

# Maui Goes Fishing

**M**aiui's four older brothers never let him join in their fun. One morning, they all rose with the sun to go deep-sea fishing in their special canoe.

"Please let me come with you," begged Maui, but his older brothers just laughed at him and teased him. "One day, little tiddler, but not today. There isn't enough room in our canoe for you as well as all the fish we're planning to bring home with us. Another time, perhaps!"





But Maui wasn't one to sulk. He had magic powers that his family didn't know about. While his brothers got their fishing gear ready, he came up with a plan to use his magic. When he was a baby, he had been given an enchanted jawbone by the ocean spirits. He hid it in a secret box.

He took out the jawbone and crafted it into a fishing hook, then he plaited some flax into a fishing line, and he climbed into the bottom of their canoe, concealing himself inside a basket.

When at last the four brothers were ready to set out, they grumbled about how much heavier the canoe felt, but set off over the waves to a place where the water was teeming with life.

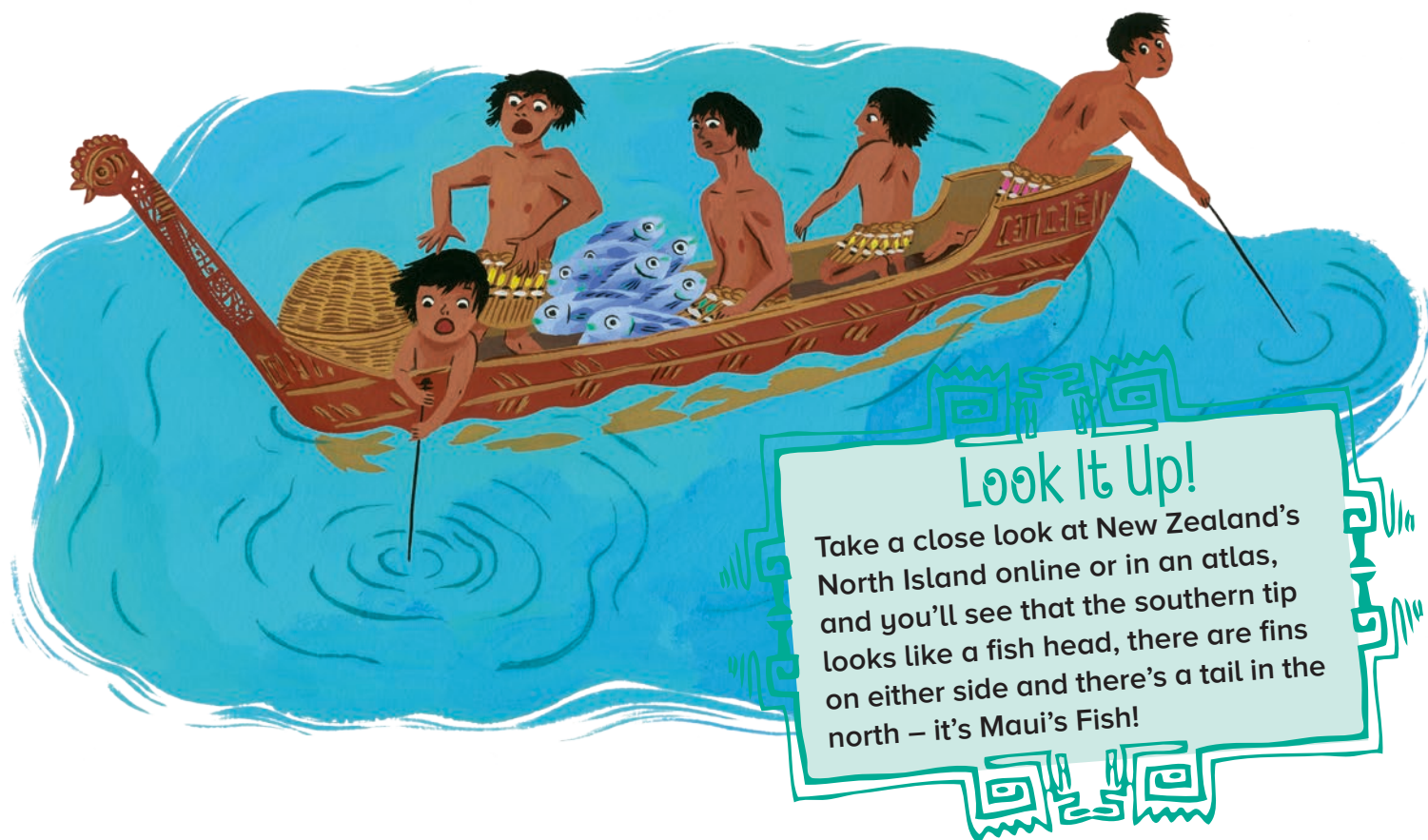
When they were far out at sea, one of the brothers grabbed the basket to store his catch inside – and he uncovered Maui. “Little squirt!” he said. “You tricked us! We’re taking you back to shore right now!” ➡

