

# PLUGGED IN FUN FOR KIDS

A COOPERATIVE PROJECT OF THE SANTA BARBARA NEWS-PRESS AND THE EDUCATORS' ROUNDTABLE, PUBLISHED MONTHLY TO PROMOTE LEARNING AMONG YOUNG READERS IN NATURAL SCIENCE, HISTORY, TECHNOLOGY AND ART

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## This Month's Theme: Channel Islands



## 25 Reasons to Protect and Connect with the Channel Islands

Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary and Channel Islands National Park are celebrating their 25th anniversaries. The Sanctuary and Park were created in 1980 to protect five of the eight California Channel Islands—Santa Barbara, Anacapa, Santa Cruz, Santa Rosa, and San Miguel—and their surrounding waters. Warm and cool ocean currents collide around the Channel Islands and create a healthy “living soup” for thousands of different types of plants and animals. The Sanctuary and Park provide homes for threatened and endangered species and preserve important archaeological treasures.

In the activity below, you will find 25 reasons why the islands are so special and how you can enjoy and protect them. Match the photos on this page to numbered reasons below that have a line like this,     , in front of them. If you correctly match the photos, you can decode the special message at the bottom. Just match each reason's number with its answer letter.

1. Wildlife Watching: Get an up close look at whales, seals, dolphins, seabirds, and more on boat cruises.
2. One of the healthiest marine environments in the world
3. Become a Channel Islands Argonaut: Each year 20 students explore the islands, conduct scientific research, and act as community ambassadors. Visit <http://channelislands.noaa.gov/edu/shoretosea.html>
4. Oldest example of ocean-going watercraft in North America, the Chumash tomol
5. Several *endemic* (found nowhere else in the world) species of vertebrates—including fox, skunk, night lizard, and mouse
6. Kayaking: Sea kayaking at the Channel Islands is an amazing experience. Glide past kelp forests, visit secluded coves and beaches, and explore sea caves.
7. Visit the Islands: The islands are a great place to get in touch with nature. Great things to do on the islands include camping, hiking, and bird watching.
8. Fossils of extinct pygmy mammoth, which lived only on the northern Channel Islands
9. Painted Cave on Santa Cruz Island is one of the world's largest sea caves.
10. Boating: The Channel Islands offer protected and scenic anchorages for both power and sail boats.
11. Home to the endangered island fox, the only endemic carnivore in California
12. Ironwood Tree: This living relic from the Pleistocene era is found only on the Channel Islands.
13. Diving and Snorkeling: The Channel Islands are one of the top ten places to dive in the world due to the amazing diversity of sea life.
14. Largest aggregation of blue whales in the world, 10% of the global population
15. Best remaining examples of pristine tidepools, kelp forests, and coastal bluffs in Southern California
16. Most diverse *pinniped* (seal and sea lion) rookeries in the world
17. Largest breeding colonies of seabirds in Southern California
18. Go Fish: Fishing can be a fun way to experience the Channel Islands. Make sure you have your fishing permit and are aware of the rules telling where you can do island fishing.
19. Designated as both State Marine Reserves and an International Biosphere Reserve, many scientists conduct research experiments on the islands.
20. Only protected colonies of Xantus's murrelet in the world
21. Photography: There are many colorful animals, plants, and algae to see and photograph at the Channel Islands.
22. 75 plant species endemic to one or more of the islands
23. One of only two occurrences of Torrey pine trees in the world
24. Darkest night sky on the Southern California coast
25. And all of this is within 60 miles of 18 million people!

     14        4        16        16        11        20        8        R        13        14        3        4        11

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Answers: 3, D; 4, A; 6, L; 8, I; 11, Y; 13, T; 14, H; 16, P; 18, N; 20, B.  
Special message: HAPPY BIRTHDAY, CHANNEL ISLANDS!

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