

Toitoti 28 Bonus Activity: Under the Sea



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LEARN

Study the sea creatures that feature in Toitoti 28. Choose your favourite creature and research it. In particular, note its scientific name, size, habitat, diet and lifespan. Who does it prey on and who are its predators?



CREATE

Inspired by your research, write a story or poem about an encounter with your favourite sea creature. It could be from your point of view or from theirs.



ILLUSTRATE

Create an artwork of your sea creature based on your research. Choose your materials carefully and pay attention to your colour palette, light and sense of movement.



SHARE

Submit your own writing, artwork or both for publication in Toitoti and begin a conversation with other young New Zealanders through the arts.

Visit www.toitoti.nz for more bonus activities



The Beach

I went to the beach. I left my things on the nice warm sand and ran into the sea. It was glimmering. I dived into the waves. They felt nice and cold. I swam deeper and deeper. It got warmer the further I went. I swam back to shore, grabbed my bucket and collected some shells.

My mum was on the wharf and she told me to come and look down into the sea, so I did. There was a giant octopus! It was orange and it was trying to eat some crabs off a pole. I was a teeny-weeny bit scared and didn't go back in the water after that.

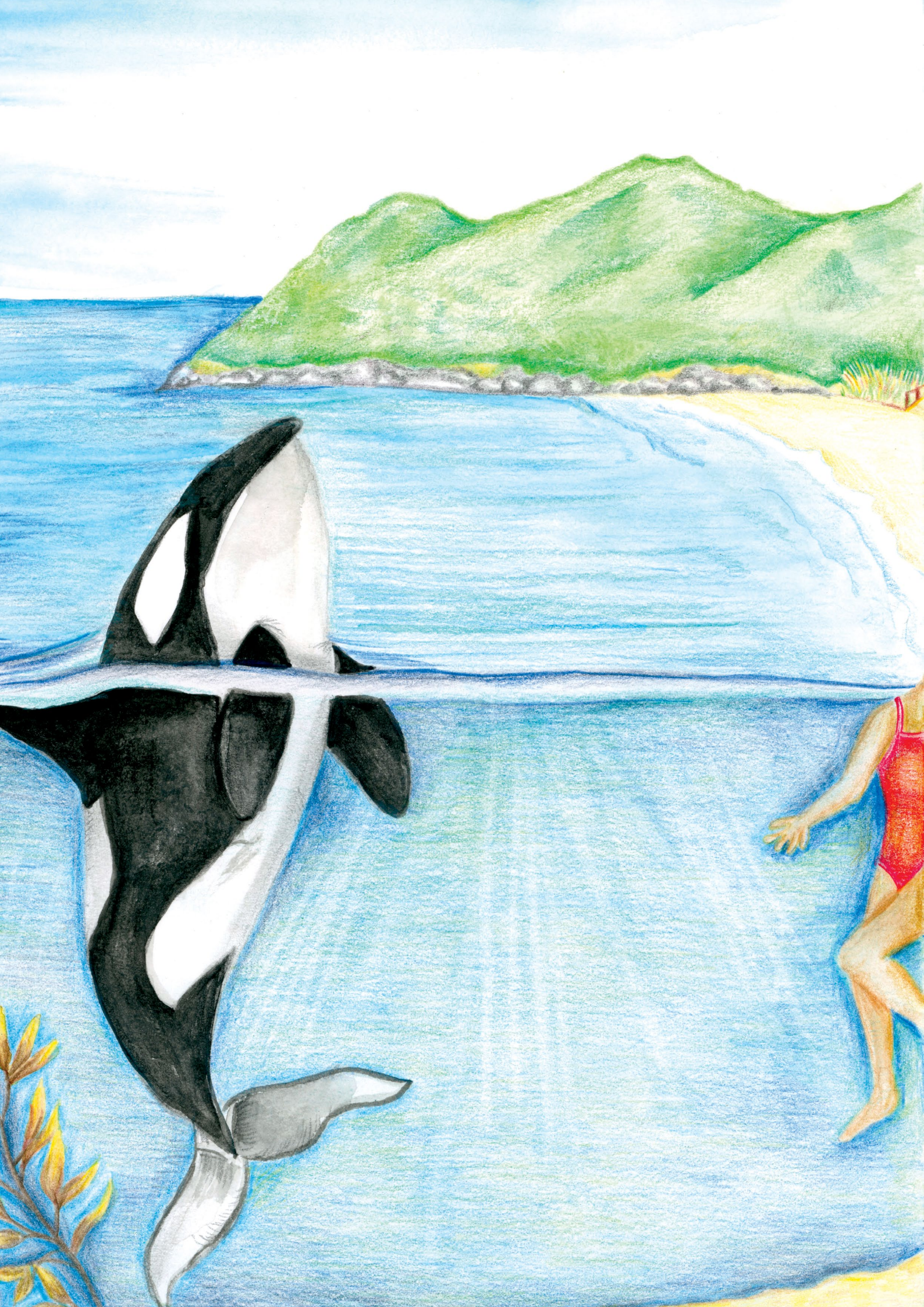




Starfish

I went to the beach
My sister held a starfish
I also held a starfish
It kissed me and tickled me
I screamed and screamed
I flicked it off my hand

Words by Billie McMillian, age 6
Pictures by Sophia Wright, age 11



The Human

My bare feet sunk into the hot, bright sand as I walked across the beach, feeling the sun against my skin. But the feeling didn't last.

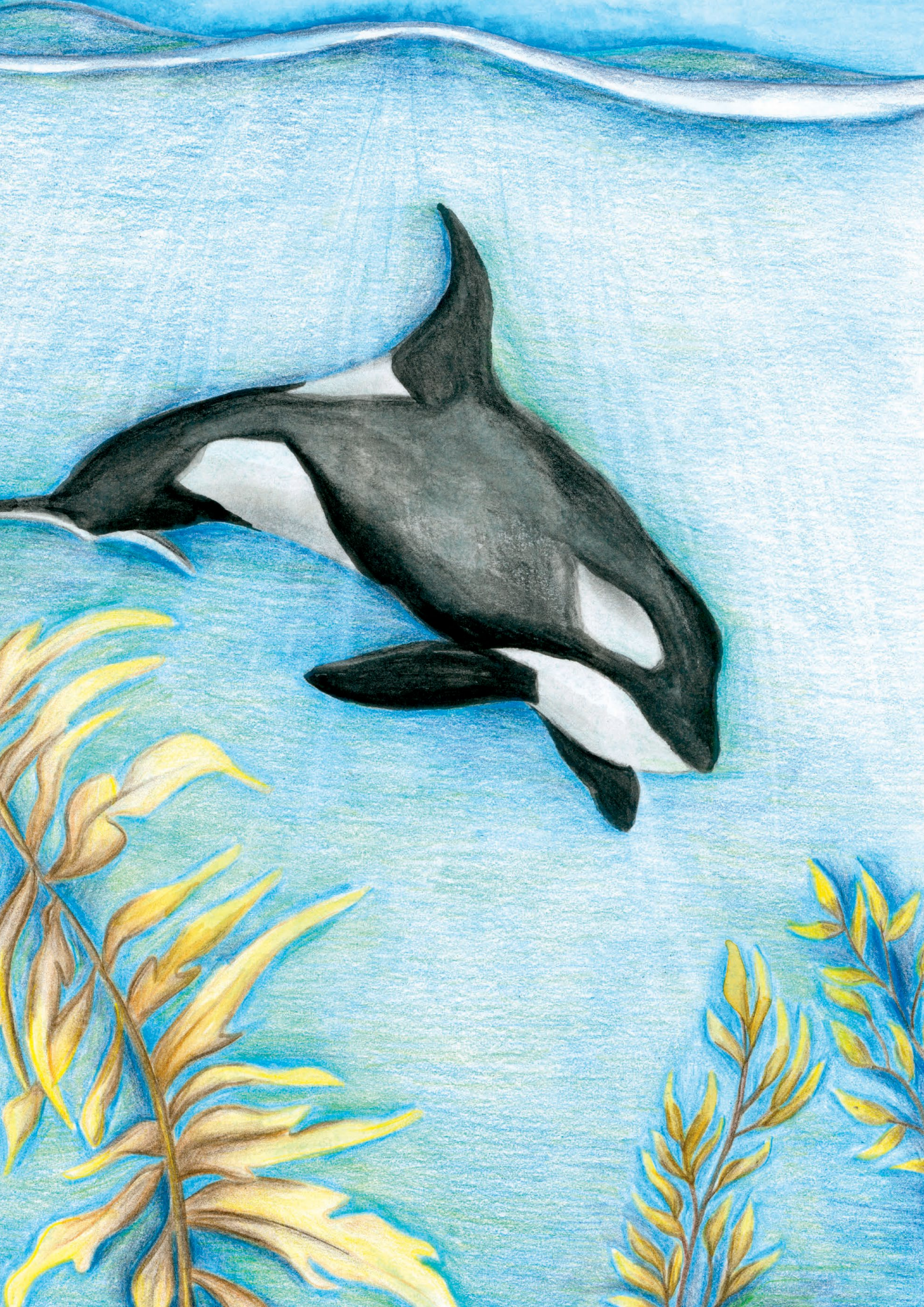
"Come on! You need sunscreen or you'll burn!" called my mum, beckoning me over.

