

HAURAKI GULF MARINE PARK TĪKAPA MOANA



YOUNG
OCEAN
EXPLORERS

LESSON 14 - ORCA / MAKI / KĀKAHI

NZ CIRRICULUM LINKS:

| Learning areas: | Achievement objectives: |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Te Ao Maori <i>te reo (language), tikanga (customs and traditional values)</i> | By learning te reo Māori, students are able to participate with understanding and confidence in situations where te reo and tikanga Māori predominate and to integrate language and cultural understandings into their lives ; strengthen Aotearoa New Zealand's identity in the world. |
| English | Listening, Reading, Viewing |
| Science | Living things and how they interact with the environment. Explain how living things are suited to their particular habitat and how they respond to environmental changes, both natural and human-induced. |
| Maths | Measurement, estimation |

Overview

Find out about the largest of the dolphin family – the orca.

Learning intention

Tamariki are learning more about one of our apex predators in NZ water – the orca.

Success criteria

Children know what an orca is and can name some facts about orca.

LEARNING SEQUENCE

Based on the Inquiry model



Inspire

Provoke curiosity
and wonder



Explore/Educate

Gather information
Use / apply
learning



Activate

Reflect and act

Background information for teachers:

Orcinus orca (orca) is well known and can be identified relatively easily by its distinctive black and white markings and very tall, prominent dorsal fin. They can grow up to 9 m in length, with male dorsal fins reaching almost 2 metres high!

Orca are the most widely distributed mammal on earth with the exception of humans. They prefer deeper water but can be found in shallow bays and estuaries, and in inland seas.

Orca can be found all throughout New Zealand's coastline. There are approx 150–200 coastal orca in NZ waters. According to DOC they are classed as [nationally critical](#) (the most severe level of threat – in danger of extinction).

[Orca ID guide from the Orca Research Trust NZ](#)



NZ Orca ID Guide



[Te Ara – Orcas in New Zealand](#)

LESSON PLAN

Orca / Maki / Kāhaki

Teachers are encouraged to choose and adjust activities to suit the learning needs and interests of their tamariki.



Inspire

 Allow approximately 10 mins

- **Watch this Young Ocean Explorers video** - [Riley's amazing orca discovery](#). Discuss one thing you learned.
Video is 4:47 minutes



- **Discuss** - Have you ever seen an orca? Discuss your classes experiences! Where were they? How many where there? What kind of behaviour did they show? Where they friendly?



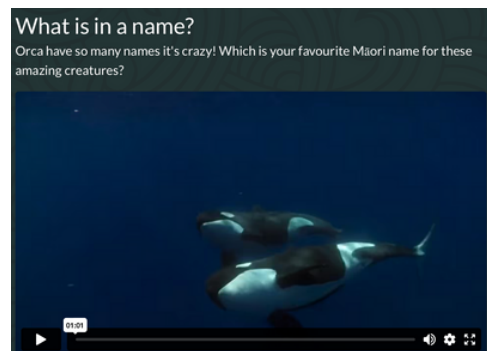
Educate

 Allow approximately 20 mins

- Guess how long an orca is. Then measure it out. A male orca can grow up to 9m long, and its dorsal fin can grow up to 1.8m high! Female orcas grow to about 7m long and their curved dorsal fins get to about 0.9m high. A baby orca can be about 2.5 metres long when it is born!



- Te reo - Find about the Maori names for Orca. [Here is a video from Young Ocean Explorers about orca names.](#)
Video is 1:01 minutes





Activate

 *Timing will vary*

- **While outside pick up at least 1 piece of plastic or other rubbish** – make a difference in YOUR community. Log your rubbish data on the

[21 day challenge graph.](#)

Each daily entry goes into the draw to win amazing prizes for your class and school



- **Learn to draw** an orca with [this video from Young Ocean Explorers.](#)

Video is 11:29 minutes



EXTRA LEARNING IDEAS AND RESOURCES

- **Orca Research Trust** - [fact sheets for children](#), and [activity sheets for children](#).



Orca Activity Sheets for Children

Click an image to download a printable PDF file.

- **Young Ocean Explorers** - [interview with Dr Ingrid Visser](#) - NZ's Orca expert. *Video is 16:59 minutes*



- **NZ Orca ID guide** - how orca experts tell the difference between orcas seen in Aotearoa.



- **Orca videos to explore** from Young Ocean Explorers.

Find out more:

There are many other lesson ideas from Young Ocean Explorers - choose another one. [Young Ocean Explorers](#) You can find out about some of the amazing creatures that live in or visit the Hauraki Gulf. There are also lessons on some of the amazing places in Tikapa Moana. Or you could explore ideas of how people are connected to the moana / ocean.