

“The Last Roundup”

Resource Summary: “A Time Capsule of a Lost Early California Lifestyle”

A viewing and discussion guide to the tale, “The Last Roundup”. The response should include words/phrases from the vocabulary list. Then students will write from the perspective of either a child growing up having the island as his home, or as an early park ranger transitioning the island from private land to public land.

Subject Areas: Social Studies, Language Arts

Grade Level Range: 4th-6th

Standards:

CCSS.ELA- Speaking and Listening- 4.2, 5.2, 6.2

Integrate and evaluate information presented in diverse media and formats, including visually, quantitatively, and orally.

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Resource Details:

Step I: Students will view the tale, “The Last Roundup” and respond to the discussion questions.

Viewing Guide and Discussion Questions:

1. What generation of Vails to live on the island, is Tim Vail?
2. Who does Tim Vail say the story begins with?
 - a. Where was he from?
 - b. Why did he come west?
 - c. Why do you think the story begins with him?
3. How would you describe the Vails? The vaqueros? What characteristics did people on the island have?
4. How was the Vail and Vickers ranch similar to old western ranches? How was it different or unique from other old western ranches?
5. If you were in charge of the island today, how would you use the old ranching buildings left on the island?
6. Do you agree that the island should be part of the National Parks Service?

Step II: Vocabulary guide to pick and choose from

Vocabulary Guide:

banding (as in banding a bald eagle)

cattle
congressional bill
conserve
cowhand
cultural resource
fortitude
funnel
generational knowledge
interpretive ranger
lament
last vestige
lawsuit
leeway
loyal
National Monument
National Park
“Old West”
park ranger
parallel story
pilings
pinniped
planks
preserve
public management
ranch foreman
readapt
rear end
regional
roundup
settlement agreement
“sparks flying”
stampede
test case
tolerate
trot
unimpaired condition
vaquero
work ethic
Yankee
volcanic ground

Step III: Write a diary entry from the perspective of Tim Vail as a child on the island or as the first park ranger setting up the island as a national park. Use sensory details to describe what you feel. What would your day entail? Who would you interact with? What challenges might you face? What lifelong lessons will you learn?