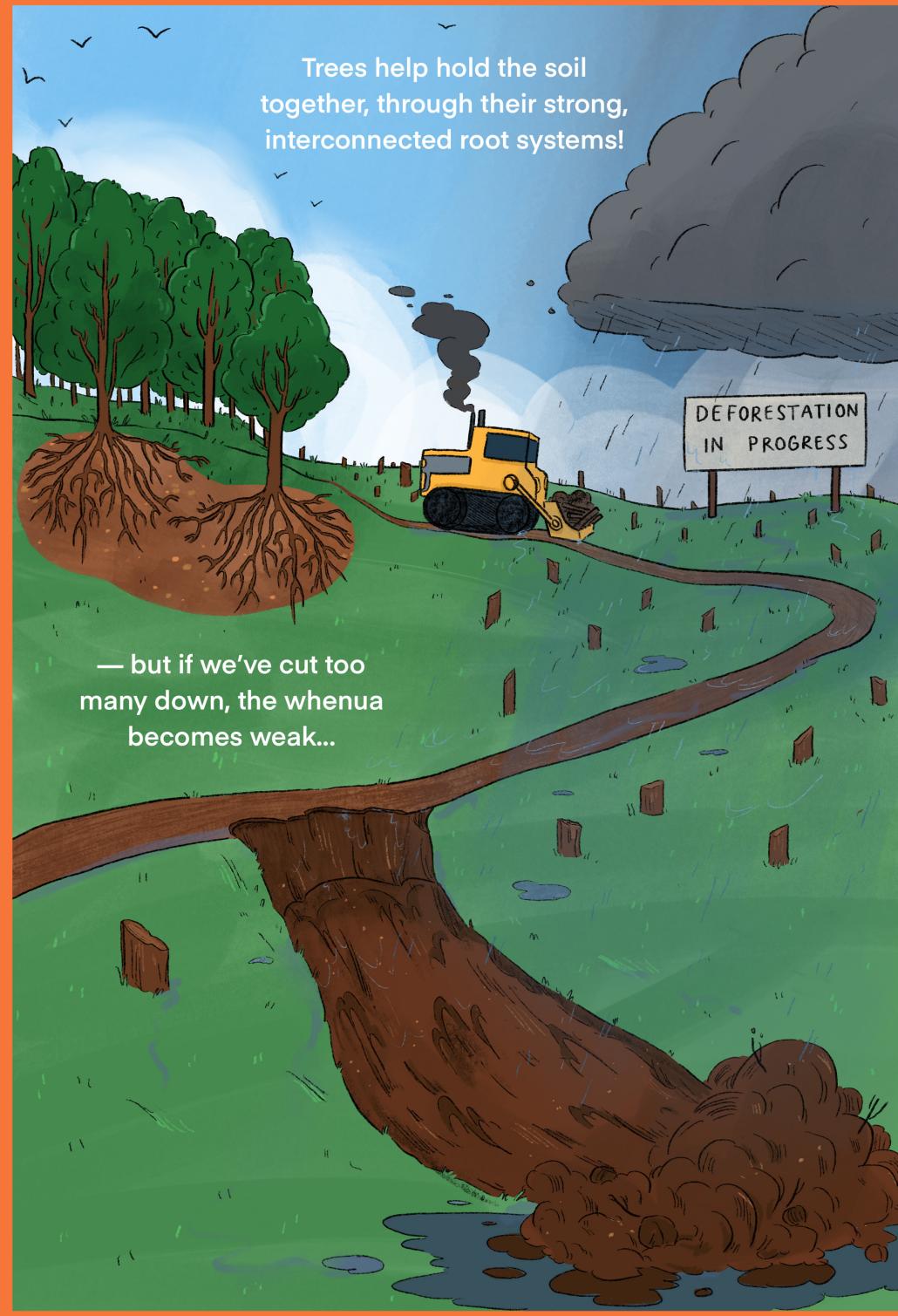
Landslides can happen when the ground shakes during an earthquake —

Woah! Woah!



