



Great Grannies

Introduction

Grandmothers play a very special role in the lives of their families. Grandmothers tell family stories, share adventures, teach skills, play games, babysit, pass on family traditions and spend time with their grandkids. In Granny's clan, an orca grandmother also plays a special role in her family. Like humans, orca females stop having babies at about 50 years of age, but live for many more years. During her long life, an orca grandmother acquires knowledge and experience that can help her family survive. An orca granny often babysits, plays with and helps care for the little ones in her pod. She may share her mothering skills with a new mother in her family or spend extra time with a young orphan who has lost his mother. Scientists believe that Granny (J-2) was born in 1911, making her over 100 years old and the oldest member of her clan. Granny was born just after the first airplane took flight and the first Model T Ford car was built. Granny's age is estimated from studying her family tree and historical photos. Orca families come together for an orca celebration called a **superpod**. At this gathering, orcas play, socialize and seem to have lots of fun.

Key Concepts

- ◆ Human and orca grandmothers are important to their families.
- ◆ Orca grandmothers have experience and knowledge that can help their families survive.
- ◆ Both humans and orcas celebrate and play with their families.

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.
5. Students employ a wide range of strategies as they write and use different writing process elements appropriately to communicate with different audiences for different purposes.
8. Students use a variety of technological and information resources to gather and synthesize information and to create and communicate knowledge.

Inquiry Questions

- ◆ Why is your grandmother important to your family?
- ◆ What do you like to do with your grandmother?
- ◆ How do orca grannies help their families?
- ◆ How are human and orca grannies similar? Different?
- ◆ Imagine in the future that you are a grandparent. What would you be like?
- ◆ If you were an orca, would you like to have Granny as your grandmother?
- ◆ Why do humans celebrate birthdays? What do you like to do on your birthday?
- ◆ Why do you think orcas have superpod celebrations?
- ◆ If you were an orca, how would you celebrate Granny's 100th birthday?

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Activity #1-Grannies Life Story

In this activity, students explore the lives of grandmothers in human and orca families through interviews.

Procedure:

1. Discuss why human and orca grandmothers are important to their families.
2. Ask students to share their earliest memories of their grandmothers.
3. Explain what an interview can tell us about another's life story.

Granny's (J-2) Life Story

1. Imagine that you could interview Granny, the great-grandmother orca of J pod.
2. With another student, role-play an interview with Granny. One student plays Granny, while the other is the interviewer.
3. Ask the questions and record answers on **Granny's (J-2) Life Story worksheet.**

My Granny's Life Story

1. Ask students to interview their grandmothers (or other senior relatives).
2. Discuss and practice asking interview questions.
3. Ask the questions and record answers on My Granny's Life Story worksheet.
4. Assign a projected date to complete interviews. Interviews can be done in person or phone.
5. Ask each student to share one special thing they learned about their grandmothers.

Activity #2 -Make a Granny Scrapbook

In this activity, students make scrapbooks to share and record the life stories of orca and human grandmothers.

Materials Needed: drawing paper, art supplies, glue, yarn

Procedure:

1. Use drawing and construction paper to make a scrapbook that tells your grandmother's story in words and pictures. Fold pages in half for scrapbook interior. Include your grandmother's answers to interview questions, create drawings and add photos of your grandmother. Assemble pages and tie with yarn. Make and decorate cover.
2. The Legacy Project offers a great Generations Scrapbook that is ready to use. Download from: <http://www.legacyproject.org/activities/genscrapbook.pdf>
3. Design a 100th Birthday Scrapbook for Granny (J-2) that tells her life story in pictures and words. Create drawings and include some answers from your imaginary interview with Granny (J-2). Assemble pages and tie with yarn. Make and decorate cover.

Activity #3 -Make an Orca Bookmark

Materials Needed: poster board, drawing and construction paper, photos, markers, crayons, colored pencils, glue, stickers, ribbons and yarn

Procedure:

1. Cut out bookmark template 6" long and 2" wide from poster board.
2. Use template to make bookmark copies on construction paper for each student.
3. Draw Granny (J-2) or other orcas on bookmark or glue orca photos on bookmark.
4. Decorate and color both sides of bookmark with markers, colored pencils, ribbons, yarn.
5. Add your name or a message. Laminate bookmark.

Activity #4 -Make a Birthday Card for Granny's 100th Birthday

Materials Needed: construction paper, drawing paper, ribbons, glue, glitter

Procedure: Use construction paper to make card. Design cover. Write a birthday message to Granny. Draw scenes or pictures of Granny. Add photos. Sign your card. Celebrate Granny's 100th birthday with a party. Create orca invitations and decorate the classroom with orca decorations. Serve orca-shaped cookies.

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MY GRANNY'S LIFE STORY

NAME	DATE
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INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

Directions:

Set a time to meet with your grandmother in person or by telephone. If your grandmother isn't available, find another senior relative, neighbor or friend to interview. Ask the interview questions and record your grandmother's responses.

My Grandmother's Name _____

1. When were you born?
2. Where were you born?
3. Where did you grow up?
4. What is your happiest memory of your childhood?
5. What is the most important lesson your grandmother (or parents) taught you?
6. What did you do for fun?
7. What was your favorite subject in school?
8. Did you have any pets?
9. What was your favorite toy?
10. What was your favorite book?
11. Who was your best friend?
12. How did your family celebrate holidays?
13. What was the best gift you remember getting as a child?
14. What did you want to be when you grew up?
15. What was your first job?
16. What's different about growing up today from the time you grew up?
17. What advice would you give me?
18. What do you want your children and grandchildren to remember about you?