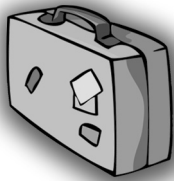




The Mystery in the
**Twin
Cities**



Teacher's Guide
by
Carole Marsh

Editor: Janice Baker • Art & Design: Randolyn Friedlander

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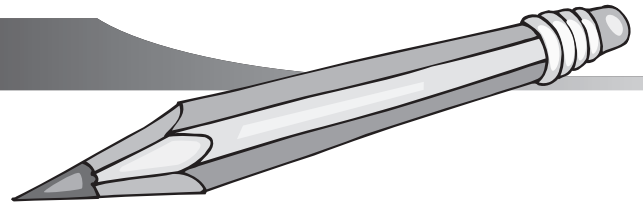
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Dear Teacher,

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 have always been fascinated by Minnesota and its fabulous Twin Cities! When I think of early Minnesota, I see fur trappers wrapped in thick, furry coats of animal hide. I see grizzly old-timers manning isolated trading posts, and hardy men with ruddy cheeks paddling furiously down rushing rivers. I think of eager immigrants pouring in, looking for rich farmland and a new life. How did they survive the brutal winters? What drove them to settle in that wild and magnificent land?

When I think of today's Minnesota, I think of two fabulous cities standing tall in the far northern reaches of America. I think of Saint Paul bustling with activity as the state capital. I think of Minneapolis and its sister city as captains of industry—home to Target and Best Buy and 3M and General Mills, to name just a few! I think of a winter wonderland where cold-weather sports are king, and youngsters with ruddy cheeks lob snowballs and build plump white snowmen with carrot noses.

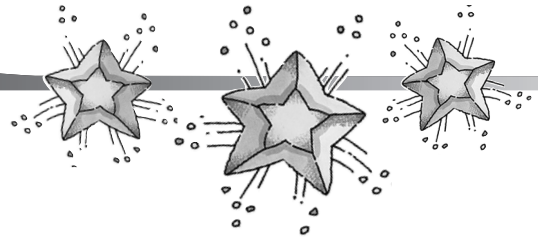


I love getting letters from teachers and parents who say they read the book with their class or child, then visited the historic site and saw all the places in the mystery for themselves. What's so great about that? Everything! Reading and going and seeing and doing is what education is all about. And sometimes, a carefree vacation trip might be the spark that leads to a lifelong interest in an era, a place, or a people.

Don your mittens and your winter coat, and enjoy this trip to the Twin Cities!

Carole Marsh

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Page-by-Page Guide

Page #	Subject	<u>EXPLORE!</u>
11	Relationships	Mimi kept her red cooler full of drinks and snacks for Grant and Christina. What does that say about their relationship?
12	Vocabulary	To <i>stifle</i> means to conceal or hide. Papa could not conceal his laughter at Grant's joke!
13	Trivia	According to the Federal Highway Administration, there are more than 1,200 rest areas on the interstate highway system.
13	Literature	When Grant says, "My kingdom for a drawbridge," he is referring to a line in one of Shakespeare's plays, <i>King Richard III</i> . After King Richard's horse is killed, he cries, "My horse! My horse! My kingdom for a horse!" The quote is often repeated when a person needs something important.
13	Figure of Speech	When the writer says that Grant's nose was so cold that the end of it was "beating like a heart," he is using a figure of speech called a simile. A simile compares two unlike things, usually in a phrase introduced by <i>like</i> or <i>as</i> .
14	History	The first Saint Paul Winter Carnival took place in 1886. Local business leaders wanted to prove a New York newspaper writer wrong who had described the city as "another Siberia, unfit for human habitation in the winter."
15	Imagery	Grant's breath is described as "puffs of smoky vapor that floated away like chilly ghosts." Can you picture it?
19	Natural Disasters	On Tuesday, January 12, 2010, a powerful earthquake struck the nation of Haiti. The Haitian government estimates that more than 220,000 people died in the quake. Can you find Haiti on a map?
21	Character Analysis	Chester and Shirley want to adopt twin boys they saw in Haiti. What does this tell you about this couple?
25	Vocabulary	Something that is <i>counterfeit</i> is an imitation represented as being the original item.

Page-by-Page Guide

- 26 Geography Twin cities are cities so close to each other that they grow together over time. Dallas and Fort Worth, Texas are another example of twin cities.
- 28 Clothing A *parka* is a long jacket with a hood. It is often lined with fur or fake fur.
- 36 Vocabulary To be *sheepish* is to be shy, meek, or embarrassed. Which word best describes how Grant is feeling?
- 38 Imagery Julie’s laugh “bounced around the lobby like a beach ball.” What does that description tell you?
- 40 Sports Dog mushing is a sport where one or more dogs pulls a sled over snow. Minnesota is home to many sled dog races.
- 45 Entertainment Charles Schulz, the creator of the *Peanuts* comic strip, described himself as a man who was “born to draw.” Do you like to draw?
- 46 Weather Weather experts say that Minneapolis and Saint Paul have the coldest average temperature of any major metropolitan area in the United States! Frigid arctic air from Canada flows into the cities without any natural geographic barriers to block it.
- 47 Politicians Before going into politics, Henry Mower Rice made a living as a fur trader with local Indian tribes.
- 49 Vocabulary To *shudder* means to tremble from fear or excitement. Which emotion was Christina feeling?
- 52 Imagery When Julie and Jim “hee-hawed like donkeys at a square dance,” what were they doing?
- 53 Novelists F. Scott Fitzgerald grew up in St. Paul. The home where he was born is now a National Literary Landmark.
- 54 Sculpture Bronze is a mixture of copper and tin. It is commonly used to make statues because it expands just before it sets, ensuring that the details of a mold are filled with the metal.

