

Name that Island!

Read these descriptions of four of the Galápagos Islands—Fernandina, Isabela, Santa Cruz, and Española. Based on what you know about the age and current volcanic activity of each island, can you figure out the island that matches each description?

The four islands: Fernandina, Isabela, Santa Cruz, and Española

1. This island's volcanoes still erupt occasionally, but their slopes are slowly eroding into rich volcanic soil that supports plant life. The vegetation here can sustain herds of grazing animals.

What island do you think this is? Why?

2. This island once towered above the sea but erosion has taken its toll. Its volcanoes have been leveled. Virtually no rain falls here. This is a true desert island. Its shores are rich in marine life.

What island do you think this is? Why?

3. This island is rocky and harsh. It's crowned by a caldera (a basin created in the center of a volcano) nearly four miles (6.4 kilometers) wide and one-half mile (0.8 kilometers) deep. The volcano has erupted up to 30 times in the past two centuries, most recently in 2005.

What island do you think this is? Why?

4. This island's volcanoes have gone dormant. Forests have taken over. Its green vegetation is a haven for animal life.

Which island do you think this is? Why?