

The Last of Maui's Dolphins Teaching Resource

Hiriwa has lost his three friends.

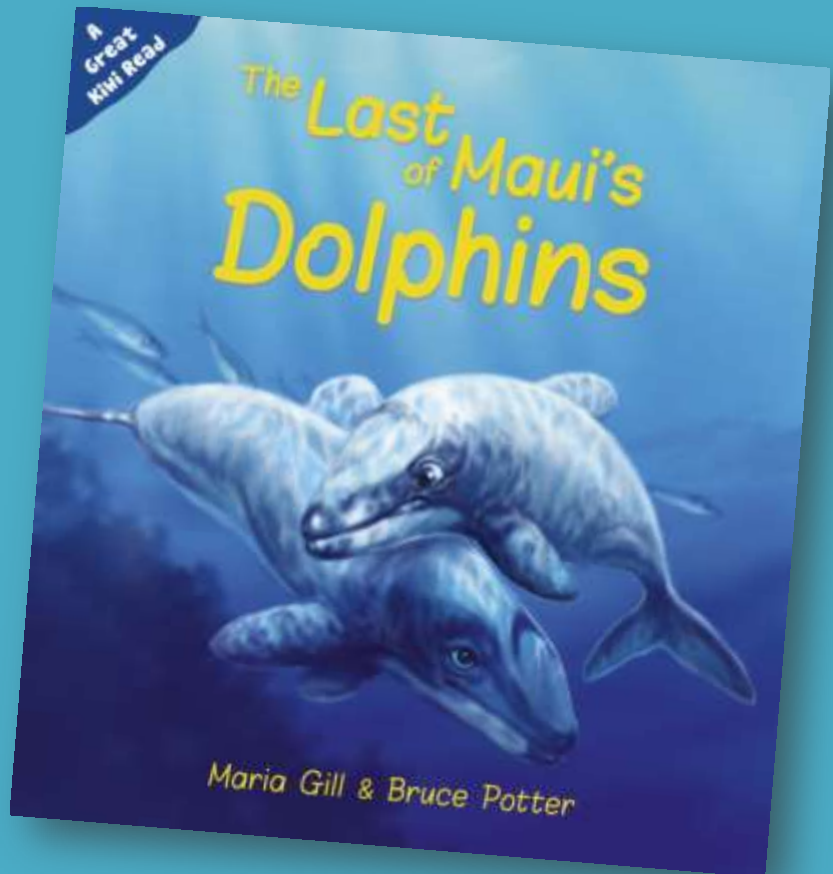
Have they been caught by the dark shapes?

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.

On the last page find out why Maui's dolphins are so endangered, who their close relative is in the South Island, and what you can do to help them.

Maria Gill has written over 30 children's books, often with an environmental theme. Author of the bestselling *New Zealand Hall of Fame* that won the 2012 New Zealand Post Children's Book Awards Children's Choice in the non-fiction category; as well as, four books shortlisted for the LIANZA book awards; and Five Storylines Notable Books. Maria taught at Primary and Intermediate schools before writing full-time. www.mariagill.co.nz



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Bruce Potter has illustrated over 100 children's books including Witi Ihimaera's picture book 'The Whale Rider'. Bruce also collaborated with Maria Gill on two other 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.

Dear Teachers,

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 so they can stay alive



STORY NOTES

While you read the story jot down 1-2 sentences about the following:

PREDICT WHAT YOU THINK THE STORY IS ABOUT? (BEFORE YOU HAVE READ IT)

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 IT

How do they solve the problem?

WHAT HAPPENS

How is Hiriwa changed by this?

QUESTIONS

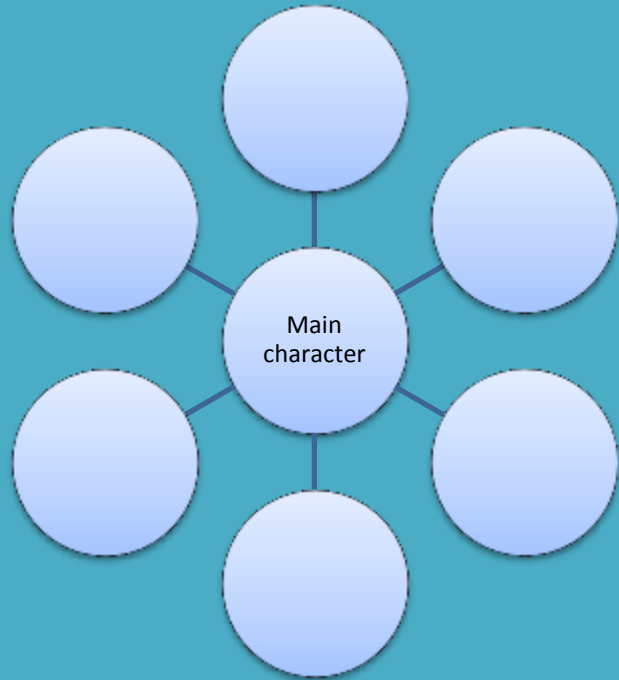
Find answers to things you did not understand on the internet/books.

