



Wata-chan's

Ok i
Dandelion

Adventure

【Oki Dandelion】

The Oki dandelion is only found in the Oki Islands, and blooms from April to May. It is a sub-species of the Japanese dandelion, which has grown in Japan since long ago. The western dandelion, which entered Japan as an invasive species, and related types have downturned sepal-like parts (involucre) underneath their petals. The Oki dandelion does not share this trait.

1



On a warm, clear spring day, there was a mama Oki dandelion flower with yellow petals.

When summer came, the cotton-topped children of the mama dandelion each took a dandelion seed in hand and flew away on the wind.

This is so that one day, when they grew big, they could bloom yellow flowers just like Mama Dandelion.

Where will they end up going?

— Adventure —

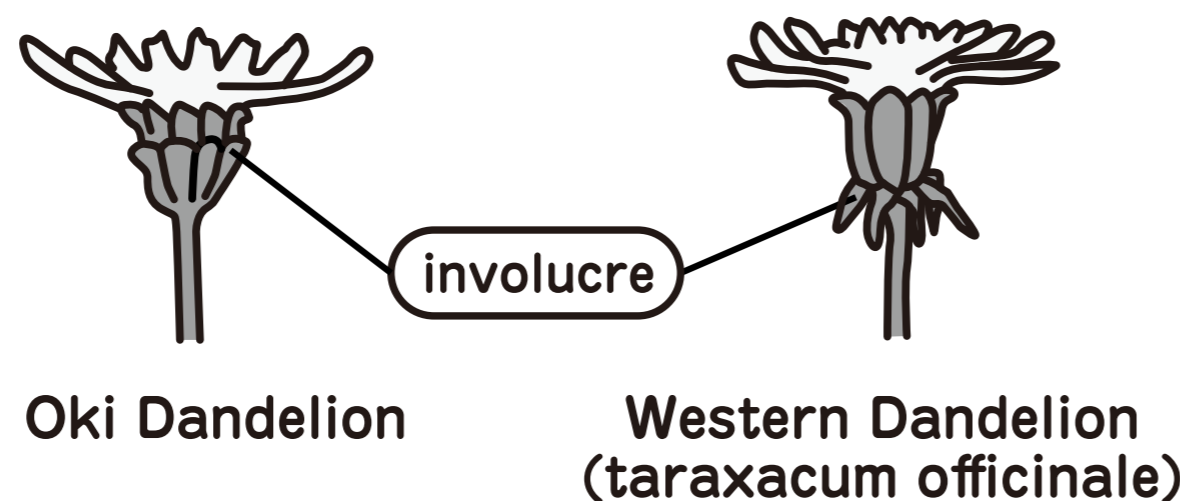


image source:
Dandelion Research 2005, Dandelions of Shimane

Performance Notes

<if the children seem interested, use the images or supplementary information provided on the page to explain more about dandelions>





【Oki Salamander】 This salamander is only found on Oki and is related to frogs and newts. It reaches 13 centimeters in length as an adult. In early stages they have gills on the sides of their faces and live in the water. Once they become adults, their gills disappear and lungs are formed in their place. Adult salamanders live on land in forests.

Performance Notes
<encourage the children to respond>

<sync with children>

<spek in a slow, deep voice>

<spek in a cute voice>

	One of the cotton-topped children, Wata-chan, rode on the wind and landed near a river. It seems like someone is here.
<Storyteller>	Does anyone know who this could be? Okay, let's ask who they are together with Wata-chan!
<Wata-chan and children>	"Hello, who are you?"
<Grandfather Shousuke>	"Hello. I am an Oki Salamander. My name is Grandfather Shousuke."
<Storyteller>	It was an Oki Salamander! Then Wata-chan asked Grandfather Shousuke,
<Wata-chan>	"Grandfather Shousuke, where is this place?" Grandfather Shousuke replied,
<Grandfather Shousuke>	"This is Oki. Me and my kind only live in Oki." At that moment, a gust of wind blew, sending Wata-chan flying off to the next spot. — Adventure —



【Oki Rabbit】

The Oki Rabbit is only found on Oki's Nishinoshima Island and Dōgo Island. It is actually the largest wild mammal on Oki. With short ears and long hind legs, it differs from domesticated rabbits. It also does not dig holes.

