



# All in the Family

## Introduction

There are many different kinds of human and animal families. In Granny's **clan**, there are three big family groups called **pods**. Each pod (J, K and L) is led by the oldest female. Orcas in Granny's clan spend all of their lives with their mother and her family. Many generations of relatives live together, like a family reunion all the time. Males leave for a short time to mate with females in other families, but return to help raise their nieces and nephews. An orca family works together to find food, care for each other and teach the young ones. Like human children, young orcas need to learn lots of skills. But they don't go to a school building to learn. Their school is the sea and their teachers are their grannies, moms, uncles, aunties, older brothers and sisters. If you went to orca school, you would learn skills like: how to use echoes to navigate, how to understand your family's calls, how to find your favorite kind of salmon and how to swim safely around boats. Sometimes young orcas babysit their younger siblings and cousins. Snack time includes a fat tasty salmon. There's always time for play and games to practice breaching, tail-slapping and spy-hopping.

## Key Concepts

- ◆ Orca families and human families help each other provide basic needs.
- ◆ The three big families in Granny's clan are called pods.
- ◆ Young orcas must learn and practice many skills to survive.
- ◆ Older family members teach and babysit younger orcas.

## National Science Education Standards

### Life Science:

- Characteristics of Organisms.
- Organisms and their Environments. (K-4)
- Life Cycles of Organisms (K-4)

### National Council for Teachers of English/ International Reading Association Standards:

4. Students adjust their use of spoken, written and visual language to communicate effectively with a variety of audiences and for different purposes.
12. Students use spoken, written and visual language to accomplish their own purposes.

## Inquiry Questions

- ◆ What makes a family? Why is family important?
- ◆ Who lives in Granny's family? Who lives in your family?
- ◆ What different ways do orca families help each other survive?
- ◆ How is your human family similar to an orca family? Different?
- ◆ How would your life be different if you lived in an orca family?
- ◆ What would it be like to grow up with no family?
- ◆ Do you think a young orphaned orca could survive without family? Why? Can a human?
- ◆ Why do young humans and orcas need to learn so many things as they grow up?
- ◆ What would happen if a young orca or human didn't have any teachers?
- ◆ How do you think games help young orcas and humans learn things?

# All in the Family (Continued pg 2)

## Activity #1-Make a Family Totem Pole

In this activity, students create a classroom totem pole that tells the story of Granny and her family and they make individual totem poles that tell their own family stories.

**Totem poles** were carved and painted by Native American tribes in the Pacific Northwest to celebrate family history and important events in their lives. A totem pole placed at the entrance of a family home told that family's story and ancestry using animal symbols, called "**totems.**" A totem pole story is read from top to bottom.

### **Procedure:**

#### **Granny's Clan Totem Pole**

**Materials Needed:** coffee cans, construction paper, tape, glue, decorations, paint, markers, crayons

1. Ask students to identify story characters, animals, symbols and other objects that tell about Granny and her clan.
2. Stack empty coffee cans on top of each other to make large totem pole. Tape together.
3. Cut construction paper into horizontal strips, with a different color for each totem section.
4. Assign students to work in small teams to design each totem pole section. Draw orcas, salmon, story characters, symbols, other animals, etc.
5. Wrap a totem story strip around each can and glue. Add other decorations.

#### **My Family Totem Pole**

**Materials Needed:** empty paper towel rolls, construction paper, tape, glue, decorations, paint, markers, crayons, popsicle sticks

1. Ask students to identify objects and symbols that represent their family's story and history.
2. Each student gets an empty paper towel roll to use as totem pole.
3. Cut construction paper into horizontal strips, with a different color for each totem section.
4. Design each totem pole section with drawings, pictures, objects, symbols and photos that tell their family's story and history.
5. Wrap totem story strips around the towel roll and fasten with glue or tape.
6. Glue two popsicle sticks to base so the totem pole can stand upright. Add other decorations.
7. Write a story about your family totem pole. Share your totem pole with other students.



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## Activity #2-Make a Family Story Quilt

In this activity, students learn how quilts are created and used to tell a story. A quilt is a type of blanket made of many fabric squares stitched together. Quilts can be used to tell a visual story like a photo album or memory scrapbook. Story quilts celebrate an individual life or a family story.

**Materials Needed:** drawing & construction paper, 2 large pieces of poster board, markers, crayons, paint, glue or tape

### **Procedure:**

#### ***Granny's Family Story Quilt***

1. Each student designs and contributes a drawing showing a story picture about Granny and her family for ***Granny's Family Story Quilt***. Add one or two words inside square to describe story scene and sign story quilt picture.
2. Assemble student story squares for quilt and glue to poster board. Create a border for quilt and display on the wall.

#### ***My Family Story Quilt***

1. Each student creates ***My Family Story Quilt*** to tell their own family story.
2. Divide drawing paper into 16 squares.
3. Draw a picture inside each square that tells something about your family history and experiences. Draw pictures of your family, relatives, pets and home. Show favorite family activities, foods, vacations, holidays, celebrations, games, important family events and family treasures (home run baseball from Mets game or Grandma's china teapot).
4. Add one or two words inside each quilt square to describe the story scene.
5. Glue quilt on construction paper to make a border. Write your family name at top of border.

