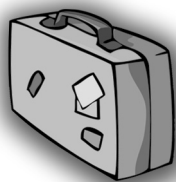




The Mystery at

Area 51



Teacher's Guide

by
Carole Marsh

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A Word from the Author

Dear Teacher,

In 1979, I began writing children's mysteries set at historic—and not-so-historic—locales, 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 (and now grandchildren!) than to visit a fascinating tourist destination!

Some might believe that nothing ever changes in small towns. This is definitely a misconception when it comes to the towns that surround Area 51. Rachel, Nevada, for example, is the closest town to Area 51, a testing and training facility for the U.S. Air Force. The town of Rachel had no name until the first baby was born there. The baby was named Rachel, and then so was the town! There are very few permanent homes there. Most are trailers—even the motel rooms behind the Little A'Le'Inn are converted trailers. One minute the playground is there, and the next, it is hit by a prototype aircraft coming out of Area 51. One day a gas station is there, and the next, it's closed down. The maps and guidebooks can't keep up with the changes!

A famous guy by the name of Glen Campbell did his best to bring out the truth about Area 51. He moved into a small, blue trailer in Rachel, slapped a sign onto it, and called it the Area 51 Research Center. It's in all the guidebooks, too, so tourists inevitably look for it when they get to Rachel. It's no longer there, though. Mr. Campbell left Nevada, and the now-famous blue trailer was moved to a trailer park. A new research center opened in an old mining town called Hiko, where E.T. Highway and U.S Highway 93 (AKA the Great Basin Highway) intersect. A giant, metal bug-eyed alien looms tall in front of the center!

So, although nothing ever stays the same around Area 51, one thing is for sure: Area 51 is here to stay, whether the government denies its existence or not. Bob Lazar made sure of that. He was a scientist who claimed that he had reverse-engineered a UFO found in a camouflaged hangar on a mountainside near Area 51. Now, alien enthusiasts from all over the world visit the area to catch a glimpse of any signs of alien life in the night sky!

It's this kind of curiosity I want to pass on to young readers today. I love it when my readers actually go to the places I write about. Sometimes, a carefree vacation trip might be the spark that leads to a lifelong passion for an era, a place, or a people!

Keep your eyes on the sky!

Carole Marsh

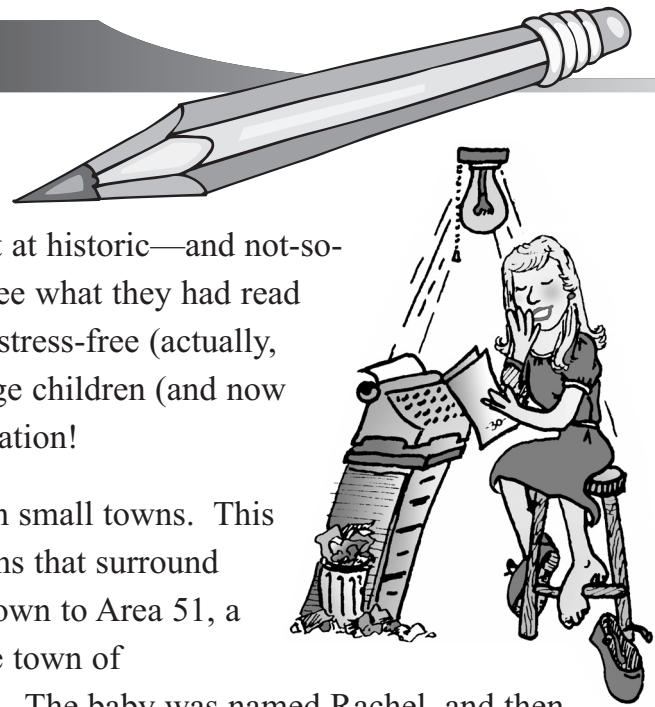
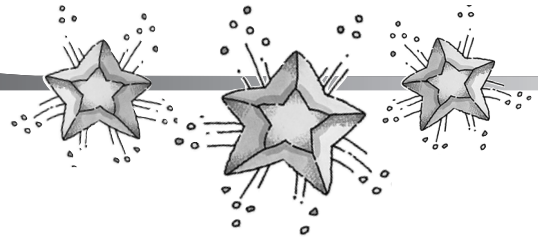


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<i>Page #</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<u>EXPLORE!</u>
11	Vocabulary	If Christina closed her eyes, she would be able to feel the images on the outer cover of her diary. That's because the images are <i>embossed</i> , or raised, off the page.
11	Time	When was the last time Christina wrote in her diary? What purpose do you think the diary serves in the story?
12	Vocabulary	Mimi and Papa are described as being <i>globe-trotting</i> grandparents. What do you think this means?
12	Location	A <i>ghost town</i> is a place, especially in the American Old West, that used to be a boomtown, but is now abandoned.
13	Expression	Christina <i>fought the urge</i> to correct her childish spelling. Why do you think she chose not to fix it?
13	Respect	Christina remembers the lesson she learned on her trip three years before. What did she get better at doing on that trip?
13	Safety	How did Christina show us she takes safety seriously?
14	Behavior	Have you ever heard someone talk in their sleep?
14	Expression	Why did Mimi do a <i>double-take</i> when she saw Grant asleep? Do you remember ever doing a double-take?
15	Vocabulary	Some people have a signature smile; Grant has signature curly hair. A <i>signature</i> is something that you are known for.
15	Foreshadowing	The photo in the <i>Mystery Girl</i> shows Christina looking at something in the sky. We are left wondering along with her what that something is.
16	Landscape	<i>Joshua trees</i> are unusual-looking trees that can be found in southwest North America
16	Emotions	Christina is nervous about seeing her old friends again. Has your heart ever <i>skipped a beat</i> because you were nervous about seeing or meeting someone new?

