



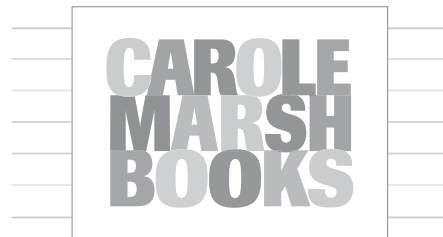
The Mystery in
NEW YORK CITY

Teacher's Guide

by
Carole Marsh



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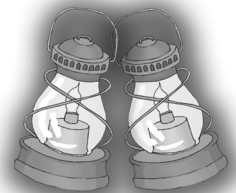
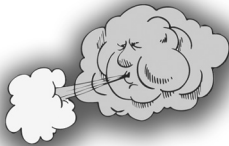
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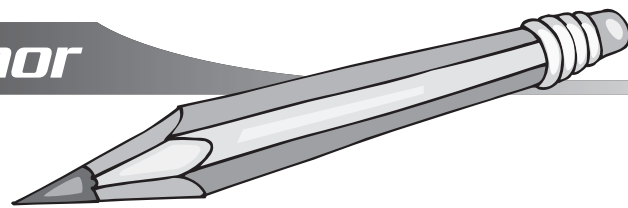
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- #1 THE MYSTERY OF BILTMORE HOUSE
- #2 THE MYSTERY AT THE BOSTON MARATHON
- #3 THE MYSTERY OF BLACKBEARD THE PIRATE
- #4 THE MYSTERY OF THE ALAMO GHOST
- #5 THE MYSTERY ON THE CALIFORNIA MISSION TRAIL
- #6 THE MYSTERY OF THE CHICAGO DINOSAURS
- #7 THE WHITE HOUSE CHRISTMAS MYSTERY
- #8 THE MYSTERY ON ALASKA'S IDITAROD TRAIL
- #9 THE MYSTERY AT KILL DEVIL HILLS
- #10 THE MYSTERY IN NEW YORK CITY
- #11 THE MYSTERY AT DISNEY WORLD
- #12 THE MYSTERY ON THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD



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!

People say that New York is one of the greatest cities in America. Everyone should visit this place at least once! Yes, New York has a lot of tourist attractions, but it's also one gigantic history lesson. At every site, I tried to introduce the who, what, when, where, why, and how. Not only has it been surprising to me how fascinated the kids are in real life, but it is amazing to also witness the depth of their interest. The first set of these magical experiences eventually transcended into a lifelong ongoing connection between me and my children.



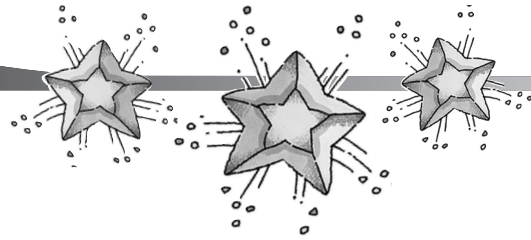
We learned a lot, but what we learned best is that kids and adults can learn together. Reading and going and seeing and doing is what education is all about, and most especially, that “adopting” a subject or place leads to a lifelong interest in an era, a place, the people, and all the fascinating facts 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 New York mystery and studies,

Carole Marsh



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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 about video games 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. And, 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. (For example, Grant and Christina's grandmother really did come through Ellis Island as an immigrant when she was just a little girl!)

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



New York City Tourist Information

Question: What is the best time of year to visit New York?

Answer: Winter, Summer, Spring and Autumn!

Winter:

Manhattan becomes a winter wonderland with ice skaters in Midtown, thousands of lights in Rockefeller Square, warm fresh pretzels sold on street corners, and the world's largest menorah lit up in Central Park.

Summer:

Outdoor life during a New York summer features free outdoor film festivals, opera and popular music festivals, parades, walks in Central Park, and sunny days on the beaches.

Autumn:

The New York Philharmonic, the Metropolitan Opera, and many theatres begin their new seasons in September. October brings the Columbus Day Parade. In November, New Yorkers can enjoy the Radio City Music Hall's Christmas Spectacular, and the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, and the lighting of the massive Christmas tree in Rockefeller Center.

(continued)



Chapter Subject

EXPLORE!

1 History



Young jazz musicians started calling New York the Big Apple in the Roaring 20s, a period of U.S. history when the economy was booming and people felt happy.

New York is like a magnet. Entertainers believe that playing in the Big Apple means you have “made it to the top!”

1 Logic

Why do you think New York is called “the city that never sleeps?” [New York is an exciting city, one of the largest in the world. It is active 24 hours a day. It seems that in NYC, everything is faster, higher, and has more sparkle.]

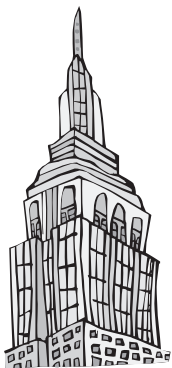
1 Safety

New York has everything. . . the best and the worst. New Yorkers know how to walk and talk with “street smarts.” Millions of people visit and work in this major city. One must be careful.

2 Travel

What is your favorite way to travel? Why?

2 History



The Empire State Building is a famous part of New York history. It is one of the tallest buildings in the world. Tons of visitors ride up to gaze out on New York. Every year it attracts more than a million and a half sightseers.

In the movie *King Kong*, the huge ape climbed the Empire State Building holding the blond heroine in one hand.

2 Geography

Look on a map. Which direction did the kids travel to fly from Georgia to New York? How many states did they fly over? Which states border New York?



New York City Tourist Information

(continued)

Spring:

Springtime in New York City finds flowers bursting into bloom everywhere—daffodils and azaleas in Central Park, tulips along Park Avenue’s center mall, the Cherry Blossom Festival at Brooklyn Botanical Gardens, the Greater New York Orchid Show, and the Macy’s Flower Show.