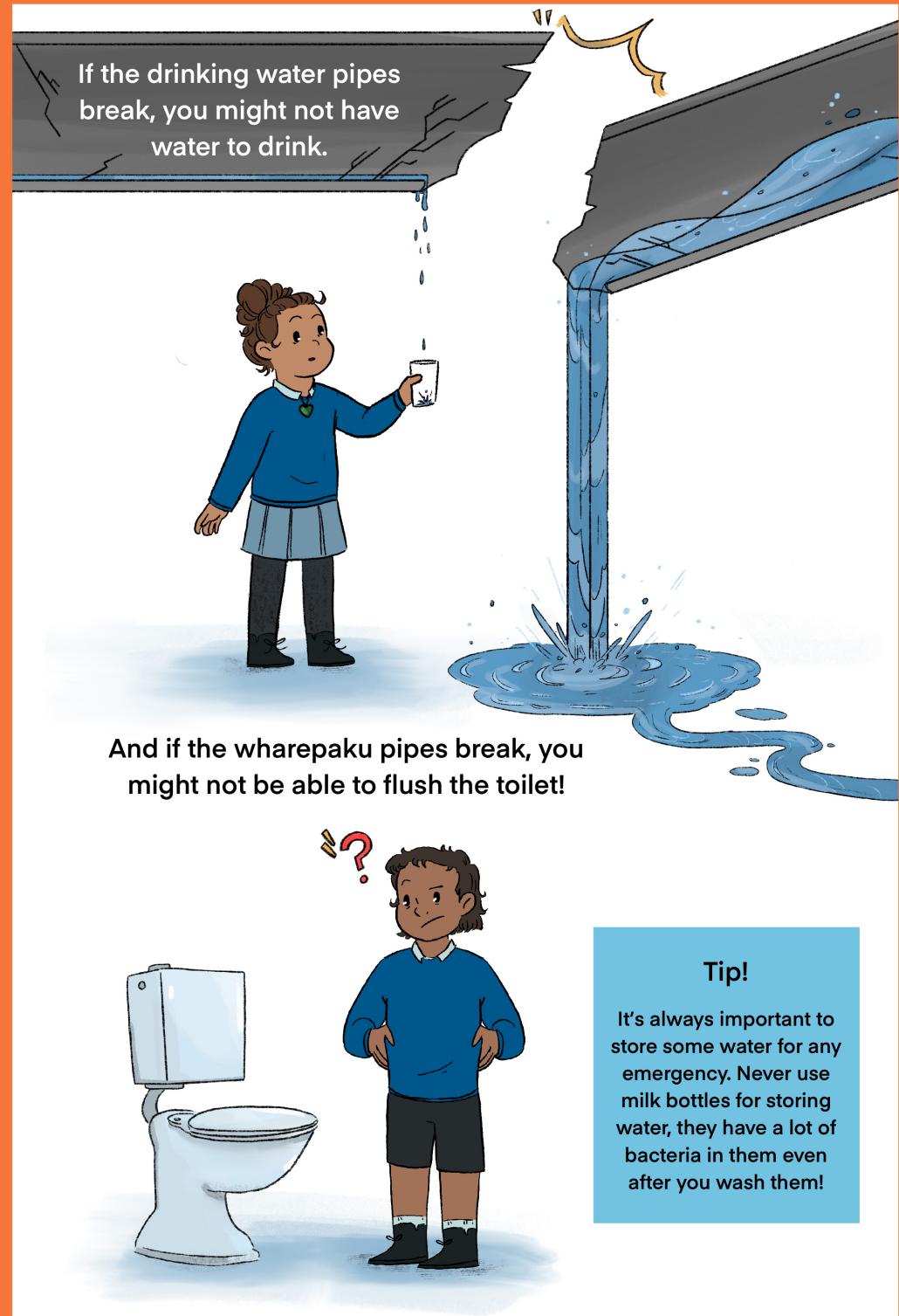
