

The Last of Maui's Dolphins

Teaching Resource

Hiriwa cannot find his three friends.

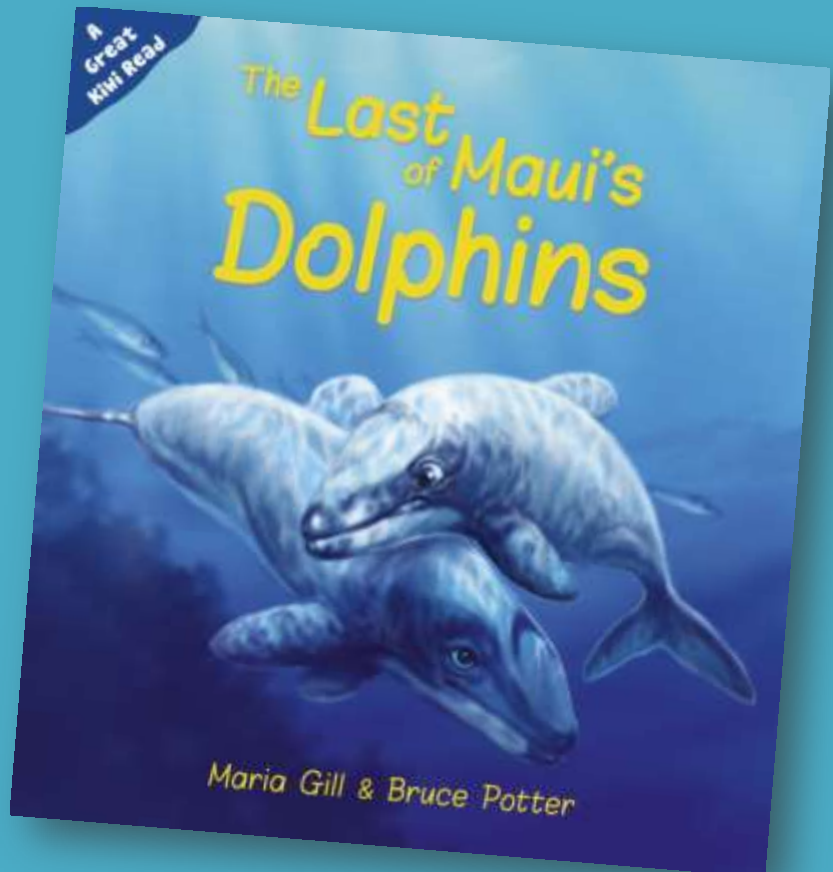
Have they been taken by the dark shapes?

Can he save them in time?

Come on an underwater adventure with Hiriwa, a young Maui's dolphin, and his three friends, Spotty the snapper, Squiggles the octopus and Puru the blue penguin.

In the information spread that follows the story, readers will learn that Maui's dolphins are endangered, and what can be done to help them.

Maria Gill has written over 30 children's books, often with an environmental theme. She is author of the bestselling *New Zealand Hall of Fame* with Bruce Potter, which won the 2012 New Zealand Post Children's Book Awards Children's Choice in the non-fiction category. Maria has had four books shortlisted for the LIANZA book awards and five chosen as Storylines Notable Books. Maria taught at Primary and Intermediate schools before becoming a full time writer. www.mariagill.co.nz



www.newhollandpublishers.co.nz

Bruce Potter has illustrated over 100 children's books including Witi Ihimaera's picture book *The Whale Rider*. Bruce has collaborated with Maria Gill on two books, *New Zealand Hall of Fame: 50 Remarkable Kiwis* and *Operation Nest Egg Chick*. An accomplished singer-songwriter, Bruce regularly visits schools around the country entertaining children and promoting New Zealand books.

This teaching resource has been prepared to help students aged 4-7 years understand the plight of the critically endangered Maui's dolphin. The resource is presented in the following sections:

- Story Notes – ask students to write 1-2 sentences about each heading
- The Five 'R's – comprehension and thinking skills for students to answer
- Reading & Language – questions and activities relating to the book
- KWL Chart – students pose questions and then research the answers
- *The Last of Maui's Dolphins* Crossword Puzzle
- Answers can be found on the final page

SYNOPSIS

In *The Last of Maui's Dolphins* a pod of Maui's dolphins warn their youngest member, Hiriwa, of the dangers of going near the dark shapes (fishing boats). Hiriwa heeds their warning until the day the set net from a fishing trawler catches his friends. He struggles to save them and his efforts are successful. Commercial fishing techniques pose a great risk to the survival of the Maui's dolphin species, which is unique to New Zealand's North Island.