Thank goodness New York City has more park space by percentage than any other American city!

Big Apple Greeter
www.bigapplegreeter.org

New York Convention & Visitors Bureau
www.nycvisit.com

New York City Reference Index
www.panix.com/clay/nyc

Manhattan User’s Guide
www.digitalcity.com



2 History New York was considered the capital of the U.S. from 1785 until 1790. This gateway to America has welcomed many immigrants since the 1890s. The Statue of Liberty, also known as Lady Liberty, stands on New York's Liberty Island. The statue is a gift from France.

2 Logic The first flight didn't occur until 1903. How did immigrants from other countries travel to New York before then? [by ship]

2 Geography New York's location made it a center of business and trade. Its rivers flow into the Atlantic Ocean, making the shipping of people and products possible.



2 History The Hudson River, is named after Henry Hudson, an Englishman who explored for the Dutch.

The first New York settlers were Dutch families who worked for the West India Company. They called the colony New Amsterdam. The English fought the Dutch for many years for control of the land. In 1664, the British settlers won the territory and named the area New York, in honor of the Duke of York in England.

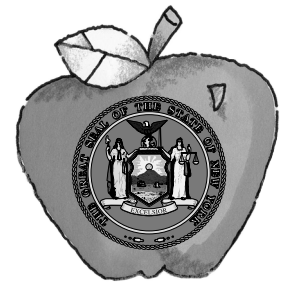
3 History New York has two airports. One is named John F. Kennedy, after our 35th U.S. president. The other is LaGuardia, named after a famous former mayor of New York.



3 Life Can you imagine being in this very busy airport? Think about all the noises described in the story. How would you feel if you had never been to New York? Or never been to America?



The Big Apple





New York City is called "The Big Apple." Why would a city be named after a fruit? If you are wondering about this, you are not alone! The origin of this metaphorical nickname for New York is the most frequent question asked of the New York History hotline! But there is no one answer to the question.

Many legends and stories exist about the "Big Apple" name. One of the most common, however, comes from the 1920's and 1930's. Jazz musicians in those days had an expression about playing music in different towns. They said that although there are many apples on the tree, when you pick New York City, you pick the Big Apple.

The state of New York is definitely a "Big Apple" state, if you consider that 25 million bushels of apples are grown there every year. A

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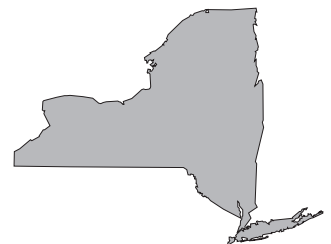
- 3 Vocabulary Cacophony means a jarring, unharmonious sound.
- 3 Manners A quick kiss on both cheeks is a way of saying “hello” in many lands.
- 3 Language Shalom is a greeting that means “peace.”
- 3 Culture  Jewish people are descendants of the Hebrew people (from the Bible’s Old Testament) or those who have chosen to follow the Judaism faith.
- 3 People People of almost every race and national heritage live in New York. It has perhaps the greatest ethnic and racial mix of any other U.S. city. There are Native Americans, Russians, African Americans, Irish, Greeks, Asians, West Indians, Italians, and more.
- 3 History  In the 1900’s, many of the immigrants who settled on the Lower East Side of New York were Jewish. Many Jewish stores are still in business there today. The big shopping day is on Sunday because Jewish stores are closed on Saturday, which is their Sabbath day of worship and rest.
- 3 Tradition Jews celebrate Hanukkah when many others celebrate Christmas or Kwanzaa. What does your family celebrate? What is Hanukkah?
- 3 Culture The kids must be in “culture shock.” New Yorkers tend to move and talk faster than the kids may be accustomed to in the South.
- 3 Language Do you know how to say “hello” in another language?

The Big Apple

(continued)

bushel can hold about 100 apples. New York apples are some of the best in the country, since the rainfall, temperatures, and soils are perfect for apple orchards. There are dozens of varieties of apples grown in New York. There are more varieties of apples grown in New York than in any other state.

Every fall, around Halloween time, many farmers make apple cider from their apples. Apple cider is fermented apple juice. It is sweet and also tart. Drinking fresh apple cider from New York state farmers in autumn is a favorite tradition for many New York children, who especially enjoy it with fresh “hot cakes,” or fried doughnuts.



3 Logic Why is there a window in the roof of the taxivan? Why would this window be important in a city like New York?

3 Manners Papa helped Mimi into the van, a way of being thoughtful and polite. This type of action is often called chivalry, a term for gentlemanly behavior toward ladies that dates back to the medieval era.

3 Food Italian foods that Grant may be more familiar with are pizza, lasagna, ravioli, and “plain old spaghetti.” Have you ever been to an authentic Italian restaurant? What did you choose to eat?



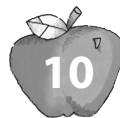
4 Vocabulary A ferry is a boat used to carry passengers, products, and/or vehicles across a body of water.

4 Architecture Gargoyles are architectural ornamentation carved to represent grotesque human or animal figures. Gargoyle spouts collect and drain rainwater off of buildings. Some people collect them!

5 Vocabulary Art Deco is an early 20th century style of art, that uses a lot of bold colors and geometric designs.

5 Culture Not many plays make it to “the big time” of New York’s theatre district which is located on a street called Broadway. It is near Times Square, where Dick Clark hosts a New Year’s Eve special each year and the “ball” drops at midnight. Times Square has lots of bright lights. It is nicknamed “the Great White Way” because of these lights.

5 Shopping Some of New York’s fanciest stores are on Fifth Avenue, including Saks Fifth Avenue, Lord and Taylor, and F.A.O. Schwartz (a popular toy store).



