Aotearoa's Native Living Dinosaurs

Introduction
"Wow,is that a Tuatara?"Tuatara is Aotearoa's very own reptile.Tuatara is a reptile but not a lizard.

Classification
Tuatara is Aotearoa's (the land of the long white cloud) living dinosaurs. Tuatara is a living fossil.Tuatara has lived more than 1 million years (when dinosaurs were alive) and that's why we call them a living dinosaurs. Tuatara has 3 species which is Northern Tuatara,Cook Strait Tuatara and Brothers Island Tuatara. They have unusual teeth that does not replace. The name of Tuatara comes from the Maori for "Peaks on the back". In New Zealand,Tuatara have
been protected since 1895. It is against the law to keep as pets.Maori consider them to be guardians of knowledge "kaitiakitanga".

Description
Tuataras have black eyes that looks like a blueberry. They have 4 legs to walk.Adult Tuataras range from about 300g 1 kg.Tuataras do not have ears or eardrums which is very weird.

Dynamics
Tuataras eat bugs and insects.They eat less food in cold Winter,but they eat more in Summer.They can regrow their lost tail and I think that is very creepy. They cut their tail when they are caught by predators. Tuataras lay more than one egg. They incubate the eggs by burying them in the ground. They are surprisingly long lived.Tuataras don't grow up until they're 15 to 20 years old. They sometimes eat birds,eggs or small lizards.Tuataras only have have babies every 2 to 5 years. It takes a months before a mother Tuatara to lay her eggs.In cold weather they save their energy.Tuataras grow up to 80 centimetres from head to tail.

Location
Tuataras does not live in wild. They live in islands and local places that people look after them.they live on fuggy offshore islands in burrows that are often shared with sea birds.

Conclusion
Tuataras are the very important reptile that are native to New Zealand.