Following the story about Hiriwa is a double-page spread with environmental and behavioural facts about the Maui's dolphin, its cousin the Hector's dolphin, and what can be done to help the species survive.

CURRICULUM LINKS

The teaching resource links to the following curriculum areas:

Big Idea – Saving Endangered Animals
Key Concept – Personal and social responsibility for action

English Curriculum
Level Two: Speaking, writing and presenting
Students will:

- Select and use sources of information, processes and strategies with some confidence to identify, form and express ideas
- Show some understanding of how to shape texts for different purposes and audiences
- Select, form and express ideas on a range of topics
- Use language features appropriately, showing some understanding of their effects
- Organise texts, using a range of structures

Science Curriculum
Levels One and Two: Life Processes
Students will:

- Recognise that all living things have certain requirements in order to stay alive.



STORY NOTES

While you read the story jot down notes about the following:

BEFORE YOU READ THE STORY, WHAT DO YOU THINK IT IS ABOUT?

CHARACTERS

Who is the main character?

Who are the minor characters?

SETTING

Where is this story set?

When is this story set?

Past/Present/Future

PROBLEM

What is the main problem in this story?

WHAT THEY DO ABOUT THE PROBLEM

How do they solve the problem?

WHAT HAPPENS

How is Hiriwa changed by this?

QUESTIONS

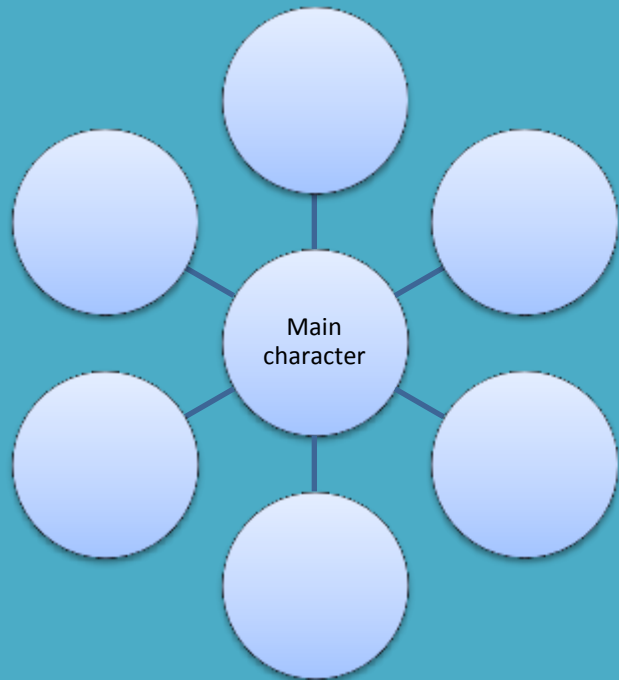
Find answers on the internet/books to things you did not understand.

AFTER YOU HAVE READ THE STORY, WHAT DO YOU THINK IT IS ABOUT?

THE FIVE 'R's

RECALL

1. Who is the main character in this story? Create a character web (right).
2. What type of dolphins feature in the story and where can they be found?
3. What was it that trapped Hiriwa's friends and where were they being taken?



READING BETWEEN THE LINES

1. Why did the other dolphins in Hiriwa's pod worry about him?
2. Why were the 'dark shapes' a problem for the dolphins?
3. Why did Hiriwa agree to keep away from the dark shapes?
4. Why was it important to count all the dolphins in the pod?

RETELL

1. Retell this story as a Maori legend or a fairy tale. Draw pictures to illustrate your story.
2. Write a poem about Maui's dolphins.
3. Write a letter to your local Member of Parliament about the plight of Maui's dolphins.

REV IT UP!

1. What if one of Hiriwa's friends was a shark – how would that change the story?
2. What else can a mussel shell be used for? Make a list.
3. Make up three questions and answers from the story and give them to someone else to solve.

REFLECT

1. What was your favourite part of the story? Why?
2. Write down one thing you can do to help Maui's dolphins.
3. 'We need to stop set netting in dolphin areas'.