## Did You Know?

In Maori legend, when Maui was born, his mother Taranga wrapped him in a length of her hair and threw him into the sea, where he was raised by ocean spirits. When he returned, he lived with his family on the mythical island of Hawaiki, before the Maori people all moved to the North Island.







The brothers took up their paddles again, but Maui wished on his magic fish-hook that the seashore would look further and further away – and, after ten minutes of paddling, the brothers were so tired, they gave up.

“Keep out of our way, pipsqueak,” they grumbled, and the brothers cast their fishing lines into the sea.



Maui stayed down the bottom end of the canoe, sure that his brothers would be so busy catching fish, they wouldn't know what he was up to – then he quietly dropped the mystical fish-hook over the edge of the boat.

At the other end of the canoe, the brothers were having great success, and their basket was starting to fill up with fish. But, all of a sudden, Maui felt a powerful tug on his line. The tug was so strong that Maui feared he might be dragged into the water.

“Brothers! Quick, help me!” he cried, gripping his fishing line tightly. The four brothers dashed towards Maui just as the canoe was about to capsize and, together, they heaved and tugged with all their might until – to their great surprise – a towering hunk of land surfaced before them. It was shaped like a fish. Maui had caught New Zealand's North Island!

Maui was worried that the ocean spirits would be angry with him for catching the island, so he dived into the sea to ask for their forgiveness. Before he went, he asked his four brothers to guard his brilliant catch.

However, while Maui was making peace, his greedy brothers started to hack and chop at the fish-shaped land, trying to claim little bits of it for

themselves – and this is why New Zealand’s North Island is so craggy and mountainous.

After performing the miracle of fishing out the North Island, Maui became famous among the Maori people and he grew up to be a much-loved demigod. And, to this day, the North Island of New Zealand is also known as Te Ika A Maui – or Maui’s Fish. 🌀



## IN BRIEF

Maui Goes Fishing is a famous Maori myth from New Zealand about a boy who uses a magic fishhook to go fishing and accidentally catches New Zealand's North Island.



## LITERACY LESSON IDEAS

- Read the story, then ask these comprehension questions:
  1. Why didn't the brothers want Maui to go fishing with them?
  2. Who gave Maui an enchanted jawbone?
  3. What wish did Maui make to fool his brothers?
  4. Why was Maui worried when he caught the North Island?
  5. According to this myth, why is the North Island so mountainous?
- See our **Maui Goes Fishing Word Wise Sheet** to find the meanings for any new or tricky words, and try our easy exercises.
- Maui's brothers call him names. They call him 'squirt', 'tiddler' and 'pipsqueak'. Why do you think they call him this? Are they being nice to Maui? Look up 'pipsqueak' in the dictionary. Can you think of three nicer words to use instead? What do you think Maui's brothers called him when he became a demigod?
- For more Maori myths about Maui, visit the New Zealand Ministry of Education website: <http://eng.mataurangamaori.tki.org.nz/Support-materials/Te-Reo-Maori/Maori-Myths-Legends-and-Contemporary-Stories>.



