

TOGETHER FOR OUR MOANA - WE'RE SHAPING OUR FUTURE

WHAI / RAYS

Overview

Find out about the different types of rays that live in Tīkapa Moana / the Hauraki Gulf.

NZ CURRICULUM LINKS:

Learning areas:	Achievement objectives:
Science	Identification and classification.
Te Ao Māori Te reo (language), tikanga (customs and traditional values)	By learning te reo Māori, students can participate with understanding and confidence in situations where te reo and tikanga Māori predominate, and integrate language and cultural understandings into their lives, strengthening Aotearoa New Zealand's identity in the world.
English	Listening, Reading, Viewing

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:

New Zealand has 26 species of rays and skates. The most well-known are [eagle rays](#) and [stingrays](#).

Rays and skates are wide, flattened fish belonging to the same family as sharks, and sharing some of the same features: they have skeletons of cartilage, not bone, and open gill slits.

Rays and skates also differ from sharks. They have blunt rather than sharp teeth, and their gill slits are on the belly rather than along the sides.

Although skates and rays have similar, kite-shaped bodies, skates are usually not as large or as venomous. Rays are not aggressive animals, but if attacked or accidentally stepped on, they can inflict painful, serious wounds.

Skates lay leathery eggs, known as mermaid's or sailor's purses, on the sea floor.

Other rays carry their offspring inside them and give birth to live young.

[Te ara - rays and skates](#)

Learning intention

Tamariki are learning to understand about the different types of rays in Tikapa Moana / the Hauraki Gulf.

Success criteria

Children can explain the difference between eagle rays and sting rays.

LESSON PLAN

Whai / rays

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



Inspire

 Allow approximately 15 mins

- **Watch** this Young Ocean Explorers video - [Whai](#). Tiki tells the story of Whaitere - and shows how rays are special taonga.



Video is a quick 3 part quiz

- OPTIONAL EXTRA - [Read this story about Whaitere - the magical whai / ray.](#) Choose some tamariki to act out the story as the teacher reads it.



Educate

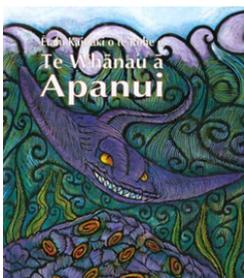
Allow approximately 30 mins

- **Look** at the difference between eagle rays and sting rays. [Read this information from Kelly Tarltons](#). You could also watch this video 'Rileys amazing ray adventure' from Young Ocean Explorers.
- **Make** a venn diagram to show similarities and differences - [here is a free one you can print if you like](#). What is the same about them both? What is different?
- **Te ao Maori** - explore some Maori ideas linked to whai / rays. [Toi tangata video](#)



Video is 2:09 minutes

- [Te ara- whai kaitiaki](#)





Activate

 *Timing will vary*

DAILY ACTION



MAKE A DIFFERENCE for our moana – pick up at least 1 piece of kirihou / plastic each day. [Log how many pieces your class picks up on the Young Ocean Explorers website.](#)

REMINDER: Picking up plastic is awesome, but there are MANY other ways to make a difference! This plastic collection shows that doing small actions can add up and make a huge difference! I hope seeing the data increase every day encourages you and inspires you to get thinking about what else you can do to help our moana!

Reminder!

Send in your letters before the 31st of March to: PO Box 228, Warkworth 0941. Then we can take them to Parliament!! We want our collective voices heard about why we need to protect our moana and why it is so important to us! More info in the intro lesson plan.



EXTRA LEARNING IDEAS AND RESOURCES

- **VOCAB** - find out what these big words mean. Viviparous, elasmobranch, cartilage
- **Explore** these [videos about rays from Young Ocean Explorers](#).
- **Watch** - Young Ocean Explorer video - [Meet a UFO!](#)

Video is 1:24 minutes



- Learn to draw an [eagle ray](#) with Young Ocean Explorers.