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- 19 Personality Grant is often described as doing something silly. His *antics*, or clowning around, often make Christina laugh.
- 20 Character From reading Nina’s description, what kind of person do you think she is?
- 20 Feelings Christina is said to *exhale* after hearing that her friends were really looking forward to seeing her and Grant. Describe a situation in which you felt relief like that.
- 20 Behavior Mimi and Nina walked arm-in-arm, chatting like no time had passed between visits. What are other behaviors that good friends exhibit?
- 21 Customs How does Christina show us that she has good manners? Do you try to follow the customs of friends when visiting their homes? Can you think of an example?
- 22 Vocabulary To be *abducted* is to be kidnapped.
- 25 Idiomatic Expression The photo of Ol’ Zeb *stood out* to Christina, which means it caught her attention. Police are trained to see people who stand out in a crowd because they might be dangerous.
- 26 Vocabulary *UFO* stands for “unidentified flying object.”
- 26 Fashion A bolo tie looks nothing like a typical tie. It is a leather cord or braided leather that goes around your neck. The two ends are held together with a decorative clasp that slides up and down for the best fit.
- 27 Idiomatic Expression Grant thought the meal was fit for a cowboy! To be *fit for* someone means it suits them, or is good enough for them. You might hear that something is “fit for a king”!
- 30 Foreshadowing *A bright light shone down on them* is foreshadowing what is going to happen sometime in the near future. Can you imagine where that bright light will come from?
- 31 Expression *Despite her jacket, Christina felt goose bumps.* Does this mean Christina was wearing a jacket or not? How would you rephrase this sentence if you had to?

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- 32 Language Did you know that S'mores are so delicious you always want *some more*? Now you know where S'mores got their name.
- 33 Personality Why do you think Christina put her twig behind her back and broke off a piece?
- 34 Idiomatic Expression Can you think of another way to describe when Christina *turned on her heels*?
- 35 Behavior Christina and Grant do their *secret handshake*. Do you have a secret handshake?
- 38 Humor Try to repeat the joke that Drew told Grant. After completely reading the book, try to come up with your own alien joke.
- 41 Imagery Giggles *echoed* from inside the cubbyholes. Can you imagine the scene in the RV? Have you ever done something similar?
- 42 Time What time do you think it is while the boys are playing in the RV before their trip? How do you know?
- 42 Idiomatic Expression How do you think the four-wheelers will *come in handy* at the ghost town?
- 45 Analogy When Mimi describes the fertile land as being *like a green ribbon lost in the Nevada desert*, she makes it easy for us to imagine what she sees. Using *like* is making use of analogy. Look outside. Try to describe the sky using *like*.
- 46 Language Grant is proud of his hey-hay *homonym*. Can you think of another homonym? Remember, homonyms are words that sound the same (and may even be spelled the same), but they have different meanings.
- 47 Vocabulary A *hoax* is a trick or a swindle. What did Megan think was a hoax in the story?
- 48 Feelings How do you think Grant felt when he admitted that he had broken their promise to stay quiet about seeing the UFO?

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- 48 Inventing Language Christina is bewildered by the fact that she thought she was just on vacation, but then she said she was in the middle of a cow-napping alien mystery. Where do you think “cow-napping” comes from?
- 50 Vocabulary An unmarked grave is a grave that has no headstone or any other marking to indicate who is buried there.
- 51 Dates 06201833 is part of a clue. Do you see how it’s also a date? Why does “06” stand for the month of June? What is your full birth date? You would normally put slashes between the parts: 06/20/1833.
- 51 Expressions If information is classified as, or considered, *top secret*, it is very hush-hush and should be handled with the utmost care.
- 53 Landscape To get to Tybo, you have to drive down a bunch of dirt roads that have few signs, if any. If you travel down the wrong road, it’s easy to get lost. How does the story describe a road with no signs?
- 53 Imagery The story describes Tybo as being a bustling mining town at one time. Now, it’s the exact opposite. How is the town described now? Would you ever want to live in such a place?
- 55 Context To understand what the word *disarray* means, look at the context in which the word is used. To do this, look at the words around the word *disarray*. Can you guess what it means?
- 55 Vocabulary *Legible* means that it can be read. Is your own handwriting legible?
- 58 Idiomatic Expression What did Megan *cringe at the thought of doing*? Why do you think this is a good expression to use here? What do you cringe at the thought of doing?
- 58 Vocabulary Christina crawled *gingerly* into the mine shaft. This means she did this carefully.
- 61 Expression Grant and Christina nearly *bowled over* Megan and Drew waiting at the entrance. What image do you get when you read this?

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- 61 Expression To *peel out* means to leave very quickly.
- 63 Body Language Grant sank *deep in his seat* after their encounter in the old mine. By sinking low in his seat, what feeling is Grant conveying?
- 64 Science Megan suggests that maybe the voice Christina heard was a voice traveling from the mine. Where in the story did Christina mistake the location of Mimi’s voice? Do you remember what she found?
- 64 Personality When Grant asks Christina whether she is going to stare at the envelope or open it, what feeling is Grant expressing? Did you feel he was being sensitive to what Christina had just experienced?
- 65 Numbers Why do you think Christina used *zero* to express “nothing”?
- 67 Analogy What analogy does Grant use to describe the RV when the air conditioner breaks? Remember, he uses *like*.
- 68 Personality Christina decides that she should wake Mimi from her nap before things got too crazy in the back. She did this to *keep the peace*. Can you think of other situations in the book where Christina tried to keep the peace?
- 69 Personification Throughout the book, the RV was described as having human-like characteristics. For example, it coughed and groaned. When an inanimate object is given human qualities, this is called *personification*. Can you find other places in the book where the RV was given human attributes?
- 73 Imagery Which do you prefer to read, “The scuba fins slapped the pavement” or “The people wore scuba fins”? Why?
- 74 Expression Drew commented on really liking the alien family. To say something *takes the cake* is to say that you think it’s the best. How did Grant respond? What did you think?
- 76 Behavior The kids *inched closer* to eavesdrop on UFO guy’s story. What do you think this means?

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- 77 Body Language Grant and Christina covered their mouths for different reasons. In what situation might you cover your mouth involuntarily?
- 79 Expression To *right* a picture on a wall is to straighten it because it was crooked. You can also *right a wrong* by doing something to make a situation better or by asking for forgiveness.
- 82 Vocabulary If you are asked to give a speech that you didn't plan to give, you might have to give an *impromptu* speech. This just means that it is unplanned. Some people are really good at giving impromptu speeches. How is this word used when they are in Rachel?
- 82 Personality Do you think the woman who popped bubbles and tapped her foot is a patient person? Did you like this character? Why? Why not?
- 83 Imagery Of course, when Christina took the top off the alien pen, *decapitated* was the best word to use. Do you agree?
- 83 Expression When something *hits* you, it means that you realize something.
- 86 Humor Mimi jokes about driving the four-wheelers to the next town if they aren't able to get a room at the inn.
- 94 Sarcasm Grant wasn't impressed with the Black Mailbox. After all, it was just a mailbox. What does he say to let us know that he is unimpressed with it?
- 98 Imagery What is another way to describe a place that is *crawling with guards*?
- 98 Vocabulary *24-7* is a convenient term. Do you remember what it means? How could you use this term in your daily life?
- 103 Expression To *mean business* means to be serious. So, to say that the camo dudes *mean business* indicates that they take their jobs very seriously and they will do what they are trained to do.

