**A CACHE FROM THE PAST: ARCHAEOLOGY AND *THE ISLAND OF THE BLUE DOLPHINS***

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1. Imagine being an archaeologist and finding two old wood boxes eroding from an island sea cliff. Would you leave them there or try to carefully salvage them before the next winter storm arrived?

2. Why would people settle a small desert island located 61 miles off the California Coast and live there in relative isolation for 10,000 years or more?

3. How did the arrival of Europeans affect the Nicoleno and other California Indian tribes?

4. Why do you think Juana Maria stayed on San Nicolas, hiding from island visitors for 18 years?

5. Imagine yourself being alone on a small, remote island for 18 years. How would you feed and clothe yourself? How would you deal with the loneliness and isolation?

6. Look at the range of artifacts found in and around the redwood box cache from San Nicolas Island. What do the artifacts tell us about the age of the boxes and their contents, their purpose, and who hid them?

7. After 18 years alone on San Nicolas Island, why do you think Juana Maria finally allowed herself to be taken to the mainland? Why do you think she died only seven weeks later?

8. Global sea levels are on the rise, accelerating erosion in coastal areas. What should we do about the potential destruction of coastal archaeological and paleontological sites?