## P.E. LESSON IDEAS

- A *haka* is a dance traditionally performed by Maori men and women. The New Zealand rugby team made it famous by performing a haka before every match. You can learn about it and watch one here: <https://www.maori.com/haka>. Can you perform a haka too?



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## GEOGRAPHY LESSON IDEAS

- Use Google Maps or an atlas to locate New Zealand. Look at its North Island. In the story, it says that the island is sometimes called 'Maui's Fish.' Does it look like a fish? The myth also says that the South Island is called Maui's canoe. Does it look like a canoe?
- To learn more fascinating facts about New Zealand, print out our **New Zealand Fact Sheet**, and add your own fun fact.
- Use a map to help you name and find the following locations in New Zealand:
  1. Capital city
  2. Highest mountain
  3. Largest lake
  4. Largest active volcano
  5. Largest glacier
- The official languages of New Zealand are English and Maori. Maori is the language of native New Zealanders. The Maori word for 'Hello' is 'Kia Ora'. Teach your class how to say it and hear a sound file for it at the Maori Dictionary: <http://maoridictionary.co.nz>
- Can you learn five interesting facts about Maori culture? How did the Maori people come to live in New Zealand? Write them on our **Maori Factfile Sheet**.

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## ART LESSON IDEAS

- Print out our **Maui Goes Fishing Colouring Sheet** and colour it in. Make it look like an island, with lots of mountains and lakes, or turn it into a colourful giant fish!
- Getting a tattoo or 'moko' is a sacred ritual in Maori culture. Some Maori men have moko patterns all over their faces, and women have them on their chins. Read more about them here: <http://media.newzealand.com/en/story-ideas/ta-moko-significance-of-maori-tattoos/> Print out our **Maui's Moko Sheet** and design your own moko.
- Make your own colourful fish and go fishing like Maui! Print out our **Maui Goes Fishing Game Sheet** and follow our easy steps.
- What do you think the ocean spirits look like? Draw them in our **Storytime Picture Frame**.

## KNOW YOUR VERBS

Read the story again. Can you find five verbs ending in 'ing'? Write them here. Do you know what they mean? **Example:** *Fishing – to catch fish*

1

2

3

4

5

## WORD WATCH

These words are used in *Maui Goes Fishing* in Storytime Issue 20. Find out what they mean.

- ▷ **Sulk** – feel grumpy
- ▷ **Crafted** – made by hand
- ▷ **Flax** – a plant with strong stalks used to make fabrics or rope
- ▷ **Concealing** – hiding
- ▷ **Teeming** – full of
- ▷ **Tug** – a hard, sudden pull
- ▷ **Capsize** – turn over in water
- ▷ **Towering** – big and tall
- ▷ **Surfaced** – come to the top of water

## COMPREHENSION CHECK

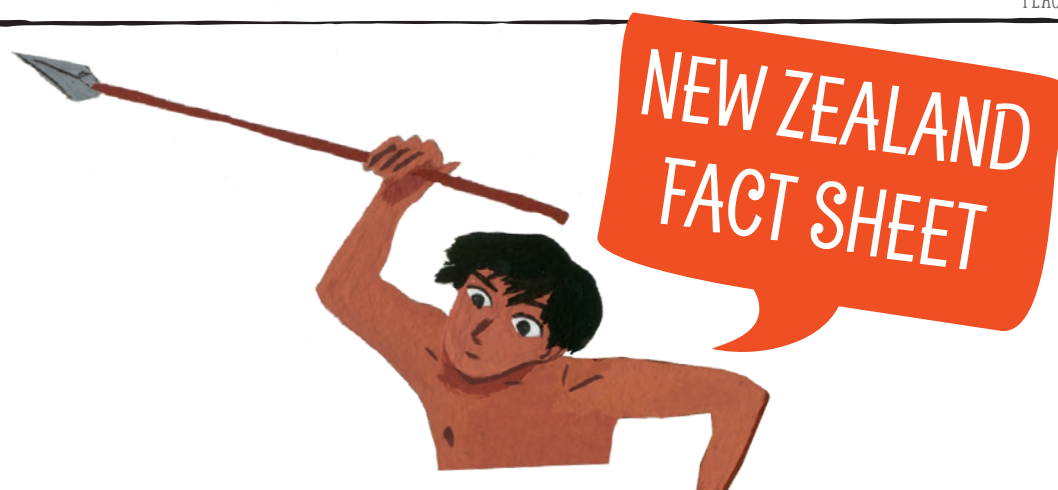
1. In the story, what was Maui concealing?

