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Activity One - Scott O'Dell

Scott O'Dell is the author of Island of the Blue Dolphins as well as many other books. What other books have you read written by Scott O'Dell?

Would you be more interested in reading a story about a girl who is a relative of Karana (Zia) or a story about a girl who gets captured by the white men and is uprooted from her homeland similar to Karana (Sing Down The Moon)? Explain your choice.

Scott O'Dell loved to write novels about nature and a historical value. If you could give him the guidelines for his next novel, what would you recommend based on what is happening in your life now?

If you were an illustrator, what scene from *Island of the Blue Dolphins* would you absolutely want to illustrate? Why? Answer and illustrate it below.

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Activity Two

California Coastal Conservancy

The story Island of the Blue Dolphins takes place on an island in the Channel Islands off of the coast of California.

What do you know about the state of California and its coastline?

What do you know about the California Coastal Conservancy?

What kind of vegetation and wildlife can you find there today?

What kind of people lived in these Islands?

Locate the island of San Nicolas on a map. How far is it from Los Angeles? San Francisco? Santa Barbara?

Read up on various projects on California's Coastal Conservancy. What projects do you agree with? Explain your answer.

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Activity Three - The Aleuts

The first ship to arrive at the island were the Aleuts on a ship that had red flags.

Who exactly are the Aleuts?

Where were they from?

What was the purpose of their visit?

Where are the Aleuts today?

What is our modern day Aleuts? How can we settle the situation with them?

If you could meet an Aleut, write five questions you would have for them?

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Activity Four - Earthquakes

During her adventure Karana experiences and lives through an earthquake.

Have you ever experienced an earthquake?

Start researching on earthquakes. Are earthquakes a possibility in the area where you live?

Where is the least likely place an earthquake could occur?

Where is the most likely place to be hit with an earthquake? Explain why.

Where has the biggest earthquake hit in the world up to date?

What are possible consequences of an earthquake in your area? Or areas close to you?

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Activity Five - Otters

What do you know about otters?

If you compare the otters in this story with other stories with otter in them, do you think the otters played an important role in this story?

What do you like about otters? Why?

Why do you think otters are popular in children's literature?

Compare the otters from seals. How different and similar are they?

Draw a picture of an otter.

A large, rounded rectangular box with a dotted border, intended for drawing a picture of an otter.

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Activity Six - Explorers

In the Author's Notes, at the end of the book Island of the Blue Dolphins Scott O'Dell explained about the island being discovered by Sebastian Vizcaino. Do a search on the Internet – look up 'famous explorer'. Choose one that you are not familiar with.

Who is the famous explorer?

Where did he/she live? When did he/she live?

What did this explorer discover?

Was the discovery intentional or by accident?

What do you predict would have happened if they had not made this discovery?

How does this discovery affect your life?

Do you consider this discovery helpful to the world or destructive to the world? Explain your answer.

What discovery would you have liked to discover?

Who is your favorite discoverer? Who are you thankful to?