Page-by-Page Guide

- 55 Cartoons The *Peanuts* character Schroeder spends most of his time playing a toy piano. Can you play a musical instrument?
- 56 Science Grant’s saliva froze to the statue. Don’t try to imitate that stunt!! The colder the temperature of the metal, the quicker your lips or tongue will stick to it.
- 56 Expressions When Christina doesn’t “know whether to laugh or cry,” she finds the situation funny and frightening at the same time.
- 59 Feelings How do you think Grant felt when he couldn’t remove his lips from the statue? Is this scene funny or scary to you?
- 60 Character Traits When Julie and Jim refuse to leave Grant and Christina, what does that tell you about their friendship?
- 60 Expressions What does it mean to “get carried away” by something?
- 61 Idioms If something is “as good as new,” either it has been kept in the same quality condition as when it was new, or it has been repaired to the same condition as when it was new. What is Mr. Snowdon telling Grant when he uses that expression?
- 62 Spelling When the author uses misspellings like “annudder” or “liss,” what is she trying to help the reader understand about Grant’s injured lips?
- 63 Word Origin A *comforter* is bedding made of two layers of cloth filled with stuffing and stitched together. How do you think this bedding got its name?
- 64 Weather Christina and Grant live in Georgia. In Georgia’s capital city of Atlanta, July is typically the hottest month with an average temperature of 88 degrees. What is the hottest month where you live?

Page-by-Page Guide

- 64 Human Body Kids from 7 to 12 years of age need about 10 to 11 hours of sleep per night. Why would someone be in a better mood after “a good night’s sleep”?
- 64 Imagery When “rays of sun as sharp as spears” stab Christina’s eyes, what is the author trying to say? Is the sunlight bright or dim?
- 65 Science Christina zaps Grant with a static charge. A static charge occurs when there is an excess of positive or negative charges on an object’s surface. The shock hurt Grant because it was extremely hot!
- 66 Birds Birds eat worms because they are easy to catch and are a good source of protein.
- 66 Language When the author says that the “kids wolfed down their stacks of wild blueberry pancakes,” what do you see?
- 69 Automobiles The letters *SUV* stand for Sports Utility Vehicle. The term describes a vehicle similar to a station wagon but built on a truck chassis, or frame.
- 70 Vocabulary A *scalawag* can mean several things. After the Civil War, scalawags were Southern whites who supported Reconstruction policies to make money for themselves. A scalawag can also refer to a wicked person, or someone who is mischievous. Which meaning was Papa using when he called the kids scalawags?
- 70 Animals Minnesota has two species of gophers. Gophers spend most of their time digging tunnels underground, pushing dirt up in mounds. In one year, a gopher can bring more than two tons of dirt to the surface! They do a lot of damage to landscaping and turf, and their tunnels can cause structures like driveways to collapse!
- 71 Vocabulary To be *sarcastic* is to mean the opposite of what you say. When Christina says, “Thanks for reminding me about that!” she is actually not happy that Jim brought up “Creepy” Karpis.

Page-by-Page Guide

- 71 Feelings Why does Grant get upset when he hears laughter coming from the front of the SUV?
- 71 Geography Minnehaha Falls is a 53-foot waterfall located in Minnehaha City Park. The waterfall is created as Minnehaha Creek spills over a rock ledge.
- 73 Vocabulary To be *dumbfounded* is to be shocked and speechless.
- 75 Animals The star-nosed mole has 22 pink, fleshy tentacles around its nose. These super-sensitive tentacles are used to help the mole inspect its surroundings and identify food by touching it. The tentacles also cover the mole’s nose when it is digging so soil doesn’t get in.
- 77 History Saint Paul is the capital of Minnesota. Indian mounds in the area present evidence that the Hopewell Native Americans were the first inhabitants.
- 78 Economics Once settlers harnessed the power of Saint Anthony Falls to run sawmills and flour mills, Minneapolis became known as the “Flour Milling Capital of the World” from about 1880 to 1930.
- 80 Society Graffiti consists of images or lettering marked or painted on rocks or walls. When put on public property, graffiti is considered vandalism and is illegal.
- 82 City Life The Minneapolis skyway system links miles and miles of businesses, hotels, restaurants, banks, and other attractions and services. It’s a great way to get around town, and stay warm!
- 83 Imagery When the author writes that rich, creamy hot chocolate going down Christina’s throat felt “like a warm elevator headed for her stomach,” what do you see in your mind? What do you feel physically?

Page-by-Page Guide

- 84 Living How would you like living in an apartment in Minneapolis and rarely having to go outside in the winter because of the convenient skyway system? Would you like that? Why or why not?
- 85 Legend According to the Winter Carnival legend, Vulcanus Rex is the enemy of King Boreas. Vulcanus Rex battles to end the winter cold and bring summer warmth back to Saint Paul.
- 86 Vocabulary Grant speaks in a melodramatic voice. To be *melodramatic* is to be exaggerate your behavior to have a desired effect.
- 87 Science Warm breath on cold glass forms fog because of condensation. When warm air meets the cold surface, the warm air is turned into mist (droplets). Have you ever exhaled on a cold window to make fog?
- 89 Architecture Skyscrapers are very tall buildings with many stories. The tallest building in Minneapolis is the 57-story IDS Tower. Have you ever been to the top of a skyscraper?
- 90 Careers Do you like to write? Are you curious about many things? Do you like to talk to people? Do you work well on tight deadlines? If so, you might like to be a newspaper reporter! Reporters investigate news events and write reports on them for newspapers. It can be a very exciting job!
- 92 Life Papa makes everyone laugh when he comes up with a joke about the stolen running suit. Did you know that laughter is truly good for you? Scientists do not know exactly how it happens, but the latest research tells us that laughter helps boost our immune systems. So, it looks like there's some scientific proof to back up the old saying, "Laughter is the best medicine!"
- 93 Clothing A parka is a heavy jacket with a hood often lined with real or fake fur to protect the face from extremely cold temperatures and wind. The garment originated with Arctic Native Americans, who first made it from caribou or seal skin.

