

TOGETHER FOR OUR MOANA - WE'RE SHAPING OUR FUTURE

INTRODUCTION LESSON

ALLOW 15 MINUTES

Haere mai / welcome!!

Watch this introduction video from Riley and Steve, who started Young Ocean Explorers.

Video for teachers



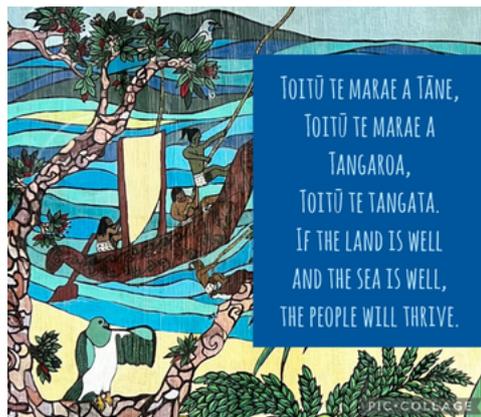
Video for students



We are so stoked that you're joining us to learn more about Aotearoa / New Zealand's wonderful moana / ocean! Our theme this year is "Together for our moana - we're shaping our future."

Together we're going to make sure our moana is healthy and thriving, because it affects us too!

Whakatauki source:
Marine Stewardship Council
Art by Whangaparāoa Primary
tamariki



Did you know?

Did you know that Aotearoa has the 5th largest ocean area of any country in the world! Wow, we have such a small country, but a HUGE ocean! [Read more about it here.](#)

We're going to learn facts about our moana and how to keep it healthy. We'll learn about the wonderful things in our ocean, as well as some of the problems facing it. We'll also think about actions that we can take to make a difference.

Watch before the intro activity

Watch this video from Young Ocean Explorers ['Stop Plastic!'](#)
[Click here to see the video dubbed into te reo.](#)

Video is 1:06 minutes



Our first action!

Now for your first action. Go outside and look around - try to find at least one piece of plastic rubbish each. Collect it and take it back to class. Look at your rubbish and count it.

(You may decide to pick up plastic before or after school so you're helping keep your community clean!)



The IMPORTANT bit!

Now for the important part! Ask your teacher to go to the **'My classroom' tab** on the 21 Day Challenge website. There they can enter your class data, and even photos of you taking action and the work you do if they want - we love to see what you are up to!



THEN take a look at the graph on the **overview tab** to see how much plastic has been picked up by classes from around Aotearoa. We can achieve a lot if we all work together! He rau ringa, e oti ai - Many hands make light work.

You might also like to look at the **map and data tab** on the 21 Day Challenge website. You will see a map showing all the schools around Aotearoa participating. You will also be able to see how much rubbish other classes and schools have collected.



Or another option is for your teacher to choose a '21 Day data champion' to be in charge of uploading the data daily! This is a super important job for a leader.

Help our collective voice be heard!

This is a challenge for you throughout the 21 Day Challenge. We think kids voices are important and powerful ... especially if there's a whole lot of us saying the same thing. We want to use your collective voice and be heard!

We're heading down to the steps of Parliament in Wellington later this year to share two things with our politicians.

1. We want to have a HUGE video screen in front of parliament, showing a powerful campaign video featuring thousands of Kiwi kids. This is so our leaders start thinking about the importance of ensuring they're giving a thriving ocean to them and future generations.
2. We also want to take as many letters from your students as possible with us. We want to take a MASSIVE pile of them with us and give them personally to the Prime Minister.

All of this is so we can show the importance of having a thriving ocean for future generations.

To support this, we'll ask you all to send us letters we can deliver to the Prime Minister at Parliament. This doesn't need to be long, just on one page.

The letter needs to say why the ocean is important to you and why we need more marine protection.

What to include in your letter to Parliament

- Address the letter to the Prime Minister
- Handwritten one-page letter
- Add why the ocean is so important to you
- Describe how you feel about our lack of marine protection
- Sign it off with your name and age

Send the letters to: **PO Box 228, Warkworth 0941**

Send in letters by: **31st of March 2026**

Example of letter and drawings:

Dear Prime Minister,

The ocean is important to me because I love swimming with all the beautiful animals. Our moana marine reserves so that we can all enjoy its beauty for years to come!



From,
Mollie
6 years old

Dear prime Minister,
I love the ocean because it is interesting
I want to go scuba diving one day
From mollie



Dear Prime Minister

I love the ocean because there's so much to do with it you can catch the best sea food and go watch some of the best things in the world. I would like to go to the ocean because it's a really nice place and you can see all the fish and you can see the turtles and the plastic bags and that would make them die which is why I don't like them and I don't like for turtles and I think that we need to protect the beach because if we had a beach on the beach and we brought some more and that of course the people will love and the beach of eating them in my bag taking a chance for them to kill one and I'll be on the sand and then straight in the bins. Thanks Sarah from Clara.

