

WOTW-Restoration 1A

**Resource Title:** Restoration Channel Islands Debate

**Resource Summary:** This is can be a unit opener, a middle of unit lesson series, or a concluding lesson. In this lesson, students obtain and combine information about the ways the Santa Barbara County uses science ideas to protect the Channel Island's environment.

**Subject Areas:** Language Arts, Debate, Science

**Grade Level Range:** 4-12

**Standards:** 5-ESS3-1. Obtain and combine information about ways individual communities use science ideas to protect the Earth's resources and environment.

**Resource Provided By:** Nichole Hughes; 4th/5th Grade; Summerland Elementary School; Carpinteria Unified School District

**Details:**

Time: 100-minute session (can be done in two to three sessions)

Materials List:

3 Large pieces of butcher paper or poster paper to record anchor charts on

Bell or whistle

Marker

Pictures of Feral Pig and Channel Island Fox

*West of the West Tales from California's Channel Islands* movie segment- Part 3- Restoration

1 copy of each article for every small group (4 students per group)

highlighters

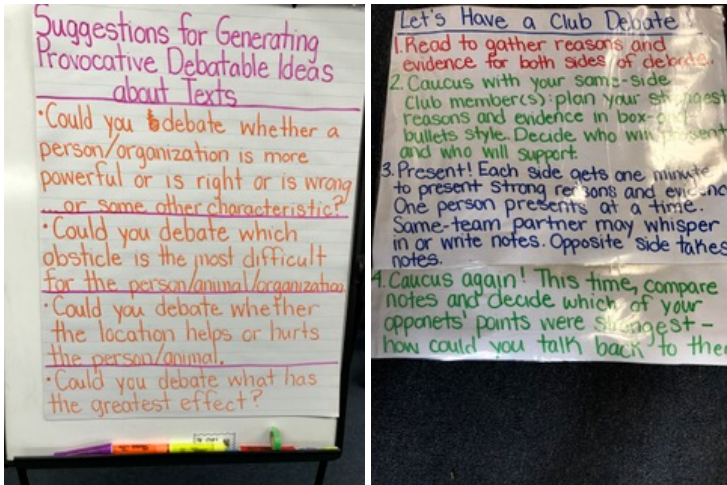
Pens and pencils

I suggest reading Lucy Calkins' and Alexandra Marron's book *Interpretation Book Clubs Analyzing Themes Grade 5 Unit 1*, "Session 13 Debating to Prompt Rich Book Conversation: Readers Have Different Viewpoints, Defending with Claims, Reasons, and Evidence" if this resource is available to you.

Advance Preparation:

1. Make sure you have a large open area to have this debate (about 20 feet).

2. Make the “Suggestions for Generating Provocative Debatable Ideas” chart and the “Let’s Have a Debate” chart.



Procedure:

*Engage* (5 minutes) Living things depend on food, shelter, water and space to survive.

1. Hold up a picture of a Feral Pig and the Channel Islands Fox.
2. In a think-pair-share, ask students based on what they know about the needs of living things, to discuss what a Feral Pig and Channel Island Fox would need to survive. Record responses on chart paper/whiteboard.

*Explore* (80 minutes) Individual communities use science ideas to protect the Earth’s resources and environment. RI.5.9 Integrate information from several texts on the same topic in order to write or speak about the subject knowledgeably. (5-ESS3-1)

3. Explain to class that they will be researching to conduct a debate to understand how individual communities use science ideas to protect the Earth’s resources and environment.
4. Go over the poster of “Suggestions for Generating Provocative Debatable Ideas”
5. Watch the “Restoration” movie segment as a class.
5. Have a class discussion about what debatable issues your students see in this movie segment, and decide on one issue for your debate.
6. Explain that one team will represent one side of the debatable issue.

The other team will represent the other side of the issue.