Page-by-Page Guide

- 93 Shopping The Mall of America is quite an amazing place! It includes more than 500 stores, 50 restaurants, the Nickelodeon Universe theme park, movie theaters, an aquarium, a miniature golf course, a mirror maze, and much, much more! Would you like to visit the mall?
- 95 Sea Animals Jim mentions the sharks in the aquarium at the Mall of America. The sand tiger sharks have an interesting habit. They swim to the surface and ingest gulps of air that they hold in their stomachs. This air allows them to maintain something called “neutral buoyancy,” which keeps them motionless in the water as they watch for prey.
- 96 Feelings Why does Grant feel like he may have offended Julie and Jim when he tells Mimi he does not want a pink or purple parka? Have you ever offended someone by making comments about their clothing?
- 96 Language When Papa says to the kids, “Don’t spend it all in one place,” what is he trying to tell them?
- 98 Food Each day, the sea creatures at Mall of America’s Underwater Adventures Aquarium consume more than 100 pounds of food. Add 90 more pounds to that total on the days the sharks are fed!
- 99 Animals Jellyfish may look beautiful, but they really pack a punch! Have you ever been stung by a jellyfish? If so, what did it feel like?
- 102 Personality Do you like roller coasters? Many people do, and many people don’t. Experts say that people who like them a lot typically have a thrill-seeking personality.
- 104 Human Body Christina’s hands became sweaty because she was nervous while riding the roller coaster. Have you ever had sweaty hands in a stressful situation?

Page-by-Page Guide

- 105 Literature Read the title of Chapter 17. Have you heard that phrase before? If so, where? Why do you think the author uses a familiar phrase as a chapter title?
- 106 Humor When Jim says there are no “freezing cold, metal” girls in the Mirror Maze, what is he referring to? Who is he teasing?
- 107 Language When Grant ran into a mirror, he rubbed a “growing goose egg” on his forehead. What was growing on his forehead? Why do you think that bump is called a goose egg?
- 107 Life A *disco ball* is a rotating ball covered with mirrors that reflects light to all parts of a room. A disco ball is often suspended from the ceiling in a dance club to deliver a flashing light effect.
- 108 Feelings How do you think Christina felt when she could not find her way out of the maze? Have you ever been lost in a maze?
- 111 Games Marco Polo is a game of tag usually played in a swimming pool. Some people say it got its name because the famous explorer Marco Polo did not know where he was going when he first set out from Europe to Asia. Have you ever played the game?
- 112 Behavior Why did Papa predict that Grant would not want to leave the mall when it was time to go? What does Papa know about his grandson that led to that prediction?
- 112 Language What body part is Papa referring to when he says, “My dogs are killing me”?
- 113 Food Lutefisk is a traditional Minnesota dish. Can you think of any traditional dishes where you live?
- 116 Behavior Were you surprised to find out that Mimi had dressed up as Klondike Kate and performed on the stage? What does that tell you about Mimi’s personality?

Page-by-Page Guide

- 118 Literature *Little House on the Prairie* was made into a television series. It ran on the NBC network from 1974 to 1982.
- 119 Animals The walleye is Minnesota’s state fish. The walleye gets its name from its large glassy pupils that reflect light, allowing the fish to see and feed at night or in murky water.
- 119 Weather Why are winters so cold in Minnesota? Minnesota is located at a high latitude. This means that winter nights are long and not much sunlight is available to warm things up during winter days. In addition, Minnesota has no natural barriers to fend off blasts of arctic air.
- 121 Imagery When the author says, “Christina could feel the blood drain from her face,” what is she feeling?
- 124 Animals Siberian Huskies resemble wolves. They have blue or brown eyes, and a two-layer coat to keep them warm. They love to run and be outdoors—the perfect personality for a sled dog!
- 130 Language When Grant says that his middle name is “monkey,” what does he mean?
- 137 Behavior When Grant and Christina immediately give the check to Chester and Shirley, what does that tell you about them?

Discussion Questions

1. Grant and Christina take a trip to the Twin Cities in winter. It's really cold!!! What are some things that people who live in cold climates have to deal with? What are some important precautions they need to take just living their everyday lives in the winter?
2. Papa's friend Chester and his wife helped the earthquake victims in Haiti and want to adopt two Haitian children. What does that tell you about Chester and Shirley? Do you know anyone from another country who was adopted by an American family?
3. The Saint Paul Winter Carnival lasts for 10 days and includes more than 100 winter sports and entertainment events all around the city. Why do you think cities sponsor such large events like this carnival? Does your city or town have a similar event each year?
4. The kids visit Rice Park where they see statues of characters from the *Peanuts* comic strip. The mild-mannered Charlie Brown is the main character of the *Peanuts* gang. Charlie is nervous, not very good at sports or things like flying a kite, but the public loves him. Why do you think Charlie Brown is so popular? If you have ever seen a *Peanuts* cartoon, or seen a *Peanuts* movie, what do you like about Charlie?
5. One of Minnesota's nicknames is "Land of 10,000 Lakes." Other than ice fishing, what are some fun things to do on a lake in the winter? What are some fun things to do in the summer?
6. The mighty Mississippi River runs through the Twin Cities. Why was it important for early settlements to be near a river?

