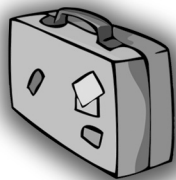




The Mystery in

# LAS VEGAS

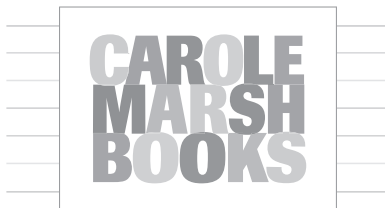


## Teacher's Guide

by  
Carole Marsh



Editor: Barbi Walk • Art & Design: Cindy Quamme



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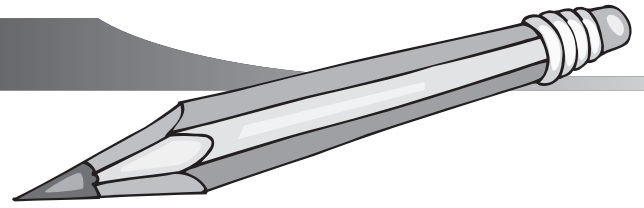
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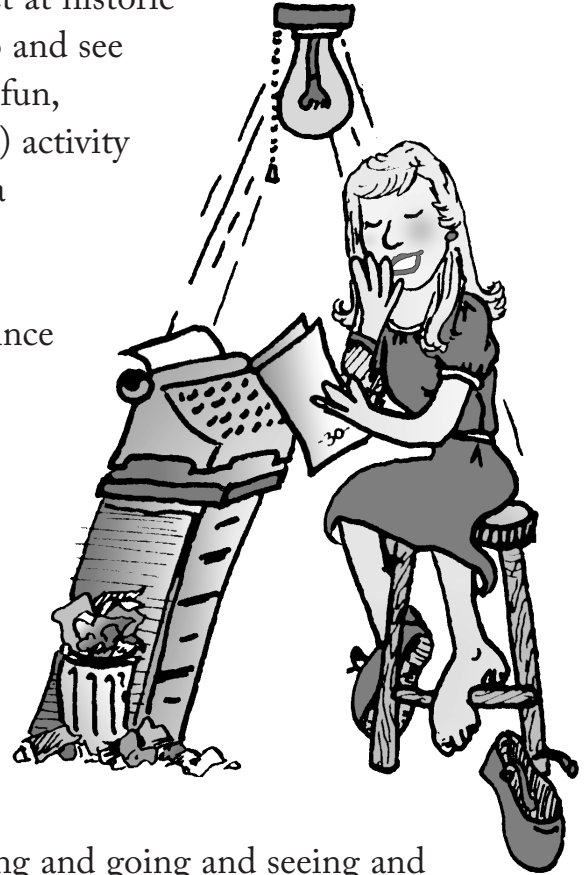
## *A Word from the Author*



Dear Teachers,

In 1979, I began writing children's mysteries set at historic sites that still existed—primarily so that kids could go and see what they had read about. Frankly, I found no more fun, educational, and stress-free (actually, just plain joyful!) activity to do with my then school-age children than to visit a fascinating historic site!

I never really thought I would like Las Vegas since I am not really a gambler. However, I love NEON! And there's no place that does neon like Las Vegas! I also love chocolate and the Ethyl M. Chocolate Factory there, especially its beautiful cactus garden. Las Vegas is not just an advertisement, TV commercial, or place to get married and see Elvis. It's a real city with a real history, as your students will discover!



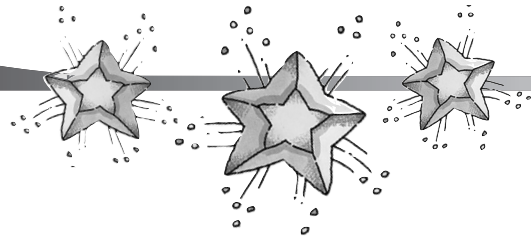
We learned a lot, but what we learned best is that kids and adults can learn together. Reading and going and seeing and doing is what education is all about, and most especially, that “adopting” a subject or place leads to a lifelong interest in an era, a place, the people, and all the fascinating facts that made up their lives. We learned that history is still “living” and is not lost on kids! In fact, it is quite a revelation!

Enjoy your Las Vegas mystery adventure!

*Carole Marsh*



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# The Mystery in LAS VEGAS

## 30 Years Ago...

As a mother and an author, one of the fondest periods of my life was when I decided to write mystery books for children. At this time (1979), kids were pretty much glued to the TV, something parents and teachers complained about the way they do today.

I decided to set each mystery in a real place—a place kids could go and visit for themselves after reading the book. And, I also used real children as characters. Usually a couple of my own children served as characters, and I had no trouble recruiting kids from the book's location to also be characters.

Also, I wanted all the kids—boys and girls of all ages—to participate in solving the mystery. I wanted kids to learn something as they read. Something about the history of the location. And, I wanted the stories to be funny.

That formula of real+scary+smart+fun served me well. The kids and I had a great time visiting each site and many of the events in the stories actually came out of our experiences there.

I love getting letters from teachers and parents who say they read the book with their class or child, then visited the historic site and saw all the places in the mystery for themselves. What's so great about that? What's great is that you and your children have an experience that bonds you together forever. Something you shared. Something you both cared about at the time. Something that crossed all age levels—a good story, a good scare, a good laugh!