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- 106 Humor Grant often tries to lighten the seriousness of a situation by using humor. How does he lighten the mood when they are faced with having to retrieve the helmet from the grass?
- 109 Personality When Christina wedges a rock in the hideout door, what does this tell us about her?
- 110 Expression Christina uses the expression *hit the jackpot* when she finds a lot of evidence. The expression can also be used when you win a lot of money.
- 113 Expression *On top of that* means “also.” It is usually followed by some already-amazing event. For example, “We had a flat tire. And on top of that, it started pouring down rain!” Now, it’s your turn!
- 114 Expression *On second thought* means you’ve changed your mind. For example, “On second thought, I think I’ll try the scone.” This just means you ordered something, and then suddenly change your mind.
- 117 Behavior Throughout the story, Christina glances back. Why do you think she does this? Does it add suspense to the story?
- 119 Personality Papa told the kids they were leaving in *twenty*. By using this language, Papa seems to convey a sense of urgency to get from place to place.
- 120 Imagery The clouds are described as being a *half-open dome*. Can you find other descriptions of the weather?
- 120 Storyline Muddy Boots *limped away* in one scene. What do you think Muddy Boots was about to do at the trailer?
- 123 Personality Megan isn’t sure that what Christina is saying is actually true. She doesn’t *look convinced*. Has someone ever tried to convince you of something when you know deep down it’s not true?
- 124 Personality *Nothing gets between* Grant and his breakfast. What do you think this means?

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127	Expression	When they finally get back to the ranch, everyone <i>spilled out of the RV</i> . What image does this give you?
127	Humor	Buck is serious when he warns the kids to stay away from the lake. Instead of being harsh with the kids, he chooses to add humor. How does he accomplish this?
130	Expression	“Is it just me, or...” is a great expression to show a differing opinion.
130	UFO Lingo	The <i>mother ship</i> is the main alien ship. The smaller ones leave from it.
130	Vocabulary	The <i>tree line</i> is a bunch of trees that form a line without breaks.
130	Imagery	The kids are <i>blanketed by the night</i> when they head out to the back gate of the ranch. What do you think this means?
133	Expression	It was hard to <i>make out</i> the mother ship means it was hard to see or figure out if what they saw really was what they thought it was.
133	Analogy	Using analogy is easier than trying to describe something in detail. By saying the mother ship opened <i>like a giant yawning before bedtime</i> , we can imagine right away what it must have looked like.
134	Imagery	If you stand behind a curtain and shine a big light on yourself, your friend on the other side of the curtain will see a silhouetted figure of you. It looks like a shadow, right?
134	Clue	The aliens are said to have used a series of clicks and whistles to communicate. Do you think the kids might have just assumed this was alien language? Could the “aliens” have been clicking and whistling for some other purpose?
135	Vocabulary	<i>Cattle rustlers</i> are cattle thieves.
135	Vocabulary	<i>Posing</i> means “pretending to be.”
135	Feeling	Christina sensed that someone was watching them. It was Ol’ Zeb. Have you ever felt that someone was watching you?

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- 135 Expression When one of the “aliens” spoke in English, as opposed to using clicks and whistles, Grant said the “alien” had *blown his cover*. What he meant was that anyone who heard him speak English would know that he was a fake.
- 137 Imagery *Stars littered the night sky* gives us a clear idea of what the sky must have looked like without using a lot of words.
- 137 Expression To be *taken into custody* means to be arrested.
- 137 Vocabulary What’s another word for *disguise*? What does Christina realize when she sees the disguises hanging in tatters?
- 137 Vocabulary If you go to a restaurant, and the chef gives you wine as a gift, the server at the restaurant might approach your table and say, “Your wine, compliments of the chef.” It’s a gift. How does the author use the expression *compliments of*?
- 138 Behavior Papa shows his affection for his grandson by *tousling* his hair.
- 139 Expression To *double back* means to go back. You may not have started at that point, but somewhere along the way, you passed that point. This expression was used once before. Do you remember when?
- 139 Vocabulary *Evidence* is collected at a crime scene to be used in the investigation. Can you think of a word that means “apparent” or “obvious” from the same root word?
- 140 Personality How does Drew try to make his sister feel better about suspecting Ol’ Zeb?
- 142 Vocabulary Can you break *indescribable* into three parts? What do the different parts mean?
- 144 Vocabulary Can you guess what word is the noun form of the adjective *galactic*? Think SPACE.
- 144 Humor Grant said he was hungry and wanted to *rustle up* some food. Can you explain Grant’s joke?

Discussion Questions

1. Three years before this story took place, Christina learned a lesson: *Take only photographs. Leave only footprints.* What do you think this means? Invent a story about how Christina might have learned this lesson. What did she learn how to do well, according to Mimi, since she didn't have a camera at the time?
2. The photograph in Chapter One serves a purpose in the story. Foreshadowing is a literary device that an author uses to suggest that something is going to happen later on in a story. Is there something in the photo that might foreshadow a future event to come?
3. After reading the story, go back and find the clues. Discuss how the clues help to move the characters in a particular direction in the story. Do you like finding clues in the mystery?
4. Discuss what role humor plays in the mystery. Think of examples of humorous situations and how they affected a situation. Is it more enjoyable to read a book that has funny people or situations in it? Why or why not?
5. Choose two characters in the mystery. Compare them, thinking about how they are the alike and how they are different. Include what roles they play in this mystery. How might the story have turned out if one or both of those characters hadn't been a part of the mystery?
6. What is your favorite scene in the mystery? Why? Can you picture the scene in your mind? What words does the writer use to make the scene come alive to you?

Bonus Info!

My Journal

Journaling (or keeping a diary) is a great way to document your memories, keep track of the events that you participate in, and write about your feelings.

Step 1: Decorate the very first page of your journal however you like. Be sure to include this:

This Journal Belongs To:

Step 2: On the next page, begin writing in your journal. For the next six days, write something different each day. For ideas, try this: Roll a die. If you roll a 2, for example, choose topic #2, etc. Try writing the topic at the top of your journal entry before you start writing, like this:

"I Had the Strangest Dream!"