Bonus Info!

Minnesota State Symbols

State Fish: Walleye

State Tree: Norway Pine

State Bird: Common Loon

State Gemstone: Lady Superior Agate

State Grain: Wild Rice

State Fruit: Honeycrisp Apple

State Butterfly: Monarch

State Sport: Ice Hockey

State Song: "Hail Minnesota"

State Drink: Milk

State Flower: Ladyslipper

Geography: Find It!

1. Study the map below. What country borders Minnesota to the north? What states border Minnesota to the west? What state is directly south of Minnesota? What state borders Minnesota to the east?
2. Using a map of the United States, plan a trip to the Twin Cities from your state. How will you get there—drive or fly? How many states will you travel through? How many miles will you have to travel?
3. What resource can you use to find the latitude and longitude of a particular location? Find the latitude and longitude of the state capitol building in Saint Paul.
4. Minnesota borders one of the Great Lakes. Find the name of that lake on the map below.



Bonus Info!

Land of Lakes!

One of Minnesota's nicknames is "Land of 10,000 Lakes." When viewed from the air, it looks like there are lakes all over the place! In fact, Minnesota has more than 11,000 lakes that cover more than 10 acres. Some lakes have "size" names like One-Mile Lake or Round Lake. Some have animal names like Buffalo, Cormorant, or Heron. Others are named after plants, trees, or people.

With so much water around, it's not surprising that many Minnesotans own boats or that water sports are so popular in the state. Many towns sponsor fishing tournaments, and residents love to paddle canoes or kayaks, go on river rafting or tubing expeditions, scuba dive, or float around on houseboats. And don't forget waterskiing—which was actually invented by a Minnesota teen in 1922!

Mathematics: Calculate It!

1. A heat wave in July 1936 caused a record-high temperature of 114°F in Moorhead, Minnesota. Convert that temperature to a Celsius scale by following these steps: Subtract 32 from the Fahrenheit temperature, and then divide that sum by 1.8. What is your answer? (You can round it up to the nearest whole number.)
2. Create a bar graph showing the tallest skyscrapers in Minneapolis and St. Paul. For Minneapolis, you will show the IDS Tower (792 feet) and the Capella Tower (775 feet). For Saint Paul, you will show Wells Fargo Place (471 feet), and Galtier Plaza (443 feet).
3. The snowiest Minneapolis winter on record was 1983-84 when 98.6 inches of snow fell. How many feet was that? How many years ago did that occur?
4. Winter weather can be treacherous for drivers. On one December day between 7 a.m. and 3 p.m., the Minnesota State Patrol responded to 392 instances of vehicles spinning or sliding off the road, 13 crashes with injuries, and 79 crashes involving vehicle damage. How many total incidents did they respond to? What was the average number of incidents per hour?
5. A storage container at the Saint Paul Winter Carnival can hold 800 cans of soda for refreshments. If carnival organizers order 18,000 cans of soda, how many storage containers will they need?
6. If the 2011 Saint Paul Winter Carnival were the 125th event, in what year was the first event held?

Bonus Info!

Interesting Minnesota Facts!

- Nearly 60 percent of Minnesota residents live in the Minneapolis-Saint Paul metropolitan area
- Inventions: Wheaties cereal, water skis, masking tape, scotch tape
- Minnesotan Frank Mars introduced the Milky Way candy bar in 1923
- First open heart surgery performed at the University of Minnesota
- Pig's Eye was the original name of the settlement that became Saint Paul
- What's the size of 78 football fields? The Mall of America!
- The downtown districts of Minneapolis and Saint Paul are about nine miles apart
- Minnesota was the 32nd state to join the Union

English: Write It!

1. Pretend you are a newspaper reporter in Minneapolis. You are assigned to attend the opening of the Mall of America in Bloomington. Write an article about the grand opening. Be sure to get the facts, but also let your readers experience the sights, the sounds, and the excitement! Make sure your article covers the questions: Who? What? When? Where? Why?
2. The plot of a story is enhanced by rising action. What does that mean? Describe a favorite scene in the book that has rising action. How does that action make you feel when you are reading it?
3. Pretend you are Chester's wife, Shirley. Write a letter to the two little boys that she wants to adopt in Haiti. Tell them how she and Chester got the money for the adoption. Make sure you describe the Saint Paul Winter Carnival.
4. How could this story have ended differently? Write a new ending for the *Mystery in the Twin Cities*.
5. Write a letter to your teacher or a friend telling them what you have learned about the state of Minnesota and the Twin Cities by reading this book.
6. Think about all five senses: seeing, hearing, tasting, touching, and smelling. List one experience Christina and Grant had with each sense in the Twin Cities.

Bonus Info!

Writing Tips

Every story has to have characters, a plot, and a setting. Characters are the people in the story. Who are the main characters in *The Mystery in the Twin Cities*?

A plot is what happens in the story. Without a plot, the story has no action and no meaning. What is the plot of this mystery?

A setting is where the story takes place. What is the setting in *The Mystery in the Twin Cities*?

There are many different types of stories you can write. Mysteries (like this story!), adventure, funny, dramatic, romantic, non-fiction (that means it's true!), and the list goes on and on!

Art: Create It!

