

Island of the Blue Dolphins, Chapter 14
A Cave Adventure

Grade Level

Upper Elementary: Third Grade through Fifth Grade

Subject

Literacy and Language Arts, Science

Common Core Standards

W.4.7

Next Generation Science Standards

4-ESS2-1

Background Information

When Karana is looking for shelter from the pack of wild dogs in chapter 14, she discovers a cave to use as a hideout.

This activity lets students conduct research before writing their own first-person narrative story about discovering a cave.

Materials

- Copy of activity sheet for each student (provided)
- Computers or classroom library to conduct research
- Chapter 14 Voices from the Field entries
 - <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/islandofthebluedolphins/schwartz.htm>
 - <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/islandofthebluedolphins/morris.htm>
- Class set of *Island of the Blue Dolphins*

Procedure

1. Give each student a copy of the activity sheet.
2. Give students the directions for the activity, including the questions you would like them to focus on in their research and creative writing.
3. Allow time for research while you monitor the students. Scaffold their research with guiding questions like those found on the student activity sheet.
4. Direct students to begin writing their story once they have completed their research.
5. To shorten this activity: Have students complete individual research, then come together as an entire class to collectively write a story about discovering a cave.
6. To lengthen this activity: Once students have completed and edited their stories, have students share them with the class. You may also ask students to illustrate their stories.