Topics:

1. The Pet I'd Like the Most!
2. I Had the Strangest Dream!
3. The Best Birthday Ever!
4. My Best Friend!
5. I Can't Stand It! (food/place)
6. I Can't Wait! (plan to do/see/meet)

Step 3: Attach ticket stubs, photos, post cards, flowers, birthday invitations, etc., to your journal pages to make your journal more personal.

Remember: Try to write in your journal every day. You don't even have to include a topic for each journal entry. Just write, write, write! Don't forget to write the date!

Geography: Find It!

Mr. Ellis, the Area 51 tour guide, needs your help to complete the Tikaboo Valley map before giving it to the kids. Use the coordinates to help you locate the places.

★ = place names

— = roads

○ = lake

Rachel, NV (6, G)

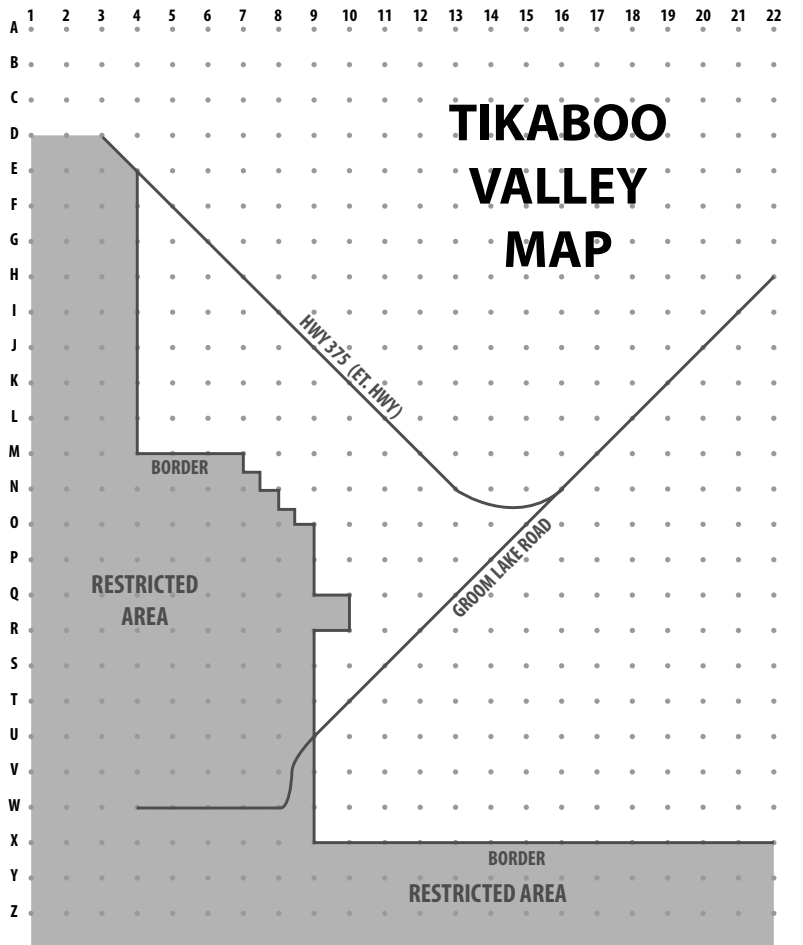
Groom Lake (4, W), (5, W), (4, Y), and (5, Y)

Back Gate Road (4, I) to (7, H)

Black Mailbox Road (13, N) to (13, Q)

Back Gate (4, I)

Black Mailbox (13, N)



Bonus Info!

Coordinating Locations

Most of the clues in the Area 51 mystery required the kids to use the Internet to figure out the location of the clues. Try a Google Earth activity of your own!

Step 1: Input each set of coordinates below into Google Earth. Hint: You DO NOT need to add the symbols (° ' "), but you DO need the letters and a space between each number and each letter. Write each location below.

Step 2: On the Google Earth map, 1) left click to zoom in on the location; 2) click once on ; and 3) click once on . You will see a Panoramio photo of the location.

38° 22' 15.36" N 116° 23' 52.45" W
place: _____

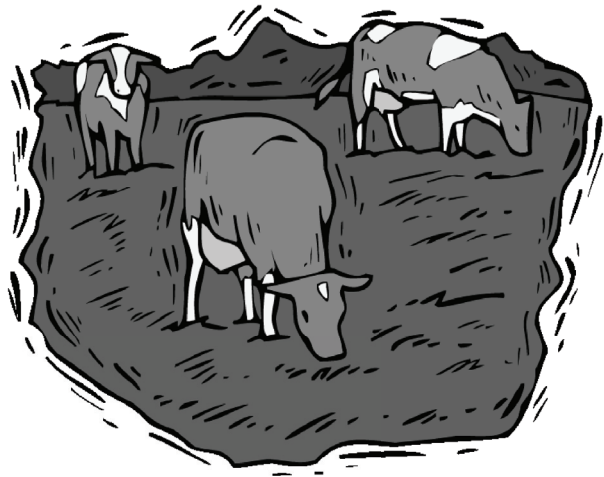
37° 38' 48.27" N 115° 44' 43.08" W
place: _____

37° 38' 3.25" N 115° 43' 10.46" W
place: _____



Mathematics: Calculate It!

1. Buck and Nina have a 1,200-acre ranch. If one square mile is 640 acres, how many more acres do they need to purchase to acquire five square miles of ranch land?
2. Christina and Grant know that the fastest way to get to the other side of a crop circle is to go through the middle. If the radius of a crop circle is 55 feet, how far do they have to go to get all the way across?
3. If there are 50 graham crackers in a box, and Grant and Drew drop 13 of them on the ground, how many S'mores can they make, if they need two crackers per S'more?
4. Papa drove from Alamo, Nevada, to Tybo, Nevada, stopping only once for gas in Ash Springs. At 52.19 miles, Papa passed through Rachel and continued on to Tybo. Papa ended the daytrip in Rachel. His total mileage for the day was 182 miles. How far away is Tybo from Alamo?
5. The cattle rustlers stole a total of 1,600 heads of cattle from four ranches over a period of a month. How many heads of cattle on average did they steal from each ranch? If the cattle transport trucks can carry only 20 head each, and they had four trucks at each ranch, how many trips do they need to clandestinely make to each ranch?