2. What was teeming?

3. What was towering?

## WRITE IT!

Pretend that you are Maui. Write a short diary entry about how Maui feels about his brothers and how they treat him.



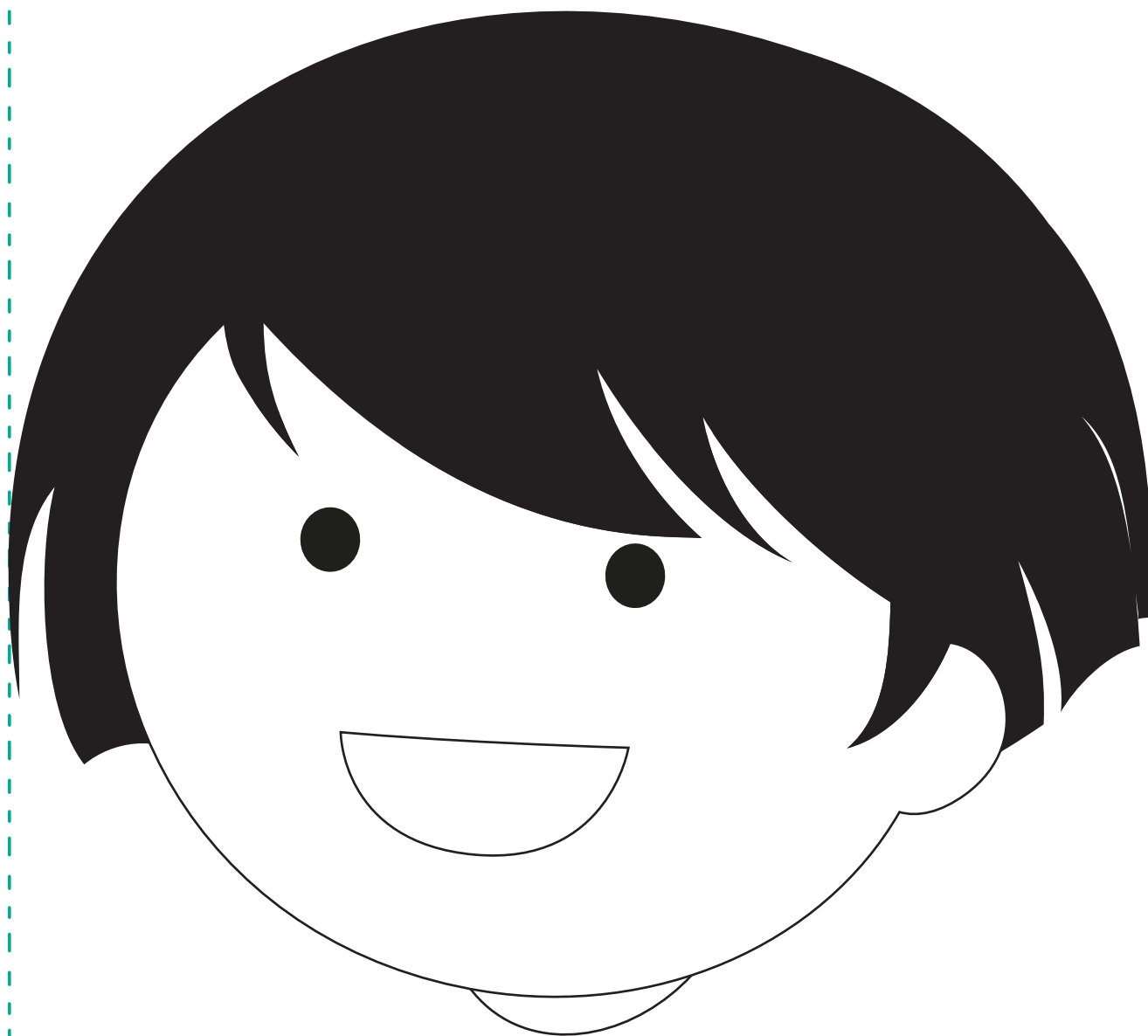
- New Zealand is made of two main islands: North Island (Maui's Fish) and South Island.
- New Zealand is bigger than the UK, but there are over 65 million people living in the UK, and only 4.5 million living in New Zealand!
- New Zealand's capital city is Wellington on the North Island.
- The North Island is famous for its active volcanoes. There are over 25 of them! The largest active volcano is called Mount Ruapehu.
- The Rotorua area in North Island is well known for its hot springs, mud pools and geysers, which spray water up to 100 feet high!
- Maori villagers, who live in Rotorua, use the hot springs for cooking, bathing and heating their homes.
- The South Island has a mountain range called the Southern Alps. It runs down the centre of the island and is 310 miles (500km) long.
- Mount Cook, in the Southern Alps, is the highest mountain in New Zealand. It is 12,218 feet (3724m) high. In Maori, it is called Aoraki.
- The Southern Alps have amazing slow-moving ice glaciers. The Tasman Glacier is the longest and biggest. It is 17 miles (27km) long.
- People from New Zealand are sometimes called 'Kiwis' after their national bird.
- Like many birds in New Zealand, the Kiwi can't fly. Over millions of years, it stopped flying because there were no big predators to hunt it down. New Zealand has more flightless birds than any other country in the world.