1. Sketch portraits of each mystery book character. Add specific details in the background of each picture. For example, you might add a roller coaster behind Grant because he enjoyed riding it so much. Or, you might put a star-nosed mole in Christina's picture because it bit her!
2. Use modeling clay to create several Siberian Husky sled dogs. Set them in front of the dog sled you will make from the directions on page 20.
3. Build an ice palace with marshmallows! Cover a flat piece of cardboard with aluminum foil. Spread vanilla frosting on the open ends of several paper cups and invert them to stick to the foil. Spread more frosting over the rest of the cups and attach marshmallows to create your palace. You can use other items like toilet paper rolls. Freeze your castle to make it stick together better.
4. Illustrate several short comic strips about Grant and Christina's adventures in the Twin Cities. Pick your favorite scenes to illustrate. Make it look like a real comic strip—like *Peanuts*!
5. Draw a picture of each of the following similes from the book:
 - “sounded like a stopper yanked from a bathtub”
 - “circled like icy spiders waiting for a meal”
 - “crackled like ice cubes in sweet tea”

Bonus Info!

The Road to Statehood

After the Louisiana Purchase in 1803, Lieutenant Zebulon Pike was sent to find suitable places to construct forts in Minnesota. Under the protection of the U.S. government and its soldiers, Minnesota grew rapidly. Steamboats brought goods and settlers up the Mississippi River. Many railroads, as well as bands of covered wagons, traveled far to reach the new land. Treaties with the Native Americans opened up more of Minnesota for settlement.

In 1848, the population was large enough to allow the region to officially become the Minnesota Territory. By 1857, Minnesota had a population of just over 150,000, large enough to apply for statehood. Minnesota became a state on May 11, 1858.

Today, Minnesota's population is more than 5 million! The city of Minneapolis has about 380,000 residents, and Saint Paul has a population of about 285,000.

Baked Walleye with Wild Rice

Wild rice is an important product of Minnesota. Enjoy this state specialty!

Ingredients:

- 1½ sticks of butter
- ½ cup chopped onions
- 1 8-oz can sliced mushrooms
- 1 cup uncooked wild rice (can use boxed or packaged rice)
- 6 ounces of sliced almonds
- 1 cup Italian-seasoned bread crumbs
- ½ cup grated parmesan cheese
- 8 fresh walleye filets

Cook the wild rice. Melt ½ stick of butter in a frying pan. Saute onions in the butter. Add mushrooms and wild rice. Put aside.

Season the filets with salt and pepper as desired. Mix bread crumbs and cheese together. Roll filets in bread crumb and cheese mixture. Place the filets in the oven and bake at 450°F for 15 minutes.

Melt the remaining butter in the frying pan. Saute the sliced almonds in the butter. When serving, spoon the almond/butter mixture over the filets and the rice. Makes 8 servings.

Bonus Info!

Minnesota Works!

Minnesota has a diverse economy with major industries including tourism, agriculture, computers and services, healthcare and medical equipment, forest and forestry products, and printing and publishing.

Twenty-one Fortune 500 products are headquartered in Minnesota. They include United Health Group, Target Corporation, Best Buy, Supervalu, 3M, U.S. Bancorp, General Mills, Medtronic, Land O' Lakes, and Hormel Foods.

Other well-known Minnesota-based corporations include Polaris Industries, Life Time Fitness, Graco, Buffalo Wild Wings, and Caribou Coffee Company.

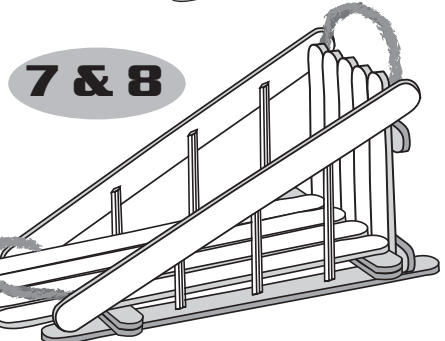
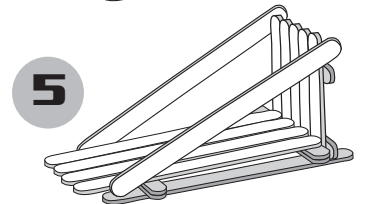
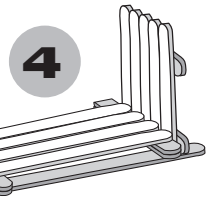
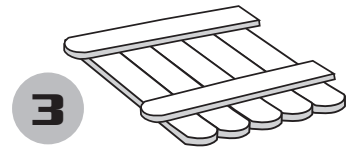
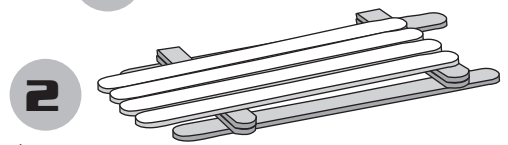
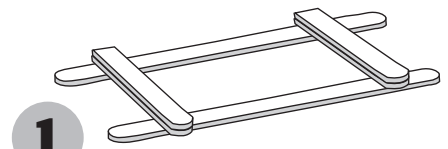
3M is the inventor of "sticky notes," first produced in 1978. These self-adhesive notes are now one of the most popular office products in the world. How did we ever get along without them??

Dog Sled Craft



Materials: several clean popsicle sticks, flat wooden toothpicks, wood glue, wire cutters, one long white pipecleaner

1. Lay two popsicle sticks down for runners. Cut two sticks in half. Lay two halves on each other and glue them on the runners, one on each end. Leave a small amount of space on each end. Let it dry.
2. Lay four sticks down in the exact middle of the runners (next to one another) as a flat base. Glue them down so that one end fits squarely and the other end sticks out over the runners. Allow it to dry.
3. Cut four more sticks in half. Glue five of the halves together as shown laying the pieces on two more stick halves, which will serve as the back support. Glue one half at the very bottom of the piece and one at the top, but leave a little room at the top so the five curved tops still show (see picture).
4. Glue the piece from Step #3 on the end of the runners where the base ends squarely.
5. Glue two sticks as rails along the base. The flat part of the sticks should face sideways. Glue the tops next to the vertical piece and the bottoms next to the base. The rails should slope downward like a slide.
6. Cut flat toothpicks in three different heights. Make two equal sets of cut toothpicks. Glue them to the side rails and runners at the intervals shown.
7. Cut two small sections of pipecleaner and arch them.
8. Glue one arch at the end of the base for the front of the basket. Glue the other at the top for a handlebar as shown.