30 years later,

*Carole Marsh*



## Las Vegas Visitor Info

Las Vegas Convention and  
Visitor's Authority  
3150 Paradise Road  
Las Vegas, NV 89109  
702-892-0711  
www.LVCVA.com



Stratosphere  
2000 Las Vegas Boulevard South  
Las Vegas, NV 89104  
(702) 380-7777

Ethel M Chocolate Factory  
One Sunset Way  
Henderson, NV 89014  
800-471-0352



### Fun Websites

[www.usbr.gov/lc/hooverdam](http://www.usbr.gov/lc/hooverdam)

[www.blueman.com](http://www.blueman.com)



Chapter	Subject	EXPLORE!
1	Vocabulary	“Eerie” refers to something unnerving or unusual in a way that suggests a connection with the supernatural.
1	Discussion	Christina feels the music “rumbling in her chest.” How can you feel music?
1	Vocabulary	A “phantom” is a ghost or an apparition.
1	Vocabulary	A “rehearsal” is a practice for a performance.
1	Word Origin	The word “Maharaja” is a Sanskrit word. “Maha” means great and “raja” means king. If you put them together, you get “great king!”
1	Vocabulary	A “turban” is a long scarf that is wrapped around the head.
2	Vocabulary	A “casino” is a public room for gambling. Gambling is legal in the state of Nevada.
2	Word Usage	To “hit the sack” means to go to bed. Early mattresses were often made from a sack stuffed with hay or animal hair.
2	Vocabulary	An “interruption” happens when someone stops a conversation.
2	Vocabulary	To be “mournful” means to be sad.



- ✓ *It's free to the public!*
- ✓ *The Thunderbirds are a frequent attraction.*
- ✓ *Air show fans can see multiple flying demonstrations.*



- ✓ *Attendees can also learn about the history of the Air Force.*
- ✓ *The first show was in 2002.*



- ✓ *Famous astronauts, test pilots, and war heroes will also be at the air show!*



Chapter	Subject	EXPLORE!
2	Safety	Grant and Christina leave their room at night to see what or who is making noise in the stairwell. Do you think this is a smart thing to do? Why or why not?
3	Vocabulary	An “impostor” is someone who deceives people with an assumed name or identity.
3	Word Usage	To “take a chance” is to make a decision that is risky. What better place than Las Vegas to take a chance!
4	Vocabulary	An “adjoining” room is a room that is next door.
4	Vocabulary	To be “frantic” is to be very excited with strong emotion or frustration.
4	Vocabulary	“Residue” is what’s left over after the removal of a part of something.
4	Word Usage	“Knee-deep” means to be deeply occupied or involved.
5	Aviation	The B-2 bomber is also known as the “stealth bomber.” It was designed to carry nuclear weapons across the globe. It is nearly invisible to enemy sensors; that is why it is called “stealth.”



## Elvis Presley



Here are some cool facts about the “King of Rock and Roll:”

Elvis had a twin brother who was stillborn.

Elvis was born in Tupelo, Mississippi but moved to Memphis, Tennessee when he was 13.

He served his country honorably in the U.S. Army.

He made 33 movies.

He has sold over a billion records worldwide.

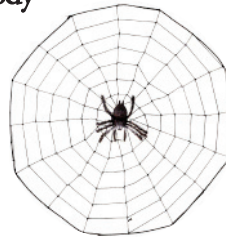
He had only one child: Lisa Marie.

The name of his home in Memphis is Graceland, which people can still visit to this day.





Chapter	Subject	EXPLORE!
5	Word Usage	“Train of thought” means the connections that link ideas together. Christina loses her train of thought when she is interrupted by Grant. Has this ever happened to you?
5	Speech	An “onomatopoeia” is a word that imitates the sound it represents. Examples are the words hiss, buzz, beep, splat, and plop.
6	Discussion	The Mystery Girl acts like a bucking bronco, meaning it rocks and sways violently. Have you ever been on or in anything that acted this way?
6	Science	Spiders and scorpions are members of the “arachnid” family. This means that they have four pairs of segmented legs and a body that is divided into two regions. Can you name some other creatures that might belong to this family?
6	Math	Joshua trees can live to be 300 years old. If a Joshua tree was planted in 1858, how old would it be now?
7	Vocabulary	To “spur” something is to urge it to move or take action. Cowboys used to wear spurs on their boots to urge their horses to move.
7	Writing	When Papa has to leave the Mystery Girl in the desert, he feels like he is leaving a good friend behind. Write about a time when you had to leave someone behind.



## Climates



The world has many different climates—which one would you like to live in?

Polar: Ice Caps

Polar: Tundra

Subtropical: Dry Summer

Subtropical: Dry Winter

Subtropical: Humid

Subtropical: Marine West Coast

Subtropical: Mediterranean

Subtropical: Wet


Tropical: Monsoon

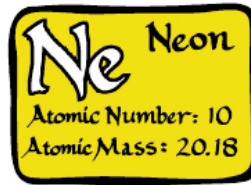
Tropical: Savannah/Grasslands

Tropical: Wet

Research the above climate types. What kind of climate is Las Vegas in? What kind of climate do you live in?



Chapter	Subject	EXPLORE!
7	Word Usage	To know something very well is to know it like “the back of my hand.”
7	Word Usage	A “jack of all trades” is a person who can do many different kinds of work.
7	Science	Neon (NE) is an inert gas. Its atomic number on the Periodic Table of Elements is 10. Can you name some other elements from the Periodic Table?
7	Aviation	A tarmac is an airport runway. It is usually paved with tar or a tarry substance also known as tarmac.
7	Word Usage	Mimi’s joke is “corny,” meaning that it is outdated. Can you think of things your parents say that are corny?
8	Reasoning	Christina wonders how the sticky note got in her pocket. How do you think it got there?
8	Vocabulary	 A “gulch” is a small ravine, or valley. Why do you think Las Vegas is called “Glitter Gulch”?
8	Vocabulary	To “transform” something is to drastically change the appearance of it.
8	Vocabulary	To move “instinctively” is to move without thinking, as if on impulse.



