

Island of the Blue Dolphins, Chapter 28
The Tools of Nature

Grade Level

Upper Elementary: Third Grade through Fifth Grade

Subject

Literacy and Language Arts, Science

Common Core Standards

W.3.2

Next Generation Science Standards

3-LS4-3

Background Information

The environment is continuously posing challenges for Karana as evidenced by the powerful ocean waves that destroy her canoe in chapter 28. But Karana also proves quite resourceful. She makes full use of her environment to craft and repair tools, clothing, and shelter on an isolated island.

In this activity, students will review specific chapters of *Island of the Blue Dolphins*, documenting and describing the materials from the natural world that Karana uses to take care of herself on the island.

Materials

- Copy of activity sheet for each student (provided)
- Class set of *Island of the Blue Dolphins*

Procedure

1. Hand out a copy of the activity sheet to each student and go over directions, citing the first example. Keep in mind that **page numbers will differ** depending on which edition and printing of *Island of the Blue Dolphins* the class is using; adjust the example on the activity sheet accordingly.
2. Monitor the students as they research within the book and document their findings. Have students focus on chapters 19–28 (each of these includes descriptions of tools Karana crafts from her environment).
3. To shorten this activity: Assign small groups of students to search specific chapters or pages and share the information as a class to complete the activity together.
4. To lengthen this activity: Bring the class together after activity sheets are completed to discuss what tools students found in the book and how they compare to modern-day tools. Select one or more of the modern-day tools and research what materials compose it. What comes from the natural world and what is synthetic?

Name _____

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The Tools of Nature

Directions: Re-examine closely chapters 19–28 closely and look for places where Karana describes how she uses materials found in the natural world to meet her daily needs. Using the chart below, keep track of the following information: chapter and page number, description of the material, explanation of how Karana uses that material, and any modern materials used for a similar purpose.

Tool/Item	Chapter, Page #	Tool Description & Purpose	Modern-Day Example
black pitch	28, 165 & 166	Long and stringy, black, hard until heated. Used for sealing canoe holes.	Tar, glue, or cement
	19		
	20		
	21		
	22		

Tool/Item	Chapter, Page #	Tool Description & Purpose	Modern-Day Example
	23		
	24		
	25		
	26		
	27		
	28		