"I don't get sunburnt like you, Mum! I don't need sunscreen." I tried to resist but she was already squirting thick, white sunblock across my bare legs and arms. After getting thoroughly sun-protected, I went back to the beach.

Glistening waves lapped onto the sandy floor. I strode into the water, shivering as I got used to the cold, and dived in. Without goggles, I could've been facing down a shark and not realised it. Holding my breath, I tried to stay under for as long as I could before I broke the surface, gasping for breath.

I was treading water when I saw it. I remember every detail of that moment. I remember the magnificent creature rising from the ocean and coming to the surface. It was fully black except for its underbelly and eyes. Every inch of it was built for speed, from its large dorsal fin to its heavy, muscular tail. It was unmistakable — a killer whale.

Now here is the question that has plagued me ever since that fateful afternoon. Why did this creature, one of the most feared predators in the ocean, spare me?



The Creature

Pushing through the water, I flicked my tail in joy. This wondrous place, this was my home! Suddenly, I froze. What was that scent? Changing directions faster than a horse, I used my tail like an engine, speeding towards my prey. I reached unfathomable speeds with ease, going so fast that the kelp forest was a blur.

After a while, I stopped to rest. Curiously, the ocean seemed empty, but a quick dive down told me I was getting closer to shore.

I made my way inland, avoiding ghost nets and plastic waste. Of course, going in was risky — humans were everywhere. With deep sadness I remembered the fateful day when my pod was taken from me by these creatures.

Fueled by anger, I swam closer and closer inland. That was when I saw it — a small, unpredictable human. Great, I thought. Now they're going to yell out to the fisherman to get in their boats and kill me.

But this human did nothing of the sort. She stayed, bobbing in the water, even when I pushed my head through the surface so she could see me. I looked at her. Perhaps some humans weren't as bad as others. I dived back under the water, leaving her to wonder if she had imagined it all.

Words by Rosa Wigley, age 11
Pictures by Keshia Linyard, age 13



LEARN

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MAKE NOTES HERE

DESCRIPTION	SEA CREATURE
SCIENTIFIC NAME	
SIZE/WEIGHT	
HABITAT	
DIET	
LIFESPAN	
PREY	
PREDATORS	

EXTENSION!



CREATE

Inspired by your research, write a story or poem about an encounter with your favourite sea creature. It could be from your point of view or from theirs.

PLAN YOUR WRITING HERE



ILLUSTRATE

Create an artwork of your sea creature based on your research. Choose your materials carefully and pay attention to your colour palette, light and sense of movement.

USE THIS SPACE TO PLAN YOUR ART

EXTENSION!

You may want to use modelling materials to make your sea creature, like Sophia. Display your models in the classroom to create a class aquarium.