



Years 4-6 Whanagaparāoa Whales

How can we bring the histories to life?

What could we include in our planning?

Ākonga

Make your teaching and learning programme accessible to all ākonga. Increase engagement by making connections to your learners' lives and whakapapa in your planning.

- Deliver and interpret information using a variety of modes, e.g. storytelling, photographs, or maps.
- Make connections to the identities of ākonga, and who they are as learners.
- Explore the collective identity of people in this place
- Connect to the whakapapa and pēpeha of individual learners, and of the community.
- Help learners see themselves in their learning about the past.

Whānau and Community

Plan how you will make connections with knowledge from whānau, community, iwi, and hapū.

- Tell stories of local significance and about local people.
- Connect with whānau through family stories and look for ways that these stories can lead the learning.
- Find out who the people are in this place and how their stories feed into a collective story.
- Develop relationships with mana whenua over time, and strengthen existing relationships.

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Resources

Choose resources and experiences that will give learners a range of perspectives and voices reflecting the diversity of Aotearoa. Engage them with stories, experts, and trips to local places.

- Use frameworks to classify and critique resources.
- Use deliberate questions to help students look for missing voices or stories.
- Look at [Whanagaparāoa Whales](#) by Paul Tucker (Orewa College) to build rich layered understanding and as your starting point.

The spray of water blew high into the air. It was soon followed by another billowing stream meaning that the mother must have had her calf with her. This is what I had come to Whanagaparāoa to see.

It was my tupuna who had advised me to launch my small waka from further up the coast at Waiwerawera, to set out for Whangaparāoa, the bay of the sperm whales. Here I hoped to catch up with the annual migration of these magnificent animals and gain their respect. It was my goal that one day I may earn enough mana to wear a sacred rei niho paraoa or sperm whale pendant, a taonga (treasure) to my people.

I slowed my waka, drifting toward the spot where I had seen the plumes of spray emerge from the dark green waters of the bay. Looking into the depths I saw the long white underbelly of the whale glide under me but I felt no fear. Surely this was curiosity at play, coming to see me, a stranger in their world. The size of the whale gave me a sense of wonder. Surely only the mighty kauri trees were longer.

For what seemed like forever, the mother and her calf explored my waka and heard my waiata (song) given in praise of them. Occasionally they would nudge me and the mother would slap her tail on the surface, sending sea spray over the waka. Maybe this was a blessing from my new friends.

All too soon, after their restful play with me, mother and calf left the still waters and resumed their journey into the great unknown. I travelled back up the coast to rejoin my whanau (family) and tell them of my wonderful day, sharing with them the knowledge of my encounter. In time I knew I would visit Whangaparāoa again.

Produced by Paul Tucker@Orewa College (2021)

Understand

Support rich learning for your ākongā by deliberately teaching the big ideas. Explore different ways to connect local history to the big ideas and the wider New Zealand or global context.

Through building knowledge about contexts and drawing on inquiry practices, I have a deeper understanding that:

- Māori history is the foundational and continuous history of Aotearoa New Zealand

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Know

Check that your theme or topic is significant, relevant, and authentic for mana whenua, whānau and ākonga.

Include explicit support for learners' histories, languages, cultures, and identities in your planning.

Key Knowledge - Tūrangawaewae me te kaitiakitanga (Place and Environment)

People adapted their technologies and tools to the new environment of Aotearoa New Zealand

Key Questions?

- What are the stories of mana whenua?
- How did mana whenua impact on the natural environment?

Do

Develop historical thinking through deliberate teaching of critical thinking strategies. Learners need these many different opportunities to learn and practice so they can apply their learning to new contexts.

- Explore and research the story of Paikea. Using [toonytool](#) retell the sequence of events related to the story of Paikea.
- Looking at tikanga, stranded whales, meat and bones create a brochure that informs your reader of the cultural importance of whales to Māori
- Compare and Contrast whakapapa and Ika moana with a Venn Diagram showing where the two interconnect.

Teachers

Reflect on the knowledge that you need as a teacher and where you could find it.

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