Fifth Avenue

Fifth Avenue is one of the most vibrant and exciting places in New York City! The street stretches almost the entire length of Manhattan from Harlem to Greenwich Village. Here’s a quick tour!

Starting above Central Park, we find Fifth Avenue interrupted, in Harlem, by Marcus Garvey Park. The park was named after an immigrant from Jamaica in the early 1900s who promoted pride and self-improvement in the African-American population in New York.

A few blocks down from the Marcus Garvey Park, we begin skirting Central Park on our right. As we continue down the Avenue, we pass, on our left, across from Central Park, the Museum of the City of New York, the International Center of Photography, the National Academy of Design and the Guggenheim Museum of Art.

Just past East 86th Street, on the right, nestled against Central Park is the magnificent Metropolitan Museum of Art, which covers three blocks.

After passing the Met, the Wildlife Conservation Center, sometimes called the Zoo, beckons from our right, just inside Central Park. Just behind the center

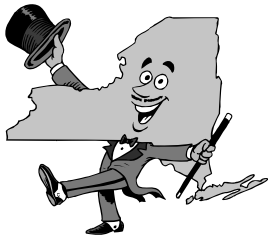


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Macy's, a huge department store, sponsors the annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.

5 Geography

New York City is divided into five boroughs or sections. Manhattan Island is considered the heart of the city of New York. The other boroughs are Brooklyn, Queens, the Bronx, and Staten Island.



The boroughs are separate counties, but they are connected to one another. They are also connected to other parts of the state of New York and the state of New Jersey by bridges and tunnels.

5 Culture

Many different neighborhoods make up the city of New York. Often these areas reflect the culture of the immigrants or people groups that settled there long ago.

Some popular areas are Little Italy, Chinatown, Harlem (African Americans and West Indians), and Spanish Harlem.

5 History

The twin towers of the World Trade Center were like tall cities. The trade center had a shopping mall, restaurants and offices. About 50,000 people typically worked in these buildings.



September 11th was a very sad day for our country. It was a time of mourning but also a time of coming together and remembering what is most important to us. Freedom and peace.

6 Life

Our elected officials are elected to help us. We can contact them just like Mimi did.

Fifth Avenue

(continued)

is The Dairy, a restored 19th century dairy now used as an information center.

We come to the end of Central Park at East 59th Street. The road opens up into Grand Army Plaza, an open area where we find hundreds of people walking, resting, taking pictures, and buying city photographs. There are also horse-drawn carriages ready to take tourists on rides through the park.

At this point, if you look across East 59th Street from the park you can gaze upon the dramatic French Renaissance-style facade of The Plaza Hotel. Just past the grand Plaza Hotel comes Trump Tower on the left, and, after two more blocks, the Museum of Modern Art.

Walk another two blocks and the magnificent Saint Patrick's Cathedral towers above passerbys on the left side of the street. On the right, we pass an entranceway to Rockefeller Plaza, which includes Radio City Music Hall and the Rockefeller Center.

At the corner of 5th and 34th Street is the Empire State Building. Eight blocks further on, where Broadway crosses 5th, is Madison Square Park. Finally, 5th Avenue comes to Washington Square Park in Greenwich Village. New York University's urban campus buildings are clustered around this 8-acre parcel of restful green space.



- 6 Vocabulary Entourage means train of attendants or a group of associates. Who might have an entourage?
- 7 Weather New York City gets hot and humid in the summer and cold and snowy in the winter.
- 7 Art Can you see why artists and their art are an important part of society? The Statue of Liberty is an important symbol for many of the immigrants who came to America from countries where they may have lived in fear of oppressive governments.
- 7 History Manhattan Island is New York City's oldest and most important section or borough. The Algonquins were Native Americans who first lived there. They called it Manhata or Manhatin which means "Island of the Hills." An early Dutch governor purchased it from the Algonquin for \$24 worth of trinkets.
- 7 Logic How do you think Franklin recognized the foreign languages?
- 8 Vocabulary Shackles were metal fasteners (like handcuffs) used on ankles to restrain slaves or prisoners.
- 8 History Ellis Island became a checkpoint for immigrants entering the city in the late 1800s.
- 8 Logic Why did so many people endure great hardship to come to the U.S.?
- 8 Vocabulary Authentic means real or genuine.
- 9 Vocabulary A riddle is a question or statement that requires thought to answer or understand, like a mystery!

The Statue of Liberty



The 150-foot tall Statue of Liberty, which hails visitors and immigrants from a small island off the southern tip of Manhattan Island, was designed and built by the French and shipped to America in many crates.

Who gave the Statue of Liberty to America?

The people of France made this gift to the people of America. It was not an exchange between governments. The French government, however, did not interfere with the process.

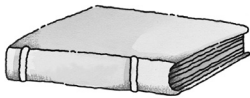
Why did the French want to give this great gift to America?

At the time the Statue was given to the U.S., in 1886, the French had been friends

(continued)



- 9 Safety Judging from each passenger's reactions, how does everyone like riding in Vinny's taxivan?
- 10 Logic Why did using the Scrabble game letters help the kids unscramble the words more easily?
- 10 History Central Park used to be a swamp until tons of dirt were added to create a slice of nature in the big city.
- 11 Food Street vendors sell all kinds of foods on the streets of New York.
- 12 Reading Have you ever read the story of *Alice in Wonderland* with its fantastic characters? Grant would probably make a good Cheshire Cat, smiling and full of mischief.
- 12 Vocabulary A philanthropist gives money to charities, organizations, and the arts for the good of mankind.
- 12 Logic What do you think the clue was "stuck on," that made Christina excited?
- 13 Safety Why did Mimi scold Grant?
- 13 Patriotism Why did the *Star Spangled Banner* make Christina and Papa cry?
- 13 Sports Have you ever been to a baseball game or other sporting event? What was your favorite part?
- 14 Safety Smokey the Bear was a cartoon symbol of a real bear cub who was saved from a forest fire. His mother was lost in the fire. The Smokey the Bear campaign encouraged people to be more



The Statue of Liberty

(continued)

and allies with the Americans for more than a century. The French, who had also experienced oppressive royal rule, treasured freedom as much as the Americans did.

