

## Explore the Bay Field Research Protocol

### Overview

This is not a research project but rather an opportunity for students to have a “Wow!” moment while exploring the bay, seeing the islands, hiking, snorkeling, and looking for wildlife. The goal is for students to record several observations and questions in their science notebooks.

### Agenda

#### Introductions

- Spanish and English (Name and favorite animal)

#### Boat Ride through the Islands

- Island names and translations:
  - Ventana = window    Llave = wrench    Cerraja = locksmith
  - Pata = paw    Bota = boot    San aremar = xx;
  - Flecha = arrow    Jorabado = hunchback    Coronado = crown
  - Ballena Channel = whale channel    Ventana = window
- Calavera (Skull Island)
  - Guano (bird poop)
    - Point out birds on the island; guano gives the island it’s white color;
    - Is high in nutrients which can provide nutrients for other organisms that live on the island.
  - Observe sealions.
    - Males are larger (up to 800 lbs. and 7 feet long)
    - Females are smaller (up to 250 lbs. and 6 feet long)
- Coronado = Osprey Nest

#### Coronadito Bay: Snorkeling and Hiking

- Divide in half – one half will snorkel and one half will hike the island.
  - Some mentors will be needed to snorkel for both rotations.
  - Snorkeling – 1st time in open water for students.
- Snorkeling:
  - Change into snorkel gear.
  - Gear check with buddies.
    - All student start w/ life jackets but after 15 minutes if they feel comfortable may take them off.
  - Enter water when boat guide says it is safe to do so.
  - Snorkel in the protected bay only.
  - Return to boat 15 minutes before switch time.
    - Take off wetsuits.
    - Store gear.
    - Water/snack break.
    - **Gather gear for hike: water bottle, hat, sunglasses, science notebook, pencil, and backpack.**
    - **Bring hiking shoes in dry bag to change into.**



### Wildlife Watching and Ventana

- Boat guides can drive around the area to look for whales, whale sharks, etc.
  - Ballena Channel = Whale Channel
  - Deep water – allows space for migrating whales.
- Stop at Ventana.
  - Take a group picture with Ventana in the background.
- If time and sea state allows: give students 5 minutes to record observations and questions in science notebook before departing.

### Return to Dock & Thank You's

- Before students are dropped off at the dock be sure they thank their boat captain.

