

## Catalina Island Project Kit

Congratulations! You're going to Catalina Island! Use these project ideas to enrich your educational experience. Read through them before you go to make sure you understand the terms and concepts, and to help you determine if you want to expand upon any of them. **You'll find fun facts and printable worksheets at the end of this packet.**

a- elementary level activity    b- middle school level activity    c- high school level activity

### **Language Arts**

People are built to walk on dry land, but being out on the ocean in a boat is so much fun! When we do new things, or things that are foreign to us, it can be easy to get caught up in the excitement and miss the depth the experience can bring to us. In this project, you'll think about your trip a little deeper and record your thoughts. Do one of the following activities:

- a. How is being on the ocean different than being on land? What do you smell? What do you see? What do you feel? What is the weather like? Use all of your senses and write a few sentences or draw a picture about your experience.
- b. Think about how large the ocean is compared to the size of the boat you're in. How do you feel? How would you feel if you had to spend months at a time out on the ocean like some people do? Write your thoughts, or a short story, about what it would be like.
- c. Take your ocean trip to the next level. Research an ocean subject and write an essay, or write a fictional story set in an ocean setting. Take notes, either mentally or on paper, of things that stand out to you on your trip so you can incorporate them into your writing.

Materials required: Notebook, pen/pencil

Submission: A copy of your writings/drawing, and any pictures/videos

Teaching or learning notes:

### **Applied Math**

There are many ways marine biologists and zoologists use math when out on the islands. Complete one of the projects below:

- a. Count the number of animals you see. Group them into categories and graph your findings.
- b. Find out how many whales are seen around Catalina Island. How many different pods have they identified? How many whales are usually in a pod? Use this information to determine how many whales usually trek through the area.
- c. You are a whale-watching guide. The last known coordinates for Bessie the whale were north of your current location by 1,537 nautical miles, 14 days ago. You know she is headed south toward your location. If Bessie travels at a speed of 4 nautical miles per hour, how much longer will it take her to get to where you are? When finished solving this problem, design one of your own and solve it!

Materials required: Notebook, pen/pencil, calculator or smartphone (optional)

Submission: Your calculations, estimations, and conclusions, and any pictures/videos

Teaching or learning notes:

## **Science**

Islands have a very unique ecology. They are secluded from other land, and yet carry a wide diversity of life. This can present unique challenges to the animals there, and to conservation efforts.

- a. Choose an animal that lives on the island to learn more about. Draw or write about your findings. Include at least one detail about how it survives on the island.
- b. Discuss and diagram the unique life history (the story of its life from birth to death) of one of the animals you see. Write a paragraph about your findings.
- c. Do some research about island conservation. Make observations on your trip about the ecology of the island and write a plan for conserving biomass and geological features.

Materials required: Notebook, pen/pencil

Submission: A copy of your drawings, diagrams, maps, or designs, and any pictures/videos

Teaching or learning notes:

## **Social Studies**

The relationship between people and the ocean has a rich history. Since the beginning of human history, the ocean has played an integral role in sustaining life for coastal peoples. Complete one of the following:

- a. What kinds of things can people use from the ocean? Make a list or draw a picture.
- b. Imagine what life would be like living on the coast before the discovery of electricity. What would your day look like? What would you eat? How would you stay warm during the winter? How would you build boats? Draw a picture of what your village or town might look like, or write a short story or essay about living in a pre-electricity coastal village.
- c. Research the Pimuvit people of the island. How did they live before the Spanish arrived? Complete a research project about the Pimuvit, or another Native American tribe in the area. Include drawings/pictures and a short essay describing their culture and the importance of the ocean.

Materials required: Notebook, pen/pencil, smartphone (optional)

Submission: A copy of your writings/drawings, and any pictures/videos

Teaching or learning notes:

# FUN FACTS

- Catalina Island is 21 miles long, 8 miles wide at the widest point, and ½ mile wide at the Isthmus, totaling 76 square miles.
- There is a long waiting period for residents who want to bring a personal vehicle to the city of Avalon (other than a golf cart). As of June 17, 2002, there were 1,591 people on the waiting list and the person at the top of the list signed up on February 9, 1989. Currently, Avalon residents have a total of 1,285 golf cart permits.
- In 1924 a film company brought 14 bison to the Island to make a movie and left them behind. Today the Catalina Island Conservancy manages the herd and keeps their numbers at about 200. Catalina Island is the only spot on the West Coast where bison roam freely.
- The largest native land mammal on the Island is the diminutive Catalina Island Grey Fox.
- The last time it snowed on the Island was in 1949.
- Eight miles of breakwater along the coast of Southern California are constructed with rock quarried on Catalina Island.
- The only poisonous snake found on the Island is the Pacific Rattlesnake.
- The Island was named for St. Catherine by Spanish explorer Sebastian Viscaíno because it was St. Catherine's Day when he discovered it, hence the Spanish name "Santa Catalina." Technically, he only rediscovered it, as the first recorded discovery was in 1542 by Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo.
- The island once belonged to chewing gum magnate William Wrigley, who also owned the Chicago Cubs - and for many years (1921-1951), it was the site for their spring training.

## Catalina Island

1. Draw a picture of Catalina Island.



2. Describe 3 different types of plants that grow on the island.

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3. What is one thing you learned about boats?

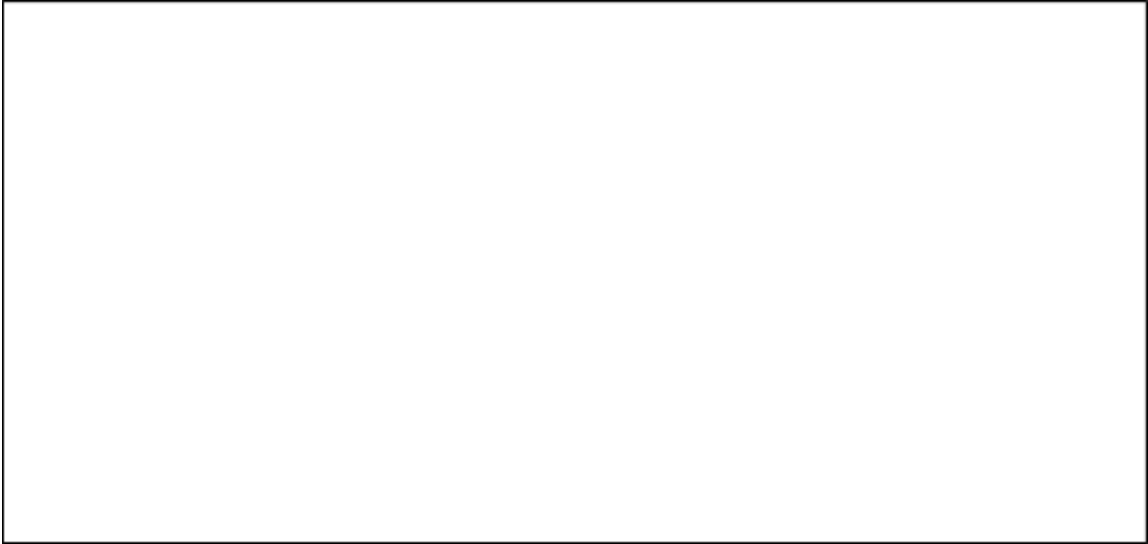
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4. Describe or draw your favorite part of your trip.



5. Fill the box with as many animal names or pictures of creatures you saw as you can.



6. What is one thing you learned about the ocean?

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