

Play name: The Cave of Extinction

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Players: 6

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Yr Level: 4/5

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Length: 10 mins

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Genre: Environment

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Yr Published: 2020

### Character List

Kaelo- boy aged 7/9

Lara- girl aged 7/9

Sama - girl aged 7/9

Toby - boy aged 7/9

A Haast Eagle / A kawekaweau / A Huia

**Notes:** Names, gender can be changed as needed. The Haast eagle can double as the Huia.

## SCENE 1

*The children are sat playing a joint computer game with their consoles.*

- Kaelo                    Hey, how come you have managed to collect more points than me?
- Lara                     Just first-time luck playing this game, I guess.
- Sama                    Hey, come on guys, keep your avatars moving, there doesn't seem to be anything here, in this place. Just a boring island of sand and trees.
- Toby                     There has to be something here, maybe treasure, or a map to show us what's on this level.
- Kaelo                    Look, over there a cave; maybe there is some treasure trove of goodies inside. Come on, keep up.

*All thumbs are busy on the buttons when the game has stopped as the power has turned off and all is dark.*

- Sama                    Oh no. What's going on? The game has stopped!
- Kaelo                    Oh man, just as it was beginning to get interesting.
- Lara                     Hey, where are you all, I can't see, it's so dark!
- Toby                     Oh no, I think it's the power, it's turned off again. It keeps doing that lately. I'll go and try to find the switch.
- Sama                    Ok, we will stay here. Be careful how you go, it's so dark you could bump into any,,

*There is a big bang and crash*

- Toby                    Ahhhhhh, owch,
- Kaelo                    Hey Toby, are you ok?
- Lara                     Oh, that's better, the lights back on.
- All                        *All scream.*
- Sama                    What happened?
- Toby                    Where are we? Where has my bedroom gone?
- kaelo                    It seems we're on some sort of island!
- Sama                    How? why? Look how clear and turquoise the sea is!

Kaelo                      This sand is so soft!

Toby                      I think we're on the island that is on the computer game. We must have somehow transported ourselves here, inside the game, through a kind of portal! Amazing!

Lara                      Amazing? We're trapped inside a game, how is that amazing? I'm scared. How can we get home?

Toby                      How should I know. It's not like this happens to me everyday!

Kaelo                      Look, over there, in the sky! Wow, it's beautiful! I've never seen a bird like that before!

Sama                      So colourful!

Lara                      So big!

Toby                      So coming this way! Run,,,,,,,,

ALL                      Scream (*They all panic and run around*)

Toby                      Quick, into this cave!

*They all hide inside the cave, huddling together.*

Lara                      What was that?

Toby                      How should I know, I never got to this level before.

Sama                      I think it's a Haast eagle!

Kaelo                      But that's impossible. They are extinct!

Sama                      I know, but it looks just like a drawing I saw of one, in my library book of extinct animals.

Toby                      And like this one here, on the cave wall!

*Everyone gathers round the pictures that Toby points out.*

Lara                      Yes, look. The drawing looks like the bird. See its massive wings.

Kaelo                      Your right. Look, there are some more creatures!

Toby                      Yeah, some more birds, a giant snail and here, I recognise this one, a lizard!

Sama                      I can't believe it, there is a Moa.

Toby                      It's so big. Bigger than any of us.

Lara Speaking of big, what's that big shadow of a creature, coming towards us over there! And can you hear that strange noise! Look!

Toby Get behind me and stay quiet.

*The children huddle afraid of the shadow of the creature. It is a kawekaweau, which is crawling along the cave wall.*

Lara I want to go home.

Toby So what do you think it is? Do you think it eats humans?

*The kawekaweau gets closer to the children*

All Scream

Kawekaweau Don't be afraid, I don't eat humans, you are too bitter. Yuk!

Kaelo Ha, it talks! What are you? Who are you?

Kawekaweau I'm a kawekaweau of course, the world's largest gecko. Well I was. There are none of us left now.

Lara He looks so sad. (*She comes out of hiding and moves close to the gecko.*)

Sama We are Toby, Lara, Kaelo and I'm Sama. We don't know how we got here. We were just playing a computer game then the power went off and when the lights came on, we found ourselves inside the game somehow! We are sorry to be in your cave. We just want to get home.