**Find out an interesting fact about  
New Zealand and write it here!**



## MAUI'S MOKO SHEET

Use a black pencil or crayon to give Maui an amazing Maori tattoo or 'moko'.



NAME \_\_\_\_\_

CLASS \_\_\_\_\_

## COLOURING SHEET

**TIP!**

Colour it in, turn it  
into a fish or use  
it as a map.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

CLASS \_\_\_\_\_





## MAORI FACTFILE SHEET

Maori culture and history is fascinating.  
Can you find out five interesting facts  
and write them down here?

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ CLASS \_\_\_\_\_

### My Maori facts...

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

\_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

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4. \_\_\_\_\_

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5. \_\_\_\_\_

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## MAUI GOES FISHING GAME SHEET



The whole class can take part in this fun educational game, inspired by the Maori myth, Maui Goes Fishing, in Storytime Issue 20.

### YOU NEED:

- A stick, short pole or long ruler
- String
- Strong glue
- Magnet
- Maui's Fish Colouring Sheets
- Colouring pens or pencils
- Scissors
- Laminator
- Hole punch
- Metal paper clips
- Wipe-clean marker
- Bucket (optional)

- Tie string around one end of the stick to make it more like a fishing rod.
- To the other end of the string, tie or glue on a magnet.
- Ask everyone to colour in Maui's Fish, then cut out and laminate each fish.
- Punch a hole in the top of each fish, then put a metal paper clip through each hole.
- On the back of one fish, write 'North Island', then put all the fish in a bucket or on the floor.
- Let each child take it in turns to go fishing. The magnet will stick to the paper clip to hook a fish. Who will catch North Island?

### Here are some ways you can adapt this game:

- Number the fish and ask the children to hook them in numerical order or ask them to hook a sum (the answer to  $3 + 5$ , for instance).
- Write different New Zealand locations on the back of each fish, as well as North Island, and turn it into a geography investigation.
- Write a nice adjective or praise on the back of each fish, so that each child hooks something special.