## Purifying Water

*In dry climates that don't receive a lot of rain, water is very important. One way of bringing usable water to the people is to purify salt water. Let's see if you can do it! Be sure to check with an adult before you start.*



### Materials needed

- ◆ large bowl
- ◆ short glass or cup
- ◆ tape
- ◆ plastic wrap
- ◆ small rock
- ◆ pitcher of water
- ◆ salt
- ◆ long spoon for stirring

### Instructions

1. First make salt water by adding salt to fresh water. Stir the water until the salt dissolves.
2. Now pour about two inches of saltwater into a large bowl.
3. Take an empty glass and put it in the bowl. The top of the glass should be shorter than the top of the bowl, but higher than the saltwater.
4. Put plastic wrap over the top of the bowl. You may need to use tape to make sure the seal is tight.
5. Put something heavy right in the center of the plastic wrap, over the empty glass. This will weigh the plastic down and help you collect the water. Now you've made a solar still!
6. Leave your still outside in the sun. Leave it alone for a few hours, or even a whole day. The longer you leave it out, the more water you'll collect.
7. When you're ready to check your still, take the plastic wrap off and look at the water that's collected in the cup. Do you think it's salty or fresh? Taste it, or use a saltwater tester to find out!



Chapter	Subject	EXPLORE!
8	History	The image of Vegas Vic first emerged as part of a Wild West-themed tourism promotion in 1947. Vegas Vicky used to be known as Sassy Sally and was married to Vegas Vic in 1994.
9	Legal	 <p>A poacher is someone who kills animals and sells their body parts for money. Many countries have poaching laws.</p>
9	Word Usage	“Is anyone game?” This is another way of saying, “Is anyone willing to try?”.
9	Science	What happens when the blood rushes from your head? Do you feel dizzy? Light headed? Does your face lose color or go bright red?
9	Vocabulary	To “hurl” something is to throw it.
10	Word Usage	<p>If the kids have a “stomach-stretching” visit to the buffet, do they eat too much or not enough?</p> 
10	Body Language	A “scolding look” is meant to reprimand a person without using any words.
10	Vocabulary	A “ransom” is the price demanded for the release of property or a person.
10	Vocabulary	“Circulating” means moving in the pattern of a circle.

## Hoover Dam

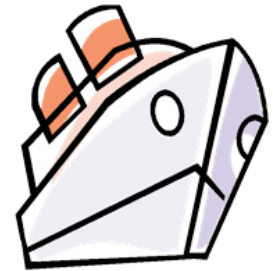


### Here are some interesting facts about Hoover Dam:

- ❖ It was originally named Boulder Dam.
- ❖ The construction of Hoover Dam required over 3.25 million cubic yards of cement.
- ❖ It was finished 2 years ahead of schedule.
- ❖ The Colorado River had to be diverted before construction could begin.
- ❖ At peak production, a bucket of cement was delivered to the construction site every 78 seconds!

Chapter	Subject	EXPLORE!
10	History	Herbert Hoover was our 31st president, and he was elected in 1928. The Great Stock Market Crash of 1929 brought in the Great Depression. Many people blamed him for the Depression and did not re-elect him in 1932.
10	Fun & Games	Lake Mead provides recreation. Can you think of some fun things to do at the lake?
10	Slang	“Gi-normous” is a mix of two words—gigantic and enormous. It means very, very big.
10	History	The Great Depression began in 1929 with the stock market crash. It affected people worldwide. Many lost their jobs, as well as their savings and their homes. It was the most severe depression in the Western world.
10	Body Language	One way of saying “I don’t know” without using words is to “shrug your shoulders.” To “ponder” is to consider something carefully.
10	Vocabulary	A “courtesy title” is a title of respect. Some other courtesy titles are “Sir” or “Ma’am.”
11	Vocabulary	To “transport” something is to carry it from one place to another.
11	Vocabulary	An “enclosure” is something that is surrounded on all sides. Can you think of examples of enclosures?
11	Vocabulary	

## Transportation




Over the years, we have used many different modes of transportation to get around. Grant, Christina, Mimi, and Papa use quite a few of them in *The Mystery in Las Vegas!* How many different ways can we get around?



Make a list of as many modes of transportation as you can think of. Research



each one to find out how long it has been in use. From your data, construct a timeline. What conclusions can you draw from it?

Chapter	Subject	EXPLORE!
11	Science	Skin color is derived from melanin pigmentation. The amount of melanin determines how light or dark we are.
11	Vocabulary	A “partition” is something that divides or separates.
12	Feelings	 <p>How do you feel when you receive encouragement? Does it make you happy? Does it make you feel stressed?</p>
12	Science	A sand shark is also known as a ground shark or dogfish shark. They live mostly on the bottom of the ocean floor or very close to it.
12	Legend	<p>Excalibur is the name of a sword that was magically embedded in a stone. Only the “true king” could pull it free. Although many tried, only King Arthur was able to pull the sword from the stone, and he was pronounced king of his realm—Camelot.</p> <p>“Enchanted” means bewitched.</p>
12	Vocabulary	Every sentence has a subject (a person, place, or thing). Even if it’s not written, it is always implied. Go ahead, try it!
13	English	
13	Vocabulary	To be “irritated” is to be annoyed. Can you think of a time when you were irritated?



## 7 Wonders of the Industrial World

*Hoover Dam is just one of the 7 Wonders of the Industrial World.*

**What are the others?**




- ◆ The Bell Rock Lighthouse
- ◆ The “Great Eastern”
- ◆ Bazalgette’s London Sewers
- ◆ The Transcontinental Railway
- ◆ The Brooklyn Bridge
- ◆ The Panama Canal



Research the above wonders. Where are they located? When were they built? Why were they built? Why was each chosen to be one of the 7 wonders?





