

Aihe / Dolphins

OVERVIEW

Find out about the dolphins that live in the Hauraki Gulf. These playful marine mammals are always exciting to see - let's find out more about them!

NZ CURRICULUM 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 ; strengthening Aotearoa New Zealand's identity in the world.
English	Listening, Reading, Viewing
Science	Living world - Develop an understanding of the diversity of life. The emphasis is on the biology of New Zealand, including the sustainability of New Zealand's unique fauna and flora and distinctive ecosystems.
Maths	Measurement - length and time.

LEARNING SEQUENCE - Based on the Inquiry model

INSPIRE Provoke curiosity and wonder	EDUCATE Gather information Use / apply learning	ACTIVATE Reflect and act
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LEARNING INTENTIONS:

Tamariki are learning about some amazing species that live in the Hauraki Gulf. They will think about conditions that dolphins need to thrive.

SUCCESS CRITERIA:

Students understand some facts about dolphins and how people can affect them.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR TEACHERS:

The Hauraki Gulf is home to several dolphin species - the most common being the [common dolphin](#), the [bottlenose dolphin](#) or [orca](#) (which actually belong to the dolphin family).

Dolphins are known for their impressive swimming abilities, and bottlenose dolphins can reach speeds of over 40km/hour for brief periods, although they usually travel at about 3km/hour.

[Dolphins in the Hauraki Gulf - Auckland Whale and Dolphin safari](#)

[Useful facts about dolphin species from Project Jonah.](#)

LEARNING EXPERIENCES

Aihe / Dolphins

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** - [YOE video - how Dad saved a dolphin.](#)
- Discuss - what are threats to dolphins?

EDUCATE - explore new learning

Allow approximately 30 mins

- **Discuss** - has anyone seen dolphins before? Share stories.
- [Look at these dolphin pictures.](#) Which one do you think is the biggest? Which one is the smallest? What similarities and differences do you notice?
- **Go outside** and measure out the different dolphin sizes.
 - Hector / Maui (1.2-1.7m)
 - Dusky (1.6-2m)
 - Common / aihe (1.7-2.4m)
 - Bottlenose / terehu (2.5-4m)
 - Orca (6-7.5m female, 7-9m male)
- Watch - [YOE Aihe / dolphins video](#)
- Read - [10 facts about dolphins](#) - WWF
- Just for fun - [join the dolphins underwater in this 360 video from NZ Geographic.](#) Move your mouse to look all around as the video plays. You can even hear the sounds dolphins make!

ACTIVATE - make a difference / share your learning

Timing will vary

- Go outside and pick up at least 1 piece of plastic or other rubbish - make a difference for YOUR community. Log your rubbish data on the [21 day challenge graph on the Young Ocean Explorers website.](#)
- [Learn to draw a common dolphin](#) with Young Ocean Explorers. Add a dolphin fact to your drawing.
- **Speed test** - are you as fast as a dolphin? Measure out a 10 metre straight course. Time children to walk the 10 m. If they can do it in 12 seconds that is equivalent to walking 3km/hour (the usual speed of a bottlenose dolphin, and also the average walking speed of a

young adult). Can they match a bottlenose dolphin's top speed? If they can complete the 10m course in 1 second that is equivalent to about 40 km/hour - a bottlenose dolphin's top speed, and slightly slower than Usain Bolt's top speed.

MATHS EXTENSION - each child can work out their walking speed and running speed. Speed = distance/time. [Here is a useful video](#) explaining how to calculate speed, distance or time.

EXTRA LEARNING IDEAS AND RESOURCES

- **Read**
 - [People and dolphins \(te ara\)](#)
 - [Super senses - level 2 connected series](#)
- Find out about the differences between common dolphins and bottlenose dolphins - good facts and diagrams here:
 - [Common dolphin - International Whaling Commission](#)
 - [Bottlenose dolphin - International Whaling Commission](#)
- **Research** - which dolphins can be seen in the Hauraki Gulf? Which other dolphins are found in NZ waters, and where can they be seen?
- **Explore** more [dolphin videos from Young Ocean Explorers](#)
- What do dolphins eat, how do dolphins sleep, how do dolphins know where they are going? Ask questions that interest you about dolphins, and then try to find the answers. Use the library or a trusted internet resource.
- **Watch** this [short video from Science Learning Hub about dolphins](#). Find out the meaning of these words - mammal, apex predator, vertebrate

FIND OUT MORE - there are many other lesson ideas from Young Ocean Explorers - choose another one. You can find out about some more 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.