Also the help of the French navy was pivotal to the winning of the American Revolution. From 1776-1778, the French had been sending money and aid to the Americans in their struggle for freedom. Finally, when triumph was appearing all but impossible, and the British were gaining ground in America, General Washington, with the support of French forces, placed Yorktown under siege, forcing the surrender of the British General Cornwallis, in October of 1781 and turning the tide of the war. A century later, in 1886, the gift of Lady Liberty was France's celebration of America's triumph of liberty over oppression.

Number 8

"Lady Liberty" has been called the "eighth wonder of the world. What are the other 7 wonders of the world?"

(continued)

careful with campfires and matches in the forest.

- 15 Vocabulary When used as an adjective, economy can sometimes mean less expensive or cheap.
- 16 Science Ben Franklin invented the lightning rod because lightning often strikes tall objects, like the Empire State Building. Once it strikes, the grounded metal rod conducts the lightning to the ground to prevent damage to buildings.
- 17 History World War II was fought from 1939 to 1945. Great Britain, France, the Soviet Union, the U.S., and other allies defeated Germany, Italy and Japan.
- 17 Vocabulary Intrepid means fearless and bold.
- 17 Logic How did Grant read the clue?
- 18 Life Why is Christina's bottom lip stuck out? What is she feeling?
- 20 Vocabulary Pilings are the slender columns that form the supportive structure of a marine pier.
- 20 Geography The East River separates Manhattan from the western end of Long Island.



On the South Street Seaport on the East River, you can learn about the city's history as a great center for shipping. During its peak, the East River was a main docking location.

Today, all kinds of ships line the docks. The Fulton Fish Market processes and sells fish for New York and other nearby areas.



The Statue of Liberty

(continued)

1. The Pyramids of Egypt
2. The Hanging Garden of Babylon
3. The Statue of Zeus
4. The Temple of Artemis at Eshesus
5. The Mausoleum of Halicarnassus
6. The Colossus at Rhodes
7. The Pharo of Alexandria

Why is the statue green?

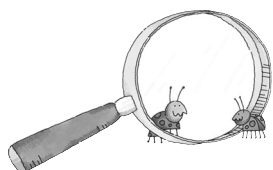
Liberty's original color is dark brown. She is covered with 88 tons of thin copper sheeting. This makes her flexible enough to withstand high winds. But the oxidation of the copper gives the statue a green color.

Who built the statue?

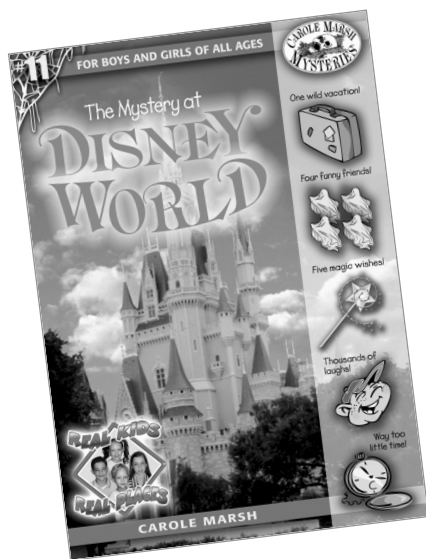
Frenchman Frederic Auguste Bartholde built the statue, with the help of Gustave Eiffel, who also built the Eiffel Tower.



- 20 Logic Is Christina brave to go after Ben and Kate? Would you do the same or something different?
- 20 Life Why is Papa upset? Why won't he listen to Christina?
- 20 Language "New York's Finest" is a nickname for the NYPD—the New York Police Department.
- 21 Logic Why has it been harder to immigrate to the U.S. after September 11th?
- 21 Language What is another way of saying, "They cooked up this scheme?"
- 21 Logic If the kids did not get involved with the mystery, how might the plan have been different for the kidnapppers of the Torch?



Be sure to read Carole Marsh Mystery #11:
The Mystery at Disney World



The United Nations



The UN was founded after the Second World War in 1945, by 51 nations who wanted to work together to preserve world peace, to promote freedom among people, and help poor countries to develop.

Today the UN has 185 nation members. Representatives, called delegates, from all these countries meet in the great General Assembly hall for three months each year to discuss world problems and solutions.

The Security Council is a group of delegates (who come from a select number of member countries) that meet around a horseshoe-shaped table to try to solve problems involving war and conflict between member countries and the world at large.

Members of other UN special committees, such as UNICEF, WHO (World Health Organization), and human rights committees, work together to help the world's poor and those experiencing the negative effects of war. One hundred eighty flags, one from each member country, wave on 180 flagpoles at the UN main entrance!

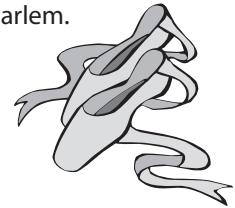
Discussion Questions

- ❖ Do you think you would like to live in a big city like New York City? Or would you prefer a small town in the country? Think about the advantages and disadvantages of each.
- ❖ There is so much to see and do in New York City. What would you choose if you could go there? Restaurants, museums, shops, theatres, sporting events, or something else?
- ❖ Like Christina, can you imagine what it would be like to be “one of 23 million immigrants stepping off a crowded steamship onto the soil of a strange country?” What kind of hopes and dreams would you have? What do you think you would do first?
- ❖ Can you name the different parts of a book and how each section is helpful? (i.e. the glossary has definitions, etc.)
- ❖ How would you prefer to travel in the city of New York? By subway, in Vinny’s cab, or on foot? Why? How do tourists travel? How do the locals travel?
- ❖ You can meet people from many different cultures in New York City. Is it possible to be friends with people of a different culture? How are you different? How are you the same?
- ❖ If you could be a foreign exchange student and stay with a family in another country, like Kate from Poland, where would you go? Why? Do you think it might be easier to learn a language there than in an American classroom?