Chapter	Subject	EXPLORE!
13	Fun & Games	A “water hazard” is a golf term referring to any open water on the golf course. Next time you play miniature golf, see how well you do against the water hazards!
13	Vocabulary	A “genius” is a person with extraordinary intellect or talent.
14	Vocabulary	 A “chocolatier” is someone who makes or sells chocolate. Does this sound like a job you would like someday?
14	Vocabulary	To “bicker” with someone means to argue with that person. Do you have any brothers or sisters that you bicker with?
14	Pronunciation	Saguaro is pronounced s - gwär - ö.
14	Vocabulary	 “Artifacts” are objects that were made by humans many years ago; they help us understand how people used to live.
14	Vocabulary	“Hieroglyphics” is a form of writing found in ancient Egypt. 
14	Vocabulary	“Depict” means to represent in a picture or sculpture.

## Fingerprints

You can examine fingerprints just like the FBI.



You will need the following items:

- pencil and paper
- transparent tape
- magnifying glass

1. Scribble on a piece of paper until you have a heavy black mark.
2. Rub your index finger on the mark.
3. Put a piece of tape over your finger, press down, then pull off the tape.
4. Put the tape on a clean piece of paper so you can see your fingerprint.
5. Examine your fingerprints for loops, whirls, and arches.
7. Fingerprint your friends and compare their prints with yours!

• Check out these books for more information on fingerprints:

Fingerprint Evidence  
by Barbara B. Rollins  
and Michael Dahl

Fingerprints: Crime-Solving  
Science Experiments  
by Kenneth G. Rainis





Chapter	Subject	EXPLORE!
15	Vocabulary	“Decipher” means to read or interpret. Some-times it’s hard to decipher a person’s hand-writing!
17	Word Usage	Have you ever been in “congested” traffic? Congested means overcrowded.
18	Vocabulary	A “fender-bender” is a minor car accident. Has anyone in your family been in a fender-bender?
18	Vocabulary	To have “suspicions” means to have doubts.
18	Word Usage	Have you ever been sent on a “wild goose chase?” It means to go on a useless quest, or to search for something that is impossible to find.
18	Vocabulary	“Coincidences” are series of events that seem planned but are accidental.
18	Feelings	Have you ever felt frustrated or discouraged? Write about a time that you felt this way.
19	Vocabulary	To be “tranquil” is to be calm or at peace.
19	Vocabulary	A “commotion” is a disturbance.
20	Feelings	To be “jovial” is to be full of good cheer. Are you feeling jovial today?

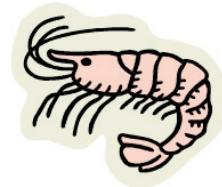


## Viva Las Vegas!

Christina and Grant learned a lot on their trip to Las Vegas, Nevada. Here’s some trivia they learned!



- ❖ *The Stratosphere is the tallest, freestanding observation tower in the US and the tallest structure west of the Mississippi River.*
- ❖ *Las Vegas has more hotel rooms than any other place on earth.*
- ❖ *Shrimp consumption in Las Vegas is more than 60,000 pounds a day — higher than the rest of the country combined!*



- ❖ *Camels were used as pack animals in Nevada as late as 1870.*
- ❖ *It is illegal to drive a camel on the highway.*



# Discussion Questions

- ❖ Mimi, Papa, and the kids attend a magic show.

Have you ever seen one? Were you able to figure out the “tricks”? Would you like to be a magician one day?

- ❖ Chandu and Asha are from India. Have you ever been to India? Would you like to visit India one day? Why or why not?



- ❖ When was the last time you were at the zoo? Did you see any white tigers? What kinds of animals did you see? Do you think they were happy to live there? Why or why not?

- ❖ Aviation Nation is one of the largest air shows in the country. Have you ever been to an air show? What’s your favorite thing at an air show?

- ❖ Las Vegas is known as the “Jewel of the Desert.” Does your town have a nickname? If not, what nickname would you give it?

- ❖ Chandu and Asha call Mimi and Papa “Mrs. Mimi” and “Mr. Papa” to show respect. Are there any adults in your life that you use special titles for? What titles do you use?

- ❖ Chandu and Grant try to make echoes while they are at Hoover Dam. How do they try to do this? What makes an echo?

- ❖ The group goes to Madame Tussauds wax museum. If you went there, what famous person would you like to see? Would you like to see yourself there one day?

## Idioms

An idiom is a fun figure of speech. It is a word or phrase with a meaning that is not related to the individual words. This means that sometimes the meanings of idioms can be tricky to figure out, especially for people who are just learning the language! There are several idioms in *The Mystery in Las Vegas* including “hit the sack” and “break the ice.”

See if you can match these idioms with the correct meaning.

1. He’s a real penny-pincher.
2. She’s the apple of my eye.
3. I’m having a bad hair day.
4. Break a leg!
5. That baby is as cute as a bug’s ear!
6. She got up on the wrong side of the bed today!
7. Hold your horses!
8. You’ve been running around like a chicken with its head cut off.
9. It’s time to put on your thinking cap.
10. It’s been raining cats and dogs all day!

