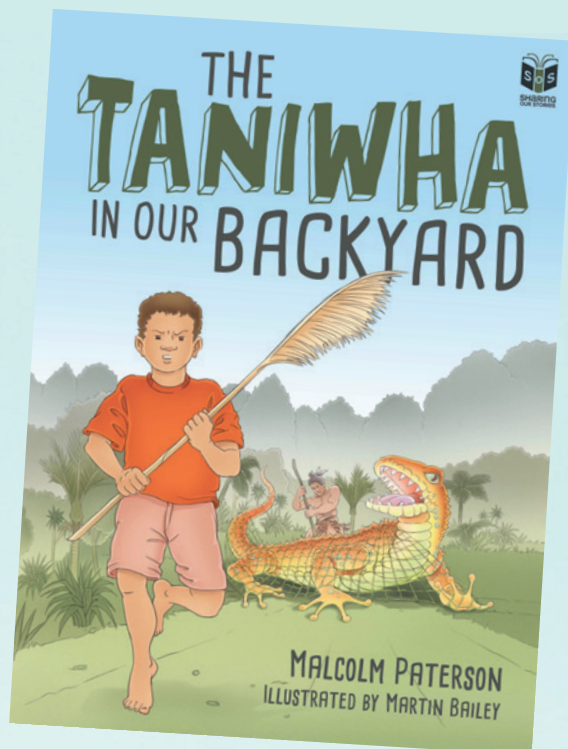


THE TANIWHA IN OUR BACKYARD



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TEACHER RESOURCE

‘Are there tuna in your creek, Matua?
‘Āe rā ... the tuoro is a taniwha that is like a giant eel.
It can curl itself up in a ball and roll over the land!’

Tui and his cousin Jennifer are visiting their aunt and uncle. Exploring the area around where their uncle and aunty live, they learn about ancient taniwha, extinct and endangered animals and trees, kaitiakitanga (stewardship) and tūpuna (ancestors).



DISCUSSION

The places in this book are where author Malcolm Paterson grew up and where he still spends a lot of his time. The stories about them are a mix of history, legend and myth/fiction.

Do you know much kōrero about the place where you live? Have adults you know told you any stories about how and why your area is like it is, about famous people who lived there, important things that happened there or fantastic myths and legends about the place?

ACTIVITIES

1. Write a story

Like Tui and Jennifer and their whānau, can you make up a great story focused around interesting features from the environment where you live, for example, islands, rocks, caves and so on? The action in your story could make use of those features or help explain why they look like they do.

2. Explore environmental issues

The whānau is careful not to spread kauri dieback disease when they visit Mokoroa. The kaitiaki they meet at Maukatia are worried about the over-harvesting of kaimoana.

Research what is being done to address these issues (either in South Kaipara or nearer to where you live if they are problems there too).

What more can be done?

What environmental action groups are active regarding these or similar issues in your area?

3. Origami animals

Refer to the links below to find instructions to make your own origami dragon/taniwha, hōkioi (eagle), ostrich (moa), crab (pāpaka), whale (tohorā), karearea (falcon) or dolphin (aihe).

<https://www.instructables.com/Simple-Origami-Dragon/><https://www.instructables.com/Origami-Eagle-Instructions/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t2yMz5lsGMM>

<https://www.instructables.com/Origami-Crab-Video-Tutorial/>

<https://www.instructables.com/How-to-make-origami-Whale/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UmJ6vjdcx6c>

<https://www.instructables.com/Origami-Make-a-Dolphin-Easy/>

Can you find an origami shape to make that relates to a creature or object representative of your community and/or the place you call home?



ACTIVITIES CONTINUED

4. He rapunga (a search)

There are lots of local places, plants and animals mentioned and shown in *The Taniwha in Our Backyard*. Your challenge is to investigate your own 'backyard' (suburb/town) and list places, plants and animals you see.

Make a map of where you live. Write short paragraphs about three or four each of the interesting places, plants and animals you've seen (for example, what they are, what's unique or special about them) and stick them on your map. This could be an activity done individually, in a group, or by a whole class.

5. Minecraft challenge

Using Minecraft, build your own pā tūwatawata (palisaded fort) and/or temple like the ones shown in the book.

If you don't have access to Minecraft, you can draw your pā or temple on paper.

6. Identifying tūpuna

In *The Taniwha in Our Backyard* we hear of some tūpuna who are associated with the area, for example, Taimārō, Takamiro, Taiaoroa and Titahi. Research your local area and identify some tūpuna from there. Are their ingoa still remembered in local place names?

7. Place names

This book is bilingual, meaning it has been written in two official New Zealand languages, te reo Māori and English.

Work your way through the book and make a list of ten Māori words or phrases for which you didn't previously know the meaning. Practise how to pronounce the words (see the author's guide on the next page). Share these with your classmates and have a crack at using them in your everyday language ... tukua!

8. Migration

The extended whānau in *The Taniwha in Our Backyard* have fun discovering the similarities between some Māori and Malay words and acknowledge the ancestral links between here and there. Research the migration of Māori tūpuna from Asia out across Te Moana-nui-a-Kiwa to Nukuroa (New Zealand) and draw a map to show the path travelled.



GUIDE TO PRONOUNCING MĀORI WORDS

Vowels

A	Say as the a in father
E	Say as the e in egg
I	Say as the ee in tree
O	Say as the oor in door
U	Say as the oo in zoo

Long vowels are shown with a macron above them (ā ē ī ō ū). The macron means that the sound of that vowel should last longer as it is said. If several vowels appear together, try to sound every vowel in turn, for example, 'whaea'.

Consonants

H K M N P W Pronounce as in English.

R The true Māori pronunciation of **r** is somewhere between the English **r**, **d** and **l**. For example, 'Muriwai' could be written like 'Moodywai' and 'kōrero' as 'kōdedo' or 'kōlelo' using the English alphabet.

T Pronunciation depends on the vowel that follows the t. The **t** in **ta**, **te** and **to** is pronounced dully as a cross between the English **t** and **d**. The **t** in **ti** and **tu** is sharper and is not softened by a 'd' sound.

Ng Say as the **ng** in **sing**.

Wh Say as a cross between the **wh** in **which** (where both the w and the h are sounded) and the **f** in **family**.

USING THIS BOOK IN NEW ZEALAND CLASSROOMS

Within the framework of The New Zealand Curriculum, *The Taniwha in Our Backyard* supports several principles, notably: Cultural Diversity and Future Focus (especially sustainability), plus elements under the Treaty of Waitangi, for example, the opportunity to acquire knowledge of te reo Māori me ngā tikanga (te reo Māori and tikanga Māori).

Of the five key competencies that the Curriculum endorses, this book links closely to Using Language, Symbols and Texts, Thinking, Participating and Contributing, and Relating to Others. It also lends itself well to recognising New Zealand's Official Languages and the learning areas of Learning Languages, Arts, Science and Social Sciences.

From 2023, Aotearoa New Zealand's histories and Te Takanga o Te Wā will be taught in all schools and kura. *The Taniwha in Our Backyard* is an excellent resource encouraging a "sense of place" and can be a template for schools in other areas to stimulate their local curriculum learning.

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