

**SAVE OUR SEAS
TEACHING RESOURCE**

Save Our Seas

Written by Maria Gill

Illustrated by Vivienne Lingard

A non-fiction picture book from New Holland Publishers

Synopsis

Join Skipper L.B. Tross on a voyage around New Zealand. You will discover fascinating facts about the amazing creatures and plants that live in and beside the sea, such as dolphins, whales, penguins and more.

Inspired by the environmental work achieved by the legendary sailor and explorer Sir Peter Blake, the Skipper reveals exactly what is going on in the oceans around us and how our marine life are being endangered by our destructive human ways. Read the shocking facts then be inspired to take action to SAVE OUR SEAS.

About the Author

Maria Gill's signature is writing environmental books for children that will engage and inform. Like any New Zealander she has always lived not very far from the sea and feels happiest when she is only a walk away from the beach.

Maria has a teaching degree and spent many years (on and off) teaching at Primary and Intermediate levels. When she took time off to have her children she put her life-long dream to write a book into practice. Since then she has written seven children's books, numerous educational books and freelance articles. She personally takes action by helping co-ordinate kiwi releases on Motuora Island and takes part in tree planting and kiwi counting days at her local sanctuary.

Maria enjoys writing creative non-fiction books that bring to life tales about the environment and wildlife, and compliments them with facts and persuasive text to encourage children to take action.

Maria Gill's book: 'Bird's-eye View' was shortlisted for the LIANZA Elsie Locke award and named a Notable non-fiction children's book by Storylines in 2007.

About the Illustrator

Vivienne Lingard has been a professional artist from the age of seventeen, when she acquired her first job in an advertising agency.

She specialises in drawing, using a range of mediums which include, colour pencil, charcoal and ink. She is known for her ability to draw people but she can draw 'virtually anything'. Vivienne was delighted when asked to illustrate Save Our Seas, for she loves New Zealand, its nature and marine life.

Sitting at her easel, (looking out to native bush), drawing dolphins, sea lions, penguins etc., is just the kind of work she likes.

About Sir Peter Blake Trust – www.sirpeterblaketrust.org

The Sir Peter Blake Trust aims to help New Zealanders make a positive difference for the planet through activities that encourage environmental awareness and action, and leadership development. The Sir Peter Blake Trust intends to inspire awareness of the marine environment.

Writing Style

Maria Gill has used a range of writing styles in SAVE OUR SEAS targeting the 8-12 year old reader. The book includes:

- **Creative non-fiction** style with voyage logs depicting the journey around the North and South islands of New Zealand written in the voice of the Skipper.
- **Factual text boxes** about what is endangering marine environments and animals.
- **Persuasive text boxes** encouraging children to take action to help the marine animals and environment.
- **Informative text boxes** about the different marine animals.
- Lady Pippa Blake has given permission for **quotes** to be included from Sir Peter Blake's logs from his Blake Expedition around Antarctica and South America.
- **Interactive activities** to engage children, plus **jokes** and **websites** to explore more on the subject.
- At the back of the book are **references, examples** and more information for children to take action.
- The last two pages include an extensive **glossary** and **index**.

Illustration Style

For Save Our Seas Vivienne has painted colourful cartoons and sketched scenes and maps to depict each part of the voyage. Every double page has intricate drawings for each of the animals featured. She has used gouache for the paintings, graphite pencil for the sketched scenes and maps, and a mix of graphite pencil, ink pen and colour pencil for the creatures.

Classroom discussion points

1. Introduce Unit by asking what does 'Save Our Seas' mean? What needs to be saved and why? If we didn't do anything to help our seas – what would happen?
2. Why has the author chosen the title? Is it similar to something else i.e. Save Our Souls – SOS – a marine alarm.
3. Talk about Sir Peter Blake and his caring for the marine environment. Why is it important that famous leaders like him tell us about what is happening to the environment?
4. If one marine species is endangered how does that affect the rest of the food chain gang?
5. As a classroom, brainstorm what they know about the status of our marine environment.

Classroom activities

1. Select a marine animal to do an Inquiry project. Set yourself some questions to explore such as: What is the status of this animal in New Zealand (endangered)? How many are left and where are they? What is harming them?

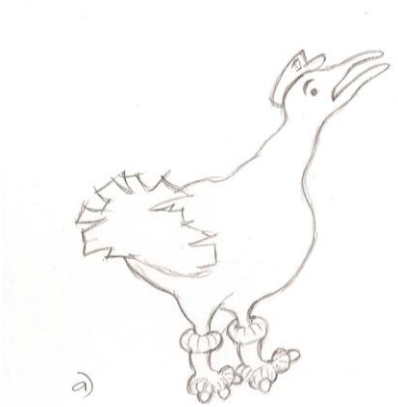
2. Take Action as a class: clean up a beach see www.sirpeterblake.org site for a 'Clean Up Our Coast' kit, raise money to donate to a marine animal cause, visit a marine reserve near you then a beach near you and compare their status.
3. Write letters to policy makers to stop harmful fishing practices or encourage them to establish more marine reserves. Ask those people to come to your school to tell you what they are doing to help the marine animals and environments.
4. Each member of the class take on a personal action such as having zero waste lunch boxes, being a recycling monitor in the class, taking own bags when go shopping (and encouraging rest of family to do so).
5. Write an imaginary ship's log of your journey around part of New Zealand coast line (perhaps somewhere you have been before) and what you see there.
6. Draw a poster about harmful fishing methods and why it should be stopped.
7. Design a pamphlet that is a manual on how to Save Our Seas. For example, reducing use of plastic, being careful what you put down drains, only catching what you can eat...
8. Draw a wall mural showing the fish at different sea levels with speech bubbles saying what is endangering them.
9. Have a classroom debate about some of the fishing methods, keeping in mind some marine animals are being harmed and their species are becoming endangered vs. Fishermen are becoming more responsible and this is their livelihood.
10. Using the information from the book, design your own word puzzle or word find.
11. Draw a Venn diagram on two marine animals such as: dolphins and whales, squid and octopus, seals and sea lions, sharks and sting rays, albatross and gannets. When comparing the two species also include how they are endangered and what is endangering them.
12. Draw a chart about the different conservation methods: Matakaitai, marine parks, marine reserves, and marine mammal reserves. Example:

	Matakaitai	Marine Park	Marine Reserve	Marine mammal reserve
Ban on set nets	√			
Ban on commercial fishing	√			
Ban on all fishing				
Fishing only allowed in certain seasons	√			

ART ACTIVITY:

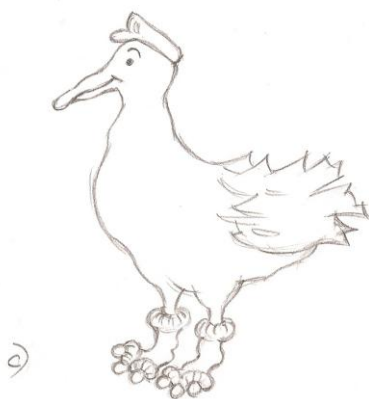
Draw a cartoon of your favourite New Zealand Seabird

- a) Draw a simple outline sketch using an HB or similar pencil
- b) A 2B pencil will make the outline bolder and shade in selected areas well



CHANGE AN EXPRESSION

- c) When you want your character to be happy remember to lift the eyebrow/s and make them smile
- d) When you want your character to be sad, just make the eyebrow's go down, and turn the corners of their mouth down. (Notice I've also turned the tail feathers down).



A FEW LINES IS ALL THAT IT TAKES! Happy drawing!