Agree

Disagree

READING & LANGUAGE

READING

1. What does the title tell you the story might be about?
2. Write a sentence about the first time you saw a dolphin.
3. What is the importance of the number 55 in this story?
4. What games does Hiriwa enjoy playing with his friends?
5. What did the fishermen do when they saw Hiriwa jumping out of the water? Why did they do this?

ORAL LANGUAGE

1. Prepare and deliver a speech about Maui's and Hector's dolphins in New Zealand.
2. Act out Hiriwa's story with a group of classmates.
3. Make some dolphin puppets (search online for 'Hector's Dolphin Activity') and then put on a puppet show.

VISUAL LANGUAGE

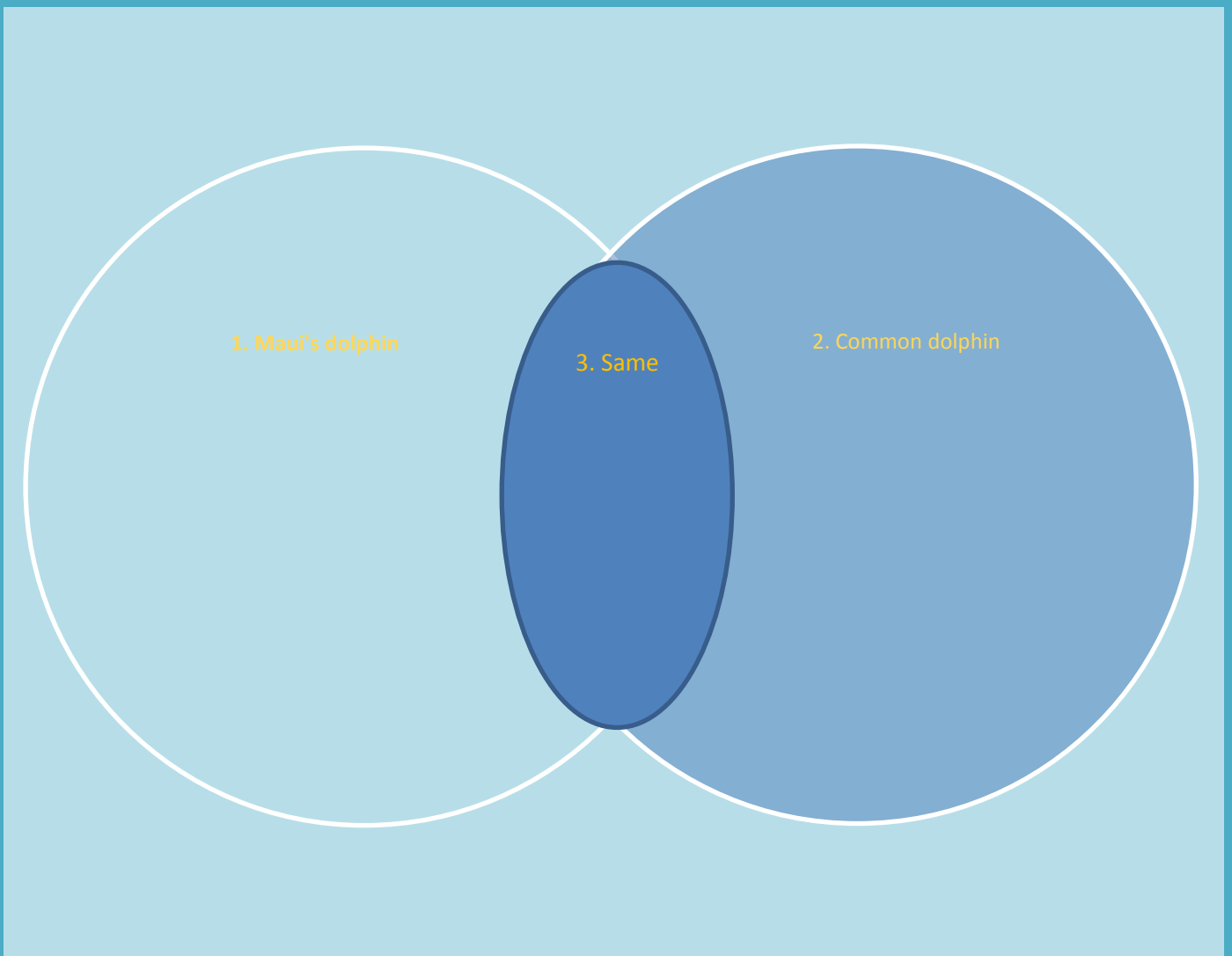
1. Design and draw a new front cover for the book.
2. Create a scene from the book using a computer or an iPad and add the text from the story.
3. Draw a bookmark for the book that includes a blurb about the story.
4. Draw the animals in the story and compare their sizes.
5. Draw a poster to promote the book.