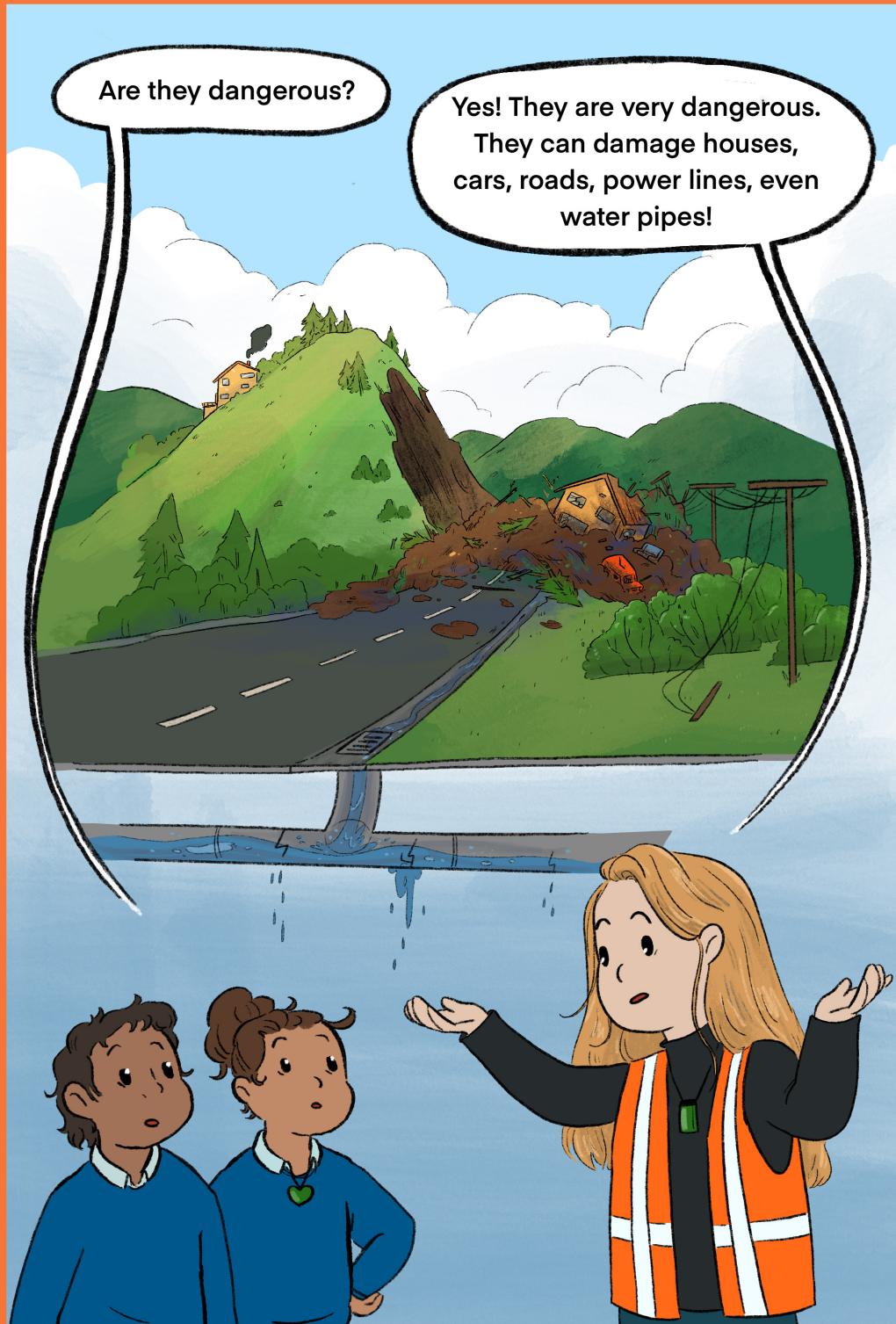
— or gets too wet from lots of rain!