7. Explain that each team will use the “Boxes and Bullets” (Lucy Calkins & Alexandra Marron Readers’ and Writers’ Workshop) to organize their thesis statement and three reasons:

Thesis Statement:
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Reason 1

Reason 2

Reason 3

8. Explain to the children that, “true debaters are able to argue for either position,” and “to approach their debate with opposing positions in mind,” “gathering evidence to support their position.” I then suggest “that they make a new page in their science notebook, with the debatable idea at the top, and space to collect for both sides of the argument” (Calkins & Marron, *Interpretational Book Clubs*).

9. Watch the “Restoration” video segment for the second time so students can gather reasons and evidence. While students are watching the movie segment, record your own thesis statement and reasons and evidence for both sides of the argument.

10. Explain that there will be 2 rounds of the debate. The first is a practice presentation that will occur with your group. Record the letter P on the board for practice.

11. Then ask students to “decide sides-which people” “will present one side of the argument, and which will present the other? At least one person” “needs to take on each side- I’m hoping you can divide up the sides mostly evenly, with” \_\_\_\_\_ (half of class amount) “on each side. This means some of you may have to take on a side that you don’t personally agree with, for the sake of argument. This doesn’t mean you have to change your mind, just that you are willing to try this out. Right now, figure this out with your” class, “then put a star by the side of the debate you will present.” Move throughout the classroom, “urging students to not take this too personally, and to quickly decide on sides.” “Publically” congratulate “students who took a risk and chose sides that were difficult or ones they did not agree with” (Calkins & Marron, *Interpretative Book Clubs*). Divide students on each side into groups of 4.

12. Pass out a set of articles to each group, and have them gather more evidence for their side of the argument.

13. Explain that each team will decide on a speaker, and the other members can whisper or put written notes in front of the speaker to read only.

14. Write these key phrases on the board:

I take the position that....

My first reason for this is ... My evidence for that is ...

My second reason is that... My evidence is that... Also...

My third reason is that ..... My evidence is that.... Also...

(The teacher may want to model how to use the sentence frames using her Boxes and Bullets outline.) Have students do a practice round with their speaker with a 1-minute timer.

15. Tell the students it is time for the first round. Give the “go” signal (blow whistle, ring bell) have the first speaker say their side within the 1-minute timer. Both sides should be taking notes on the points that the speaker makes, and the teacher can model their notes by writing them on the whiteboard for the entire class to see.

16. Repeat step #15 for the second speaker.

17. At the end of the round, tell students that they need to prepare for their counter claim/rebuff.

17. Have students prepare counter-claim defense, and repeat debate format for round 2, recording presented information on the board as students take their own notes as well.

Explain (10 minutes)            W.5.8 Recall relevant information from experiences or gather relevant information from print and digital sources; summarize or paraphrase information in notes and finished work, and provide a list of sources. (5-ESS3-1) W.5.9 Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research. (5-ESS3-1)

18. Ask students to partner with another student and discuss what they notice from the debate. What trends do they observe? What factors contributed to the trends?

19. Ask several partner groups to share with the whole class.

Extend (10 minutes)            Obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information in 3–5 builds on K–2 experiences and progresses to evaluating the merit and accuracy of ideas and methods. Human activities in agriculture, industry, and everyday life have had major effects on the land, vegetation, streams, ocean, air, and even outer space. But individuals and communities are doing things to help protect Earth’s resources and environments. (5-ESS3-1)

20. Have students line up in their debate groups, and to go to the side that they believe “won” the debate.

15. Conduct a class discussion about which side they thought “won” the debate and why.

16. Ask students to think-pair-share about what was done to help protect the Channel Islands environment based on the information presented.

Evaluate (10 minutes) Human activities in agriculture; industry, and everyday life have had major effects on the land, vegetation, streams, ocean, air, and even outer space. But individuals and communities are doing things to help protect Earth's resources and environments. (5-ESS3-1)

22. Ask students to complete these three prompts in their notebook:

- Based on the data from the debate, describe how human activities in agriculture have major effects on the land and vegetation. "When the humans brought in pigs for agriculture on the Channel Islands, the population of the Island Grey Fox \_\_\_\_\_."
- Propose the idea that humans wanted to kill the feral pigs in order to assist the Channel Island Fox. Based on what you learned from the documentary, *West of the West*, and the corresponding articles, ask them to complete the following statement: "If humans killed the feral pigs, \_\_\_\_\_."
- Ask, "What ideas from the debate are easy for you to understand? Which are difficult? and have them state, "I am understanding \_\_\_\_\_, but am having difficulty understanding \_\_\_\_\_."