WHAT YOU THINK THE STORY IS ABOUT (AFTER YOU HAVE READ IT)

THE FIVE 'R's

RECALL

1. Who is the main character in this story? Write a character web about them.
2. What type of dolphins are they and where can they be found?
3. What caught Hiriwa's friends and where were they going?



READING BETWEEN THE LINES

1. Why did Maui's pod worry about him?
2. Why were the 'dark shapes' a problem?
3. Why did Hiriwa vow to keep away from them?
4. Why does each Maui dolphin matter?

RETELL

1. Retell the story in the style of a Maori legend or a fairy tale. Draw pictures to go with your story.
2. Write a poem about Maui's dolphins.
3. Write a letter to the Prime Minister saying why we need to save Maui dolphins.

REV IT UP!

1. What if ... one of Maui's friends was a shark – how would that change the story?
2. What else could a mussel shell be used for? List its many uses.
3. Write three answers to three questions you have made up from the story and give it to someone to solve.

REFLECT

1. What was your favourite part in the story? Why?
2. Write down one thing you will do to help Maui's dolphins.
3. 'We need to stop set netting in dolphin areas'. Say why you agree and disagree with that sentence. Think of a fisherman's point of view too.

Agree

Disagree

READING & LANGUAGE

READING

1. What does the title tell you the story might be about?
2. Why is the number 55 important in this story?
3. What games does Hiriwa enjoy playing with his friends?
4. What did the fishermen do when they saw Hiriwa jumping? Why did they do this?

WRITTEN LANGUAGE

1. Rewrite the story from when the friends are trapped in the net and change how they are saved.
2. What if Hiriwa had been caught – rewrite the story of his escape.
3. Write a book review for the book and remark on its choice of title; story; characters and its ending. Give it a rating out of 5.
4. Write a scene from the fishermen's point of view. How did they feel when their net broke?
5. Write a KWL chart on Maui's dolphins.