The Center of Things

- Theater and Music: Broadway, Radio City Hall, Rockefeller Center, and Carnegie Hall.
- Ballet: The New York City Ballet (home: The New York State Theater), The American Ballet Company (home: Metropolitan Opera House), The Julliard Dance Theater, The Dance Theater of Harlem.
- The Visual Arts: The New York Metropolitan Museum, The Museum of Modern Art, and the Museum of Modern Art are just a sample of the world-class art museums in New York City.
- Literature: Walt Whitman, Langston Hughes James Fenimore Cooper, Mark Twain, and Steven Crane are some of the many writers who wrote either in or of New York City.
- Baseball: Yankee Stadium, home of the New York Yankees and Shea Stadium, home of the New York Mets.
- Economy: Wall Street, home of the New York Stock Exchange, the Chase Manhattan Bank, and the Federal Reserve Bank; part



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Geography: Find It!

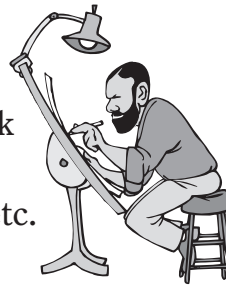
1. How is New York City unique in comparison to other major U.S. cities like Los Angeles, Atlanta, Chicago, Miami, and Washington, D.C.?



2. Terrorists destroyed the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001. Some people think we should not rebuild the Twin Towers because we might be inviting another attack. Others think we should build them again because the action would show our confidence to the terrorists and help the economy. What do you think? Draw a new architectural design for the World Trade Center. Write a paragraph that explains your changes and ideas. Also design a memorial for those who died in the attacks.

3. Compare the small suburb of Peachtree City (where Grant and Christina live) with the sprawling metropolis of New York City. What are some differences between the two places? What are some similarities? List some benefits to living in each location.

4. Construct a toothpick model of a major bridge in New York City, such as the Brooklyn Bridge, the Verrazano Bridge, or the Manhattan Bridge. Add various landmarks and surrounding cities.



5. Design a new layout for Central Park in New York City. Add whatever you think will be fun, like a petting zoo, ice cream vendors, a kickball field, etc.

6. Draw a map of New York City. Label major landmarks, streets, roads, bridges, waterways, monuments, and bodies of water. Include a key, map symbols, title, and chart of locations.

7. Construct a model of the Hudson River with blue yarn. Wind your river through your New York map project around the various landmarks that you have made!



The Center of Things

(continued)

of the New York City financial district, historically the heart of the American economy.



● International Relations: Home of the United Nations, port of entry to immigrants from around the world.

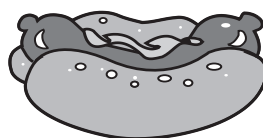
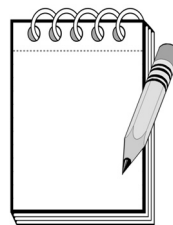
● Major Newspapers: *The New York Daily News*, *The New York Post*, *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Staten Island Advance*.

● Major Book Publishers: Random House, Anchor, McGraw-Hill, Harper Collins, MacMillan and Simon and Schuster.

I
♥
NY!

Mathematics: Calculate It!

1. A budget is a list of expenses. Total this budget for the New York City mystery trip: \$1,200–airfare, \$350–meals, \$100–books, \$175–attractions, \$75–transportation, \$35–souvenirs
2. A taxi cab company has 45 taxis in its fleet. If each taxi can carry three passengers, how many passengers can the fleet carry?
3. A group of 4 hungry people want to order a pizza in New York City. Each person wants to eat six slices of pizza. If the pizzas are each cut in 8 slices, how many pizzas must the group order?
4. In Central Park, hot dogs cost \$2.50 each. Sauerkraut and chili are each \$0.50 extra, but ketchup and mustard are free. Grant wants a hot dog with mustard and sauerkraut. Christina wants a plain hot dog. Ben wants a hot dog with everything. Kate wants a hot dog with chili. Everyone also buys a soda, which cost \$1.00 each. What is the total bill for lunch?
5. There are 15 airlines at LaGuardia Airport in New York City. Five airlines each have 20 airplanes. Five airlines each have 25 airplanes. Five airlines each have 15 airplanes. If none of the airplanes are currently flying, how many airplanes are at LaGuardia Airport?
6. The Statue of Liberty is 305 feet tall from the ground to the torch. Multiply the number of feet by 0.3 to find the number of meters (metric measurement). Approximately how many meters tall is the statue?



Children's Literature

From the Mixed-up Files of Mrs. Basil E Frankweiler

By E.L. Konigsburg
(ages 9-12)

In her Newbery Award-winning book, Konigsburg tells the hilarious tale of two New York City children, Claudia and Jamie Kincaid, who decide to run away in order to gain more appreciation from their parents. But being New York City natives, these children don't run away to just anywhere. They carefully plan to spend three nights at the New York Metropolitan Museum of Art.

The story takes the reader not only on an adventure of masterful mishaps, but also a tour of some of the more intriguing areas of The Met. Mystery is added to humor in this story as the children discover a statue they believe Michelangelo may have carved. Have they uncovered a new world treasure? The answer may be found in some mixed up files of a very eccentric old woman.