Pictures of the Feral Pig



Pictures of Channel Islands Fox



## Our Opinion : Santa Cruz Island's Hall of Shame

### NEWS-PRESS FILE

April 16, 2006 12:55 PM

There are many unclean hands in the mass slaughter of wild pigs on Santa Cruz Island.

This species has lived on the island for more than 150 years, but suddenly the National Park Service and the Nature Conservancy want to kill every last one of them.

Speculation is that the multimillion-dollar campaign with taxpayers footing much of the bill partly has the goal of opening up the island to more lodging or camping. The former park superintendent has exposed the misuse of the media, science and the environmental review process in the effort to kill up to 4,500 pigs over several years.

Below is the Santa Cruz Island Hall of Shame, made up of officials who either through their actions or inactions have helped turn the island into a killing field.

Rep. Lois Capps

Park Manager Kate Faulkner

Park Superintendent Russell Galipeau

Rep. Elton Gallegly

National Park Service Regional Director Jonathan Jarvis

Norm MacDonald of New Zealand-based ProHunt

Nature Conservancy President Steven J. McCormick

Former Interior Secretary Gale Norton

-Editorials -

News Press Article:

Our Opinion: San Nicolas' cats don't need to die

June 30, 2008 7:14 AM

Imagine if you set out to catch a neighborhood cat with leg-hold traps. Then, once captured, you shoot the cat.

And you did it again and again, killing a multitude of cats after ensnaring them in traps deemed cruel and inhumane by the Humane Society of the United States.

Police should arrest you for cruelty to animals, and you should end up with a hefty sentence in jail.

It's hard to believe anyone could dispute that this is the proper punishment.

Yet, when the federal government plans to kill numerous cats, there's no talk of putting the culprits behind bars.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service officials who plan to trap and kill the wild cats of San Nicolas Island are no better than criminal practitioners of animal cruelty.

The federal government has been quiet about its plan to eradicate all the wild cats on San Nicolas.

The scheme is part of a pattern that has turned the Channel Islands into one killing field after another.

On Santa Cruz Island, there was a multimillion-dollar campaign to kill all the wild pigs. The pigs had co-existed on the island with other species since the 1850s.

Next, the National Park Service and the Nature Conservancy began killing hundreds of wild turkeys.

A plan to shoot golden eagles on the island, apparently, is on hold because it turned into a public relations nightmare for the Park Service and the Nature Conservancy.

On the Anacapa islets, crews in 2003 bombed them with poisonous pellets that killed not just black rats but also migratory birds, raptors, lizards and thousands of native deer mice. A helicopter dropped poison on a fishing boat off Anacapa Island.

The shooting of all the cats on San Nicolas is the next step in the killing.

As noted last week, we wonder why these animals just can't be left alone -- or why isn't birth control used to limit their population. There is no need for guns.

As Wayne Pacelle, president and CEO of the Humane Society of the United States, told the News-Press editorial pages: "There's just no compelling reason to subject these feral cats to an inhumane death by trapping, shooting, and other unacceptable means, especially when we have a superior alternative. We have the means and the will to humanely trap and relocate these cats, and to do better than to kill these cats without a second thought."

News Press Article:

Our Opinion: Hunting for more ways to kill

December 19, 2006 10:15 AM

Never, it seems, is there a shortage of new and concocted ways to kill animals.

The slaughter of thousands of wild pigs on Santa Cruz Island continues as a federal court slowly mulls over a lawsuit to stop the multimillion-dollar campaign paid for by your tax dollars and other public money.

These animals have lived on the island for more than 150 years, but the National Park Service and Nature Conservancy say there's an urgent need to immediately kill every last one of them. The park's former superintendent has exposed the faulty process that led up to the killing.

Media reports say the agencies also are taking aim at the wild turkeys on Santa Cruz.

