A Web of Ideas

Social Studies:
• Use the worksheet Tracking Animal Imports to identify countries that have imported animals to other countries. Examine how and why the animals were imported.
• Learn more about New Zealand and the home of the kakapo.

Math:
• Use the data from the website: www.kakaporecovery.org.nz to graph the growth of the kakapo.
• Examine the Kakapo Nesting Table on the kakapo website above. Compare the number of chicks born to the number that survive. Make a prediction for future growth.

Science:
• Use the website and book to explore food chains and ecosystems. Why is it important to preserve ecosystems and limit the number of predators in order to preserve the kakapo?
• Using world climate maps or world biome maps determine in what biome the kakapo live and describe the climate there.

Language Arts:
• Read aloud, or have students read Kakapo Rescue: Saving the World’s Strangest Parrot. Then, have students write a summary or retelling of this book. Younger children can create a storyboard of this book (with partners or in small groups – this could also be a great buddy project with 5th graders and 1st graders, for example).
• Vocabulary – many nonfiction texts contain words that are unfamiliar to students. Use unfamiliar vocabulary in this book to study and build understanding. Use the worksheet: Kakapo Vocabulary to build students’ vocabulary. When students have completed the word map on this worksheet, they may discuss the various words in small groups. Add these words to spelling lists to improve the students’ memories of these words. Use the words in their poems!
• Figurative language - Kakapo Rescue: Saving the World’s Strangest Parrot is full of figurative language. Explore the use of figurative language in nonfiction texts. You might consider comparing nonfiction figurative language to fictional figurative language.
• Poetry is always a great way to share understanding of a nonfiction text. Several forms of poetry work well with nonfiction books including found poems (see www.authorwire.com under the book Encantado: Pink Dolphin of the Amazon), acrostic poems, and longer poems in quatrain form (each verse is a quatrain).

Worksheets:
• Exploring the Kakapo Population
• Kakapo: Looking Toward the Future
• Kakapo and Other Endangered Species
• Meet the Kakapo!
• Tracking Animal Imports
• Kakapo Rescue: Saving the World’s Strangest Parrot Vocabulary
• Kakapo Rescue: Saving the World’s Strangest Parrot Vocabulary Example
• Kakapo Rescue: Saving the World’s Strangest Parrot Taking a Look at Figurative Language
• Kakapo Food Chains
• Kakapo Food Chains Answer Key
• Taking Care of the Kakapo