WRITTEN LANGUAGE

1. Rewrite the story from when the friends are trapped in the net and change the way that they are rescued.
2. Write a book review for the book and include comments about the title, plot, characters, and the ending. Give it a rating out of 5.
3. Write a scene from the fishermen's point of view. How did they feel when their net broke?
4. Write a KWL chart on Maui's dolphins (overleaf).



Compare Maui's dolphins with Common dolphins



INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Write about Maui's dolphins in the above left circle.
2. Write about Common dolphins in the above right circle.
3. In the middle – say how they are the same.

INFORMATION ABOUT COMMON DOLPHINS:

- They have a triangle-shaped dorsal fin
- They grow as big as a grown-up human
- They have a grey-black face
- They live for 35 years

Find similar facts about Maui's dolphins in the book.

KWL CHART

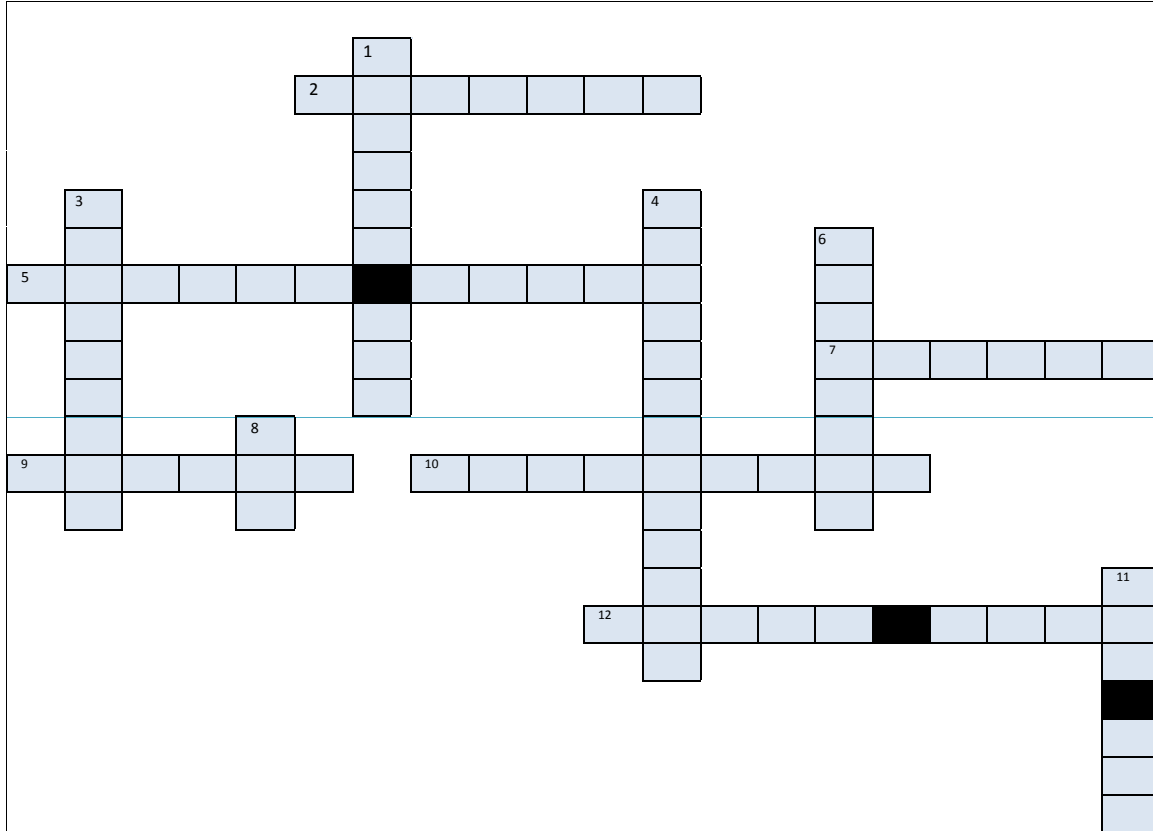
Write what you **KNOW** about Maui's dolphins, write down **WHAT** you would like to find out about Maui's dolphins, and then write what you have **LEARNT** about Maui's dolphins

What you KNOW	WHAT you want to find out	What you have LEARNT

Note: For more information about Maui's and Hector's dolphins, look at *Dolphins Down Under: Understanding the New Zealand dolphin* by Liz Sooten and Steve Dawson.