On Santa Rosa Island, all the elk and deer may be wiped out by 2011 because of a Park Service plan. As an alternative, a congressman from the San Diego area wants to turn the island into a private hunting ground for disabled veterans. The elk and deer would be kept alive on the island, but only to be constantly shot at.

Why not just leave the animals alone or consider nonlethal ways to control them?

The latest scheme to expand the ways to kill animals comes from Texas.

A state legislator wants to give people more opportunities to hunt, even if they are



legally blind. His bill aims to allow them to use lighted pointing instruments to enable the legally blind to hunt. Laser sights have been outlawed in the state, in part because the devices can make the animals stand still when the light is pointed on them.

The bill's sponsor, Republican Rep. Edmund Kuempel, told reporters: "This opens up the fun of hunting to additional people, and I think that's great."

Far from it.

We believe that government officials make it way too easy for people to kill animals, and this is yet another step in that direction.

Also from Texas was a plan to take blood sports to the World Wide Web.

Known as computer-assisted or Internet hunting, it allows people sitting at home to shoot captive animals from their computers. Certainly there's no sport in this. Some states, thankfully, have moved to ban this killing.

What all these schemes, and much of hunting in general, have in common is a degree of unnecessary cruelty. For example, the company behind the video slaughter didn't even require its customers to have any marksmanship skills or hunting experience.

Animals could be wounded and shot at again and again, all for "fun."

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- Editorials -

Cruelty and killing on Santa Cruz

NEWS-PRESS Article

March 26, 2006 12:00 AM

The plight of the wild pigs on Santa Cruz Island is getting a renewed focus, in part because of attention the mass killing of these animals received last weekend at the Humane Society of the United States' annual Genesis Awards.

Other media outlets are beginning to take another look.

The National Park Service and the Nature Conservancy, a nonprofit group that owns much of the island, aren't known for total openness when it comes to their interfering with nature.

These entities have ignored requests that they open up this slaughter of thousands of animals -- being paid for with millions of taxpayer dollars -- to public scrutiny.

They've refused to let Central Coast residents and the media witness and document the killings over the last years.

Secrecy and manipulation are standard practice.

In a commentary published on these pages by former Channel Islands National Park chief Tim Setnicka, he wrote:

"Some public opposition about the project developed but a couple of controlled five-hour media trips to the island to look at pig-damaged vegetation took the fight and media interest away from the issue. We never allowed the media to accompany hunters to film the hunting activity. Safety reasons were always given as the reason for denial of their request. The real reason was we wanted to avoid images of the ugliness of the hunt."

While the public may never get to see images of ugliness and cruelty on Santa Cruz Island, the extent of the killing is becoming more clear.

The Park Service and Nature Conservancy originally said perhaps they would kill 1,000 to 2,000 in their campaign to eliminate every last member of this species from the island. But now park officials say they've killed 4,800 animals. Between 1,000 and 1,500 may be left.

Why, suddenly, is there a need to kill every last one of them when this species has been on Santa Cruz for more than 150 years?

One answer: The Park Service and Nature Conservancy want to open up the island to more visitors and campers. More lodging facilities may be on the way.

Mr. Setnicka has called into question "science" behind the slaughter. He states that to help sell the restoration program for the endangered island fox "for which we had no money, we came up with the media spin that one of the main reasons golden eagles (which are said to prey on foxes) reside on park islands was because of pigs."

He also notes, "It was commonly understood among the park staff that my clear goals, along with those of the park's resource management team, were that we would prepare an EIS (environmental impact statement) in which we would not only rationalize the decision to kill and eradicate pigs by hunting but, more importantly, prepare an EIS that would be designed to insulate our actions from all challenges."

A federal lawsuit to stop this unnecessary killing, filed by Santa Barbara businessman Rick Feldman, needs your support. Readers can write him at 1 S. Milpas St., Santa Barbara, 93101 or e-mail him at [milpas1@cox.net](mailto:milpas1@cox.net).

The National Park Service and Nature Conservancy originally said perhaps they'd kill 1,000 to 2,000 in their campaign to eliminate every last wild pig from the island. Now park officials say they've killed 4,800 animals. Between 1,000 and 1,500 may be left.

