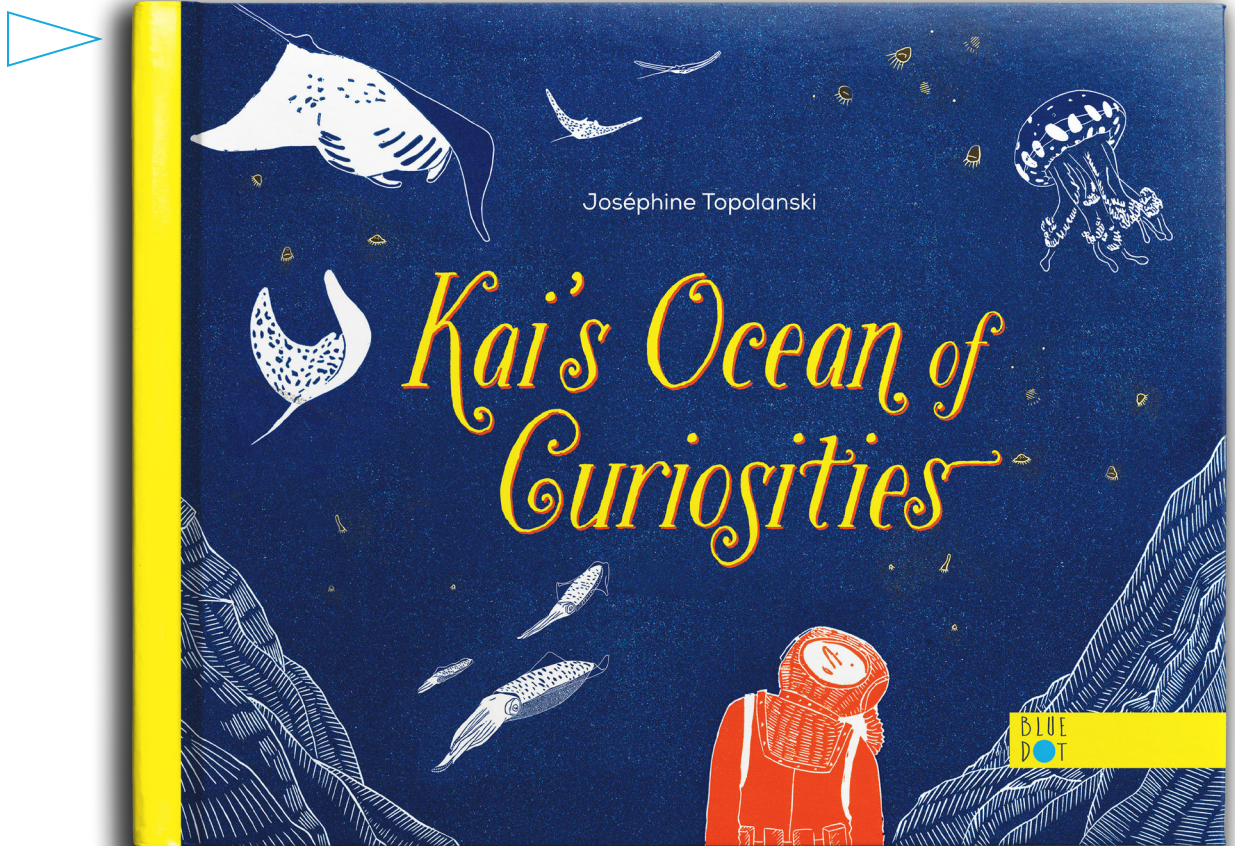


# Your Teacher's Guide

from Blue Dot Kids Press

Grades 1-3



*Kai's Ocean of Curiosities*, written and illustrated by Joséphine Topolanski  
(translated by Johanna McCalmont)

Pub Date April 9, 2024 | ISBN 9798985849479 | Ages 3-7



*We intentionally leave this page blank so our guides can be printed like a book.*



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## Before Reading

Establish background knowledge.

- What do the title and cover illustrations tell you about the book? Where do you think the story takes place? Who will be in the story? What might happen in the story?
- What does the bio on inside flap of the back cover tell you about the author and illustrator, Joséphine Topolanski? Where in the world is France? Is France near an ocean? Which one?
- Look through the illustrations in the book. Have you ever seen the creatures or plants that are in the book?