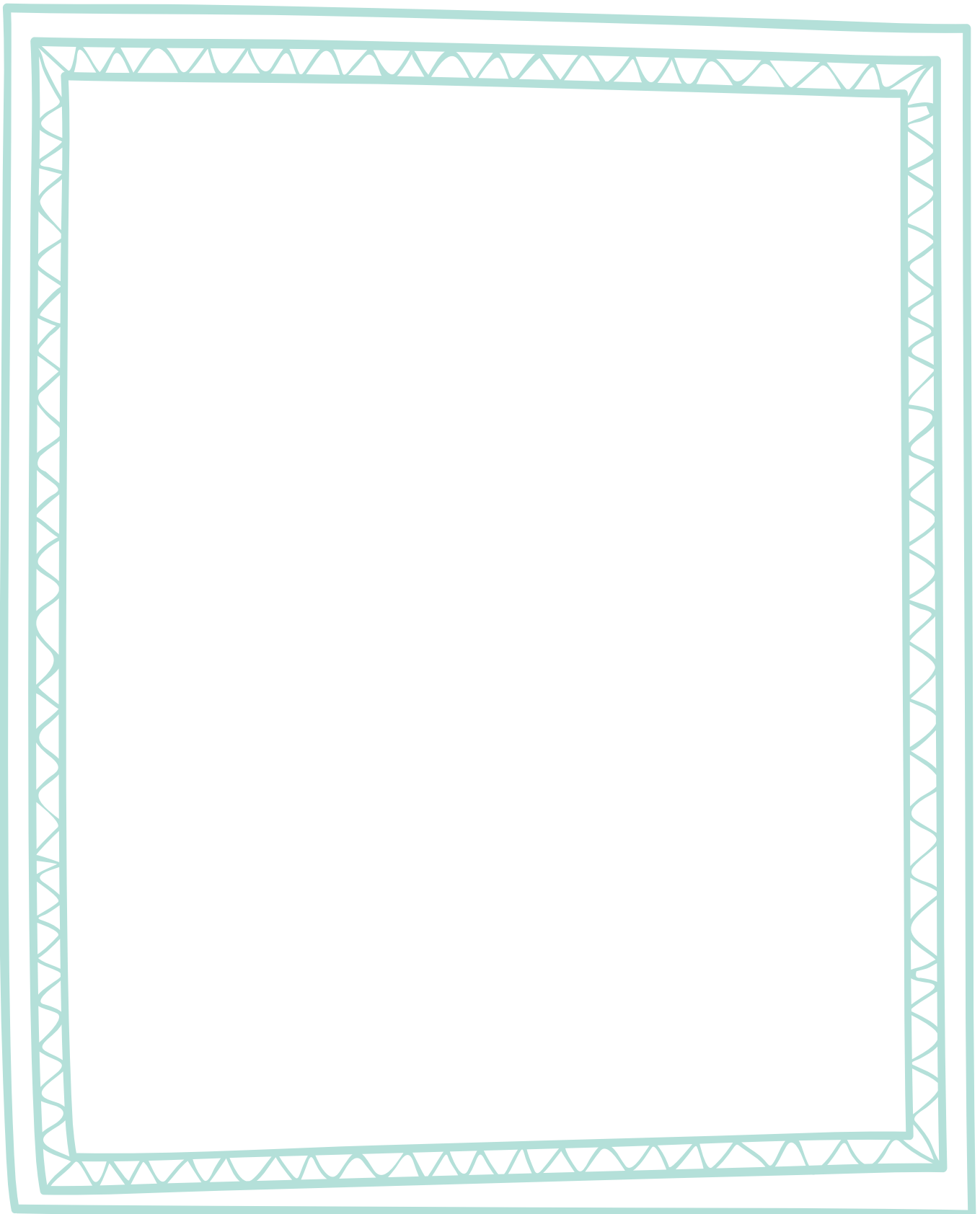




# MAUI GOES FISHING: PICTURE FRAME

**storytime™**  
TEACHING RESOURCES

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ CLASS \_\_\_\_\_



NAME \_\_\_\_\_ CLASS \_\_\_\_\_