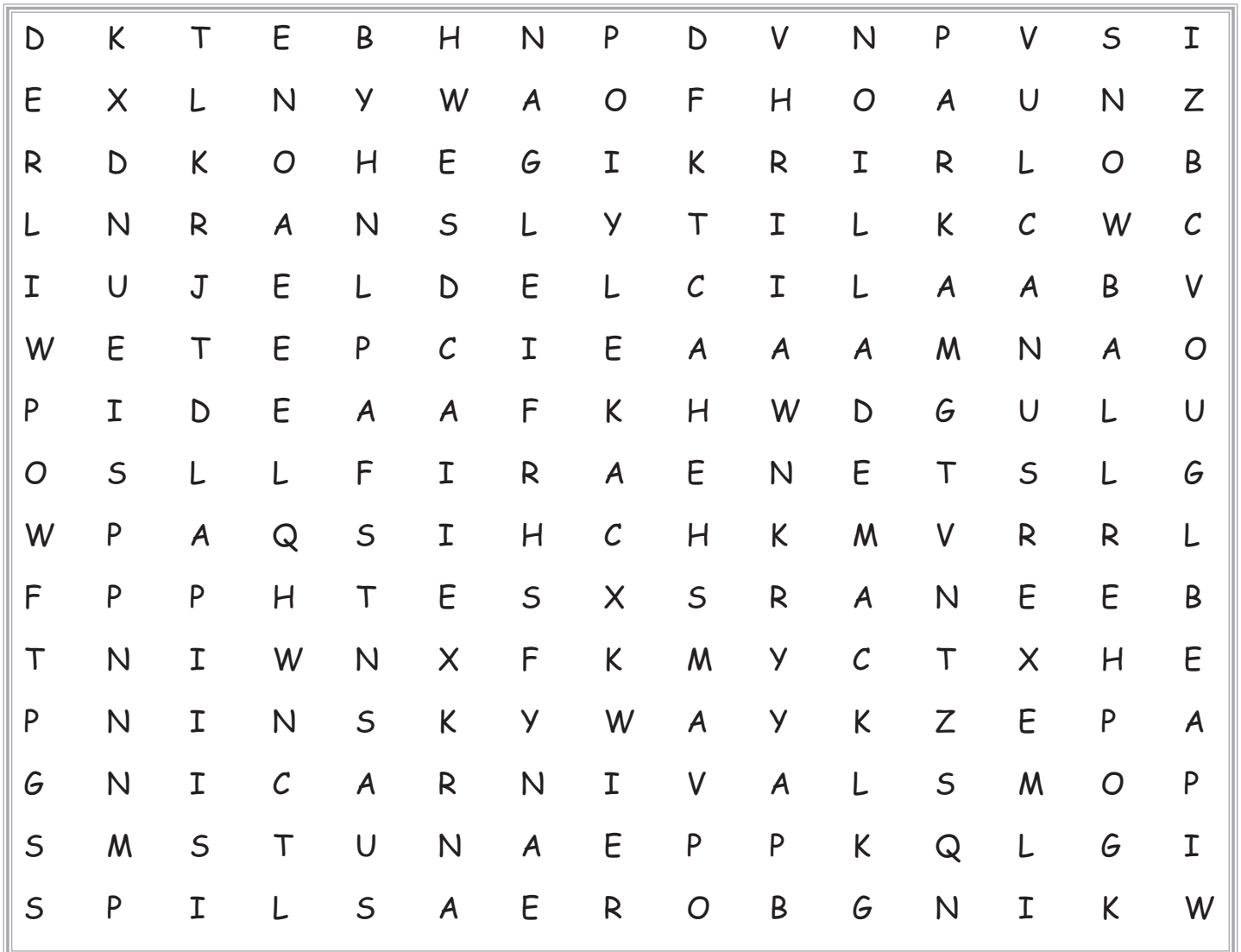


Note: Ask an adult to help you with the wirecutters or pliers!

Activities

Word Search

Search for the mysteriously hidden words below!



WORD BANK

CARNIVAL	DOGSLED	GOPHER	HAITI	ICE FISHING
KING BOREAS	KLONDIKE KATE	LIPS	LUTEFISK	MEDALLION
MINNEHAHA	PALACE	PARKA	PEANUTS	SKYSCRAPER
SKYWAY	SNOWBALL	TWINS	WALLEYE	VULCANUS REX

Chapters 1-4 Worksheet

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

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

1. stifle
2. ordeal
3. medallion
4. parka

Answer the following questions using complete sentences.

5. What happened to Grant as he was leaving the rest area bathroom?
6. What city is the capital of Minnesota?
7. Why do Chester and Shirley want to find the Winter Carnival Medallion?

Write T for True and F for False.

8. ____ King Boreas is the King of the Winds.
9. ____ The Vulcan Krewe members follow King Boreas.
10. ____ Vulcan Krewe members dress in red running suits.

Chapters 5-7 Worksheet

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

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

1. chandelier
2. embarrassed
3. legion
4. mischievous

Answer the following questions using complete sentences.