## During Reading

As you read, pause with each new word or new use of a familiar word. Here are some of those terms:

*Explorer*

*Submarine*

*Coral reef*

*Shoal*

*Synchronized*

*Kelp*

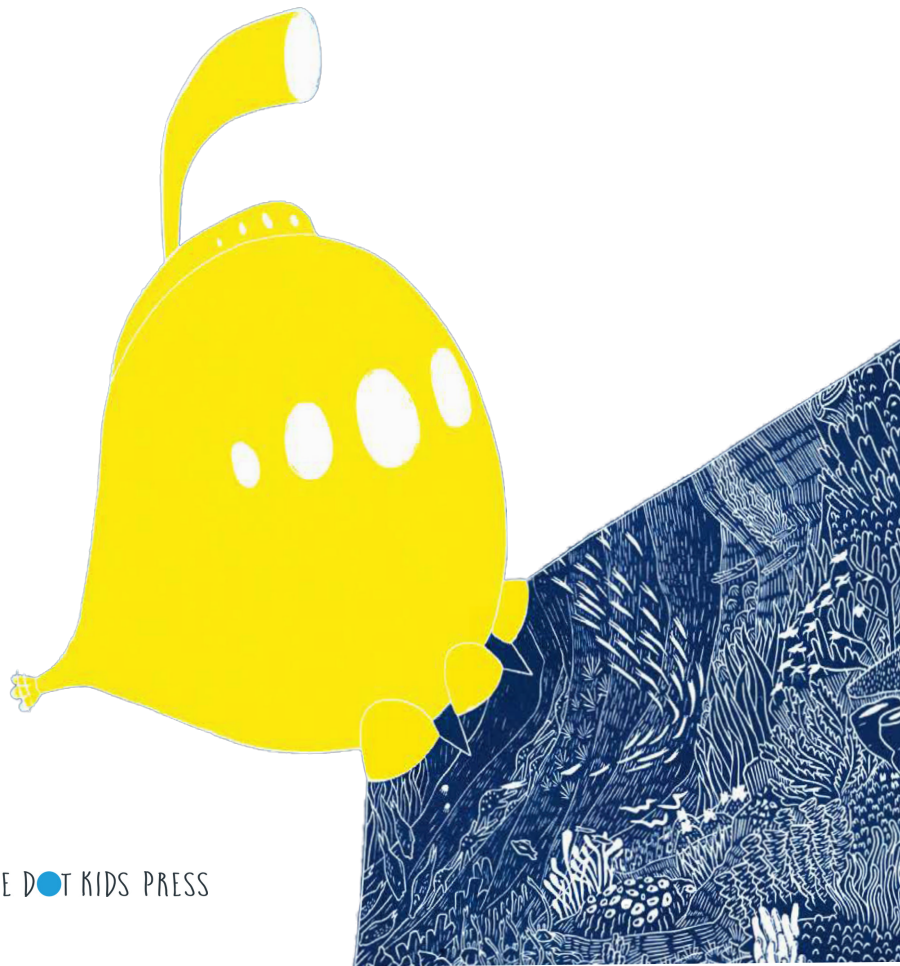
*Marine*

*Anemone*

*Bloom (of jellyfish)*

Discuss concepts beyond vocabulary:

- How do the illustrations create mood, clarify the topic, and show the setting?
- Spend time as a class or in small groups studying the book's last two-page spread.



## After Reading

### Check for understanding.

- Who is Kai?
- Do you relate to Kai? Why or why not?
- Describe some of the animals and plants Kai meets.
- How do the fish move?
- What does the kelp feel like?
- What do squid look like?
- Do eels like to stay home, or do they like to explore, like Kai?
- What does Kai notice about the coral?
- What is something unique about jellyfish?
- When Kai leaves her submarine to dive, she says that all around her, “everything seems to be flying.” Why does she say this, when she is underwater?
- Read the questions on the inside flap of the book’s front cover. How would you answer each of them?
- What surprised you in this book?
- What is the author’s purpose for writing this book?
- What new information did you learn as you read?



## Research

Explore the **forty-nine plants and animals** in the two-page spread at the back of the book. Individually or in small groups, research one or two of the animals or plants.