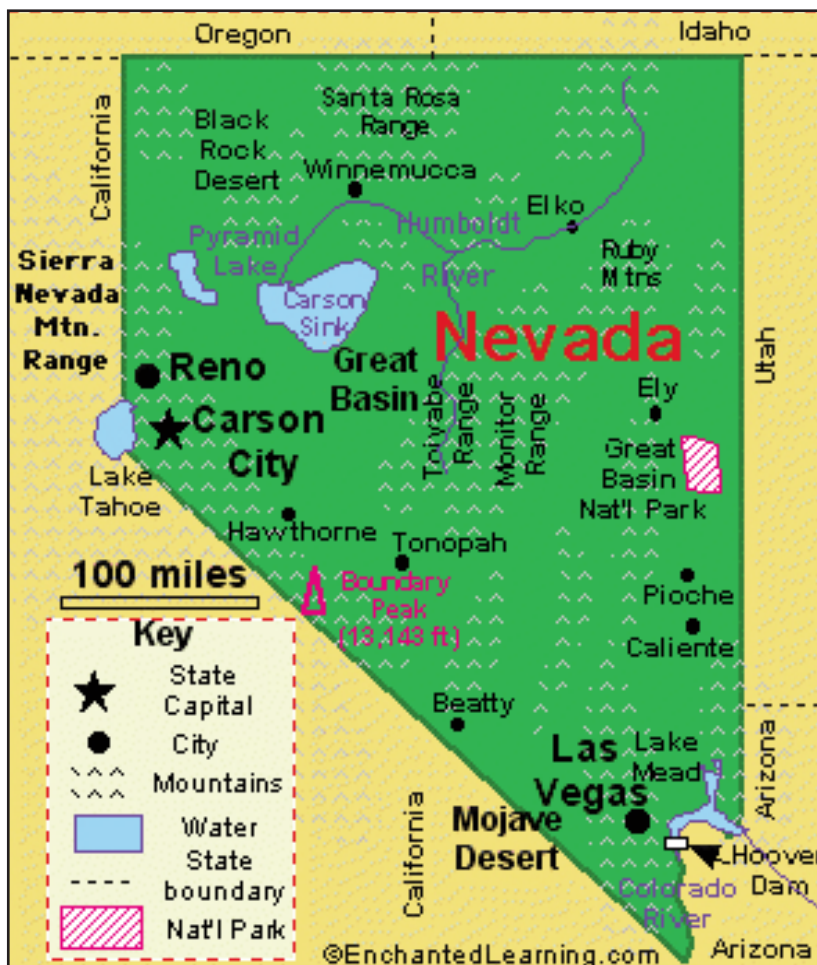
- a. Think carefully about something
- b. Something or someone that is very special
- c. Woke up in a grumpy mood
- d. Raining hard
- e. Someone who is thrifty
- f. Wait
- g. Running around in a crazy way
- h. Messy hair
- i. Good luck!
- j. Small and adorable

Answers: 1. E; 2. B; 3. H;  
4. I; 5. J; 6. C; 7. F; 8. G;  
9. A; 10. D



# Geography: Find It!

1. What states are north of Nevada?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What state is west of Nevada?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What states are east of Nevada?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Is Las Vegas in the northern part of Nevada or the southern part?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. True or False? Nevada touches the Pacific Ocean.  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Part of Lake Mead is in what other state?  
\_\_\_\_\_



## Make a Silhouette



*Silhouettes were a popular form of art in the Wild West—especially since there were no cameras! Silhouettes are fun and inexpensive to make. They make great gifts, too!*

## Directions

Tape a large piece of white paper on the wall. Position a bright light (like a flashlight or a gooseneck lamp) so the light shines directly on the paper.

Have someone sit between the paper and the lamp so he or she is directly in the light, and the shadow of his or her head is on the paper.

Have the person turn sideways so that his or her profile can be seen. Move the lamp closer or further away until the shadow is the right size for the paper.

While the person sits very still, use a pencil to outline the shadow on the white paper.

Carefully cut out the outline and then use it to trace another outline, this time on black paper.

Cut out the black outline and mount it on white paper.



# Mathematics: Calculate It!

1. Being a tourist is expensive. How much would you pay for these goodies at the Ethel M Chocolate Factory?

*½ pound of fudge (\$10 per pound)*

*6 foil-wrapped candies (\$0.75 each)*

*2 chocolate-covered apples (\$1.50 each)*

2. If Mimi writes 2 books a year for 5 years, how many books will she have written in all?
3. Things cost more over time. A hotel room for a tourist might have cost \$25 per night in the 1970s. A hotel room today might cost \$150 per night. How much more does one night in a hotel cost now than in the 1970s? Why do you think things get more expensive?
4. The driving distance from Peachtree City, Georgia to Las Vegas, Nevada is about 1,950 miles. As the crow (or Mystery Girl) flies, it is about 1,750 miles. How many more miles is the driving distance than the flying distance? Why is the driving distance usually more than the flying distance?



5. The average is the medium value of a series of numbers. To determine the average, simply add all the numbers in a series and divide by the number of numbers in the series. A man working on the construction of the Hoover Dam worked 10 hours on Monday, 8 hours on Tuesday, 12 hours on Wednesday, 14 hours on Thursday, 6 hours on Friday, and 10 hours on Saturday. How many hours per day did he average for the week?
6. Probability is the likelihood that an event will occur. The probability of an event can be described using these words: likely, unlikely, certain, impossible. Use one of these words to describe the probability of each of the following events.
  - a. What is the probability that it will rain today?
  - b. What is the probability that you are alive?
  - c. What is the probability that a dinosaur will stomp into your town today?
  - d. What is the probability that you will find a missing tiger today?

## Petroglyphs



Petroglyphs are Native American drawings, sometimes found on cave walls. Native Americans used different natural materials to make their art. These pictures told stories of their lives and cultures.



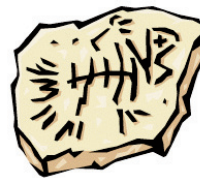
See if you can tell the story of your family using only pictures. Try using different materials—markers, crayons, paint, chalk, etc.





# English: Write It!

1. Pretend that you were invited to be a character in this book. Make a packing list of the things you'll need on this fantastic vacation. Remember that you'll be doing a lot of different activities! Be sure to check the weather, too!
2. The building of the Hoover Dam was an important event in our nation's history. Pretend that you are a reporter for the Las Vegas Sun, and write a newspaper article about the Hoover Dam. Make sure the article answers the questions Who? What? Where? When? Why?
3. Make a poster encouraging tourists to visit Las Vegas. Be sure your poster is exciting and captures people's attention!
4. Imagine that you are a participant in Aviation Nation. Write a letter to your best friend describing the experience. Be sure to give lots of details about the weather, other participants, interesting things you see, and anything else you can imagine.
5. Pretend that you are Elvis Presley. You are getting ready to sing at a concert. Describe your feelings as you wait backstage. Are you excited? Nervous?
6. Pretend you are an archaeologist who has just discovered the fossilized remains of an unknown species of dinosaur. Write a letter home to tell about your discovery!
7. Imagine that you are taking a vacation to Las Vegas. You and your family will take a train to Las Vegas, but you will drive back home. Make a list of ways that the two trips would be the same; then make a list of how the trips would be different.