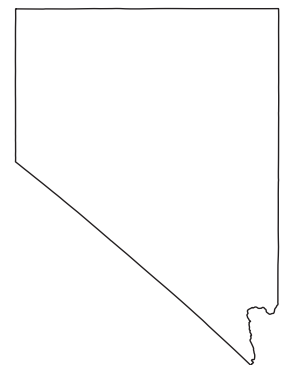
Bonus Info!

Find Nevada!

Find the state of Nevada on a map of the United States. Then, answer the questions below.

1. What states border Nevada to the north?
2. What state borders Nevada to the west?
3. What states border Nevada to the east?
4. What is the capital of Nevada?
5. What famous dam is located near Las Vegas, Nevada?
6. True or False? Nevada touches the Pacific Ocean.
7. What river forms part of Nevada's southeastern border?

Now, use the Internet to find the names of two national parks located in Nevada. One of them is located in California and Nevada. It contains the lowest point in the Western Hemisphere. Which park is it?



English: Write It!

1. In the mystery, the kids hear a first-hand “close encounter” experience at the Little A’Le’Inn. What was Grant’s reaction? What about Christina’s? Try to write down what you remember about the man’s “close encounter” experience.
2. Describe what might have happened if Christina hadn’t received the X clue on her phone. Now, imagine how the clue ended up on her phone. Be creative and include as much detail as possible. Pretend your answer will be added to the mystery.
3. Explain why you think Christina put the twig behind her back. What does this tell us about her relationship with her brother? Write Christina’s journal entry for that day. How would she describe what happened?
4. Make a travel brochure encouraging tourists to visit Rachel, Nevada. Be sure your brochure is factual, colorful, and just a little bit spooky!
5. Imagine the Tybo clue led the kids to something other than an abandoned mine. Write about it.
6. When the kids were at the Black Mailbox, Christina thought about what creeped her out the most. Do you remember what that was? Which of the events was the strangest to you? Write your explanation as to why that event was so strange.
7. Can you think of a different ending to the story? Write your new ending. If you change the ending, what events that led up to the ending would have to be changed too?



Bonus Info!

A Tybo Ghost Story

What causes a city or town to become a ghost town? Some reasons include loss of jobs, natural disasters, war, or highways that bypass the towns. Though ghost towns don't necessarily have ghosts, many reportedly do!

Here is a Tybo ghost story:

“Back in the late 1800s, a gambler came to Tybo. During a marathon poker game, he played with marked cards. He cheated the other players out of \$3000 in gold coins! The gambler was already on his way out of town when the other players figured out they'd been fooled. When the gambler heard he was wanted 'dead or alive,' he buried the gold right there in Tybo. The bounty hunters caught up to him three days later at a saloon, and well, you can imagine what happened next! The gold was never recovered. There are some who believe that his ghost still returns to Tybo to check on his buried loot!”

Now it's your turn. Work in pairs and make up your own ghost story!

Vocabulary: Use It!

Use the clues to unscramble the words taken from the mystery book. Use these words and their definitions to increase your vocabulary!

1. I was once a boomtown, but everyone left. Now, I'm called this.
STOGH TWON ___ H ___ ___ ___ ___ O ___ ___
2. We guard the entrances to Area 51!
MOCA EDUDS C ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ D ___ ___
3. We make our living stealing cattle!
RETLSSUR ___ U ___ T ___ ___ ___
4. I'm no ordinary tie.
LOOB EIT ___ O ___ ___ T ___ ___
5. If you make me, don't break me!
TAPC ___ A ___ T
6. Some people may call me a graveyard!
YARECTEM ___ ___ M ___ ___ ___ ___ Y
7. I keep babies from crying.
PFECAIR ___ ___ ___ I ___ ___ E ___
8. I'm loud and I rock the place!
SCOIN MOBO ___ ___ ___ I ___ B ___ ___ ___
9. I have one leg and can bounce.
GOOP SCKIT ___ ___ G ___ ___ ___ ___ C ___
10. I am a visual of what a bird sees.
LARIEA PAM ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ L ___ ___ P

Bonus Info!

A Close Encounter!

Ask your partner for the missing information, but don't show him this page. Have fun reading your stories!

We went scuba diving in the _____

Ocean. (name of ocean)

The water was _____!

(adjective)

(number)

_____ minutes passed, when suddenly we saw a _____

(shape)

shaped UFO hovering behind a _____!

(noun)

Just then, the door slid open. An alien swam out and headed directly toward us. It was _____.

(adjective)

We felt _____!

(emotion)

We hid in a _____!

(noun)

A _____

(ocean animal)

swam by and followed the alien. The alien turned around and _____

_____ it! As

(past tense verb)

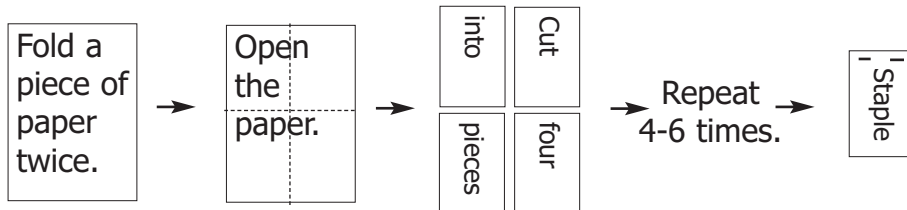
soon as we were safe, we got out of the water and sped away in our _____!

(water vehicle)

Art: Create It!

Let's create a flipbook of a scene from the *Mystery at Area 51*.

Step 1: Purchase a small, blank notebook. Or, you can make your own notebook.



Step 2: Choose from the following scenes from the Area 51 mystery to make your flipbook.

1. Grant and Christina seeing the UFO above the oak tree and running away from it.
2. Grant running around the bonfire holding up a burning marshmallow on a stick.
3. Grant chasing the receipt near the Black Mailbox.
4. Grant being chased by the bull near the Back Gate of Area 51.
5. The kids being chased by the UFO and the UFO crashing into the tree.
6. Your choice.

Step 3: Starting on the last page, draw a simple image in the bottom left corner. Stick figures are easiest. The image should change with every subsequent page, so it appears to be moving. More images can be added as you go. When you are done, flip the pages, moving from the back to the front, using your thumb and forefinger. The result will be a mini-movie.

Remember: You have a limited number of pages and a whole scene to draw. It might help to draw a really simplified version on the sheets, and then when you're sure you have enough pages, go back and finish the sketches.

Bonus Info!

