

HOW TO DO YOUR ISLAND WRITING HOMEWORK:

- 1) Put the name of the island in the box that says “name of island” underneath
- 2) Put a dot on the world map (using something brightly colored like a red marker) to show where your island is located.
- 3) Write a few words about the climate of your island, such as “hot and dry,” or “cold and snowy,” or “cold and dry.” If your island’s climate is similar to that of Pennsylvania (not too hot, not too cold, not too wet, not too dry) write “temperate.” You might also want to use the word “tropical” if your island lies anywhere near the equator.
- 4) Draw a simple map or picture of your island in the large box. (If you color your picture it will make your report look even nicer!) Consider labeling the seas or oceans around it and any important cities or harbors on the island.
- 5) Use the lines below to write some information about your island.
Here are some questions that will help you think about what to write. You do not need to answer all of these questions, and you are welcome to include information not covered by these questions. These questions are to prevent “writer’s block,” where you can’t think of what to say.

- How big is your island? (You could answer in mathematical terms, such as square miles, or you could just compare it to something like a US state or a PA county, or something else we would be familiar with.)
- Is the island an independent country or is it a territory of a larger country?
- Who lives on your island? People? Just animals?
- Has there ever been a military battle on your island? When? Why?
- Was your island colonized by a European country? If so, when?
- What natural foods grow on the island?
- If there are natives on the island, what language did they speak? Did they always speak this language? Do people on the island speak more than one language?
- Were there ever pirates on the island?
- What kind of trees or plants grow on the island? Are any of these plants used as “cash crops” (meaning that they are sold to people who don’t live on the island in order to make money)?
- What kind of animals are native to the island? Are any of them poisonous?
- Is the island a good place to vacation?
- What is the water like around the island? Is it good for swimming, boating, fishing, surfing, or snorkeling? Is it a place where ships have wrecked?
- Does your island have beaches? (some don’t) If so, are they rocky or sandy?
- Are there any famous buildings on the island? Famous man-made features?
- Are there any famous natural features on the island, such as waterfalls or volcanoes or mountains?

Suggestions for extra reading during the Islands unit

Fiction:

Abel's Island by William Steig (chapter book)

Rotten Island by William Steig (picture book-- humorous)

Nim's Island by Wendy Orv (chapter book)

Island of the Skog by Steven Kellogg (advanced picture book- mice go on adventure)

Surprise Island (one of the Boxcar Children series)

Black Island (a Tintin story-- this is a "graphic novel" i.e. cartoon, but for older kids)

Shipwreck on the Pirate Islands by Geronimo Stilton (advanced picture book- humorous)

Bourbon Island 1730 by Lewis Trondheim (black and white cartoon style, humorous)

Milo and the Mysterious Island by Marcus Pfister (adv. picture book --mice go on an adventure)

Island of the Aunts by Eva Ibbotson (chapter book, very much Roald Dahl type humor)

The Cats of Ellis Island by Sally Adam (chapter book)

Island of the Blue Dolphins by Scott O'Dell (chapter book)

Call It Courage by Armstrong Sperry (chapter book)

The 21 Balloons by William Pene Du Bois (chapter book)

The Dragon of Lonely Island by Rebecca Rupp (chapter book)

Non-fiction and historical fiction:

If Your Name Was Changed at Ellis Island by Ellen Levine (advanced picture book)

An Island Grows by Lola Schaefer (picture book)

My Little Island by Frane Lessac (picture book-- featured on Reading Rainbow)

Easter Island by Caroline Arnold

The Island-below-the-star by James Rumford (an advanced picture book)

The Legend of Mackinac Island by Kathy-jo Warqin (advanced picture book)

Island Boy by Barbara Cooney (advanced picture book, historical fiction- New England)

The Little Island by Golden MacDonald (picture book)

Wolf Island by Celia Godkin (advanced picture book, Canadian wolves on island)

Assateague: Island of Wild Ponies by Andrea Jack and Larry Points (adv. picture)

Kangaroo Island by Deidre Langeland and Frank Ordeiz

An Island Christmas by Lynn Joseph (picture book)

Windward Islands by Tamara Orr (the Lesser Antilles: Martinique, Grenada, St. Vincent, etc)

An Island Scrapbook by Virginia Wright-Frierson (picture book)

On Sand Island by Jacqueline Briggs Martin (adv. picture-- life on island in Lake Superior)

Wild Islands (part of the Horrible Geography series) by Anita Ganeri

Islands by Christine Webster (factual book for ages 9-12)