Opinion: Options exist to the island killings

NEWS-PRESS FILE

February 12, 2006 7:56 AM

How many animals have the National Park Service and Nature Conservancy killed on Santa Cruz Island?

Recall that officials in the past have tried to minimize the slaughter by putting the range between 1,000 and 2,500 wild pigs. This is an incredible total, but the Park Service's initial estimate probably will turn out to be as wrong as the slaughter itself.

Documents from a federal lawsuit reveal that imported gunmen have shot 4,500 animals since last spring, with another 1,500 still on the island.

Misleading information about the scope of the killing on all the Channel Islands is nothing new for the Park Service. Its managers have zero credibility.

The estimates apparently never took into account the killing of generation after generation of island pigs. Piglets born today eventually will have offspring of their own as the gunmen turn Santa Cruz into a big killing field.

We can only hope that enough newborns mature to have offspring -- and so on -- to outlast this government-funded slaughter. Let's all hope that the money from Washington and other sources will dry up. Rep. Lois Capps, D-Santa Barbara, is responsible for securing millions of dollars to fund the killing.

Another hope is the lawsuit filed by Santa Barbara businessman Rick Feldman. He's fighting this cruelty on a couple of different legal tracks, including seeking a full-blown trial on the eradication programs.

Part of such a trial ought to include how the Park Service failed to explore fully humane alternatives to killing.

We doubt the government needs to kill any pigs. After all, this species has been on Santa Cruz for more than 150 years. Why, suddenly, is there a need to kill every last one of them?

Instead of bullets, contraception certainly is an option -- an option the government dismissed without proper thought.

Consider a study from the Journal of Wildlife Management on fallow deer on James Island in British Columbia, a species introduced in 1907 from England. The population over the last century has experienced eruptions and crashes similar to the Santa Cruz pigs.

In studying a new vaccine, the researchers found the "complete contraception of all fallow deer examined up to three years post-immunization ... in addition to the practical advantages, a single-dose, multiyear vaccine eliminates recurring treatment costs and the stress of repeated handling and treatment of the subject animals."

Local businessman files lawsuit to stop pig hunt

By the time the final EIS was issued in September

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May 19, 2005 12:00 AM

NEWS-PRESS STAFF WRITER

A local businessman filed suit Wednesday to halt the pig eradication effort on Santa Cruz Island.

Rick Feldman, owner of the Santa Barbara Eyeglass Factory, is suing to stop the National Park Service and The Nature Conservancy from having all the feral pigs on the island shot.

"I realized the war of the words had been lost," Mr. Feldman said. "My conclusion was that the only thing left to do was go to court. . . . Sure, I could go over to the island in a small boat and get between the shooters, the helicopters and get into the paper, but is that going to stop anything? No."

Mr. Feldman filed an application for a preliminary and permanent injunction to the killing in Los Angeles federal court Wednesday. The basis of the suit is that the killing is unjustified and the method in which it's being carried out has deviated from that outlined in an environmental impact statement, or EIS, prepared several years ago.

"There has to be some sort of debate in front of a magistrate or a judge," Mr. Feldman said. "I say we go to court, get some answers."

Scarlet Newton, spokeswoman for the Channel Islands Animal Protection Association, which has organized opposition to the pig killing, said Wednesday that she wished Mr. Feldman "great success" with the suit.

"If he saves one life it will be a great success," she said, adding that CHIAPA is currently pursuing other legal angles.

Representatives of the park service and the conservancy declined to comment on Mr. Feldman's suit Wednesday.

However, they said they have nothing to hide and that there has been extensive



Rick Feldman is filing lawsuit to stop National Park Service killing of pigs on Santa Cruz Island.

LEN WOOD/NEWS-PRESS

public outreach on the plan.

Yvonne Menard, a spokeswoman for Channel Islands National Park, which manages the eastern quarter of the island, said the park service notified the public of its intent to prepare an EIS in 1999. The agency held public meetings in Santa Barbara and Ventura, printed notices in local newspapers and notified 124 individuals, groups and agencies, she said. A similar notification process was carried out after the draft EIS was published in February 2001, two public meetings were held, and more than 50 media outlets were notified. Thirty-six public comments were received, Ms. Menard said.