## Time Zones



There are 24 different time zones in the world—the same amount as hours in a day! In the late 19th century, the concept of standard time was adopted. Travel was very confusing before there was a standardized time! It became very important once the railroad grew into an extensive network.

Sir Sandford Fleming outlined the plan for a worldwide standard. His plan was adopted by the Meridian Conference in 1884 and we still use it today!

### *Did you know?*

China, one of the largest countries in the world, has decided to adopt a single time zone!

# Vocabulary: Spell It!

Study the words below. All of them are taken from the mystery book. Fold the page in half and take a spelling test. Look up your word in a dictionary and write its definition on a separate piece of paper.

MESMERIZE

---

DECIPHER

---

EERIE

---

REHEARSAL

---

PHANTOM

---

INTERRUPTION

---

ORGANIZATION

---

IMPOSTER

---

ADJOIN

---

RESIDUE

---

ARACHNID

---

PETROGLYPH

---

CONCIERGE

---

INSTINCTIVE

---

CIRCULATE

---

RECREATION

---

COURTESY

---

ENCLOSURE

---

ALBINO

---

PARTITION

---

ENCOURAGEMENT

---

IRRITATE

---

ARTIFACT

---

HIEROGLYPHIC

---

ASSIGNMENT

---



## Things to Do in Vegas

Hoover Dam is just one of the top 10 attractions for Las Vegas tourists.

But what are some others?



Here's a sampling:

**Bellagio Fountains & Botanical Gardens**

**Caesar's Palace Forum Shops**

**Fremont Street Experience**

**Ethel M Chocolate Factory & Botanical Cactus Garden**

**Imperial Palace Auto Collection**

**MGM Lion Habitat**

**Mount Charleston**

**Red Rock Canyon**

**Treasure Island's**

**Buccaneer Bay Pirate Battle**





# Art: Create It!

Fossils are amazing! Now you can make your own. Just follow the directions below.

## Materials:

- ◆ Clay
- ◆ Items to imprint: leaves, coins, shells, etc.
- ◆ Shoe polish (optional)
- ◆ Acrylic sealer (optional)



## Directions:

1. Make a rock or plaque shape from the clay.
2. Create a smooth surface on the top side of your rock (use water or just flatten the top on a counter or plate).
3. Make imprints with different objects. Try leaves, coins, shells, or even a small toy. Make a foot that you can use to leave footprints!
4. When the clay dries, rub on a bit of shoe polish and acrylic sealer to make the imprint last for months and months.
5. Make several fossils to bury in sand or dirt. Have an expedition to dig up fossils like a paleontologist!



## Animal Rescue

Chandu and Asha's parents are involved with a tiger rescue organization. There are many animal rescue organizations around the world—your town might even have some!



Do you think animal rescue is a good idea? Why or why not? Is animal rescue something that interests you? How could you help out?



Grant and Christina enjoy blueberry muffins for breakfast on their first day in Las Vegas. Try making your own mini muffins!

## BLUEBERRY MINI MUFFINS

### Ingredients

- 1 cup butter, softened
- 2 cups sugar
- 5 eggs
- 1 cup buttermilk
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 5 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- $\frac{3}{4}$  teaspoon salt
- 3 cups fresh or frozen blueberries
- Additional sugar



### Directions

1. In a mixing bowl, cream butter and sugar. Add eggs, butter-milk, and vanilla; mix well. Combine flour, baking soda, baking powder, and salt; stir into the creamed mixture just until moistened. Fold in blueberries (batter will be thick).
2. Fill greased or paper-lined miniature muffin cups with about a tablespoon of batter. Sprinkle with sugar if desired. Bake at 400° F for 10-15 minutes or until a toothpick comes out clean. Cool for 5 minutes before transferring from the pan to a wire rack.



NOTE: The preparation of all dishes should be carried out with the supervision of an adult.



## Chocolate Fudge

### Ingredients

- 2½ cups sugar
- ½ cup margarine or butter
- $\frac{3}{8}$  cup evaporated milk
- 1 jar (7 oz.) marshmallow creme
- 2 cups semi-sweet chocolate chips
- $\frac{3}{4}$  cup chopped walnuts
- 1 teaspoon vanilla

### Directions

Line a 9-inch square or 13 x 9 inch pan with foil so that foil extends over the sides of the pan; butter the foil.

In a large saucepan, combine sugar, margarine, and evaporated milk. Bring to a boil over medium heat, stirring constantly. Boil 5 minutes, stirring constantly. Remove from heat.

Add marshmallow creme and chocolate chips; blend until smooth. Stir in walnuts and vanilla. Pour into buttered, foil-lined pan.