5. Which twin did Grant run into outside the elevator? What did Grant take that belonged to the twin?
6. What did Jim use to imitate fire when he threw a snowball at Grant as he left the rest area bathroom?
7. Who created the famous *Peanuts* comic strip?

Write T for True and F for False.

8. ____ Jim pretended to be in the Fire King's legion to help the Fire King get rid of winter.
9. ____ Julie pretended to be the Queen of Snows.
10. ____ Mr. Snowdon was a dogsled driver.

Chapters 8-10 Worksheet

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

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

1. bronze
2. console
3. saliva
4. coincidence

Answer the following questions using complete sentences.

5. Who was writer F. Scott Fitzgerald named after, and why is that person famous?
6. What happened when Grant kissed the statue of Lucy?
7. Why did Christina think Grant looked like an old lady owl when he woke up?

Write T for True and F for False.

8. ____ Christina dared Grant to kiss the Lucy statue.
9. ____ Julie and Jim's dad used warm coffee to free Grant from his predicament.
10. ____ Grant got angry when Papa teased him about having worms instead of pancakes for breakfast.

Chapters 11-14 Worksheet

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

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

1. gingerly
2. traipsed
3. deface
4. forsake

Answer the following questions using complete sentences.

5. What surprised the kids when they visited Minnehaha Falls?
6. What happened to Christina after she slid down the icy trail at Minnehaha Falls?
7. What did Grant and Christina see painted on the tunnel walls as they drove through Minneapolis?

Write T for True and F for False.

8. ____ In the city's early days, Saint Anthony Falls provided power to run Minneapolis sawmills and flour mills.
9. ____ The Minneapolis skyway system provides a way for people to move around downtown buildings without going outside in the cold.
10. ____ Both Mark and Matthew work at the Saint Paul newspaper.

Chapters 15-18 Worksheet

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

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

1. mall
2. flirtatiously
3. coincidence
4. ferocious

Answer the following questions using complete sentences.

5. What was the first thing Grant wanted to do at Mall of America after Papa gave the kids some money?
6. Where did Mimi's cell phone end up after Christina lost it?
7. What did Christina see reflected in the Mirror Maze that alarmed her?

Write T for True and F for False.

8. ____ There were no sharks in the Underwater Adventure Aquarium.
9. ____ Mimi bought a red parka for Grant and a pink parka for Christina.
10. ____ Although lutefisk looked odd to Grant, he really liked the taste.

Chapters 19-22 Worksheet

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

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

1. frigid

2. dense

3. spire

4. mortar

Answer the following questions using complete sentences.

5. What did Chester tell Grant to do with the walleye he caught?

6. What kind of dogs were in Mr. Snowdon's dogsled team?

7. Why did Matthew and Mark steal the medallion?

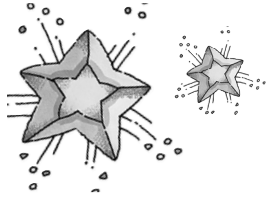
Write T for True and F for False.

8. _____ Ice fishing rods are much longer than regular fishing rods.

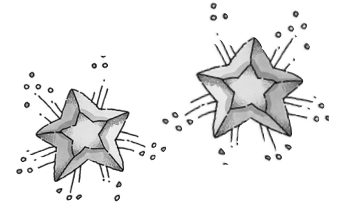
9. _____ The Winter Ice Carnival was in Saint Paul.

10. _____ Christina talked Grant into giving the prize money to Chester and Shirley.

The Mystery in the Twin Cities



Vocabulary End-of-Unit Quiz



NAME: _____

DATE: _____

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

WORD BANK

PARANOID
ACCESS

LITHE
ADOPTION

AMATEUR
ABRASION

MISCHIEVOUS
MEDALLION

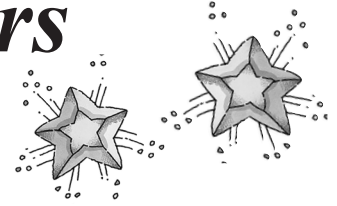
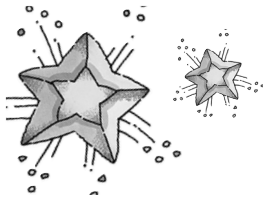
MINUTIA
FRIGID

1. The kids had to put on rubber gloves before they gained _____ to the mirror maze so that they did not get fingerprints on the mirrors.
2. Winning the prize money for finding the Winter Carnival _____ would allow Chester and Shirley to adopt the two Haitian children.
3. Someone who is _____ is extremely fearful of something.
4. Mimi suffered an _____ on her leg when she fell while the group visited Minnehaha Falls.
5. Christina was proud of the fact that she and Grant had experience solving mysteries, and were not _____ sleuths.
6. The weather was so _____ when Christina went ice fishing that it felt like pins were sticking her feet.
7. Christina was busy sorting so many details that she wondered if she would be overwhelmed with the _____ of the mystery.
8. Matthew and Mark tried to stop the _____ of the Haitian twins because they felt they would lose the love of Chester and Shirley.
9. Jellyfish are _____ because they have soft bodies with no bones.
10. Grant and Christina were not sure they could trust Julie and Jim because of their _____ behavior when they first came in contact with them.

The Mystery in the Twin Cities

Matching Characters

End-of-Unit Quiz



NAME: _____

DATE: _____

Match the mystery characters with their descriptions.