3



Performance Notes

<encourage the children to respond>

<sync with children>

<speaking in an energetic voice>

<speaking in a cute voice>

	Riding the wind where it took her, Wata-chan landed in a wild field. It seems like someone is here.
<Storyteller>	Does anyone know who it could be? Okay, let's ask who they are together with Wata-chan!
<Wata-chan and children>	"Hello, who are you?"
<Usa>	"Hello. I am Usa the Oki Rabbit."
<Storyteller>	It was an Oki Rabbit! Then Wata-chan asked Usa,
<Wata-chan>	"Usa, where is this place?" Usa replied,
<Usa>	"This is Oki. Me and my kind only live in Oki." At that moment, a gust of wind blew, sending Wata-chan flying off to the next spot.
	— Adventure —



【Oki Rhododendron】

These small trees blooming large flowers are only found on Oki's Dōgo Island. The flowers are best viewed in late April and early may. Rhododendron are usually seen in mountainous environments over a thousand meters above sea-level, so the fact that the Oki Rhododendron grows in such low altitudes is quite surprising.

4



Performance Notes

<encourage the children to respond>

<sync with children>

<speaking in a lofty, pretentious voice>

<speaking in a cute voice>

	Riding the wind where it took her, Wata-chan landed on the leaf of a small tree. Beautiful flowers are blooming here!
<Storyteller>	Does anyone know what kind of flower this is? Okay, let's ask what kind they are with Wata-chan!
<Wata-chan and children>	"Hello, who are you?"
<Shaku>	"Hello. I am Shaku the Oki Rhododendron."
<Storyteller>	It was Oki Rhododendron! Then Wata-chan asked Shaku,
<Wata-chan>	"Shaku, where is this place?" Shaku replied,
<Shaku>	"This is Oki. Me and my kind only live on Oki." At that moment, a gust of wind blew, sending Wata-chan flying off to the next spot.



【Oki Maimai】

This snail is only found in Oki, and the color and patterns of the Oki maimai of Dōzen and Dōgo differ. The Oki maimai in the illustration is the type mainly found in Dōgo. Snails are unable to travel long distances so many endemic species of snail have evolved through isolation.

5



Performance Notes

<encourage the children to respond>

<sync with children>

<spek in a slow, soft voice>

<spek in a cute voice>

	Riding the wind where it took her, Wata-chan landed in a forest. It seems like someone is here.
<Storyteller>	Does anyone know who it could be? Okay, let's ask who they are with Wata-chan!
<Wata-chan and children>	"Hello, who are you?"
<Mai>	"Hello. I am Mai the Oki Maimai."
<Storyteller>	It was an Oki Maimai, a type of snail! Then Wata-chan asked Mai,
<Wata-chan>	"Mai, where is this place?" Mai replied,
<Mai>	"This is Oki. Me and my kind only live on Oki." At that moment, a gust of wind blew, sending Wata-chan flying off to the next spot.
— Adventure —	



【Japanese Wood Pigeon】 This type of pigeon is black with a purple sheen and lives in forested areas. When light shines on it, the section around its neck appears to be rainbow colored. It is found on islands in Japan as well as in Korea. Designated as a Natural Treasure of Japan, it is a very important bird species. They are known to nest in Oki; one popular nesting spot is Nishinoshima Island's Mt. Takuhi, which has been designated a Natural Treasure of Nishinoshima Town.

6



Performance Notes

<encourage the children to respond>

<sync with children>

<speaking in a confident, powerful voice>

<speaking in a cute voice>

<Wata-chan>	"Everyone I met today said they only lived in Oki, but what is Oki?"
	Suddenly, a mysterious black bird flew up beside Wata-chan.
<Storyteller>	Does anyone know who this could be?
	Okay, let's ask who they are with Wata-chan!
<Wata-chan and children>	"Hello, who are you?"
<Kuro>	"Hello. I am Kuro the Japanese wood pigeon."
<Storyteller>	It was a Japanese wood pigeon!
<Wata-chan>	"Kuro, do you and your kind also only live on Oki?"
	asked Wata-chan.
<Kuro>	"My kind lives in places other than Oki too. We even live in other countries. But I like islands surrounded by sea like Oki!"
<Wata-chan>	"Is Oki surrounded by sea?"
<Kuro>	"That's right! Do you want to see for yourself?"
	Kuro then lifted Wata-chan up with his beak and flew into the sky.



【The Unique Ecosystem of Oki 1】 Oki is composed of four inhabited islands, Dōgo Island, Nishinoshima Island, Nakanoshima Island, and Chiburijima Island, as well as several small uninhabited islands. However, the ecosystems of each island are unique from on another, so different plant and animal life can be found on each island.

7



Performance Notes

<use the map provided to point out each island as you list them>

<Kuro>

Looking down from the sky, Wata-chan could see four islands surrounded by a sparkling blue sea.