ORAL LANGUAGE

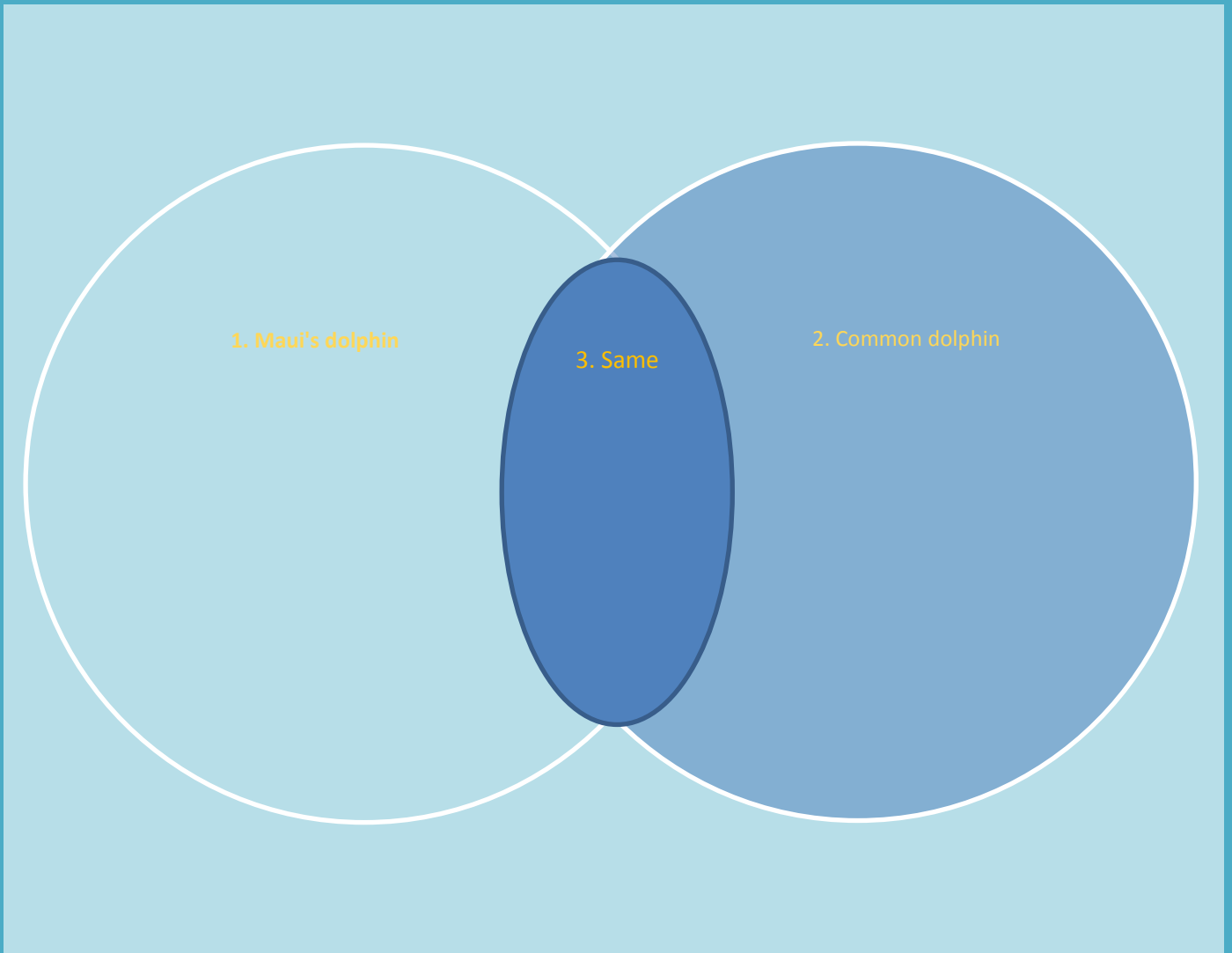
1. Give a speech about the Maui and Hector's dolphins including how to save them.
2. Act out the story with a group of classmates.
3. Make some dolphin puppets (search online for 'Hector's Dolphin Activity') and then put on a puppet show.
4. Tell someone next to you about the first time you saw a dolphin whether in real life or TV.

VISUAL LANGUAGE

1. Draw a new front cover for the book.
2. Draw a scene from the book on a computer or an iPad and include the text.
3. Draw a bookmark for the book and include a blurb about the story.
4. Draw the animals in the story and compare their sizes.
5. Draw a poster promoting the book and its underlying message.



