

TOGETHER FOR OUR MOANA - WE'RE SHAPING OUR FUTURE

WHEKE / OCTOPUS

Overview

Find out about some of the cephalopods (octopus, squid) that live in NZ waters.

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
The arts	Performing arts - explore and use elements of drama Visual Art - developing practical knowledge

LEARNING SEQUENCE

Based on the Inquiry model



Inspire

Provoke curiosity
and wonder



Explore/Educate

Gather information
Use / apply
learning



Activate

Reflect and act

Learning intention

Tamariki are learning to understand more about the different types of cephalopods in Aotearoa waters. They are also learning a bit about Te ao Māori - the Māori world view of wheke.

Success criteria

Children can remember some facts about wheke and have an understanding of the pūrākau / legend about Kupe and te wheke.

Background information for teachers:

Information from Te Ara

Octopus and squid belong to a group known as cephalopods. Cephalopod means 'head-footed' – the arms and tentacles are attached to the head. Their closest relatives include snails, slugs and shellfish.

Appearance

Octopus and squid have a mantle, head and eight arms (and in the case of some squid, two long tentacles). The mantle is a sac that contains the animal's organs. The head has a brain, eyes, and a beak like a parrot's. Octopus and squid have suckers on their arms, and squid suckers have hooks to grasp prey.

Octopus

There are 42 species of octopus in the waters around New Zealand. They are not often seen, as most live on the sea floor. The region is home to two of the world's largest types of octopus. The giant gelatinous octopus grows to 4 metres, and the giant South Pacific octopus reaches 3 metres.

Squid in New Zealand

New Zealand has more than 85 species of squid, most of them in the open sea. Adult giant squid breed in deep waters around New Zealand. Females reach 13 metres in length. They have eyes the size of dinner plates to see flashes of light from passing fish, which they eat.

Whakatauki:

Kia mate ururoa, kei mate wheke
Fight like a shark, don't give in like an octopus

This whakatauki encourages us not to give up. When fishing, a shark will fight the whole time it is on the line. In comparison, an octopus will surrender once it's been hooked. No matter how hard things get, let us fight like a shark.

LESSON PLAN

Wheke / Octopus

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



Inspire

 Allow approximately 10 mins

Octopus / wheke come from a group of animals called cephalopods (meaning 'head-foot').

- **WATCH** this [YOE video](#) with wheke facts and kupu/words

What did you learn?

Video is 1:22 minutes



- **WATCH** this [YOE rangatahi wheke episode](#)

Video is 6:19 minutes





Educate

Allow approximately 30 mins

ACT - Pūrākau / legend - Act out the legend of Kupe and te wheke.

You will need these characters:

- Kupe
- Maturangi
- Te Wheke
- Hine te Aparangi (Kupe's wife)
- Kupes tribe - fishermen, village people, whanau, warriors

READ - teacher or narrator can read the legend while others act it out.

<https://eng.mataurangamaori.tki.org.nz/Support-materials/Te-Reo-Maori/Maori-Myths-Legends-and-Contemporary-Stories/Kupe-and-the-Giant-Wheke>

OR LISTEN - Kupe and te wheke legend to listen to while acting. You may need to pause it to allow time to act some of the scenes out. (8.27 mins)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CuO62VG49NA>

OR WATCH - Kupe and te wheke - te reo video with English subtitles.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dMsxcivGqyE>



FIND THESE PLACES ON A MAP. These were mentioned in the pūrākau (in the audio version). Can you find them on a map?

- Hokianga Harbour
- Rangiwakaoma (Castle Point)
- Te Whanganui-a-tara (Wellington harbour)
- Te Moana-o-Raukawa (Cook Strait)
- Totaranui (Queen Charlotte Sounds)
- Ngāwhatu Kai-ponu (rock - The Brothers)
- Pariwhero - red rocks (in Wellington Harbour)



Activate

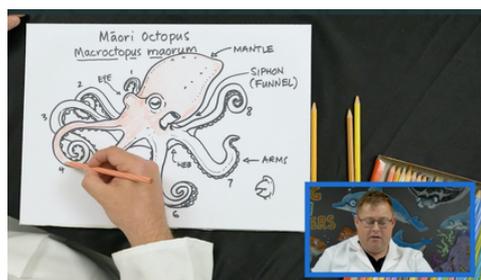
 *Timing will vary*

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](#).

DRAW – [YOE learn to draw an octopus](#). Watch the video to help you draw an octopus / wheke.

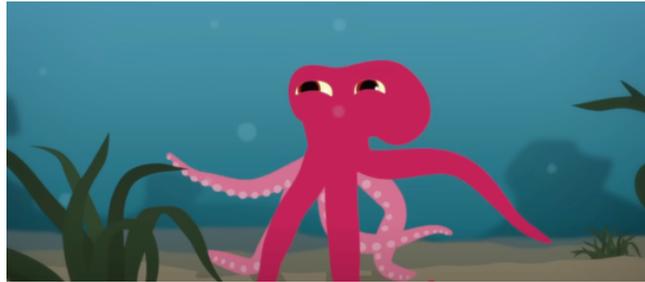


LEARN MORE

Te ara information about octopus and cephalopods in NZ

<https://teara.govt.nz/en/octopus-and-squid/page-4>

Ted ed video - octopus brains <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VLkKiVIBxXU>



RESEARCH PROJECT

NZ has 42 species of octopus and 85 species of squid in our waters. Find out more about one of them. Make a slide about it to share with friends/classmates.

- What is its name? Common name, scientific name, Māori name if it has one.
- Where does it live? (habitat)
- What does it eat? (prey)
- What likes to eat it? (predators)
- Any interesting facts about it?
- Find a picture of it if you can.

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.