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...



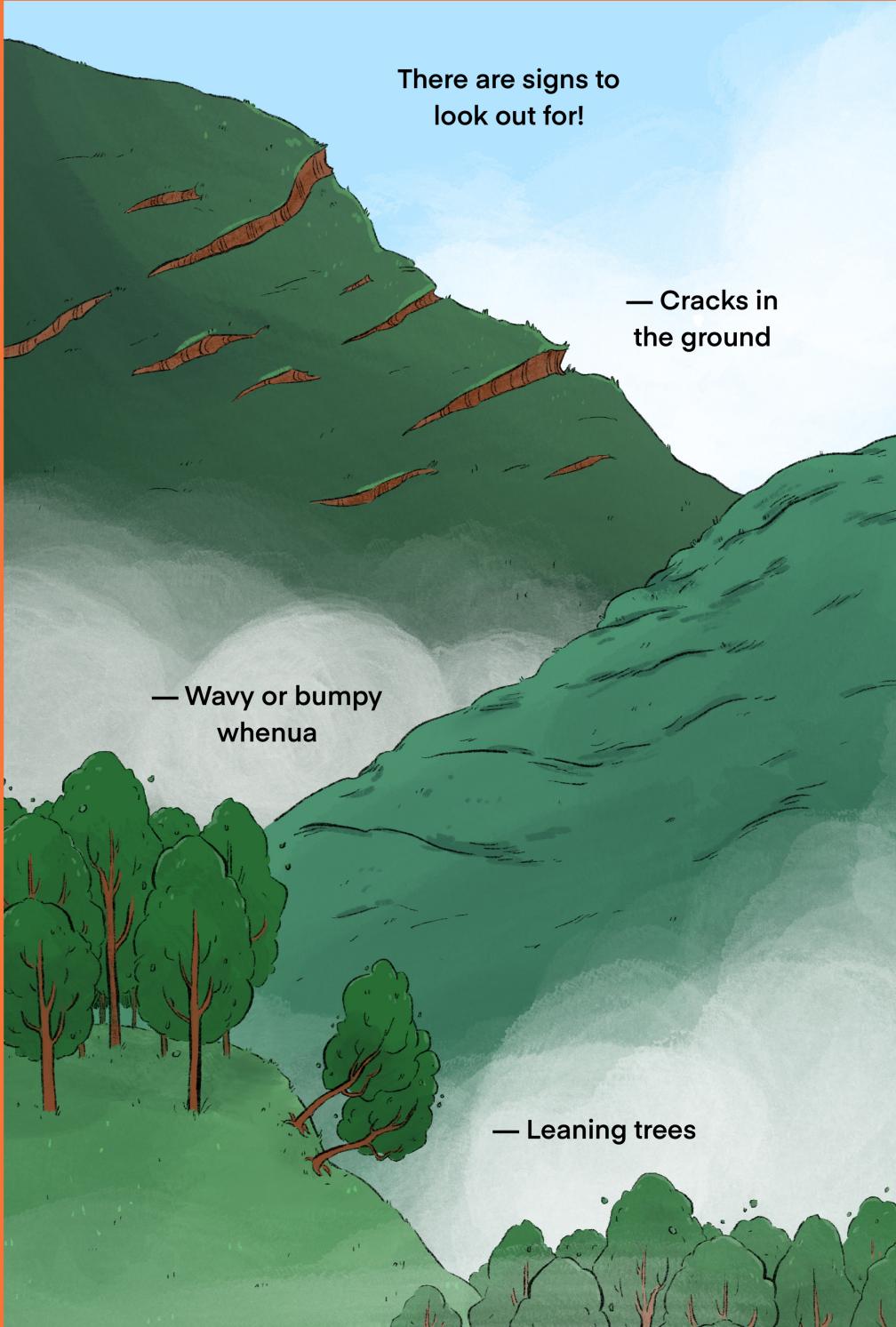


How will we know if there's  
going to be a landslide?

