

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

Mr. Collar says there's more going on here than you might think. What three things does he point to?

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

Why is living on an island harder in some ways? Name two challenges the Mayor describes.

Why does Catalina have to work for visitors AND residents?

Below the Surface



Marine Biologist / Dive Guide

[LINK: Casino Point Dive Park](#)

Underwater near Casino Point

What is “the trick” the dive guide describes? Why is it hard?

Link: one fact about the Casino Point dive park you could use.

The Catalina Casino



Chris Lowe

Casino Historian · Catalina Casino

Why do people still think “Catalina” when they see this building?

Chris asks: could what you build feel like it belongs on Catalina? What would make it fit?

Avalon Is a Community



Peter Polygalov

Island History & Community Guide

Name three chapters of Catalina’s story that Peter describes.

Where can you still see William Wrigley Jr.’s influence in Avalon?

Wild Catalina

Endemic species, introduced animals & restoration

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

Wild Catalina



Island Conservationist

Wild Catalina · Conservation area

Why can being endemic make a species more vulnerable to change?

Only on Catalina: Species Discovery

Species	What I noticed	What could threaten its habitat?
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

Why are deer and bison treated differently? Use evidence.

What does “nonnative” tell you, and what doesn’t it tell you?

Animal	What it eats	How its population grows or is managed	Effect on habitat
Mule deer			
Bison			

Everything Is Connected



Restoration Ecologist

Native & invasive plants

Trace the chain: how can an invasive plant become a community problem?

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 names people, visitors, businesses, and wildlife. Which of these might disagree, and about what?

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?

What we learned (evidence or perspective)

From which NPC or link?

Catalina connection: how does it fit the island's people, history, wildlife, or environment?

A tradeoff we considered

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

- ☐ Restore native plants
- ☐ Support pollinators
- ☐ Protect endemic wildlife
- ☐ Improve wildfire resilience

- ☐ Encourage responsible recreation
- ☐ Teach visitors
- ☐ Study and monitor change
- ☐ Something else:

Our 3 Purposeful Features

1 Feature

What it does / how it helps

2 Feature

What it does / how it helps

3 Feature

What it does / how it helps

Sketch our build

SKETCH

Board Draft

Project Name	
The Need or Opportunity	
Our Proposal	
Who or What It Serves	
What We Learned	
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 Catalina need or opportunity and shows who or what it could serve.
- ☐ **Learning, Evidence & Connections:** Uses relevant evidence, perspectives, or system connections from Catalina to support design choices.
- ☐ **Design & Creativity:** 3+ purposeful features that support a clear, creative proposal.
- ☐ **Communication & Team Voice:** Board explains clearly, NPC gives context + a relevant source, tour presents reasoning with every voice.