

Google Earth Layer Rubric for Whale Rider

General Directions: Students will create a layer in Google Earth visualizing the journey of the southern right whales pod in *The Whale Rider*. Students will be responsible for summarizing their journey and discussing their role in the book and Maori culture. Students should discuss in their placemarks what motivated them to go, any social, biological, ecological factors and/or mythical elements. Placemarks can obtain text, images or paintings of Maori cultural artifacts, news articles, video of the geography, ecology, and Maori society that help to clarify points made in your discussion. The path tool should be used to connect each placemark in order to visualize their journey. At the end, students will be required to create a short animated tour using the built in animation tools in Google Earth. A few examples will be posted on the school’s wiki site. If you don’t wish for yours to be posted, please notify the instructor. Student may work on this project in the library or one of the computer labs. Students may also download the software at home for free from Google Earth – <http://earth.google.com>.

Item	Points Possible	Points Earned
Content: Each placemark contains 1-2 paragraphs of 5-7 sentences each that describe the the journey of the whales and Maori culture. Students should concentrate on the role of the southern right whale in Maori mythology and how they are used by the author to connect man and nature. The central purpose of the theme is evident to the reader and should be discussed in the first placemark. Placemark content is arranged logically to tell the story of the whales’ journey and the student’s writing is compelling, enticing the reader to go on to subsequent placemarks in order to learn the story. The writing is free of errors.	15	
Links: The students has provide at least one link to an outside source for 3 or more placemarks to encourage the reader to learn more about the southern right whale, the ecology of one of the places visited by the whales or the Maori culture. These links could connect the reader with museums, historical sites, or libraries where related cultural, historical or scientific documents are stored.	5	
Icons: An appropriate icon for the subject matter was used. The size, color and style of the icon are easily noticed in Earth. Icon labels are clear, concise and have no spelling or grammar mistakes. Title case was used. Custom icons can be found at: http://www.iconarchives.com	2	
Pictures: Appropriate images are used to help illicit the student’s point about a particular place visited by the whales. Images are not larger than 400 and not less than 200 in width. Images are clear, not fuzzy and compliment the text of the placemark. Appropriate attribution for each image taken from the internet or an online historical database is given under the image.	3	
Path: Path is used to connect the placemarks in order to show the progression of the whales’ journey. Students should choose an appropriate color, and size for the path that reflect the color themes used in the placemark icons and are easily seen in Earth. Suggest width of the path should be set at 1.5 pixels.	3	
Animated Tour: Create a short 1-3 minutes overview of your project using the animation tools. You should visit each important placemark in your tour. Briefly describe what each placemark is about. You might even think about give some information on the research and production process that you went through to create the layer. It’s like thinking out loud when your teacher models something for you in class.	5	
File Management: Students have created a folder on the schools’ network drive for the project and have saved their work to the project folder. Students have appropriately saved all objects in the layer as a KMZ file. Students will upload their project to the schools course management software workgroup for their class.	3	
XHTML Code: Students have appropriately used code to layout their placemark including page layout tags, line break tags to separate pictures from text, paragraph tags to separate paragraphs, and image tags to adjust the size of the image to fit the placemark and to provide appropriate attribution for the image. No code errors are visible in the placemark when viewed in Earth.	4	
Total	40	