Eloise

By Kay Thompson
(ages 5–10)

Eloise, an enthusiastic and lively 6-year-old, lives at The Plaza, one of the fanciest

(continued)

1. Pretend you are a taxi cab that is driven around New York City each day. How do you feel about your job? Do people ever leave trash in your back seat? Do you like getting your windshield cleaned regularly? Write a story about some adventures this taxi cab might have in the big city.



2. Write five new titles for *The Mystery in New York City*. Write new chapter headings for every chapter in the book.
3. Pick an issue that concerns you, like education, taxes, or even school uniforms. Write a letter to the editor with your opinion on this subject. Send your letter to a major newspaper in New York City, such as the *New York Times*, the *New York Evening Post*, or the *New York Herald*.

4. Write an ode to the Statue of Liberty that is either silly or serious.

5. Which character did you like best in the mystery book? Why? What would you change about that person if you could? In what ways would you like to be more like that person?



6. Write three diary entries from the perspective of an immigrant who lived during the early 1900s. You have just arrived from a foreign country to America with your family. What are your first few days in New York City like? Are you glad you came or do you want to go home? Who befriends you? Is your new school hard?



7. Recall each mystery clue after you finish reading the book. Write down the reasons why each clue makes sense now that you know the ending of the story.

8. Write a new ending for the last chapter of the mystery.

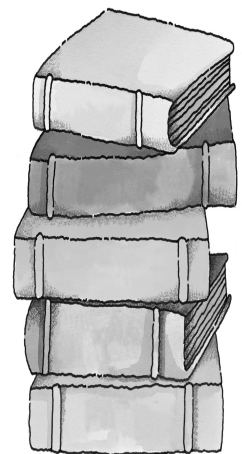


Children's Literature

and most beautiful hotels in New York City. Eloise lives with her British nanny, her dog Weenie, and her turtle Skipperdee. Her mother, obviously a world traveler, never appears in the book, which is told from Eloise's perspective.

As creative and original as she is mischievous, Eloise makes a name for herself among the staff and other affluent residents of The Plaza. Only Eloise dares to lose her skate key in the middle of a crowded elevator, or "sklonk" a stick along the walls of the hotel corridors. But it is her pure childish nature and endless imagination that has endeared readers to Eloise for over 50 years.

Note: During the New York City cow parade, a cow outside The Plaza Hotel, near Central Park, wore pink bloomers and a black jumper, just like Eloise did!



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! Check your work, and study the words you miss! Look up each word in the dictionary and write its definition on a separate piece of paper.

CACOPHONY	_____
ARCHITECTURE	_____
OGRE	_____
HEROIC	_____
INSCRIPTION	_____
DETOUR	_____
VEER	_____
PHILANTHROPIST	_____
IRREPLACEABLE	_____
REINFORCE	_____
MOTIVE	_____
ENLIGHTEN	_____
IMMIGRATION	_____
COMMUNIST	_____
VOYAGE	_____
UNRAVEL	_____
TYCOON	_____
SCRUNCH	_____
INTRIGUE	_____
TRACHOMA	_____
QUARANTINE	_____
PEDESTAL	_____
MAINTENANCE	_____
METICULOUSLY	_____
COLOSSAL	_____
INTRICATE	_____
CHUCKLE	_____
SKYSCRAPER	_____

Yiddish Terms

Kakameyme: crazy. "He has kakameyme ideas."

Khutspe (pronounced "hootspah"): gall or cheek. "Oh, you have a lot of khutspe!"

Kvetch: complainer. "Don't be such a kvetch if you don't like something."

Mozi-tov: congratulations. "Mozi-tov on the new baby!"

Mentsh: a nice gentleman. "The mentsh has such good manners."

Mishigas: craziness. "What kind of mishigas is this party?"

Mitsve: a good deed. "Helping that family was such a mitsve."

Shlep: to drag. "We had to shlep this thing all the way home."

Shlock: debris. "I went through a lot of shlock to find this."

Shmootz: dirt. "It's covered with shmootz."

Shtik: routine; often used for actors. "She went through her usual shtik."

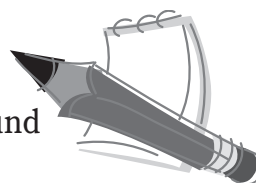
Mishmash: hodge-podge. "The collection was a mish-mash of paperclips, pencils, and erasers."

Zay gezundt: bless you (when you sneeze).



Art: Create It!

1. Pretend you are standing at the top of the Empire State Building. What do you see? Draw four pictures of the views, one from each direction.
2. There are many beautiful cathedrals, churches, synagogues, mosques, and other houses of worship in New York City. Create a shadow box of the inner sanctuary in one of these structures.
3. Sculpt the Statue of Liberty on Ellis Island and paint it with wild colors!
4. Sketch portraits of each mystery book character. Add specific details in the background like a building, ferry, monument, taxi, etc.
5. Paint a picture of families enjoying Central Park in the spring.
6. Design a new cover for *The Mystery in New York City* book. You could take photographs or draw your own pictures. Create a new and interesting font!
7. Use modeling clay to build a New York City skyscraper. You can model it after an existing building, like the Chrysler Building or the MetLife Building, or you can design your own. Make up a company to occupy the skyscraper. Ask an adult to help you “bake” the clay so it will harden. Be sure to add landscaping, streets, curbs, taxis, and pedestrians around the skyscraper.
8. Construct a three-dimensional state of New York City using miniature objects, cardboard, toothpicks, cotton ball clouds, grass, etc. Don't forget to mark major cities, geographical landmarks, and events of historic interest. You could even make an edible version and eat it with the class!



The Metropolitan Museum of Art

“The Met” was built shortly after the Civil War ended. Today it is the largest museum in the Western Hemisphere. It features “5,000 years of art” from every part of the world. Its nearly 2 million items are arranged in different sections, many of which are so large they could be considered museums by themselves.