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

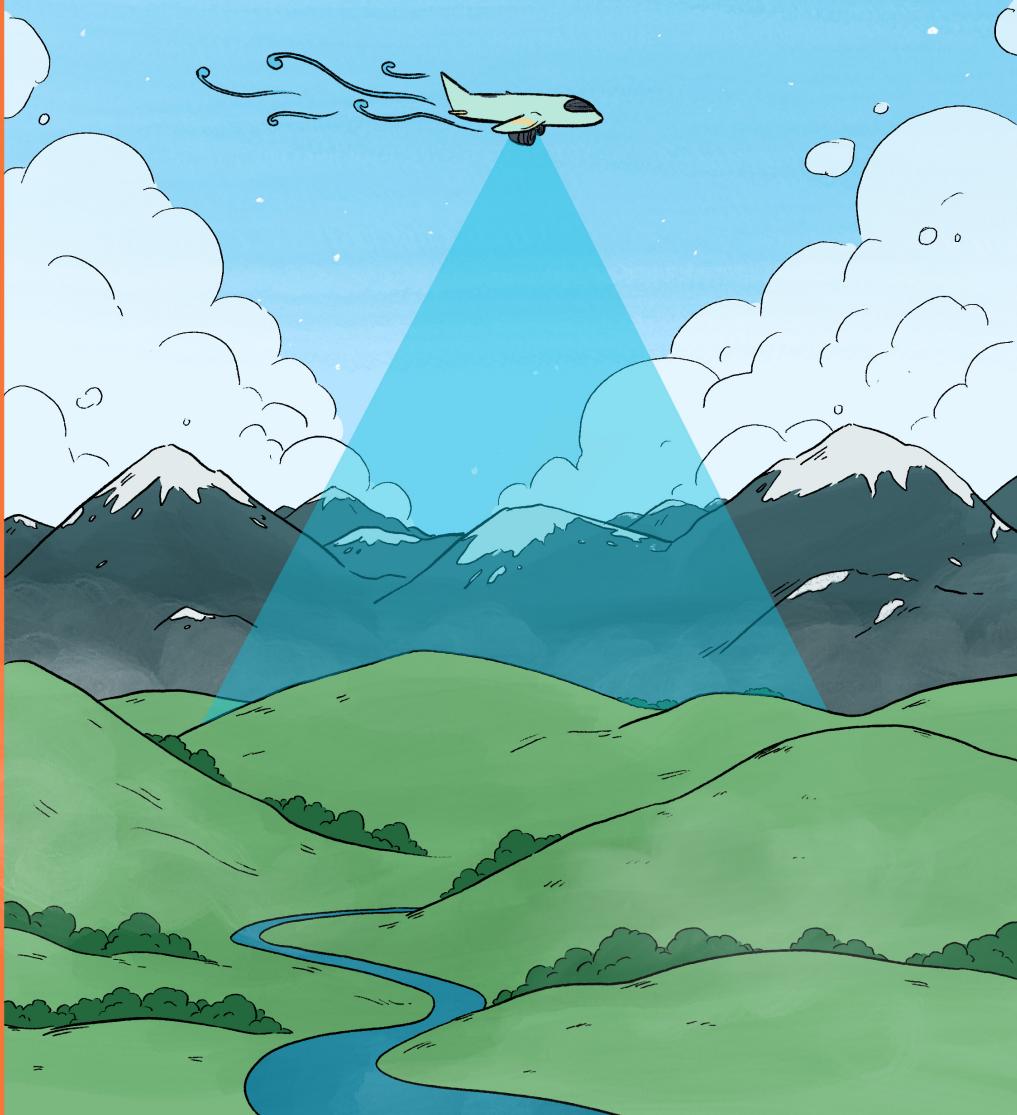
If you see any of these, tell an adult, and keep away!



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!

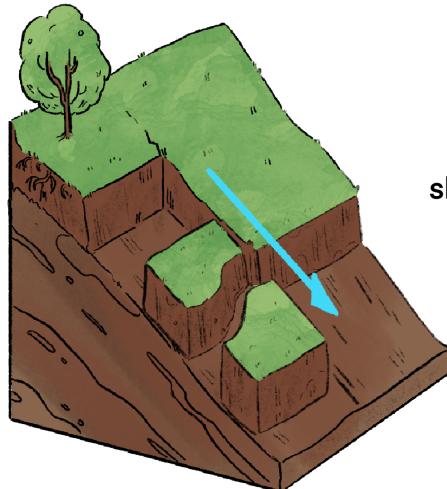
It helps us see the shape of the land, even through trees.