Kawekaweau Of course you do, all anybody wants is to go home. I miss home.

Kaelo But isn't this your home?

kawekaweau I no longer have a home, I am extinct. I only exist in pictures or storybooks or games now. I only exist in this cave of memory. None of us here, are real anymore.

*From out of the cave comes a Huia to join them.*

Toby Look, another creature!

Kawekaweau Don't be afraid. They are just a group of children trying to find their way home.

Lara Hi, I'm Lara, who are you?

Huia I am Huia. Nice to meet you all.

Sama                      You have beautiful tail feathers Huia. So pretty.

Huia                      Thank you. Yes, people used to like my tail feathers. Maori chiefs sometimes wore them on their head dress. I was a very special bird.

Lara                      You still look special to me.

Huia                      Thankyou, but like my friend kawekaweau, I am not real anymore, I am extinct. I only exist in pictures, stories or games.

Kaelo                    What happened to you both?

kawekaweau            Well, being extinct means that there are no more of us left in New Zealand. That all our species has died. This happened over 100 years ago for us two.

Huia                      There were many more of us birds too, that used to fly or run through forests, that have now disappeared. Piopio, adzebills, fish and a short tailed bat. Look, at the cave drawings. Even plants died and became extinct.

Sama                    Plants can become extinct? I did not know that. Tell us what happened?

kawekaweau            For some of us, we were hunted. Hunted by humans and by other animals that humans brought with them on their waka or ships.

Huia                      And some of us found that we had nowhere to live anymore, when humans cut down our forest homes, or cleared and burnt our habitat to build their own places.

Toby                      I'm very sorry to here you lost your homes. I didn't know about your story or you. I feel bad.

kawekaweau            Don't feel bad Toby. Many people don't know about us, because we cannot speak in your world for ourselves. We are only pictures now that people who remembered us, drew in the old days, or bones that people find, in the ground. When we appear as a drawing on the cave wall, we remain stuck here, in the cave of memory, underground, forever.

Lara                      This is a very sad story.

Toby                      You are both beautiful creatures and I am sorry for what happened to you, but what could we possibly do to help? We are lost in your cave of memory and want to get back home.

kawekaweau      I don't know. It is too late for us, we are already extinct. We should go now and show you the way to the other end of the cave, where you will see a great light. Walk into that light and you will find yourself back home.

Toby                Thank you so much. Come on guys, let's go.

Lara                We can't just go. We cannot do nothing. We can't just leave our new friends here.

Sama               But what can we do? They said themselves they are already extinct?

Kaelo               We have to do something, they are so sad!

Huia                If you would really like to help, there is something you can do.

Lara                Please tell us, we would love to help.

Huia                It may be too late to save us, but there are other creatures that are still alive, that you can help save, before it is too late.

kawekaweau      Huia is right. There are many creatures and plants in your world that are under threat today because of humans or other animals. The Kakapo, Maui's Dolphin and Bryde's Whale.

Kaelo               The Kakapoa are nearly extinct, I had no idea!

Huia                Yes, they are, and all such animals need your help. If you can help by finding out their story and telling others that they are in great danger, this could help people understand.

kawekaweau      People need to know that it is not too late to save our countries old and beautiful creatures and that we can find out ways to protect them and their habitat.

Sama               We can do that. I already have a book from the library I could read and share it with the class at school.

Toby                And of course I have a computer, we could look on the internet for some information and see who else is trying to help and what we can do!

Huia                You would all do that for us? That is wonderful, it would make us very happy.

kawekaweau      Yes, that would make us happy if people tried to protect the animals that are left.

Lara Yes, we will do that for you. We will not forget either of you and what you have told us.

Kaelo Thank you for showing us the way out, so we can get home.

Huia You are welcome, and we will not forget you either. We are counting on people to hear the story of extinction to protect other animals and plants.

kawekaweau Goodbye friends. Time for you to go home.

All Goodbye!

*The children say their goodbyes and walk off into the light at the cave exit. The animals wave goodbye, then exit.*