



Blue Holes Expedition Planning and Preparation – Answer Key

Use the questions below to think through preparations needed for a Bahamas Blue Holes expedition. Write your ideas in the left column. Then watch the “Extreme Cave Diving” video and revise your ideas in the right column.

Expedition Purpose What is the main aim of the expedition?	
Answers will vary.	To explore and collect new data and specimens to provide new information about the human settlers and species present in the Bahamas in the past -- both hundreds and thousands of years ago.
Research Question What is the main question that participants would like to answer?	
	How have human civilization and ecological systems changed over time based on evidence from Blue Holes?
Objectives What supporting questions will researchers try to answer?	
	What species have lived in and around the caves, past and present? How have humans affected the Blue Holes, past and present?
The Team Who will be involved? What fields do they represent? What roles do they have?	
	Experts in cave diving Experts in island ecology Paleontologists Experts from the National Museum of the Bahamas Videographers and photographers
Duration How much time will the team need to spend on the expedition? What travel time will be required?	
	Weeks or months, plus time for travel to/from the Bahamas

Blue Holes Expedition Planning and Preparation contd.

Risks and Cultural Considerations What are the risks? What are the cultural considerations? What preparations can help to minimize risks and be sensitive to cultural considerations?	
Answers will vary.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cave diving is dangerous (falling debris, not easy to exit caves if there is an emergency)• Cave diving can damage the ecosystem if divers are not trained well• Blue Holes can be on private land so may need permission to explore• Sites may be considered sacred by some cultures• The team enlisted experts from the Bahamas National Museum. They could ensure following of rules for respecting culture and artifacts of the Bahamas.
Data collection How will the team collect information?	
	Video Photography Specimens – human and animal remains
Equipment What equipment will the team need?	
	Cave diving gear, including backup oxygen, lights, knives, Video cameras Containers for collecting specimens
Estimation of Costs What aspects of the expedition will require funds? List.	
	Equipment Travel Producing video
Additional Questions On a separate sheet of paper, list questions you have, with ideas for how to find answers.	