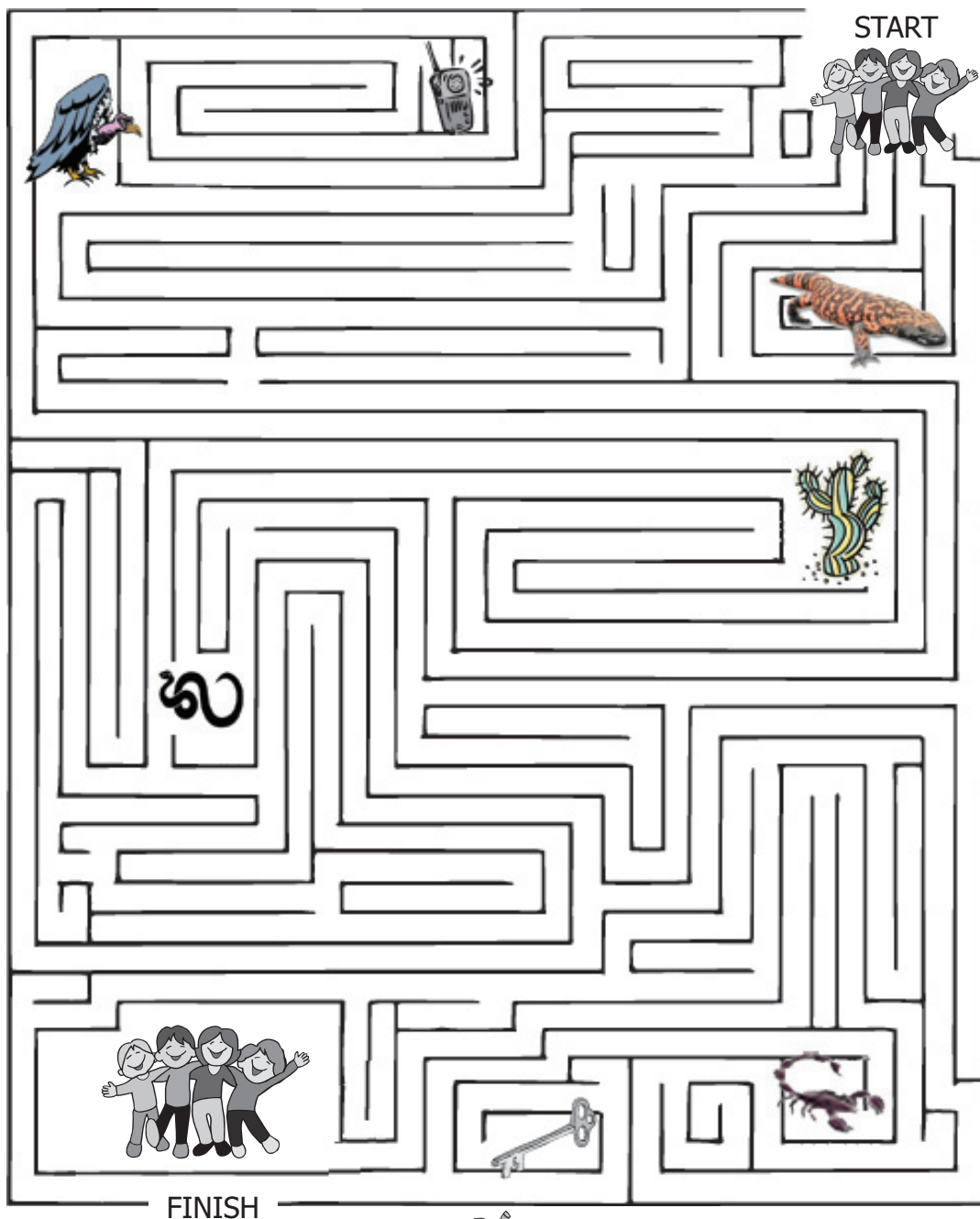
Cool to room temperature. Using a knife, draw lines in the fudge to create 36-48 squares. Refrigerate until firm. Remove fudge from the pan by lifting foil; remove the foil from the sides of the fudge. Using a large knife, cut through lines. Store in the refrigerator. Makes about 3 pounds—36-48 squares.



## The Mystery in Las Vegas Maze



Help Christina, Grant, Chandu, and Asha find their way out of Ice Box Canyon. Watch out for snakes! And scorpions! And Gila monsters!



*The Mystery in Las Vegas*  
*Pair Up*



Match the words on the left with the correct words on the right!

FLAMINGO

VEGAS

ELVIS

REEF

WHITE

TIGER

HOOVER

HOTEL

GLITTER

MEAD

NEON

DOME

LAKE

PRESLEY

LAS

GULCH

ADVENTURE

LIGHTS

SHARK

DAM



## *The Mystery in Las Vegas Performing Tiger*



Color and cut out the picture of the tiger below. Use various arts and crafts materials to decorate your tiger: sequins for the eyes, a piece of felt for a collar, etc. What props will your tiger need to perform? A hoop? A stool? A curtain to "disappear" behind? Use your arts and crafts materials to create a stage and your tiger's props!



# The Mystery in Las Vegas Clue Scramble



Unscramble the words below to find the mystery clues!

1. TENO \_\_\_\_\_

2. ONNE GSINS \_\_\_\_\_

3. OEPR OTY \_\_\_\_\_

4. PSTRIOME \_\_\_\_\_

5. CEI OBX YNNCOA \_\_\_\_\_

6. VIESL \_\_\_\_\_

7. XULRO THELO \_\_\_\_\_

8. RCTEA \_\_\_\_\_

9. HCLEAP \_\_\_\_\_

10. GFLMONIA THELO \_\_\_\_\_





# The Mystery in Las Vegas Word Search



Search for the mysteriously hidden words below!



G P C A N Y O N R T T R E P G N F  
 R E G I T H T L S S I R A L K O O  
 R V N D O E M A G I C R I A R E M  
 I I B T T N E M N I A T R E T N E  
 R T E R I S B S O R T E N L F A S  
 E L D E I A B F R E M O N T U G T  
 S L T V H G H E R I D E S E R T O  
 C E L O U E R E H P S O T A R T S  
 U E H O N V R G C S U T C A C M E  
 E H S H I N D I A D V E N T U R E

HOOVER

GLITTER

STRATOSPHERE

MAGIC

FREMONT

TIGER

ENTERTAINMENT

ELVIS

NEON

CANYON

RESCUE

DESERT

VEGAS

HOTELS

CACTUS

ADVENTURE



## The Mystery in Las Vegas Fill-in-the-Blank



Fill in the blanks to answer the questions.