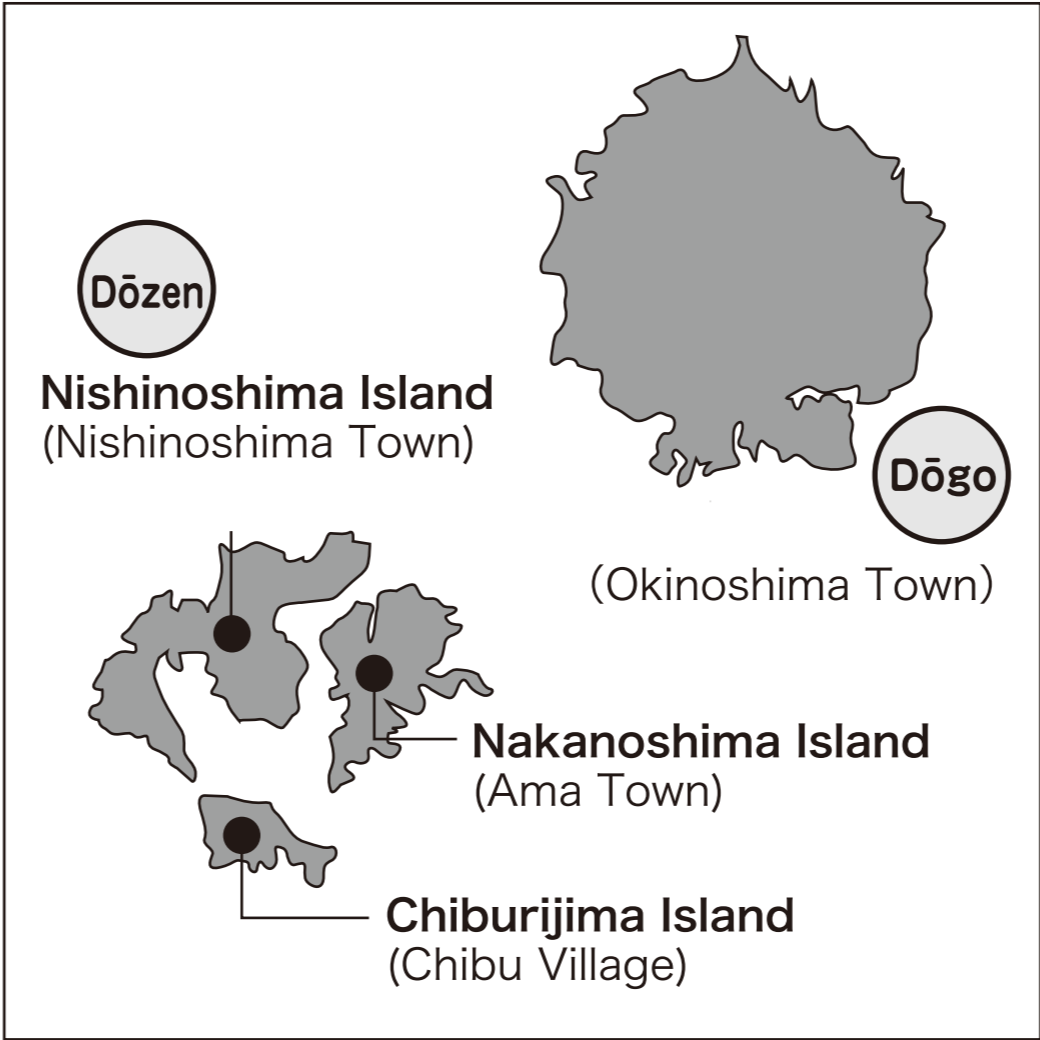
Kuro then explained,

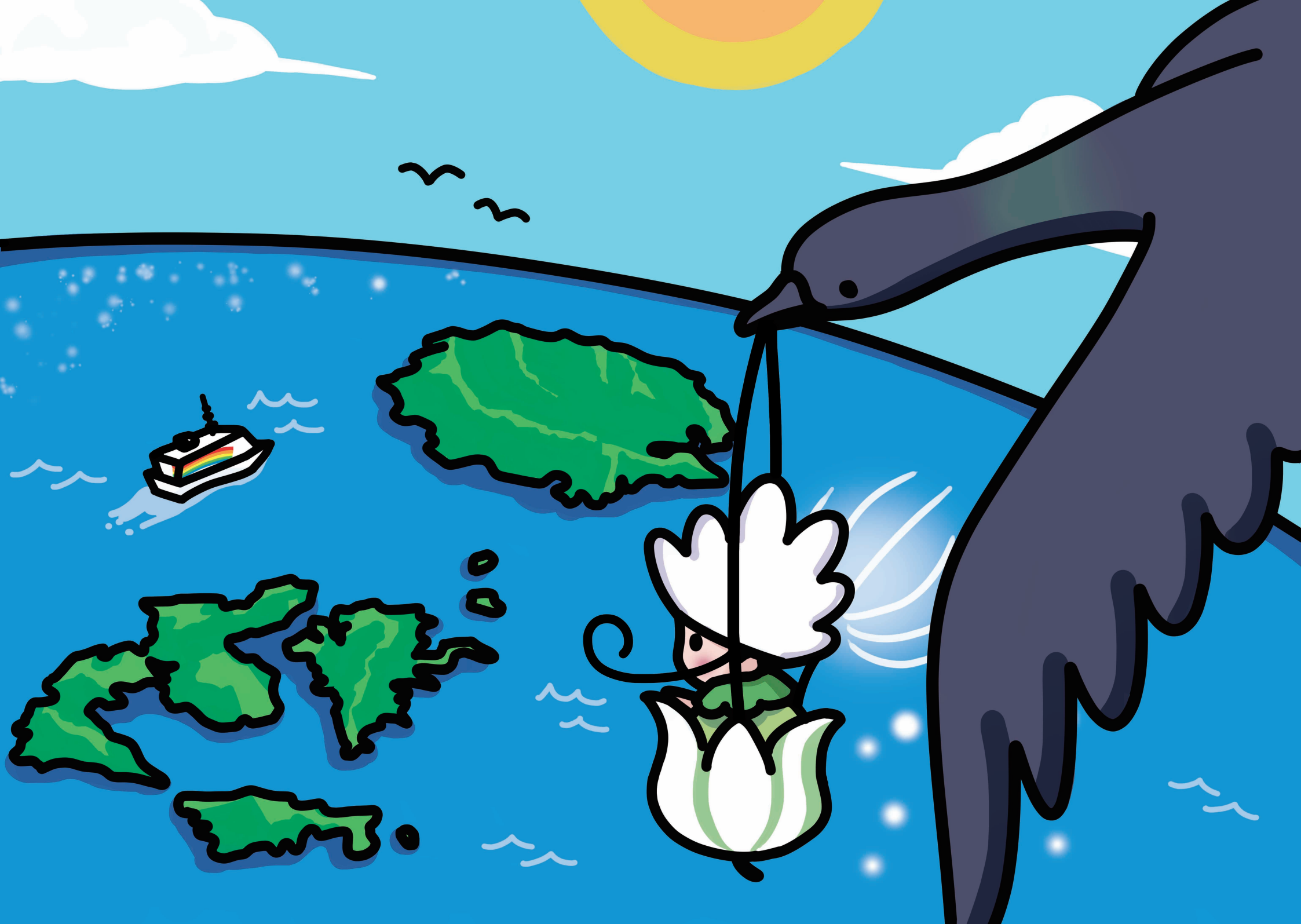
"These four islands, 'Dōgo', 'Nishinoshima', 'Nakanoshima', and 'Chiburijima' all make up Oki."

<Wata-chan>

"Wow, so this is Oki!"

— Adventure —





【The Unique Ecosystem of Oki 2】 Dōgo Island and the Dōzen Islands were connected to the mainland Shimane Peninsula 30 thousand years ago. Because of this there are some similarities in the plant and animal life on Oki and the Shimane Peninsula. However, unique differences in plant and animal life across islands can be observed, and many species found in Oki aren't found on the Shimane Peninsula.



Performance Notes

<Kuro>	Kuro kept flying high in the sky.
<Wata-chan>	"Oki is part of Japan," said Kuro.
<Kuro>	"Wow, it is!"
<Kuro>	"See, Oki is right over there!"
	— Adventure —

<point out where Oki is as you read>





Performance Notes

<Wata-chan>

Returning from the sky, Wata-chan said,
"Kuro, thank you for showing me Oki from the sky. It's amazing to think that everyone I met today lives on these islands called Oki!"
Kuro replied, laughing,

<Kuro>

"But Wata-chan, you and your kind, the Oki dandelion, also only live on Oki! You've been on Oki the whole time and didn't even realize it! There are a lot of species that can only be seen on Oki!"
Wata-chan was very surprised.