Joshua Tree Facts

- Given its name in the mid-1800s by a group of Mormon settlers
- Scientific name is *Yucca Brevifolia*
- Native to the Mojave Desert: southeastern California, northwestern Arizona, southwestern Utah, and northwestern Nevada
- Fast growers for desert trees (3 inches per year for the first 10 years)
- The tree does not have growth rings like other trees, so difficult to determine age of tree
- Have a deep and vast root system
- Can live hundreds of years, and some species can live thousands of years
- Flowers are produced from February to late April, but do not bloom every year
- The yucca moth spreads pollen and lays eggs inside the flower
- Joshua trees are called *humwichawa* by the Cahuilla Native Americans

Science: Let's Make a UFO!

Make your own Unidentified Flying Object using the materials below:

2 heavy foam plates
2 paper fruit bowls
craft glue
markers
other craft items, such as sequins for the strip lighting, to decorate
glow sticks
paper clips

Step 1: Decorate the outside of the paper bowls (idea: running lights, aliens peeking out the windows).

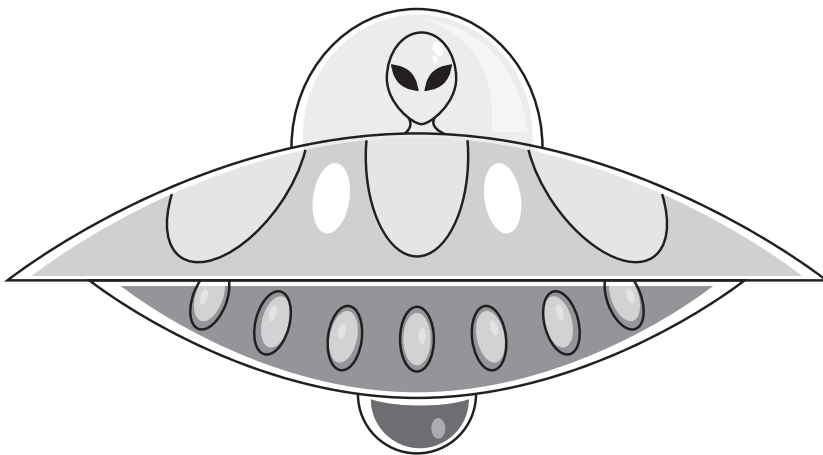
Step 2: Glue the foam plates together, but leave a small hole in the side to insert the glow sticks when you are finished. Glue the decorated bowls to the top and bottom of the plates.

Step 3: Set your UFO glider aside for an hour to dry.

Step 4: Place paper clips evenly around the edge of the foam plates to help the UFO glider fly evenly.

Step 5: Try flying your new UFO glider outside. Remove or add paper clips as needed.

Step 6: Insert the glow sticks and try flying your UFO glider at night!



Bonus Info!

Onomatopoeia Fun!

The Mystery at Area 51 is full of fun onomatopoeia! Onomatopoeic words imitate the sounds of things, like a bee goes *buzz*. Try to match the onomatopoeia to words/events in the mystery.

1. ROOOAAAARRRR
2. CRASH!
3. WHIRRR! WHIRRR!
4. BANG BANG
5. BOOM! CRACK!
6. THUMP
7. PLUNK!
8. SNAP
9. SQUISH! BOING!
10. BOOM

- A. ___ Christina taking photographs
- B. ___ Ol' Zeb's shot gun
- C. ___ Grant on the pogo stick
- D. ___ the UFO hitting the tree
- E. ___ Grant falling on the porch
- F. ___ the hovering UFO
- G. ___ snakes dropping to the ground
- H. ___ thunder
- I. ___ the sonic boom in Rachel
- J. ___ Muddy Boots's truck

Activities

Alien Pictionary

Let's create your very own Alien Pictionary game. You'll need paper, pencils, crayons, dice, a timer, and Area 51 word cards.

Step 1: Divide the class into equal groups. Smaller groups work best.

Step 2: Each group must use a pencil to draw an alien (include exactly 12 parts: eyes, nose, legs, body, and arms) on a piece of paper.

Step 3: Teacher should make Area 51 word cards using index cards. Write one word on each card. Turn all of the cards over and place them facedown in one pile on a table.

Step 4: Ask teams to roll the dice. The team that rolls the highest number goes first, followed by the group to their right, and so on.

Step 5: The best artist in each group picks the top card from the pile and replaces it on the bottom of the pile without showing anyone. The artist has one minute to draw the picture and the others in their group have one minute to guess what the picture is.

Step 6: If someone from the group guesses correctly, the group gets to color in one of the 12 parts on their group's alien.

Step 7: The next group takes their turn, and repeats Steps 5 and 6.

Step 8: The group who colors all 15 parts of their alien in (which means they guessed 12 pictures correctly) first wins!

Remember: No numbers or letters can be used. Only pictures.

Area 51 Word Suggestions

diary	alien	bolo tie	bonfire	cave
airplane	tire swing	UFO	bull	envelope
pilot	photograph	flipbook	camo dude	tow truck
Grant	S'more	Black Mailbox	RV	alien pen
Christina	turbulence	back gate	pogo stick	mother ship
Megan	desert	S'more stick	crop circle	cell phone
Drew	shooting star	flashlight	bat	limp
Ol' Zeb	cowboy boots	goosebumps	tunnel	tour bus
Mimi	cowboy	antenna	ghost	hideout
Papa	4-wheeler	helmet	alien burger	lantern
snake	Mars	twig	cattle rustler	map
ranch	horizon	oak tree	headstone	storm

Word Search

Search for the mysteriously hidden words below!

E	Y	B	L	T	E	I	B	O	K	R	X	A	G	R
U	O	F	O	K	R	O	W	O	X	O	T	L	H	P
C	F	Q	A	N	L	U	O	L	B	U	C	F	O	I
E	R	N	M	O	F	B	C	L	R	F	S	A	S	N
B	S	O	T	O	P	I	I	K	P	O	S	L	T	U
R	J	I	P	I	O	A	R	R	M	G	F	F	T	H
A	E	K	L	C	M	B	O	E	M	U	D	A	O	O
B	L	F	X	K	I	T	C	D	I	A	R	Y	W	B
I	T	I	C	O	O	R	D	I	N	A	T	E	N	A
W	U	A	L	T	F	X	C	E	N	G	T	N	E	S
X	L	L	Y	M	S	Q	O	L	R	O	N	R	I	Q
B	Z	P	T	E	M	L	E	H	E	O	S	G	L	X
A	E	Y	A	W	H	G	I	H	T	E	M	Z	A	C
C	A	M	O	D	U	D	E	B	N	X	I	S	P	N
F	Y	L	H	N	I	N	P	F	S	E	J	A	F	G

WORD BANK

ALFALFA	BONFIRE	ET HIGHWAY	SMORE
ALIEN	CAMO DUDE	FLIPBOOK	SNAKE
BARBECUE	COORDINATE	GHOST TOWN	SONIC BOOM
BLACK MAILBOX	CROP CIRCLE	HELMET	TRUCK
BOLO TIE	DIARY	PROTOTYPE	UFO

Chapters 1-4 Worksheet

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

Do you know what these words mean? Write their definitions in the space provided.