1. Mimi, Papa, and the kids arrive in Las Vegas in the:

\_\_\_ Y \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ Y \_\_\_ I \_\_\_ \_\_\_

2. Many Las Vegas lights use this type of gas:

N \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_

3. White tigers are often thought to be:

\_\_\_ L \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_

4. Mimi, Papa, and the kids ride the roller coaster at the:

\_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ T \_\_\_ \_\_\_ P \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_  
H \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_

5. Couples can get married at one of these:

\_\_\_ H \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ L

6. Papa rented one of these to drive around Las Vegas:

\_\_\_ \_\_\_ M \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_

7. The name of the place where the tigers were hidden:

\_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ O \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ N \_\_\_ \_\_\_ N



## The Mystery in Las Vegas Matching Characters



Match these mystery characters with their descriptions!



- |                |                                          |
|----------------|------------------------------------------|
| 1. Mimi        | a. pilots the Mystery Girl               |
| 2. Grant       | b. loves Elvis Presley                   |
| 3. Christina   | c. owner of the Mysteries Hotel          |
| 4. Papa        | d. rescues people by flying a helicopter |
| 5. Chandu      | e. a boy from India                      |
| 6. Asha        | f. good at solving mysteries             |
| 7. "Elvis"     | g. sleeps through plane trouble          |
| 8. Mr. Jenkins | h. a girl from India                     |



## The Mystery in Las Vegas Quiz



Use the clues to recall some interesting information about Las Vegas!



1. Las Vegas is located in the state of:

---

2. This street is the main street of Las Vegas:

---

3. This lake was created when Hoover Dam was built:

---

4. Wax likenesses of famous people can be found at:

---

5. This man is known as “The King of Rock and Roll:”

---

6. A “one-armed bandit” is the nickname for a:

---

7. The Luxor Hotel is shaped like the pyramids found in:

---

8. These chubby lizards are poisonous and can be found in the desert:

---

9. Nellis Air Force Base hosts the country’s largest air show, known as:

---

10. The tallest building west of the Mississippi River is the:

---



## The Mystery in Las Vegas True or False

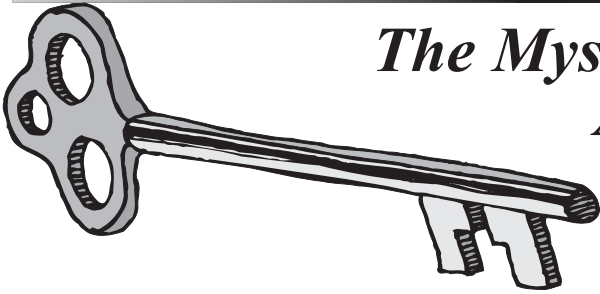


Mark each statement true or false.

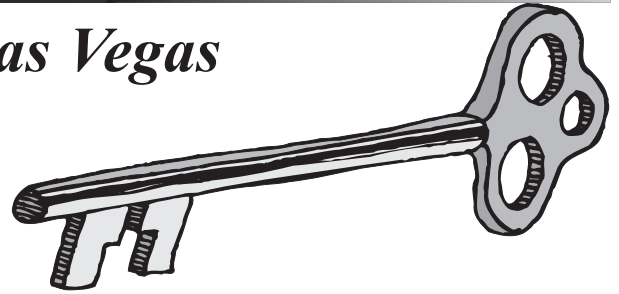
- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Chandu and Asha are the names of the stolen tigers.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Mimi, Papa, and the kids stay at the Mysteries Hotel.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Las Vegas is also known as “Glitter Gulch” and “Jewel of the Desert.”
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. White tigers are very common.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Hoover Dam is named for President Herbert Hoover.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Several men were buried in the cement of the Hoover Dam.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Mimi, Papa, and the kids make an emergency landing in the desert.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. The Blue Man Group are entertainers who tell stories with props and drums.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Joshua trees can live to be 300 years old.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Las Vegas Louie has been welcoming visitors to Las Vegas since the 1940s.



## Answer Key...



### *The Mystery in Las Vegas Activities*



#### Geography: Find It! (pg. 17)

1. Oregon and Idaho
2. California
3. Utah and Arizona
4. southern
5. false
6. Arizona

#### Mathematics: Calculate It! (pg. 18)

1. \$12.50
2. 10
3. \$125; things get more expensive because the cost of making or producing them increases.
4. 200 miles; the shortest distance between two points is a straight line. A plane can fly in a straight line to its destination. Cars must follow the road, which dips and curves.
5. 10 hours per day
6. Answers may vary.

#### The Mystery in Las Vegas Pair Up (pg. 24)

Flamingo Hotel; Elvis Presley; white tiger; Hoover Dam; Glitter Gulch; neon lights; Las Vegas; Lake Mead; Adventure Dome; Shark Reef

#### The Mystery in Las Vegas Clue Scramble (pg. 26)

1. note
2. neon signs
3. rope toy
4. imposter
5. Ice Box Canyon
6. Elvis
7. Luxor Hotel
8. crate
9. chapel
10. Flamingo Hotel

#### The Mystery in Las Vegas Fill-in-the-Blank (pg. 28)

1. Mystery Girl
2. neon
3. albino
4. Stratosphere Hotel
5. chapel
6. Hummer
7. Ice Box Canyon

#### The Mystery in Las Vegas Matching Characters (pg. 29)

1. B
2. G
3. F
4. A
5. E
6. H
7. D
8. C

#### The Mystery in Las Vegas Quiz (pg. 30)

1. Nevada
2. Fremont Street
3. Lake Mead
4. Madame Tussauds
5. Elvis Presley
6. slot machine
7. Egypt
8. Gila monster
9. Aviation Nation
10. Stratosphere Hotel

#### The Mystery in Las Vegas True or False (pg. 31)

1. F
2. T
3. T
4. F
5. T
6. F
7. T
8. T
9. T
10. F

