

A Local Way Of Learning

Title: CAYS: FACT OR FICTION?

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Environmental Education Team

Grade Level: 4-6

Concepts: 2.Ecosystem
6.Resources
12.Stewardship

Disciplines: 1.Science
2.Social Studies

Objective:

Using a pre-post study quiz technique, students will acquire some basic facts about the cays that surround the Virgin Islands via the activity.

Rationale:

The pre-post study quiz technique is used as an introduction to a unit on the importance of cays to Virgin Islands environment. Students like the challenge!

Directions:

- 1.Administer the true-false quiz, set aside.
- 2.Discuss or distribute DCCA Fact Sheet No. 12 for independent study.
- 3.Administer follow-up quiz. Score.
4. Discuss general aspects of cays contribution to Island environment.

Resources:

Coastal Environments: Offshore Cays, DCCA Environmental Fact Sheet No. 12.

Name:
School:
Score:

CAYS: FACT OR FICTION?

11-13 correct = A
8-10= B
5-7= c
2-4= D

Test your knowledge of facts pertaining to the cays that surround the Virgin Island Mark the statements that follow as either true or false. Then study the DCCA Fact Sheet No. 12 and do the test a second time. Use column "A" to answer first try; column "B" for second try.

"A"			"B"	
T	F	1. None of the cays that surround the Virgin Islands have well-developed reef systems.	T	F
T	F	2. Because of remoteness, the cays attract large populations of reef fish.	T	F
T	F	3. The cays have little fresh water because of exposure to drying wind and salt spray.	T	F
T	F	4. Because of remoteness, the cays are popular rookeries for local and migratory birds.	T	F
T	F	5. Hunting is prohibited on all publicly owned cays at all times by the government.	T	F
T	F	6. Because the cays have many mongooses, there are no rats, lizards or snakes on the cays.	T	F
T	F	7. Tropic birds, brown boobies, terns, and mountain doves are some that nest on the cays.	T	F
T	F	8. There are 56 cays around St. Thomas and St. John, and three that are off St. Croix.	T	F
T	F	9. Two of the cays are named Buck Island and both are owned by the federal Government.	T	F

"A"			"B"	
T	F	10.The largest of the cays is about 50 acres in size, and some rise as high as 700 feet above sea level.	T	F
T	F	11.Many of the cays have salt ponds and are surrounded by some coral development.	T	F
T	F	12.Major use of the cays by people is for diving, snorkeling, swimming, camping and picnicking.	T	F
T	F	13.While there are many cays, they offer little protection as storm buffers to the Virgin Islands.	T	F

DCCA ENVIRONMENTAL FACT SHEET NO. 12
 COASTAL ENVIRONMENTS: OFFSHORE CAYS

What Are They?

Cays are small over shore islands that vary in size from small pinnacles of rock to as large as 170 acres and as high as 700 ft. above sea level. Most range between five and 50 acres. Simple rock protrusions are often bare and serve mainly as roosting and nesting sites for sea birds. The larger cays have beaches, rocky shores or cliffs, and some vegetation. Many have salt ponds and are surrounded by some degree of coral development. A few are inhabited; most are hard to get to.

There are 59 cays in all. All but three of these surround St. Thom and St. John. Most of the cays belong to the Virgin Islands Government, although many of the larger cays are privately-owned and five are owned by the federal government (Water Island and Buck Island, St. Thomas; Trunk Cay St. John; Green Cay and Buck Island, St. Croix).