1. abduction
2. venomous

Answer the following questions using complete sentences.

3. How long ago was Christina's photo taken?
4. What caused Grant to turn upside down?
5. What did Nina say to make Christina exhale?
6. What did Grant and Christina see above the oak tree?
7. What does Christina want to tell Grant when they stop in the middle of the field?

Write T for True and F for False.

8. ____ In the plane, Christina was worried about seeing her friends again.
9. ____ Instead of looking for roasting sticks, Christina hid behind the ranch house.
10. ____ Grant looked for aliens in the bedroom closet.

Chapters 5-8 Worksheet

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

Do you know what these words mean? Write their definitions in the space provided.

1. unruly

2. parallel

3. hoax

Answer the following questions using complete sentences.

4. What alien joke did Drew tell Grant?

5. Where did Christina find the first clue?

6. What crop is grown in the Pahrnagat Valley?

7. How does Megan feel about the alien cattle abduction theory?

Write T for True and F for False.

8. _____ After reading the clue, Christina threw the receipt into the fire.

9. _____ Megan admitted that the cattle on her grandfather's ranch were running away.

10. _____ Area 51 is the code name for a secret aircraft and weapons testing facility.

Chapters 9-12 Worksheet

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

Do you know what these words mean? Write their definitions in the space provided.

1. terrain
2. abandoned
3. analogy

Answer the following questions using complete sentences.

4. What did the clue “SBJ06201833” mean?
5. What did Christina hear in the tunnel?
6. How did Megan try to explain the voice Christina heard?
7. Why did the kids get antsy in the RV?

Write T for True and F for False.

8. ____ Christina came face to face with a hairy mouse in the Tybo cave.
9. ____ The faded envelope Christina found in her pocket was stamped with the letters SBJ in wax.
10. ____ Grant was accused of denting an “alien’s” ship.

Chapters 13-16 Worksheet

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

Do you know what these words mean? Write their definitions in the space provided.

1. alien sightings
2. knickknacks
3. extraterrestrial

Answer the following questions using complete sentences.

4. According to Alien Mom, what does her baby recommend?
5. How did E.T. Highway get its name?
6. What does SETI stand for and what do they do?

Write T for True and F for False.

7. ____ The Little A'Le'Inn restaurant in Rachel, Nevada, used to be called the Rachel Bar and Grill.
8. ____ Tybo is the sonic boom capital of the world.
9. ____ Muddy Boots drove the tour bus to the Black Mailbox.
10. ____ The main gate to Area 51 is 20 miles from E.T. Highway.

Chapters 17-20 Worksheet

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

Do you know what these words mean? Write their definitions in the space provided.

1. coordinates
2. surveillance
3. silhouetted

Answer the following questions using complete sentences.

4. How is Area 51 protected?
5. What did Grant and Christina find in the hideout?
6. What did Mr. Ellis compliment Grant on?

Write T for True and F for False.

7. _____ Megan said she found an invisible runway at Area 51.
8. _____ Grant guessed the “eyes up high” in the clue were the stars in the night sky.
9. _____ Christina and Grant decided it was too risky to go back down into the hideout.
10. _____ Bodybuilder Guard agreed to take only one picture with the kids.

Chapters 21-24 Worksheet

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

Do you know what these words mean? Write their definitions in the space provided.

1. converted
2. trespass
3. galactic

Answer the following questions using complete sentences.

4. What is the “evidence room”?
5. What did Christina forget in the motel room?
6. In the photo, who was crouched down near the entrance to the hideout?

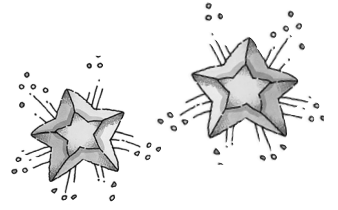
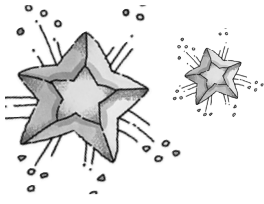
Write T for True and F for False.

7. ____ Someone used Christina’s phone to take a picture of a clue.
8. ____ Megan found the key to Zeb’s trailer under the floor mat.
9. ____ The UFO crashed into some trees and blew up.
10. ____ The kids found Ol’ Zeb’s trailer completely empty on their way back to the ranch house.

The Mystery at Area 51

Vocabulary

End-of-Unit Quiz



NAME: _____

DATE: _____

Using the word bank, fill in the correct vocabulary word in the sentences below.

WORD BANK

OUTSKIRTS
TOP SECRET

ABDUCTIONS
HOMONYM

UFO
GHOST TOWN

ABDOMEN
TEEMING

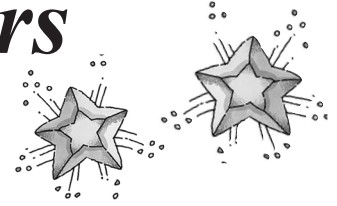
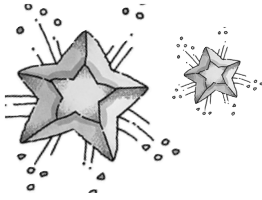
VENOMOUS
AILMENT

1. At one time, Tybo was a booming mining town, but now it is a _____.
2. The _____ hovered hypnotically above the kids before it whizzed off and disappeared into the night sky.
3. The patient was suffering from a mysterious _____ that even the doctors couldn't figure out.
4. After the UFO sighting was disclosed to the public, Rachel was _____ with reporters for a whole week.
5. Be careful walking around at night. The Great Basin snake is _____!
6. The _____ lesson in English class was easy for Simon to understand.
7. The _____ facility was protected by armed guards.
8. A family of stray cats lives on the _____ of town.
9. The picture of the alien with its protruding _____ and bug eyes frightened the reader.
10. Alien _____ are difficult to prove.