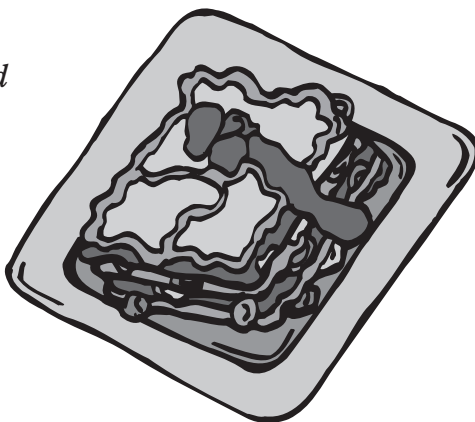
The Met building itself is immense, and is considered by many to be a masterpiece of architecture. When you enter the building, passing through great Greek columns into the vast front room, a beautiful grand staircase takes you to the second floor, what many think of as the heart of the museum.

The second floor features a collection of original European paintings and sculptures by Rembrandt, Brueghel, Botticelli, Degas, Rodin, and many other famous artists. Some of the paintings in this area are so large that they reach almost from floor to ceiling, and measure several yards across!



New York City is known for its excellent Italian food. Try baking this favorite dish!

Italian Lasagna



Ingredients

- 1 pound ground beef (lean)
- 1 onion, chopped
- 1 (4.5 oz.) can mushrooms, drained
- 1 (28 oz.) jar spaghetti sauce
- 1 pint part-skim ricotta cheese
- 1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 1 (16 oz.) package cottage cheese
- 8 oz. shredded mozzarella cheese
- 2 eggs
- 1 (16 oz.) package lasagna noodles

Directions

1. Preheat the oven to 350°F.
2. Brown ground beef in a large skillet.
3. Add mushrooms and onions. Sauté mixture until onions are transparent. Stir in spaghetti sauce until it is thoroughly heated.
4. Combine ricotta cheese, grated Parmesan cheese, cottage cheese, and eggs in a medium bowl.
5. Spread a thin layer of the meat sauce in a 9x13 inch pan.
6. Then layer uncooked lasagna noodles, cheese mixture, mozzarella cheese, and meat sauce.
7. Continue layering until all ingredients are used, except for 1/2 cup of mozzarella cheese.
8. Cover pan with aluminum foil.
9. Bake at 350°F for 45 minutes. Uncover dish. Sprinkle remaining mozzarella cheese over the top. Bake for another 15 minutes.
10. Allow lasagna to set 10 to 15 minutes before serving.



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

Italian Side Dishes

Italian Caesar Salad

Clean and chop a head of romaine lettuce and set aside. Crush 5 or 6 croutons in a large mixing bowl. Add 6 cloves of minced garlic, the juice of 1 lemon, 1 tablespoon prepared Dijon-style mustard, and 1 dash Worcestershire sauce. Blend thoroughly. Slowly add 1/2 cup olive oil until the mixture is creamy. Pour dressing over the lettuce. Add 1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese and 1 1/2 cups of croutons. Toss the lettuce until the dressing, cheese, and croutons are mixed well. Serve immediately!

Garlic Bread

Preheat oven to 300°F. Mix 1/2 cup butter (melted), 1 teaspoon garlic salt, 1/4 teaspoon dried rosemary, 1/8 teaspoon dried basil, 1/8 teaspoon dried thyme, 1/8 teaspoon garlic powder, 1 tablespoon grated Parmesan cheese in a small bowl. Slice a loaf of French bread (about one pound) in half, lengthwise. Spread each half with equal portions of the garlic mixture. Sprinkle with a little bit more Parmesan cheese if you like! Place the two pieces of bread (crusts down) on a baking sheet. Bake 10-12 minutes, or until the edges are lightly browned. Serve warm!




The Mystery in New York City Scavenger Hunt




Help Christina, Grant, Ben, and Kate race through
Central Park on a scavenger hunt!

START

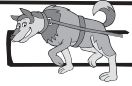


SHEEP MEADOW




BANDSHELL

THE DAIRY




WILDLIFE CONSERVATION CENTER

STRAWBERRY FIELDS




WOLLMAN RINK

BETHESDA FOUNTAIN




CHILDREN'S ZOO

HEICHSCHER PLAYGROUND



FINISH



BIRD SANCTUARY

The Mystery in New York City Pair Up



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



STATUE OF

BANNER

NEW

PARK

EMPIRE

MUSEUM

GUGGENHEIM

ISLAND

STATEN

YORK

ELLIS

CATHEDRAL

STAR SPANGLED

TOWERS

CENTRAL

ISLAND

DAILY

NEWS

YANKEE

LIBERTY

TWIN

STATE BUILDING

ST. PATRICK'S

STADIUM

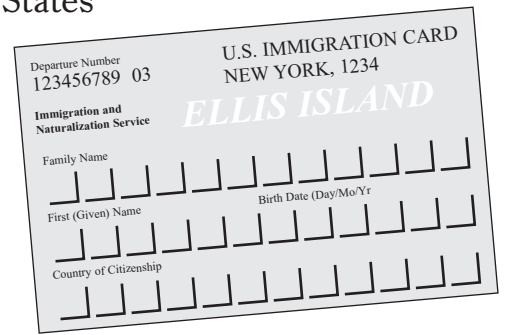




The Mystery in New York City Ellis Island Immigration Card



Every immigrant who departed from the ship to walk onto Ellis Island had to fill out an immigration inspection card. These cards provided immigration officials with the information necessary to decide who would and would not enter the United States of America. There were several questions, criteria, and even medical inspections. Only about 2% were turned away, but the inspection process was long and stressful.



Directions: Pretend you are an immigrant with a large family. Fill out the questions below from that person's perspective.

