



# **Toroa at Taiaroa**

A Social Science Programme for  
Primary Students  
at the **Royal Albatross Centre**

Student Work Sheets  
2011

# Getting to know the Royal Albatross

## Northern Royal Albatross



## What is your favourite bird?

Draw it here:

A large, empty rounded rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for a student to draw their favourite bird.

## Steward Island Shag



## Black Backed Gull



## How are the birds similar?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

## How are the birds different?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

**Can these people help make an albatross happy? How?**



---

---

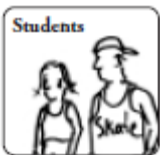
---



---

---

---



---

---

---



---

---

---



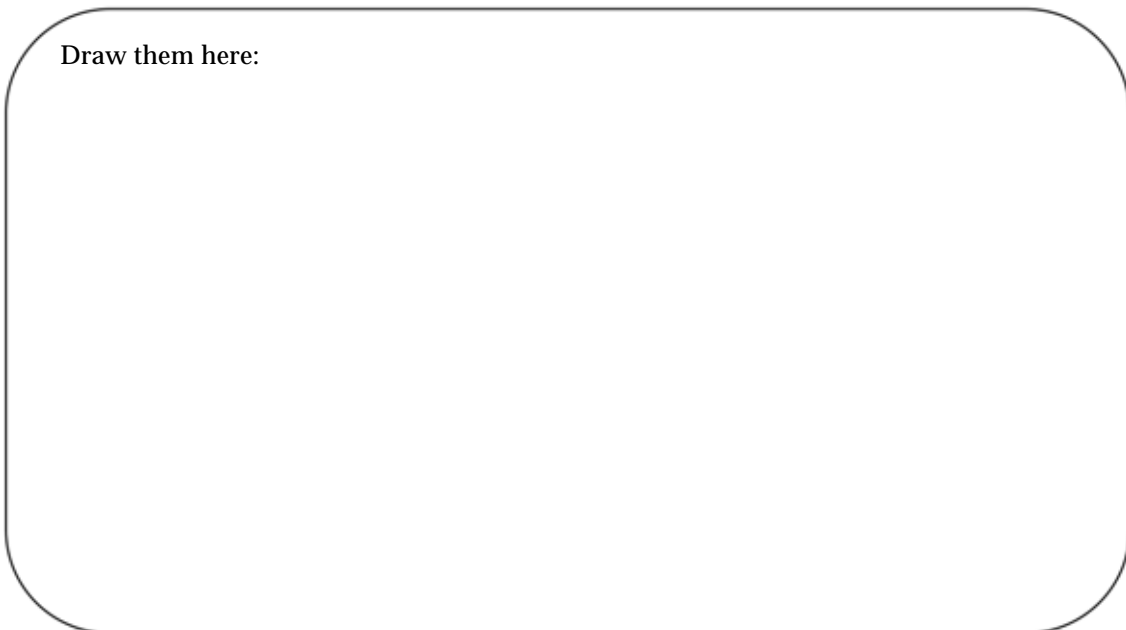
---

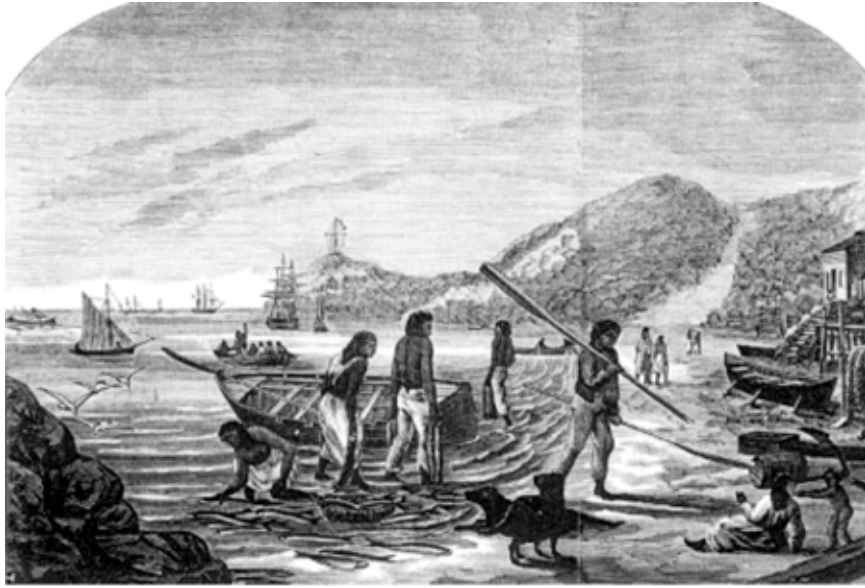
---

---

**What are some things that could harm the albatross?**

Draw them here:





