

Mariposa READ
(Read, Enjoy, And Discover)

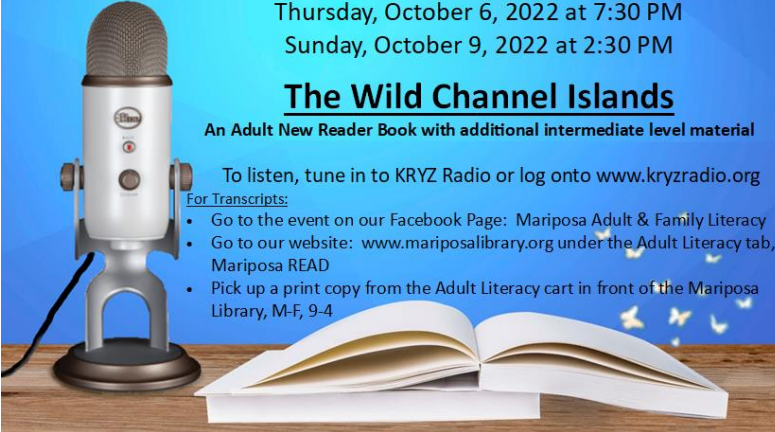
Thursday, October 6, 2022 at 7:30 PM
Sunday, October 9, 2022 at 2:30 PM

The Wild Channel Islands
An Adult New Reader Book with additional intermediate level material

To listen, tune in to KRYZ Radio or log onto www.kryzradio.org

For Transcripts:

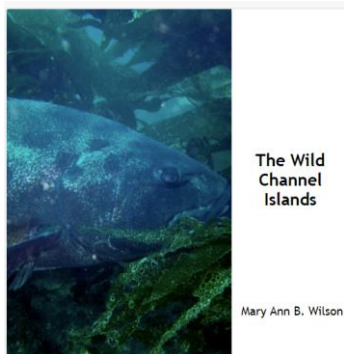
- Go to the event on our Facebook Page: Mariposa Adult & Family Literacy
- Go to our website: www.mariposalibrary.org under the Adult Literacy tab, Mariposa READ
- Pick up a print copy from the Adult Literacy cart in front of the Mariposa Library, M-F, 9-4



Mariposa Adult & Family Literacy Program



The Wild Channel Islands



This book is part of a collection of Adult New Reader books created by California Library Literacy Services volunteer tutors and staff. This project is supported in part by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act, administered in California by the State Librarian.

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The Channel Islands are off the coast of Southern California. There are 8 islands.



You can go to the Channel Islands by boat. In the past, you had to paddle a boat to get there. Today, boats are fast.





From the boat, you can see dolphins and gray whales.



You can see brown pelicans. When they grow up, they are more than just brown. They are also white, yellow, red and orange.



You can see an arch in the rock.



You can see a sea cave.



You can see small islands that make up one island.



You can hike on Santa Cruz Island. It is the biggest island.



You can see sea lions.



You can see seagulls. Baby seagulls are brown. Adults are white, gray and black. The yellow bill has a little red spot.



You can see animals that live only on these islands. The island scrub-jay is a bird that lives only on Santa Cruz Island. The island scrub-jay is blue and white.



The island fox lives on six islands. Each island has a different kind of island fox. The island fox is gray, red, white and black.



You can see green hills.



You can see purple, yellow or blue and white flowers.



You can see red berries and white flowers.



Under the water, you can scuba dive.



You can see kelp. Kelp is very big seaweed. It grows fast.



You can see orange fish called garibaldi.



You can see giant sea bass. They are big, black and slow. They never stop growing. If you are very still, you can be with one for a long time.



When you come home, you will want to go back.



The End

The Channel Islands of California

The Channel Islands of California are an eight-island, 160-mile archipelago located in the Pacific Ocean off the southern California coast. They have been called the Galapagos of North America and became protected as a national monument in 1938. Five of the islands became the Channel Islands National Park in 1980. These islands are San Miguel, Santa Rosa, Santa Cruz, Anacapa, and Santa Barbara. The waters surrounding these islands make up the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary. Two of the other islands that make up the archipelago are San Clemente and San Nicolas which are outside of the park boundaries and owned by the U.S. Navy and includes a U.S. Navy Seals training facility. Perhaps the most famous island is Santa Catalina or Catalina Island.

Even though it is one of the least visited national parks in America, the islands attract around 70,000 visitors per year, mostly in the summer. The eight islands are split among three California counties: Santa Barbara County, Ventura County, and Los Angeles County. The four northern islands used to be a single landmass known as Santa Rosae.

The islands are known for their wildlife viewing, bird watching, and recreation such as camping, sea kayaking, snorkeling, scuba diving, and hiking. Some of the hiking trails go along spectacular sea cliffs where you may have a breathtaking 360-degree view of the ocean. You may be able to spot a grey whale in the ocean below. It doesn't cost anything to get into the park, but you can only get to the islands by boat or plane, which do cost money. On the boat ride you may be able to see the largest animal on Earth, the Blue Whale. You could see orcas, elephant seals, a variety of dolphin species, and a lot of other marine life.

The islands themselves are home to over 2,000 plant and animal species and 150 of those are found nowhere else in the world such as the island scrub jay, the Santa Cruz sheep, the island night lizard, and the island fox. You may find top predators like bald eagles and sharks. There are only four native mammals: the island fox, the island deer mouse, the harvest mouse, and the spotted skunk. None of the species is found on all the islands and no island supports all the

species. Bird species diversity is high on the islands because birds are able to freely fly between the islands.

The island fox only lives on six of the eight Channel Islands and each island population is recognized as a different subspecies. The island fox is one of the smallest canid species in the world and is the only carnivore unique to California. A carnivore is a meat-eating animal. The foxes on the islands where food diversity is not high are known to be omnivores. They still eat mice and crickets, but also dine on fruits from the cactus, manzanita, and sea figs. They may also forage along the shoreline for crabs. The foxes are not found on Anacapa and Santa Barbara Islands because there is not enough food or water. In 2004, each of the park's island fox subspecies were federally listed as endangered. Thanks to conservation and an island fox recovery program, their population has recovered within the park.

Animals aren't the only living things that are unique to the Channel Islands of California. The islands house many rare and endangered species of plants. Torrey Pines are the United State's rarest pine species, and they are originally from the Channel Islands. Another endemic (original) plant is the island tree mallow. The climate of the California Channel Islands is semi-arid. Rainfall amounts differ among the islands, but the average rainfall across the islands is less than six inches per year.

Santa Catalina Island has a town called Avalon and people live on the island. There are people living on the Naval islands as well. The earliest paleontological evidence of humans in North America comes from the Channel Islands. They were inhabited as early as 13,000 years ago. There were Native American tribes living on the islands. They were maritime, Paleo-Indian peoples called the Chumash and the Tongva. These peoples provide the earliest evidence of human seafaring in the Americas. They had invented a new type of boat called the tomol. It was a frameless, planked canoe. The Chumash and Tongva made items to trade with the mainland. The Chumash considered the island fox to be a sacred animal, a pet of the sun, and a dream helper. They had a special dance called the fox dance and used the pelts to make capes and headdresses. When the Spanish explorers came, they displaced these tribes to use the islands for fishing and agriculture.

Thousands of years ago pygmy mammoths and short faced bears could be found on the islands, but they are extinct today. The islands are evolving and changing and what lives in the Channel Islands in the future may be very different than what we see today. If you love to explore nature, you will want to make sure that visiting the wild Channel Islands of California is on your bucket list.