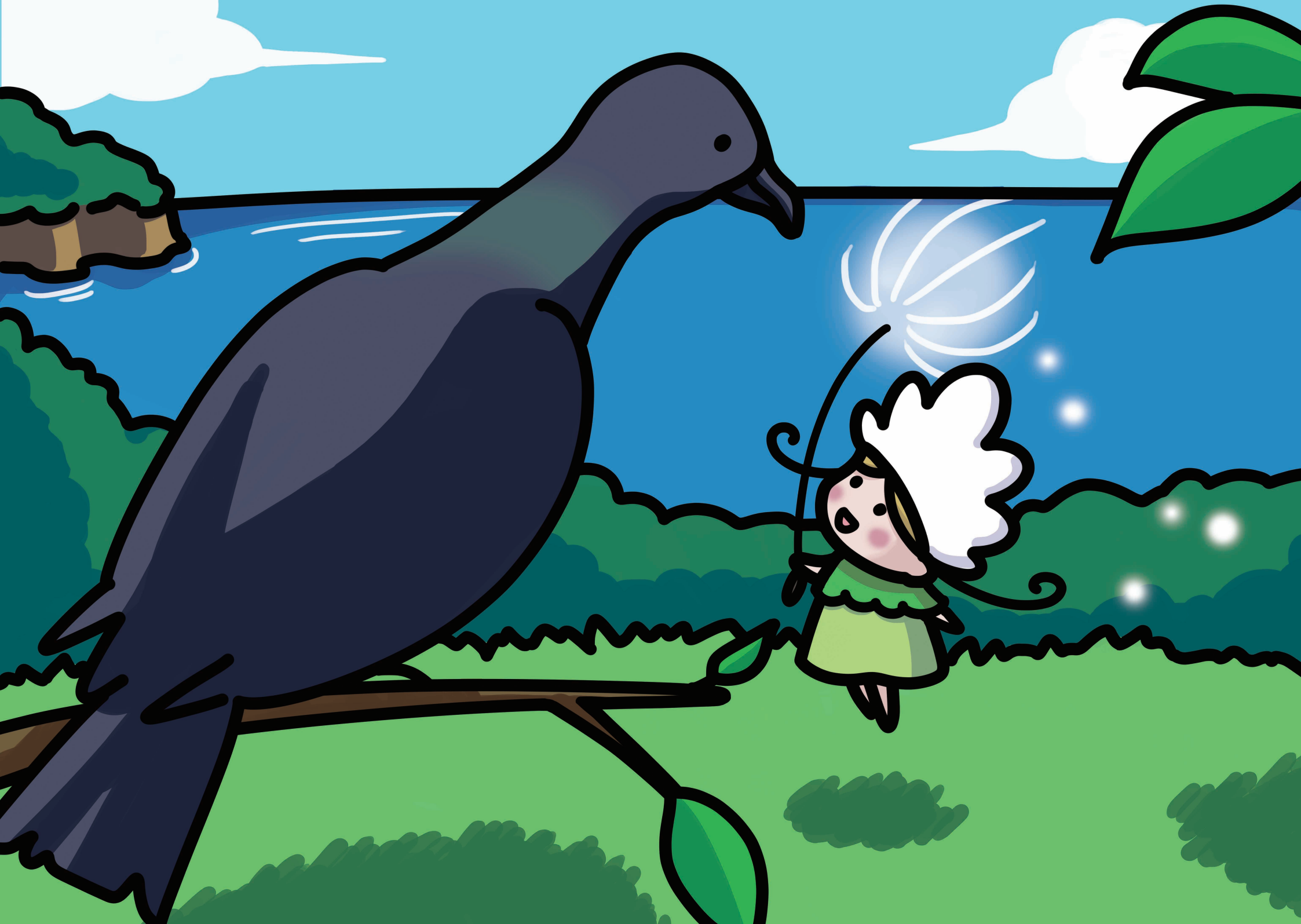
<Wata-chan>

"I had no idea! That's where the Oki in Oki dandelion comes from! I want to learn more about Oki. I hope I can grow up and bloom beautiful flowers soon!"

— Adventure —

< speak in a powerful, clear voice >

< speak in an excited, loud voice >





When spring came, the cotton-topped children of Mama Dandelion grew up and scattered all over Oki to sprout and bloom beautiful yellow flowers.

Everyone bloomed together happily, and surrounding them were all their Oki plant and animal friends.

What kinds of Oki plants and animals are near us? Let's go outside and see what we can discover!

The End

Performance Notes

<encourage the children to respond>

<if the children seem interested, go over the supplementary information about plant and animal life on Oki found on each page>



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