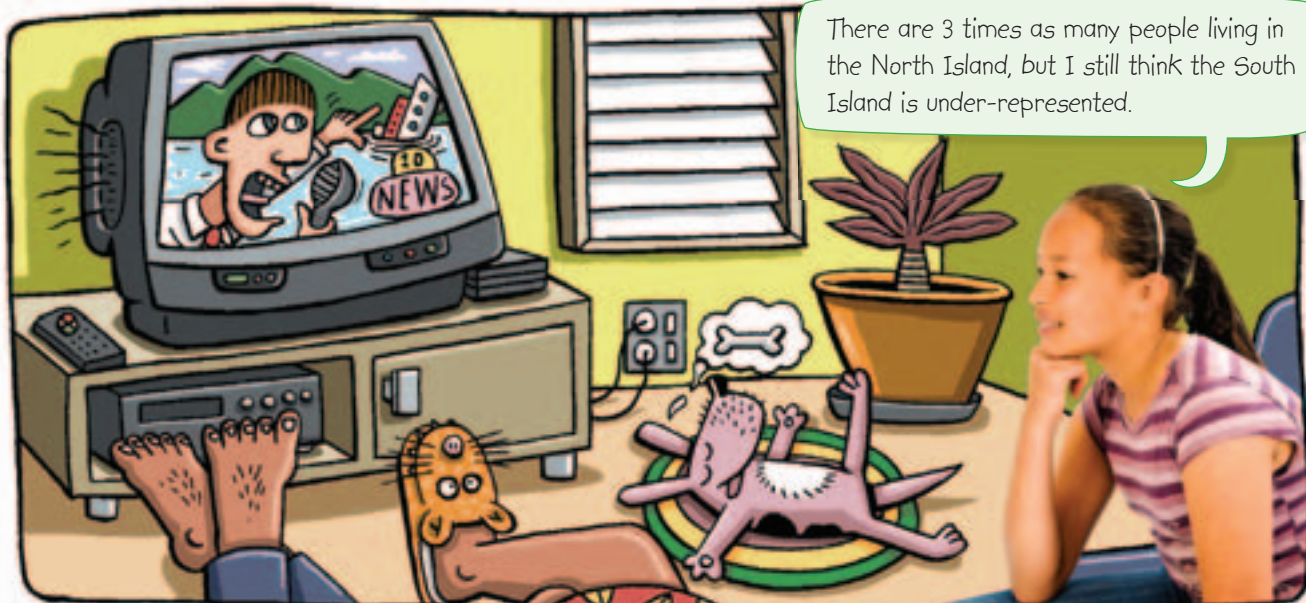


Whose News?

You need: access to the Internet, 2 maps of New Zealand (see copymasters), 2008 population estimates (see copymaster), classmates

Masina often watches the TV news with her parents. She gets the feeling that there are far more stories about the North Island than about the South Island, where she lives.



ACTIVITY ONE

To explore her idea further, Masina chooses 3 non-consecutive nights of news and writes down where each of the first 10 news items comes from:

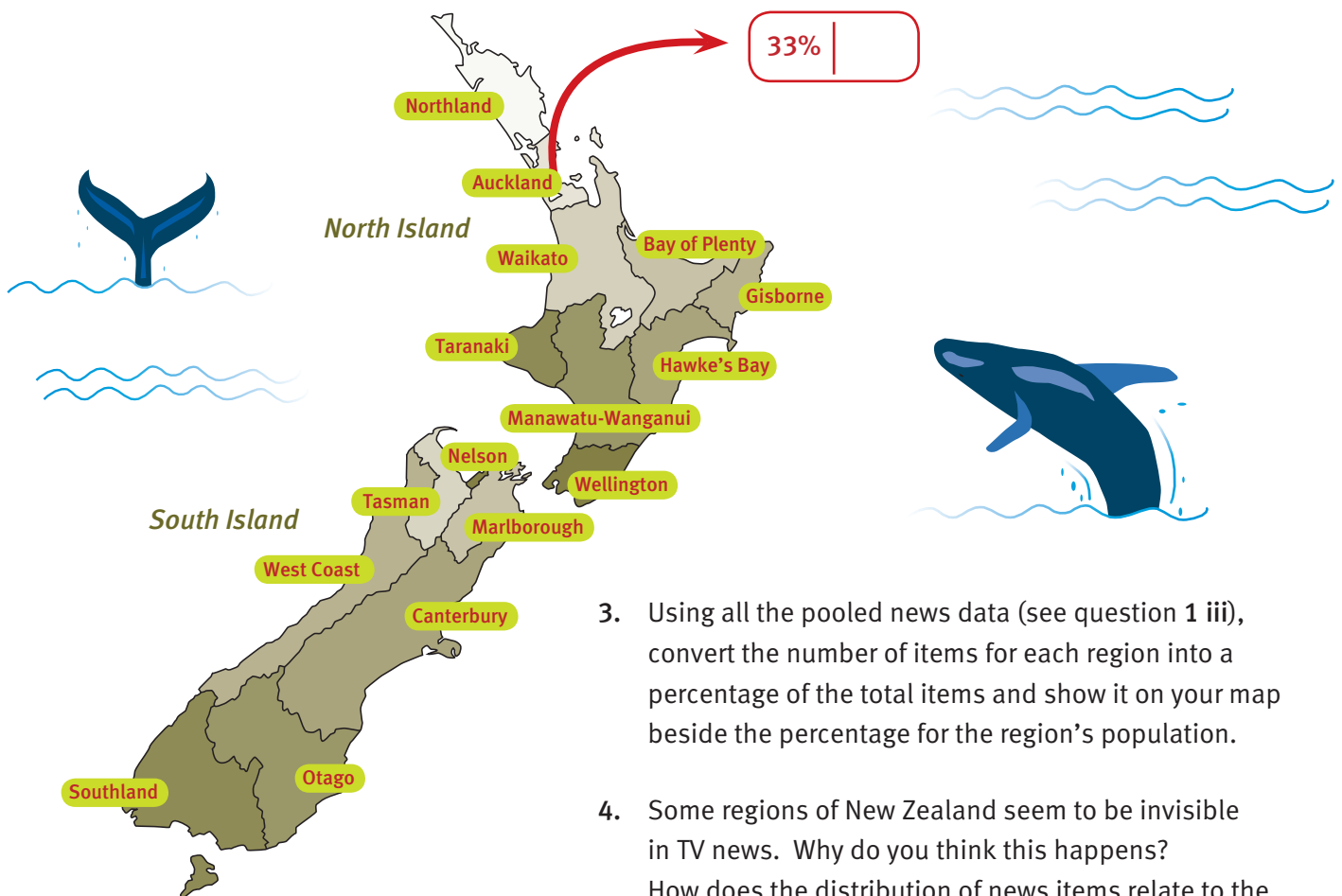
	Friday	Monday	Saturday
1	Dunedin	Auckland	Auckland
2	Australia	Otago	Auckland
3	Wellington	Otago	Auckland
4	Rotorua	Wellington	Tauranga
5	Wellington	Wellington	Auckland
6	Wellington	Wellington	Wellington
7	Auckland	Christchurch	Christchurch
8	Whakatane	South Island	UK
9	Texas, USA	Christchurch	USA
10	UK	Fairlie	India

- Mark the location of each New Zealand story on your blank map. Note the number of stories for each location.
 - Using Masina’s information, create a tally chart, a frequency distribution, a percentage frequency distribution, and a graph. In each case, separate the data into three categories: North Island, South Island, and international.
 - Make a comment about what these charts and graphs show.
- Is there a fair representation of South Island stories on these 3 days of news? Explain your answer.

3. Why might Masina have chosen to collect her data on non-consecutive nights?
4. Does the order of the news items tell us anything further about north–south news coverage?

ACTIVITY TWO

1.
 - i. Repeat Masina’s investigation. First, think about what you expect to find. If possible, work in with other classmates so that you collectively cover more nights and channels.
 - ii. Discuss your results with a classmate who investigated different nights or a different channel.
 - iii. Pool your results with those of other classmates or groups. What do you find? Is this what you expected to find?
 - iv. Summarise your findings as a series of bullet points.
2. The map below is divided into 16 regions. Use the 2008 population estimates provided, or for later years, go to www.stats.govt.nz and select Datasets/Population Estimates/Subnational ... Convert each region’s population into a percentage of the population of New Zealand as a whole and show it on your copy of the map, as shown here for the Auckland region:



3. Using all the pooled news data (see question 1 iii), convert the number of items for each region into a percentage of the total items and show it on your map beside the percentage for the region’s population.
4. Some regions of New Zealand seem to be invisible in TV news. Why do you think this happens? How does the distribution of news items relate to the distribution of population?

Focus

Using statistics to evaluate fairness