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

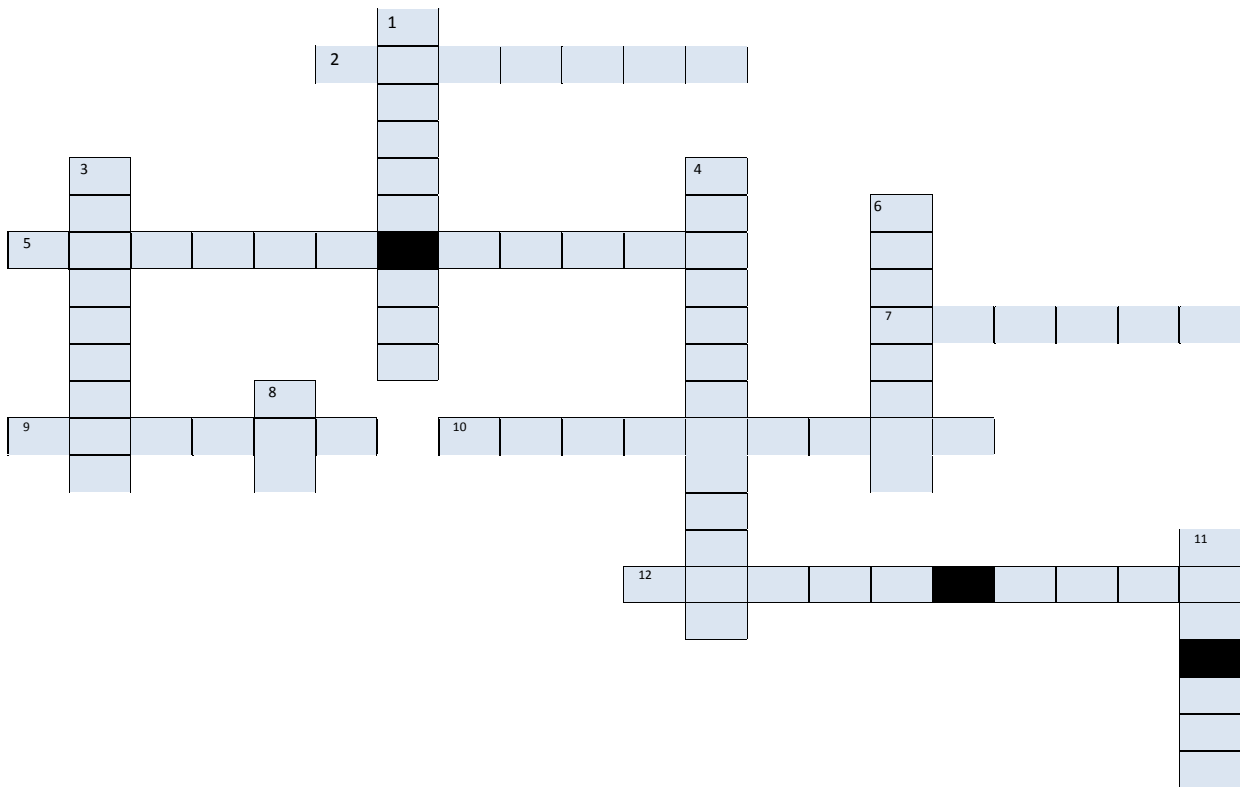
Write what you KNOW, Write down WHAT you would like to find out about the Maui's dolphins, and then write what you have LEARNT about Maui's dolphins

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

Note: For more information about Maui and Hector's dolphin look at *Dolphins Down Under: Understanding the New Zealand Dolphin* by Liz Slooten 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 can you 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

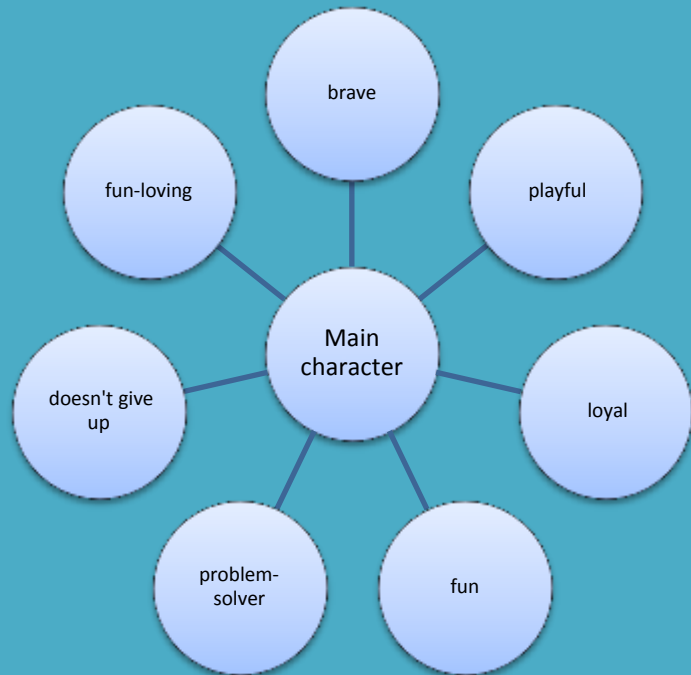
ANSWERS

Recall, page three

1. Hiriwa is the main character in this story.
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 the fishing boat.

Reading between the lines, page three

1. Maui's pod were worried he would get caught by the set nets.
2. The nets caught not only fish but any marine animals in the area.
3. Hiriwa knew they were dangerous and he too could get caught in them.
4. There are only 55 left – each death brings them closer to extinction.



Reading, page four

1. Write down what the title tells you.
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 left and how precious they are.
4. Hiriwa likes to dance with Spotty, play hide-and-seek with Squiggles and go exploring with Puru.
5. The fishermen stopped to watch Hiriwa jumping. There is something special about seeing dolphins perform in front of us.

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
10. Fishermen
12. Fifty-five

Down

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