The Mystery at Area 51

Matching Characters

End-of-Unit Quiz



NAME: _____

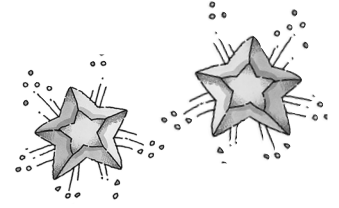
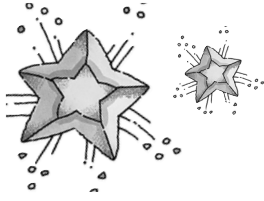
DATE: _____

Match the mystery characters with their descriptions.

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| _____ 1. Mimi | A. The owners of the Flyin' R |
| _____ 2. Papa | B. The kids' tour guide |
| _____ 3. Christina | C. Doing research on ghost mining towns |
| _____ 4. Grant | D. Left a flipbook in the tour bus |
| _____ 5. Megan | E. Was chased by a bull |
| _____ 6. Drew | F. Drove the RV to Tybo |
| _____ 7. Buck and Nina | G. Found a clue on the back of a receipt |
| _____ 8. Ol' Zeb | H. Pulled melted marshmallows out of her brother's hair |
| _____ 9. Mr. Ellis | I. Told a funny alien joke |
| _____ 10. Muddy Boots | J. Shot four snakes on Buck's ranch |

The Mystery at Area 51

Fill-in-the-Blank End-of-Unit Quiz



NAME: _____

DATE: _____

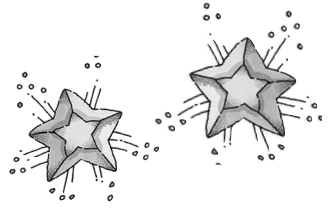
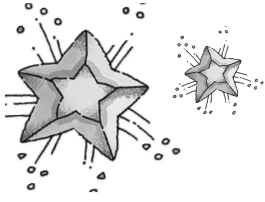
Fill in the blanks to complete the following:

1. This was hanging from the back of the tow truck.
____ _ O _____
2. What Grant found under his bed.
S _____
3. Christina and Grant found these hidden under sheets.
____ L I _____
4. The name of the lake found in Area 51.
____ _ O _____ K _____
5. Ol' Zeb wears this around his neck.
B _____ E _____
6. Papa said this caused the *Mystery Girl* to bank hard to the right.
____ U _____ N _____
7. This town is famous for its alien burgers.
R _____ E _____
8. The kids drove these at Tybo ghost town.
____ _ U _____ - _____ E _____
9. Christina and Grant saw one of these on Buck's landing strip.
____ _ L _____
10. Grant played with this outside Ol' Zeb's trailer.
____ _ O _____ S _____

The Mystery at Area 51

True or False

End-of-Unit Quiz



NAME: _____

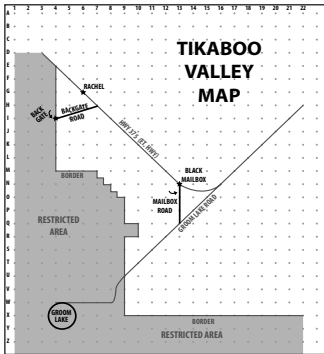
DATE: _____

Write T for True and F for False.

- _____ 1. The first stop on the trip in the RV is Rachel, Nevada.
- _____ 2. Christina picked up an alien bobble head after the sonic boom caused it to fall.
- _____ 3. Christina was worried her friends wouldn't like her anymore.
- _____ 4. Nina always wore boots in the house.
- _____ 5. The newspaper clipping was lying on the dining room table.
- _____ 6. *Independence Day* was filmed in the early 2000s.
- _____ 7. Buck warned the kids not to go fishing at night.
- _____ 8. The numbers on the first clue represented a birth date.
- _____ 9. Muddy Boots was seen crouching down outside the hideout.
- _____ 10. The kids snuck into Area 51 through the back gate.

Answer Key

Page 14, Geography/Sidebar Activities



1. Tybo Ruins;
2. Little A'LeInn;
3. The Black Mailbox

Page 15, Math/Sidebar Activities

1. 2,000 more acres;
2. 110 feet;
3. 18 S'mores;
4. 129.81 miles to Tybo;
5. 400/ranch; 5 trips to each ranch. *Sidebar:* 1. Oregon, Idaho;
2. California;
3. Utah, Arizona;
4. Carson City;
5. Hoover Dam;
6. False;
7. Colorado River;
- final answer is Death Valley National Park

Page 17, Vocabulary Activities

1. ghost town;
2. camo dudes;
3. rustlers;
4. bolo tie;
5. pact;
6. cemetery;
7. pacifier;
8. sonic boom;
9. pogo stick;
10. aerial map

Page 19, Science/Sidebar Activities

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

Page 22, Chapters 1-4

3. 3 years ago;
4. Papa had to avoid hitting something mid-air;
5. that Drew and Megan wanted to see Christina and Grant;
6. a UFO;
7. that what they saw was what she saw 3 years ago;
8. True;
9. False;
10. False

Page 23, Chapters 5-8

4. about the crying saucer;
5. at the bonfire;
6. alfalfa;
7. she is skeptical;
8. False;
9. False;
10. True

Page 24, Chapters 9-12

4. the initials and birth date on a headstone;
5. "Go back! Go back!";
6. that voices sometimes travel;
7. It was hot;
8. False;
9. True;
10. True

Page 25, Chapters 13-16

4. the A, B, C, D, and fries;
5. because of all the alien sightings;
6. "Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence." The scientists study extraterrestrial life;
7. True;
8. False;
9. False;
10. True

Page 26, Chapters 17-20

4. by camo dudes;
5. aerial maps, schedules, photos, and aliens;
6. his off-road driving;
7. False;
8. False;
9. True;
10. False

Page 27, Chapters 21-24

4. the movie room;
5. her cell phone;
6. Ol' Zeb;
7. True;
8. False;
9. False;
10. True

Page 28, Vocabulary Quiz

1. ghost town;
2. UFO;
3. ailment;
4. teeming;
5. venomous;
6. homonym;
7. top secret;
8. outskirts;
9. abdomen;
10. abductions

Page 29, Character Matching Quiz

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

Page 30, Fill-in-the-Blank Quiz

1. UFO;
2. sock;
3. aliens;
4. Groom Lake;
5. bolo tie;
6. turbulence;
7. Rachel;
8. four-wheelers;
9. bull;
10. pogo stick

Page 31, True-or-False Quiz

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