

West of the West – Restoration Tale
Part 2 – Reading and Writing Prompts

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General

Why should we care about saving a species?

If we live on the other side of the world, why should we care about saving a Channel Islands fox?

Who should be able to decide which species live and which species must be removed?

Islands

Why are islands important?

What makes an island special for a scientist and/or naturalist?

What is so special about the Channel Islands?

What lessons can be learned from the Channel Islands?

How is the story of the Channel Islands an analogue for humans, nature and the rest of the world?

Impact of Humans on the Environment

Are we still a part of nature today?

Can we still live with nature?

What were the major human impacts on the Channel Islands?

What was the impact of Chumash presence on the island?

What was the impact of the ranching on the islands?

Why did ranching stop on the islands?

What has been the impact of military presence on the islands?

Take us through a chronology of the human impacts on the Channel Islands in historical times leading to the present day situation.

What were the questions facing scientists before they began restoring the environment of the islands?

What have we learned from the restoration actions on the Channel Islands?

Impact of Invasive Species

What is one of biggest threats to biodiversity globally?

What is an invasive species?

Why are so many resources spent on dealing with invasive species?

Why were feral pigs and golden eagles a problem on Santa Cruz Island?

What was the specific goal regarding the eradication of pigs on Santa Cruz Island?

How did pigs get to Santa Cruz Island?

What damage had the pigs done to the land and to other plant and animal species?

Restoration

What is a native species?

What is nature? What is “natural”? What is “not natural”?

How long must a species be a part of an ecosystem before it is considered a native species?

Is eradication designed to get back to a more “original”, “natural” state?

When did scientists realize that something was wrong on the Channel Islands and that dramatic action needed to be taken?

What were some of the key challenges before, during and after the restoration actions?

What does it mean to restore a habitat or save a species? At what ecological point in time should we restore things back to? Who decides?

What were some of the mistakes humans made in the past on the Channel Islands? What may be considered a mistake if we are a part of nature?

Why are the Island Fox and Bald Eagle so important?

Where did Island Foxes come from?