

Catalina Island Field Notebook

Island in Balance · Listen. Uncover. Reimagine. Design.



Take this notebook through the experience. At each NPC, listen first, then jot your answers. **Short notes are fine:** you're collecting evidence for your build, not writing essays. Look for the **LINK** tag: that NPC has a link button worth opening.

Team member 1

Team member 2

Team member 3

Team member 4

Our challenge: Build for Catalina

How might we transform the vacant former Chicago Cubs spring-training site into a place that helps protect Catalina's unique island ecosystem while serving the people who live on and visit the island?

Catalina is presented as an island community and open pathway, not as a county.

Green Pleasure Pier



Jason Collar

Community Guide · Green Pleasure Pier

Name three things people come to Catalina to do.

Mr. Collar says Catalina is more than a vacation spot. What else is it?

How to use this notebook

1. Answer as you meet each NPC. Avalon first, then below the water, then wild Catalina.
2. Fill in the discovery tables along the way.
3. Use **Plan Your Build** at the end before you start building.

Avalon

Harbor, waterfront, Casino & community

Listen first. Then write what you heard, not what you guessed.

Avalon Waterfront



Mayor of Avalon

Community Leader · Avalon waterfront

The Mayor says Catalina has to work for two groups of people. Who are they?

Below the Surface



Marine Biologist / Dive Guide

[LINK: Casino Point Dive Park](#)

Underwater near Casino Point

Draw or describe something you see underwater.

SKETCH

The Catalina Casino



Chris Lowe

Casino Historian · Catalina Casino

When was the Catalina Casino built? Was it ever a gambling casino?



Peter Polygalov

Island History & Community Guide

Who lived on Catalina long before Avalon? What did they call the island?

Why did the Chicago Cubs come to Catalina?

Wild Catalina

Endemic species, introduced animals & restoration

Don't pick a side yet. Look around first.

Wild Catalina



Island Conservationist

Wild Catalina · Conservation area

What is an endemic species?

Only on Catalina: Species Discovery

Species	What I noticed
Catalina Island Fox	
Catalina Ironwood	
Catalina Manzanita	
Catalina Liveforever	
Catalina Popcorn Flower	

Not Native... Not the Same



Wildlife Ecologist

[LINK: Land Mammals](#)

Mule deer & bison

Deer and bison are both not native. Name one way they are different.

Animal	What does it eat?	What happens to the plants?
Mule deer		
Bison		

Everything Is Connected



Restoration Ecologist

Native & invasive plants

How can invasive grass make wildfires worse?

Change one part. What happens to the others? Fill in a chain you discovered.

This changes...	which leads to...	which leads to...

Back in Avalon



Randy Poggio

Community & Environmental Perspective · Back in Avalon

Randy says Catalina needs many pieces to work together. Name three of them.

Catalina Island

Pull it together before you build



KATRINA JOY · COMMUNITY DESIGN MENTOR · EDGE OF THE VACANT LOT

Before you build, make sure you know: **what** you're creating, **who** it serves, **what you learned**, and **why** it matters.

What should the old Cubs spring-training site become?

Who or what does it serve?

Something we learned (who or what taught us?)

How does it connect to Catalina?

What Could Your Idea Do? (check all that apply)

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ Restore native plants | ☐ Encourage responsible recreation |
| ☐ Support pollinators | ☐ Teach visitors |
| ☐ Protect endemic wildlife | ☐ Study and monitor change |
| ☐ Improve wildfire resilience | ☐ Something else: |

Our 2 Purposeful Features

1 Feature

What it does / how it helps

2 Feature

What it does / how it helps

Sketch our build

SKETCH

Board Draft

Project Name	
The Need or Opportunity	
Our Idea	
Who or What It Helps	
Catalina Connection	
Why It Matters	

Don't just build something cool. Build something Catalina could use.

Our NPC

NPC name	
Purpose / what they explain	
External link (URL + why)	

Virtual Tour Plan · 3 min or less · every voice · MP4

Every team member's voice must be heard. With teacher approval, a student may use captions or on-screen text instead.

Team member	What I will show and explain

Final check (rubric Level 3)

Level 3 = all requirements met. Level 4 = goes beyond. Your full rubric is on page 2 of your Battle Prompt.

- ☐ **Catalina Design Challenge:** Clearly responds to a need or opportunity on Catalina and shows who or what it helps.
- ☐ **Catalina Learning & Connection:** Uses at least 1 useful idea or discovery from Catalina to shape the design.
- ☐ **Design & Creativity:** 2+ purposeful features that support the idea.
- ☐ **Communication & Team Voice:** Board & NPC explain the idea, NPC has a relevant link, tour includes every voice.