

# ANSWER KEY > The Lone Woman of San Nicolas Island

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1. PART A: Which of the following identifies the central idea of the text? **RI.KID.2**

- A. Island of the Blue Dolphins doesn't accurately capture the lone woman's experiences.  
B. **The lone woman's unique experiences on San Nicola were interesting to many people.**  
C. When the lone woman came to the mainland she was overwhelmed by the new culture.  
D. The lone woman would have preferred to stay on the island she considered home.

Describe the central idea of a text and how it is conveyed through details; provide an objective summary.

2. PART B: Which detail from the text best supports the answer to Part A? **RI.KID.1**

- A. **"Her story has intrigued and inspired readers and historians ever since she was rescued." (Paragraph 1)**  
B. "There were no other ships large enough to make the trip on the coast at the time. Soon, the rescue mission and the lone woman were forgotten." (Paragraph 6)  
C. "Over the next 18 years, rumors traveled around the mainland that San Nicolas Island might still be inhabited." (Paragraph 7)  
D. "Before she died the priests baptized her and gave her the Spanish name Juana Maria." (Paragraph 12)

3. PART A: How was the lone woman's life and health impacted by her move to the mainland? **RI.KID.3**

- A. **She became ill shortly after arriving and died.**  
B. She was treated as more of an attraction than a person and this made her sad.  
C. She grew to miss her life on San Nicolas Island and became homesick.  
D. She realized that her people were gone and died of a broken heart.

4. PART B: Which quote from the text best supports the answer to Part A? **RI.KID.1**

- A. "She willingly went back with them to the mainland." (Paragraph 9)  
B. "She stayed with the priests at the Santa Barbara Mission. Her people had scattered, and no one in the area spoke the same language as she did." (Paragraph 10)  
C. "As she became famous around the town, many people came to see and visit with her." (Paragraph 11)  
D. **"The lone woman had survived on her own for so long that the food the priests and locals cooked for her made her very sick. She died of disease after only seven weeks on the mainland." (Paragraph 12)**

5. How does the text describe the relationship between the Nicoleño people and the Franciscan priests? **RI.KID.3**

Answers will vary; students should discuss how the relationship between the Nicoleño people and the Franciscan priests is portrayed favorably. For instance, when the priests heard of the threat to the Nicoleño people, "[t]hey decided to send a ship out to the island to bring the people back to one of their missions, where they could live more peacefully" (Paragraph 3). Additionally, students should discuss how the priests tried to send someone back for the lone woman, but "the ship sank before it could return to San Nicolas Island" (Paragraph 6). Students should also discuss how the priests provided the lone woman with a place to live when she came to the mainland, and attempted to care for her. Finally, students should discuss how the priests attempted to prepare the lone woman for the afterlife in ways they believed to be proper. For instance, they "baptized her and gave her the Spanish name Juana Maria" (Paragraph 12). While the priests were unable to provide the care that the lone woman needed to survive, the text portrays the priests as doing everything they could to help her and the Nicoleño people.