THE LAST OF MAUI'S DOLPHINS

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Across

2. What type of marine animal is Hiriwa? (7)
5. What does Hiriwa get to help him saw the net? (6,5)
7. What you can put on a net to help stop catching marine animals.
9. Who is the Maui's dolphin's cousin? (6)
10. Who is on the boat? (9)
12. What is the number of Maui's dolphins left? (5,4)

Down

1. What looks like a Mickey-mouse ear? (6,3)
3. What is the name of the octopus in the story? (9)
4. What type of fish is Spotty? (7)
8. What is a family group of dolphins? (3)
11. What type of net are the friends caught in? (3,3)

Choose from these words: pod, set net, dorsal fin, snapper, Hector, mussel shell, Squiggles, pinger, fifty-five, dolphin, blue penguin, fishermen

ANSWERS

The FIVE 'R's

RECALL

1. Hiriwa the Maui's dolphin is the main character.
2. They are Maui's dolphins and they're found on the West Coast of the North Island of New Zealand.
3. A set net caught Hiriwa's friends and they were being hauled onto a fishing boat.

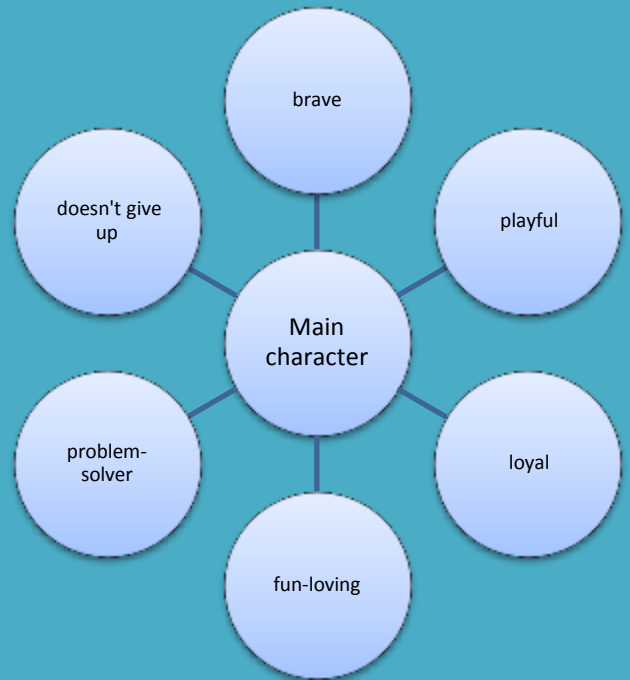
READING BETWEEN THE LINES

1. Hiriwa's pod was worried he would get caught by the set nets.
2. The fishing boats (dark shapes) could catch dolphins in their nets, as well as fish.
3. Hiriwa knew the dark shapes were dangerous and that he too could get caught in the nets.
4. There are only 55 Maui's dolphins left – each time one dies it brings the species closer to extinction.

READING & LANGUAGE

READING

1. The title suggests the story is about danger.
2. Your 1-2 sentences about the first time you saw a dolphin in real life or on TV.
3. The number tells you how many Maui's dolphins are believed to be left.
4. Hiriwa likes to dance with Spotty, play hide-and-seek with Squiggles and go exploring with Puru.
5. The fishermen stopped what they were doing to watch Hiriwa jumping. People enjoy watching dolphins play and perform.



Venn diagram, page four

1. Maui's dolphin

Mickey-Mouse dorsal fin
Big as a bath tub
black face
live for 20 years

SAME
Grey body
White belly
dolphin

2. Common dolphin

Triangle-shaped dorsal fin
Big as a grown-up human
grey-black face
live for 35 years

Crossword Puzzle

Across

2. Dolphin
5. Mussel shell
7. Pinger
9. Hector's
10. Fishermen
12. Fifty-five

Down

1. Dorsal fin
3. Squiggles
4. Blue penguin
6. Snapper
8. Pod
11. Set net