<b>Pukekura (Maori Pa Site - 1750 to mid 1800's)</b>	
<b>Features of Site</b> Why was this site used for a Pa?	
<b>Food &amp; Water</b> What did the Maori like to eat and where did they get their food?	
<b>Shelter</b> What structures were built on the headland? Where were the houses?	
<b>Transport</b> Where did the Maori travel to and how did they get there?	
<b>Impact on Site</b> How did the site change during this period?	



<b>Taiaroa Head Signal Station (1920 to present)</b>	
<p><b>Features of Site</b> Why was a signal station important to this site?</p>	
<p><b>Food &amp; Water</b> What did the signal men eat and how did they get their food?</p>	
<p><b>Shelter</b> Where did the signal men live and where were the pilot boats moored?</p>	
<p><b>Transport</b> Describe what the role of the harbour pilot was.</p>	
<p><b>Impact on Site</b> How did the site change during this period?</p>	



<b>Fort Taiaroa (Defensive Reserve – 1885 to 1945)</b>	
<p><b>Features of Site</b> Why was this site chosen for a defense reserve?</p>	
<p><b>Food &amp; Water</b> What did the troops eat? Where did their food come from?</p>	
<p><b>Shelter</b> What types of buildings were built on the headland?</p>	
<p><b>Transport</b> How were the people, equipment and supplies transported to and from the site?</p>	
<p><b>Impact on Site</b> How did the site change during this period?</p>	



<b>Royal Albatross Colony (Wildlife Reserve – 1920 to present)</b>	
<p><b>Features of Site</b> Why have the albatrosses come here to breed?</p>	
<p><b>Food &amp; Water</b> What do albatrosses eat? Where is that food found?</p>	
<p><b>Shelter</b> How do the albatross deal with the weather conditions?</p>	
<p><b>Transport</b> Describe how the albatross fly and where they go.</p>	
<p><b>Impact on Site</b> How as the site changed during this period?</p>	

## Enhancement Facts / Questions

<p><b>Pukekura</b> – Maori Pa Site</p>	<p><b>Taiaroa Head</b> - Signal Station</p>	<p><b>Fort Taiaroa</b> - Defensive Reserve</p>	<p><b>Royal Albatross Colony</b> - Wildlife Reserve - Tourist Attraction</p>
<p><b>1750 →</b></p>	<p><b>mid 1800's →</b></p>	<p><b>1885 to 1945</b></p>	<p><b>1920 →</b></p>
<p>A pa, similar to a fort, provided Maori with a safe place during times of tribal warfare.</p> <p><b>Why would Pukekura be a good place for a pa?</b></p>	<p>The Harbour Pilot's job is to guide visiting ships safely into the harbour. The first harbour pilot lived at Taiaroa Head.</p> <p><b>Why is the beach at the base of the headland called "Pilot's Beach"?</b></p>	<p>When it was feared that the Russians might attack NZ, guns were put on the headland to protect the harbour entrance.</p> <p><b>Was the disappearing gun ever used?</b></p>	<p>The first record of an Albatross egg on the headland was in 1920. The first chick to survive didn't occur until 1937.</p> <p><b>Why did the eggs / chicks not survive in the early days?</b></p>
<p>Maori used the land and sea surrounding the headland, to gather food.</p> <p><b>What do you think the Maori liked to eat?</b></p>	<p>The lighthouse was built to warn ships of the dangerous sand bar at harbour entrance.</p> <p><b>Why are lighthouses not so important for present day shipping activities?</b></p>	<p>Soldiers and their families lived at Taiaroa Head during this period.</p> <p><b>What type of buildings were built at Taiaroa Head?</b></p>	<p>Albatross only come to land to breed, spending most of their life at sea.</p> <p><b>Why do you think they choose to breed at Taiaroa Head?</b></p>