



## Explorer Classroom Event Guide: Grades PreK-2

### Saving Tokitae | Rena Priest

Explorer Classroom is for everyone! This guide is designed for your students or family to get the most out of Explorer Classroom. After the event, please share your thoughts, activities, and learnings with us on Twitter [@NatGeoEducation](https://twitter.com/NatGeoEducation) using [#ExplorerClassroom](https://twitter.com/ExplorerClassroom).

**November 23, 2020, 11:00 AM ET**

#### BEFORE YOU TUNE IN

##### SIGN UP

Register [here!](#)

#### BEFORE THE EVENT

If you plan to share this event with students virtually or encourage their participation independently, check out our tips for kids working Independently (p.7) in the [Family Guide to Using National Geographic Education Resources](#) and our virtual tips throughout this guide.

This event is recommended for learners in grades PreK-2. As a group, build your background knowledge prior to the event with one of these activities or any combination of the linked resources that best fits your needs:

- ❑ **Read** the biography for poet and author [Rena Priest](#) out loud to familiarize yourself and your students with her work.
- ❑ Rena is a member of the Lhaq'temish, or Lummi Nation, in Washington State. **Read** about the Native people of the Pacific Northwest in this [article](#) from National Geographic Kids.
- ❑ Did you know that orcas, also known as killer whales, are not technically whales at all? They're dolphins! **Find** more cool facts in this [infographic](#).
- ❑ **Look** closely at these [photos of orcas](#). What do you notice about the creature? What questions do you have about it? *(Optional: adults can then help learners find answers to their questions in the article)*
- ❑ Rena wants to take Tokitae the orca on a big journey from Florida to Washington. Work together to find Florida and Washington using [MapMaker](#). Then measure the distance of Tokitae's journey!
- ❑ **Brainstorm** questions for the Explorer that either focus on the person themselves, or their work. Help your learner revise their questions making sure they 1) only ask one thing; 2) have a clear purpose; and 3) are specific. You may need to work together through a few drafts to arrive at a solid final question. Review questions together and select two favorites to ask on-air (if you [registered](#)) or via **Twitter** [@NatGeoEducation](https://twitter.com/NatGeoEducation) using [#ExplorerClassroom](https://twitter.com/ExplorerClassroom).

## DURING THE EVENT

As you listen, have students take notes using one of the graphic organizers listed below.

- ❑ [Two-Column Chart](#): Print copies or ask your students to draw their own two-column chart. Have your students write things they are learning in one column and in the other, write questions about that information, or draw something related to it.
- ❑ [Cause-and-Effect Diagram](#): Have your students use this organizer to identify what happened (effect) and why it happened (cause).

## AFTER THE EVENT

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Debriefing as a class or family is an important part of the learning journey. Discussion helps learners process ideas, reflect, and make new connections. Use these questions to help provide context to the event. The questions are open-ended and designed to facilitate a discussion about the event you just participated in together. You know your students best! Modify these questions as necessary to spark conversation.

1. What is something you thought was important during the Explorer Classroom event? Did you already know about this or is it new to you?
2. What was one new thing you learned during the Explorer Classroom event you didn't know before? What is one question you still have?
3. Why is exploration important?
4. What is something you would like to explore? Why?
5. What skills, tools, or knowledge would you need to explore?

### REFLECTION ACTIVITY

We encourage students to reflect on what they've learned from the Explorer during the event by completing one of the following tasks and sharing their work with the class, a friend, or family member. Share their great work with us on Twitter—[@NatGeoEducation #Explorer Classroom](#)—so the Explorer can see how much they've learned!

- Draw a picture illustrating one thing you learned from the Explorer.
- Act out what you learned about Rena and her work. If you have stuffed animals, take them out and teach others in your home about them. Consider making your own Explorer Classroom presentation at home like she did!
- Make a poster about the explorer's work and cheer them on.
- Record yourself talking about what you learned from Rena and how you could help. Share it with a friend and invite them to watch the recording of the show.

Virtual Tip: During class video time (e.g. Zoom or Google Hangouts) students can share their drawings or their acting or poster in a virtual show-and-tell.

## EXTENSION RESOURCES

Try one of these resources and keep exploring with National Geographic Education.

- *Join in the Explorer's Mission:* What are you passionate about? Take some time to talk to your friends about your passion and help spread the word, like Rena does with orcas.
- Learn more about threats to animals by watching the Explorer Classroom episode [Protecting Wild Animals with Natasha Daly](#).
- Explore the [Meet the Orca](#) section of the Monterey Bay Aquarium's website to learn more about these marine mammals. Tune into the live cam to see if you can spot killer whales in the Bay!
- To watch past Explorer Classroom events, check out this [YouTube playlist](#).

Looking for more ways to engage your students online, in-person, or at home? Find more on our [Learn Anywhere](#) page or in our [Resource Library](#).