AGES OF YOUR FAMILY MEMBERS: _____

HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE IN YOUR IMMEDIATE FAMILY? _____

MARITAL STATUS: _____

OCCUPATION: _____

LIST YOUR SKILLS: _____

LIST ANY ILLNESSES IN YOUR FAMILY: _____

WHAT IS YOUR DESTINATION? _____

WHAT IS YOUR HOME COUNTRY? _____

CAN YOU READ? _____

IS ANYONE WAITING FOR YOU IN AMERICA? _____

WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR LIFE IN AMERICA? _____

HOW WILL YOU SHOW PATRIOTISM TOWARD YOUR NEW COUNTRY?



The Mystery in New York City Clue Scramble



Unscramble the words below to find the mystery clues!

1. MLKI _____

2. EREMPI SATTE BLDNGUII _____

3. EBBALASL GMEA _____

4. LTBAO _____

5. HET ETM _____

6. UTPZELIR _____

7. SCKHALES _____

8. HTE IERSA _____

9. PNTNGAII _____

10. ENCALTR RKPA _____



The Mystery in New York City Word Search



Search for the mysteriously hidden words below!

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

NEW YORK

CAB

TORCH

MUSEUM

BUSINESS

STATUE

TIMES SQUARE

STREET

BASEBALL

SKYLINE

LIBERTY

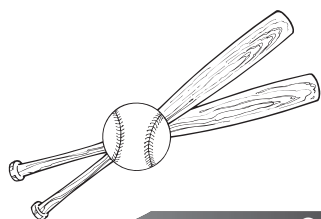
CENTRAL PARK

CITY

IMMIGRANT

FOOD

MANHATTAN



The Mystery in New York City Fill-in-the-Blank Crossword



Fill in the blanks to answer the questions.

1. Travel across this to see Lady Liberty:

___ E ___ Y ___
H ___ B ___

2. Balto and other characters can be seen hanging around here:

C ___ T ___ A ___

3. Streets meet in a busy square:

T ___ U ___ E

4. The kids are solving these to find the missing torch:

P ___ Z ___

5. This man was a famous governor of New York City:

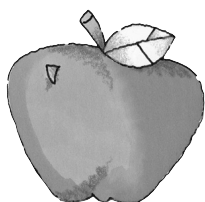
___ D ___
G ___ L ___

6. Common name for New York City's theater district:

B ___ D ___

7. New York City nickname:

___ H ___ I ___
A ___ E



The Mystery in New York City Matching Characters



Match up these mystery characters!

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Benjamin (Ben) | A. has Polish relatives |
| 2. Christina | B. adventurous leader |
| 3. Mimi | C. loves all kinds of trivia |
| 4. Grant | D. crazy driver |
| 5. Vinny | E. lots of opinions |
| 6. Papa | F. mystery writer |
| 7. Katarzyna (Kate) | G. New York City tour guide |



The Mystery in New York City Quiz

Use the clues to answer the questions!



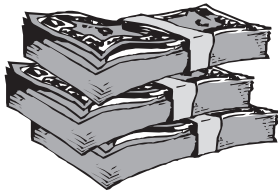
1. Free gift from the French:

2. Great place to play in nature:

3. Missing object in the mystery:



4. Go here first to enter America:



5. Tallest building in New York City:

6. International peace organization headquarters:

7. Buy stocks here on Wall Street:

8. Attacked by terrorists on September 11, 2001:

9. Check out millions of books here:



The Mystery in New York City True or False?



Mark each statement true or false.

Can you replace the word that is false in each statement?

- _____ 1. The kids used Monopoly game pieces to figure out the clues.
- _____ 2. Immigrants went to Ellis Island upon first entering America.
- _____ 3. There are many different kinds of cultures in New York City.
- _____ 4. Vinny drives a limousine.
- _____ 5. The Empire State Building is one of the world's tallest buildings.
- _____ 6. On September 11, 2001, terrorists attacked the World Trade Center.
- _____ 7. The kids are looking for the missing Statue of Liberty toes.
- _____ 8. The Brooklyn Bridge was the first steel suspension bridge.
- _____ 9. New York City is home to the Metropolitan Museum of Shoes.
- _____ 10. The first Statue of Liberty torch was made of gold.



Answer Key...

to The Mystery in New York City Activities



Math Activities

1. \$1,935 budget; 2. 135 passengers; 3. 3 pizzas; 4. \$16; 5. 300 airplanes; 6. 91.5 meters

The Mystery in New York City Pair Up

STATUE OF LIBERTY, NEW YORK, EMPIRE STATE BUILDING, GUGGENHEIM MUSEUM, STATEN ISLAND, ELLIS ISLAND, STAR SPANGLED BANNER, CENTRAL PARK, DAILY NEWS, YANKEE STADIUM, TWIN TOWERS, ST. PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL

The Mystery in New York City Clue Scramble

MILK, EMPIRE STATE BUILDING, BASEBALL GAME, BALTO, THE MET, PULITZER, SHACKLES, THE ISERA, PAINTING, CENTRAL PARK

The Mystery in New York City Fill-in-the-Blank Crossword

NEW YORK HARBOR, CENTRAL PARK, TIMES SQUARE, PUZZLES, RUDY GIULIANI, BROADWAY, THE BIG APPLE

The Mystery in New York City Matching Characters

1-G, 2-B, 3-F, 4-C, 5-D, 6-E, 7-A

The Mystery in New York City Quiz

Statue of Liberty, Central Park, torch, Ellis Island, Empire State Building, United Nations, New York Stock Exchange, World Trade Center, The New York Public Library

The Mystery in New York City True or False?

1. F-Scrabble letters; 2. T; 3. T; 4. F-cab; 5. T; 6. T; 7. F-torch; 8. T; 9. F-Art; 10. F-copper