- What do they look like?
- Where in the world do they live?
- What do they eat?
- What is something unique or interesting about them?

Share the information with the rest of the class through presentations or art projects.



# What's Living in That Puddle?

There are living organisms in every body of water—including puddles! Even if you don't have a submarine or diving suit, you can “go underwater” like Kai and check them out, by making a microscope in your classroom.

Because this activity requires a smartphone, the teacher may need to manage a lot of it, but students can still participate a lot.

## *Supplies*

- Smartphone
- Laser pointer
- Poster tack
- Piece of white paper
- Clear plastic packaging
- Flashlight
- Container with lid to collect and hold puddle water
- Labels and markers for writing on the jars

## *Instructions*

1. Discuss what might live in a puddle outside your school. You could do some research about what can be found in puddles.
2. Go outside to collect puddle water. You may want to work as a class or have different small groups collect from different puddles. Use labels and markers to note where each sample is from. If there are no puddles, you may want to plan on collecting water from a local stream or river.
3. The teacher will have prepared their smartphone to be a microscope. Suggested instructions, including a short instructional video, can be found as part of PBS's NOVA: Gross Science Collection (<https://opb.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/nvgs-sci-diymicroscope/wgbh-nova-gross-science-see-microbes-with-this-diy-phone-microscope>).
4. After every student has had a chance to look through the microscope, discuss what you saw.



## Alone but Never Lonely



Toward the end of *Kai's Ocean of Curiosities*, there is this line: “Even though Kai dives alone, she never feels lonely in this watery world.” When she dives, she is “far from cities and people and noise,” but as we learned from our reading, she is always surrounded by a great variety of plants and animals underwater.

*Write and illustrate a description of a place you go alone but where you are never lonely.* Maybe you take walks in a forest or park—what plants and animals do you see or hear? Maybe you love your bedroom—do toys and books keep you company there? Or maybe you daydream a lot—who or what joins you in your imagination?



## Citizen Science

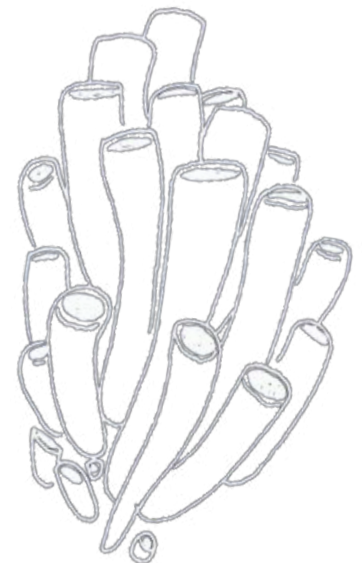
**Citizen science**, also called **community science**, happens when people study the world around them and send the data they collect to scientists.

A **citizen scientist** is anyone—young or old, who has attended a lot of school or who hasn't, from a city or a small town—who helps to answer real scientific questions. Citizen scientists offer invaluable service because, together, they can collect data over greater distances and longer periods of time than scientists and researchers alone.

One of Kai's activities when she dives is picking up garbage from the ocean floor. Plastic pollution of the world's oceans is one of the biggest environmental issues of our time. It impacts nearly seven hundred marine species, including the ones in *Kai's Ocean of Curiosities*.

Not everyone lives near an ocean, but most of us live near some form of moving water: a river, stream, or creek. Those waterways play a central role in the disbursement of plastic pollution—most of the plastic found in the ocean traveled there from a smaller body of water. So, all of us can observe, record, and report on plastic pollution in whatever water is near us. And then all of us will be doing something to help solve this problem.

The Ocean Cleanup Research Team is asking citizen scientists to help them map floating plastic. This helps them better understand the problem and know where to focus cleanup efforts. There is more information, and links to The Ocean Cleanup Survey App to use for recording your observations, here: <https://theoceancleanup.com/research/citizen-science/>.





**Blue Dot Kids Press** inspires curiosity with beautifully crafted stories that connect us to each other and the planet we share. Written and illustrated by impassioned **storytellers and artists from around the world**, our books engage young readers' innate sense of **wonder and empathy**, connecting them to our global community and **the pale blue dot we call home**.

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