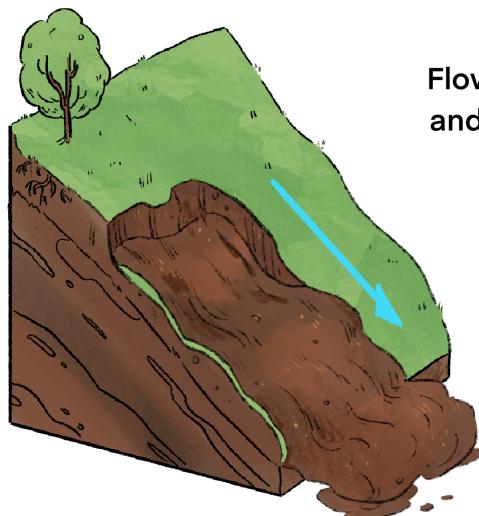
We can find old landslides and places that might slip in the future, and help protect you from them!



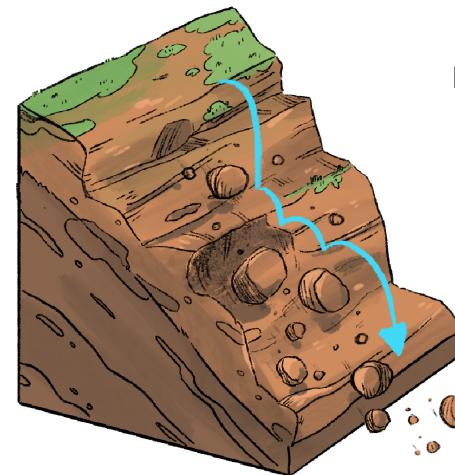
There are many types of landslides  
that move in different ways.



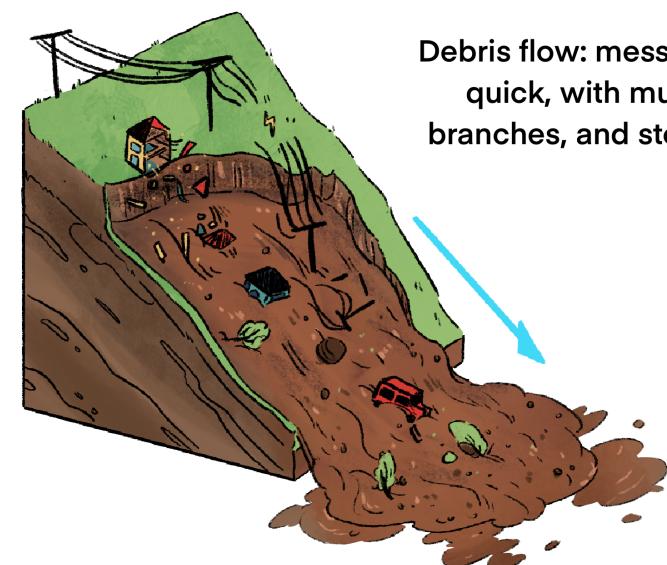
Slide: a chunk of land  
slips down in big pieces.



Flow: soil and water mix  
and move like porridge.