____ 1. Mimi

A. dogsled driver

____ 2. Julie

B. talked funny for a while

____ 3. Jim

C. pretended to be Queen of Snows

____ 4. Papa

D. not too fond of roller coasters

____ 5. Grant

E. wore high heels on a hike

____ 6. Christina

F. newspaper reporter

____ 7. Mr. Snowdon

G. helped earthquake victims in Haiti

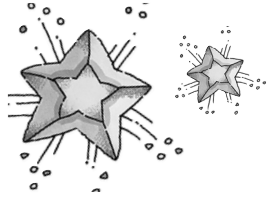
____ 8. Mark

H. dared Grant to kiss a statue

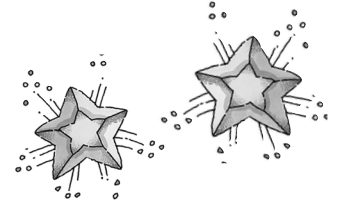
____ 9. Chester

I. predicted Grant would like Mall of America

The Mystery in the Twin Cities



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



NAME: _____

DATE: _____

Fill in the blanks to complete the following:

1. This newspaper prints clues to help people find the Winter Carnival Medallion:

_____ E _____ R _____

2. The powerful King of the Winds who found a winter paradise named Minnesota:

_____ G _____ E _____

3. The main character in Charles Schulz's cartoon strip called *Peanuts*:

_____ I _____ N _____

4. Island nation devastated by a massive earthquake in 2010:

_____ I _____

5. One of the oldest state parks in the country:

M _____ A _____ L _____

6. These help the star-nosed mole find worms:

_____ T _____ C _____

7. River important to the establishment of both Saint Paul and Minneapolis:

_____ S _____ P _____

8. Vulcan Krewe members support this character, also known as the Fire King:

_____ U _____ X _____

9. Indian tribe that named Minnesota:

_____ K _____

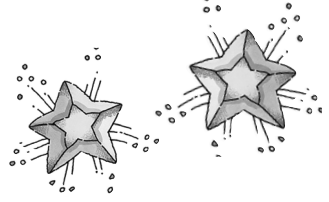
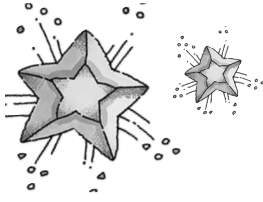
10. This was stolen from a Vulcan Krewe member at a gym:

_____ E _____ G _____

The Mystery in the Twin Cities

True or False

End-of-Unit Quiz



NAME: _____

DATE: _____

Write T for True and F for False.

1. ____ Rice Park is named after the creator of the *Peanuts* comic strip.
2. ____ Chester and Shirley have three children.
3. ____ Grant liked the taste of coffee when Mr. Snowdon poured it on his lips to free him from the Lucy statue.
4. ____ The Minneapolis skyway system links hotels, restaurants, apartments, and many types of businesses.
5. ____ Vulcan Krewe members draw V's on the cheeks or foreheads of those who agree to support Vulcanus Rex, the Fire King.
6. ____ The amusement park rides in Mall of America are free.
7. ____ Grant bumped his head in the Mirror Maze.
8. ____ Mimi surprised everyone by appearing on stage as Klondike Kate.
9. ____ Ice fishing shelters help shield Minnesota fishermen from the brutal winter cold.
10. ____ Grant threw a snowball at Matthew to help he and Christina get away from him in the ice palace.

Answer Key

Page 15, Mathematics: Calculate It!

1. 46°C; 3. 8.2 feet; answer will vary according to current year; 4. 484 incidents; 60.5 per hour; 5. 22.5; 6. 1886

Page 17, Vocabulary: Use It!

1. orphanage; 2. lobby; 3. counterfeit; 4. keen; 5. flustered; 6. shrill; 7. balm; 8. hover; 9. apprehensive; 10. ascent

Page 22, Chapters 1-4 Worksheet

5. Grant was hit by a snowball; 6. Saint Paul; 7. they want to win prize money to adopt two children from Haiti; 8. T; 9. F; 10. T

Page 23, Chapters 5-7 Worksheet

5. Grant ran into Jim; Grant took Jim's parka; 6. a toy torch that flashes like fire; 7. Charles Schulz; 8. T; 9. T; 10. T

Page 24, Chapters 8-10 Worksheet

5. he is named after Francis Scott Key, who wrote the "Star-Spangled Banner"; 6. Grant's lips stuck to the statue; 7. Grant's hair was sticking up and his lips were coated with red lip balm; 8. F; 9. T; 10. F

Page 25, Chapters 11-14 Worksheet

5. Minnehaha Falls was frozen; 6. a star-nosed mole bit her bottom; 7. a big black V spray-painted inside a red circle; 8. T; 9. T; 10. F

Page 26, Chapters 15-18 Worksheet

5. Grant wanted to ride a roller coaster; 6. in tree branches; 7. someone in a red running suit; 8. F; 9. F; 10. F

Page 27, Chapters 19-22 Worksheet

5. throw it outside the tent to freeze solid; 6. Siberian Huskies; 7. They did not want Chester and Shirley to win the prize money that would allow them to adopt the Haitian twins; 8. F; 9. T; 10. T

Page 28, Vocabulary End-of-Unit Quiz

1. access; 2. medallion; 3. paranoid; 4. abrasion; 5. amateur; 6. frigid; 7. minutia; 8. adoption; 9. lithe; 10. Mischievous

Page 29, Matching Characters End-of-Unit Quiz

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

Page 30, Fill-in-the-Blank End-of-Unit Quiz

1. Pioneer Press; 2. King Boreas; 3. Charlie Brown; 4. Haiti; 5. Minnehaha Falls; 6. tentacles; 7. Mississippi; 8. Vulcanus Rex; 9. Dakota; 10. red running suit

Page 31, True/False End-of-Unit Quiz

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