"From the very beginning there's been outreach," she added. "There's nothing to hide. The park is very concerned about restoring these unique resources on these precious islands that are just offshore from our community, and we need community involvement in that."

Meanwhile, hunters are continuing to shoot the several thousand pigs, descendants of animals brought to the island by ranchers in the 1850s. The effort began in early April, and they have already killed at least 1,000 pigs.

Officials with the National Park Service and The Nature Conservancy, which owns the western portion of the island, say the pigs need to go because they're tearing up archaeological sites, causing erosion and imperiling native species -- in particular, the endangered Santa Cruz Island fox.

Biologists say the plentiful supply of pork attracted golden eagles to the island, which began picking off foxes, too. Bald eagles, which prefer fish, would have driven the golden eagles away in the past, but they were wiped out by the now-banned pesticide DDT. Golden eagles are now being removed and bald eagles reintroduced as part of the Santa Cruz Island restoration plan, which also includes captive fox breeding and weed control, as well as pig eradication.

"We're doing this to save the island fox and 10 rare plant species from extinction," said Julie Benson, a spokeswoman for the conservancy.

But opponents of the killing argue that the pigs have been unduly vilified and question why they have to be shot.

"I hate to compare this to the Holocaust," Mr. Feldman said, "but I will."

The people who want to save the pigs have suggested moving them to the mainland, which state authorities won't allow because of the risk of spreading disease; sterilizing them; or creating a pig reserve on the island. Park service and conservancy officials say these options are impractical.

Instead, Prohunt New Zealand, a company that specializes in eradicating introduced animals and has experience in New Zealand, the Galápagos Islands and islands off the coast of Mexico and Costa Rica, is being paid \$3.9 million to shoot the pigs with

the help of specially trained dogs, a helicopter and satellite tracking equipment. The project may take two years.

Mr. Feldman said he doesn't believe pigs are a problem on Santa Cruz Island.

"We've got a case here of spin," Mr. Feldman said. "They made them the bad guy."

He said he doesn't think the park service and conservancy necessarily mean ill in wanting to remove the pigs -- a point of view not shared by some opponents of the killing -- but "the means is flawed . . . monstrous."

The hunting is being carried out on the western end of the island, property owned by The Nature Conservancy.

"It's private, but what's going on there is according to a government-approved plan," Mr. Feldman said. "They're in the loop. They can't take comfort in the fact that it's private property."

He remains suspicious that members of the public and media haven't yet been allowed to witness the shooting.

The conservancy has closed some beaches and isn't allowing people to go more than 50 feet inland because of safety concerns, officials said.

Ms. Menard said that once the hunters move east onto land managed by the agency, which may take a year, it will allow media to witness the shooting, though public access will be limited. "Safety is clearly a concern," she said.

However, former Channel Islands National Park Superintendent Tim Setnicka, who was in charge when the EIS was prepared, said this week that he doesn't think the public outreach went far enough.

"While that may be legally sufficient, morally it's insufficient," said Mr. Setnicka, who was reassigned to other duties in 2002, then retired several months later.

In an opinion piece published in the News-Press in March, Mr. Setnicka called for the park service and conservancy to place a moratorium on the killing and to establish an advisory group to re-examine the issue.

"I think the project has a high likelihood of being stopped in some manner, either political or legal," he said this week. "Why don't we stop and have a look now instead of having the judge issue some kind of restraining order?"

"I stand with (Channel Islands National Park Superintendent) Russ Galipeau and the park service that the pigs should be removed," Mr. Setnicka added.

Meanwhile, Mr. Feldman is determined to push ahead with what he describes as a "David and Goliath" battle to stop the project.

"I'm like a bulldog -- I'm not going to let it go."

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LEN WOOD / NEWS-PRESS PHOTOS

Rick Feldman, owner of Santa Barbara Eyeglass Factory, is pursuing legal action to stop the Santa Cruz Island pig hunt.