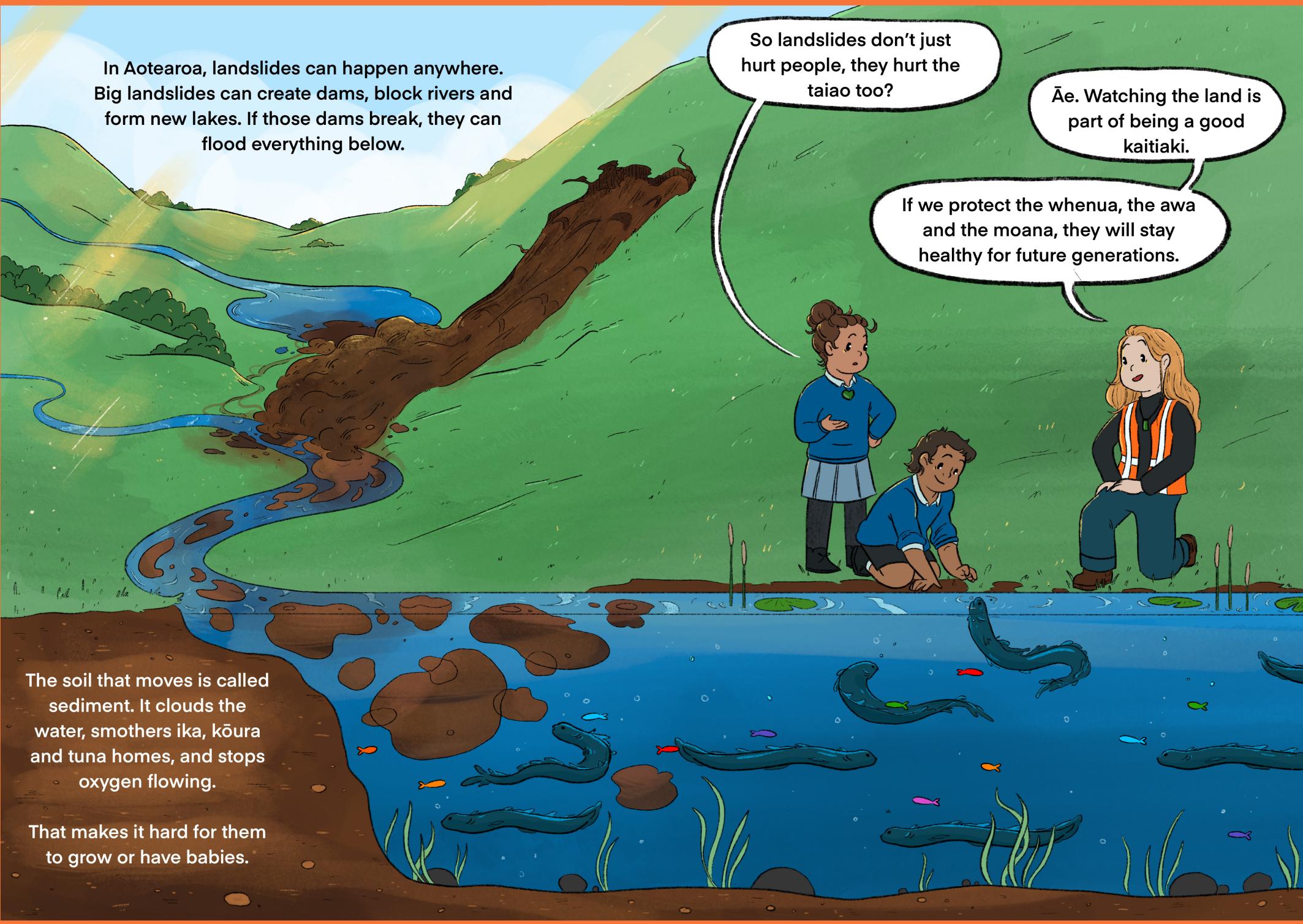


Rockfall: big rocks  
tumble fast.



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.



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.

## 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

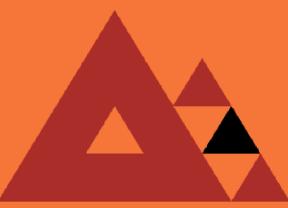
## Additional Information | Ko Etahi Atu Korero

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 positioned below the hono. logo. It features a large, dark orange triangle pointing upwards. Inside the triangle is a smaller, lighter orange triangle. To the right of the main triangle are two smaller, dark orange triangles, one pointing up and one pointing down, forming a stylized mountain or peak shape.

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