

Name: _____

Date: _____

KAKAWIN OF CLAYOQUOT SOUND

StoryMap Scavenger Hunt

This activity was developed by West Coast NEST, an initiative of the Clayoquot Biosphere Trust, based on the 'Kakawin of Clayoquot Sound' [StoryMap](#) created by Strawberry Isle Marine Research Society now under Redd Fish Restoration Society, with funding provided by the NSERC PromoScience program.

Photo Credit: Sophie Vanderbanck



KAKAWIN OF CLAYOQUOT SOUND

StoryMap Scavenger Hunt

Pre-Reading: The goal is to activate and connect to prior knowledge: *Full sentences*

In your opinion, what makes Kakawin special?	
Do you think Kakawin are doing well? What do you think threatens them as a species?	
Have you seen a kakawin in the wild? If so, where? What was your experience?	

Activity: Work through the StoryMap to assist you with answering. Take your time and think critically. *Point form accepted, make sure to answer all parts of the question*

What does 'kakawin' mean in Nuuchah-nulth language?	
Aside from orcas, what other animal is protected under Indigenous law? What is its Nuuchah-nulth name?	
In the mid 1900s what did the Canadian military do to whales?	
How many orca were captured for aquariums by 1976? What do you think this did to whale populations?	

How did Michael Bigg's conduct a census on killer whales?	
How do researchers keep track of individual whales?	
What distinguishing features can help us to identify orcas?	
Why are Bigg's Killer Whales considered threatened?	
How far does the public need to stay away from kakawin? How does that compare to researchers?	
What are key elements of kakawin family trees?	
Of Big Momma's gang, which offspring broke away to form their own pod?	
What are some foods that researchers have observed Bigg's whales targeting in Clayoquot Sound?	
Provide an example of a marine mammal incident that could threaten kakawin.	

Critical Thinking Questions: Apply your understanding, think bigger, deeper and connect. *Full sentences*

Why is it important to identify individual whales?	
After exploring the StoryMap, what is something that surprised you?	
If you had a whale researcher in front of you, what would you ask them?	



TEACHER RESOURCE

This key uses typical answers based on the StoryMap content; adapt as needed

What does 'kakawin' mean in Nuuchah-nulth language?	Something sticking out it's back
Aside from orcas, what other animal is protected under Indigenous law? What is its Nuuchah-nulth name?	Wolves are also protected. In Nuuchah-nulth wolves are called Qwayačiik
In the mid 1900s what did the Canadian military do to whales?	Used them for shooting/target practice
How many orca were captured for aquariums by 1976? What do you think this did to whale populations?	270 whales captured. Impacts could include: • Whale deaths • Fragmentation of family groups/pods • Stress to whales put in tanks • Population reduction of southern resident whales
How did Michael Bigg's conduct a census on killer whales?	To begin the census, Bigg sent out 15,000 questionnaires to boaters, lighthouse keepers, fishermen and others along the BC coast asking them to record and report all killer whale sightings for a single day. Later he took photographs of individual whales.
How do researchers keep track of individual whales?	By photographs
What distinguishing features can help us to identify orcas?	Dorsal fin, scars, saddle patches, eye patch
Why are Bigg's Killer Whales considered threatened?	Biological factors such as small population sizes and low reproductive rates, as well as anthropogenic factors including habitat degradation, pollution, and vessel-related disturbances.
How far does the public need to stay away from kakawin? How does that compare to researchers?	General population: 200m and 400m for critical habitat zones. Researchers are permitted to go much closer to take necessary photographs that could be identifiable.

What are key elements of kakawin family trees?	The mother whales, whether they are dead or alive, if they travel together
Of Big Momma's gang, which offspring broke away to form their own pod?	Runaway
What are some foods that researchers have observed Bigg's whales targeting in Clayoquot Sound?	Harbour seal and harbour porpoise
Provide an example of a marine mammal incident that could threaten kakawin	Entanglements and vessel collisions

Critical Thinking Questions: Answers will vary

Suggested Extension Activities & Continued Learning Opportunities

- Create an interview for a whale expert/researcher. Make contact with a local expert to call into or visit class.
- Whale watching tour.
- Bigg's Whale Identification using catalogue:
 - <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5e08d89eb332e25b0ca3c3b4/t/6286c59e05fdbb0f8e49e5be/1652999599166/KW+ID+Guide+.pdf>
- Novel/literary studies on excerpts from Moby Dick, and Spirit of our Whaling Ancestors to analyze cultural and changing perspectives on whales.

Curriculum developed by **Monique Comeau** of the West Coast NEST, an initiative of the Clayoquot Biosphere Trust, based on the 'Kakawin of Clayoquot Sound' [StoryMap](#) created by **Strawberry Isle Marine Research Society**, with funding provided by the NSERC PromoScience program.

SIMRS operations have been brought under [Redd Fish Restoration Society](#) (Redd Fish). The amalgamation of SIMRS into Redd Fish reflects a shared commitment to the well-being of our oceans, the preservation of fish habitats, and the care and stewardship of marine ecosystems

What is West Coast N.E.S.T.?

The West Coast N.E.S.T. (Nature. Education. Sustainability. Transformation.) is a regional initiative led by the Clayoquot Biosphere Trust that connects communities, organizations, businesses, and knowledge holders on the west coast of Vancouver Island.

Through education, collaboration, and capacity-building, the NEST creates meaningful learning opportunities, promotes the region's diverse educational programs, and supports a resilient and diversified local economy.

The NEST also facilitates place-based learning by connecting learners with local experts, creating educational resources, and hosting community events.

Learn more at westcoastnest.org.

Looking for more place-based educational content?

The West Coast NEST connects visitors and residents with unique and impactful learning opportunities. Many of these come in the form of place-based, face-to-face, and hands-on activities, but the NEST also helps share the region's abundant knowledge with schools and learners from afar. You can explore local research and conservation work through our online collaborative resources such as our interview series and our StoryMaps collection.

For high school, university, and adult groups seeking immersive educational experiences, we also offer customized itinerary planning, on-site orientation, and ongoing support for each visit. Delivered by regional partners, each program can be tailored to include hands-on learning in areas such as Indigenous culture, ecology, sustainability, science, language, history, outdoor education, and the arts.

Contact info@westcoastnest.org to start planning.

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