

*Sample Pages from*

***Objective Tests  
Think, Write, Create Activities  
and Answer Keys  
for***

# **Island of the Blue Dolphins**

*By Scott O'Dell*

**1961 Newbery Medal Winner**



## **A Teaching Pack**

By Margaret Whisnant

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# ISLAND OF THE BLUE DOLPHINS

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1 Pages 1-8  
2 Pages 9-14



Write either **True** or **False** in the blank before each statement.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Karana and her brother were gathering roots in Coral Cove when they saw the Aleut ship sailing for the island.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. When the story began, Karana was twelve years old.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Before the coming of the Aleut vessel, Karana had never seen a ship.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. As they waited on shore for the ship to enter the harbor, the men from the village were carrying weapons.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Karana was standing on the beach with the rest of the villagers when the boat carrying the Russian came to shore.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. When the Russian jumped out of the boat and began shouting, Karana was certain he was one of the men from the north whom her people feared.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Karana's father was the chief of Ghalas-at.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Karana's people kept their real names a secret because they believed they would become worn out and lose their magic with use.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. The Russian, Captain Orlov, came to the island with forty men to hunt sea otter.

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3 Pages 15-18

4 Pages 19-24

Write either **Yes** or **No** in the blank before each question.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Did the Aleuts hunt in the deep kelp beds that surrounded three sides of the island?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Did the Aleuts hunt sea otter for the meat?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Did Karana think of the beads and other things she would receive as she counted the dead otter the Aleuts brought back from the sea?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. One morning, did Karana tell her father there would be no otter left when the hunters were finished?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Did Karana's people make canoes from trees that grew on the other side of the island?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Did the islanders keep a close eye on the Aleuts because they thought Captain Orlov might try to sail away without paying for the otter?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. When the Aleut woman spent a whole afternoon cleaning her skin apron, was this a clue that the hunters were preparing to leave?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Each night as the Aleuts made their preparations to leave, did Karana's father work on the new spear he was making?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. When the Aleuts took down their tents and carried them to the beach, had Captain Orlov paid the villagers for the sea otter they had killed?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. The morning the Aleuts left, did the whole tribe leave the village and go to Coral Cove?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. Were Karana and her sister standing on the beach when they saw Captain Orlov open the chest of beads?



- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. Did Karana's father think one chest full of beads was a fair price for the otter the Aleuts had taken?

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7 Pages 35-40 8 Pages 41-48

Write the **letter** of the correct answer in the blank before each question.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Which of the following was **not** one of the items in the basket Karana packed?  
(A) a stone knife, (B) the fine needles made of whalebone, (C) a stone spearhead.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. The thin mark that Ulape drew with blue clay across her nose and cheekbones meant she was (A) saying good-bye to her ancestors, (B) unmarried, (C) asking the spirits for protection.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. As the tribe left the village, the wind (A) blew in fierce gusts, (B) was calm, (C) blew white clouds across the horizon.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Both Nanko and the white men encouraged the villagers to (A) pack as many possessions as they could, (B) hurry to the waiting ship, (C) be happy about leaving the island.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Nanko said Karana's brother Ramo (A) had jumped into the first boat that left for the ship, (B) could not go back after his fishing spear, (C) would have to ride in the boat with the men.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. From the ship, Karana saw Ramo (A) standing behind the young white man with blue eyes and a black beard, (B) on the island running along the cliff, (C) in one of the boats being dashed about by high winds.



- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. The ship had to leave the island or (A) lose the tide, (B) wait several days for another strong wind to take it out to sea, (C) be driven onto the rocks.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Realizing the ship was not turning back, Karana (A) screamed into the howling wind, (B) flung herself into the sea, (C) tried to attack the white captain.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Karana allowed her basket to sink because (A) the wind pulled it from her hands, (B) the things in it weren't important, (C) she realized she could not swim with it in her arms.

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9 Pages 49-58

the village  
the wild dogs  
the Aleuts  
Coral Cove  
a spring

the fog  
the otters  
the chest  
a tree root  
the leader of the pack

the surf  
weapons  
on the rock  
trees  
dry seaweed

a large rock and two stunted trees  
the canoes  
the beads  
a bow and arrows



From the list above, choose the word or phrase that fits each of the clues below and write it in the blank. **All** answers will be **used at least once**. **Some** answers will be **used more than once**.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. These were on the headland where Karana decided to live.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. The laws of Ghalas-at forbade the making of these by women.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. In the chest they left, Karana found beads, bracelets, and earrings.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. There was one of these in a ravine near the headland where Karana decided to live.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Regardless of the consequences, Karana decided to make weapons to protect herself from them.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. They were very scarce on the Island of the Blue Dolphins.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Karana was safe from the wild dogs when she slept here.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Karana burned it, house by house.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Even though she had seen her father make weapons, Karana had a difficult time making these.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. The shapes it made reminded Karana of all the islanders who were dead and of the ones who had left.

# Think, Write, Create

(Chapter Activities)

## Chapter 1—Chapter 2

Some of the activities and behaviors that were common-place in Karana's village might seem strange to us. Explain how each of the following would be out of place in our society. Then explain why they were a necessity for Karana and her people.

- Kara used a pointed stick to dig roots.
- Half the men from the village stood at the water's edge where the men from the ship came ashore while the rest were concealed among the rocks at the foot of the trail.
- Everyone in the tribe had two names—a common name and a secret name, which was seldom used.
- Karana's village claimed ownership of the sea which surrounded the Island of the Blue Dolphins.

Research to find answers to the following questions about kelp:

1. What is kelp?
2. Why is it important to sea life?
3. How is kelp important to people?
4. Where would you find the type of kelp known as *Macrocystis*?
5. How is *Macrocystis* unique?

Captain Orlov and the Aleuts wanted to camp on the Island of the Blue Dolphins while they hunted sea otter. Captain Orlov was a Russian, one of the men from the north whom Karana's people feared.

- Use clues from the story to construct your version of what you imagine happened on the previous hunt led by Captain Mitriff.
- What evidence can you offer to prove that Captain Orlov is not an honorable man?
- Based on what you know of him so far, would you describe Karana's father as a *brave man* or a *foolish man*? Do you suppose he inherited the position of chief or was the honor bestowed upon him by the other villagers? Add details to support your answers.

Research to find answers to the following questions about the Aleuts:

- (1) Where do the Aleuts live?
- (2) What are *barabaras*?
- (3) What are the two dominant languages spoken by the Aleuts? Explain why these two particular languages have become part of Aleut life. Is the Aleut language still spoken?
- (4) What artistic abilities are the Aleut famous for?
- (5) The Aleuts did, in fact, travel to the island of San Nicholas in 1811 to hunt. What was the actual result of their voyage?
- (6) What was the purpose of the Aleut Restitution Act of 1988?
- (7) Before they were subjected to outside influences, about how many Aleuts were there? What has happened to their population numbers?