



The Mystery of the

ALAMO GHOST

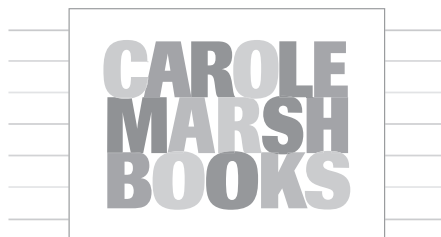
Teacher's Guide

by

Carole Marsh



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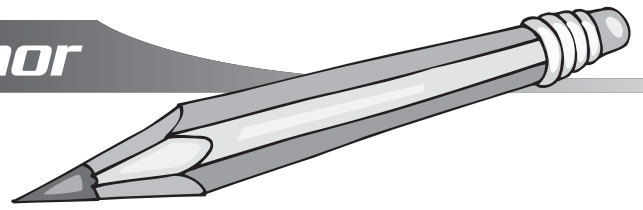
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A Word from the Author

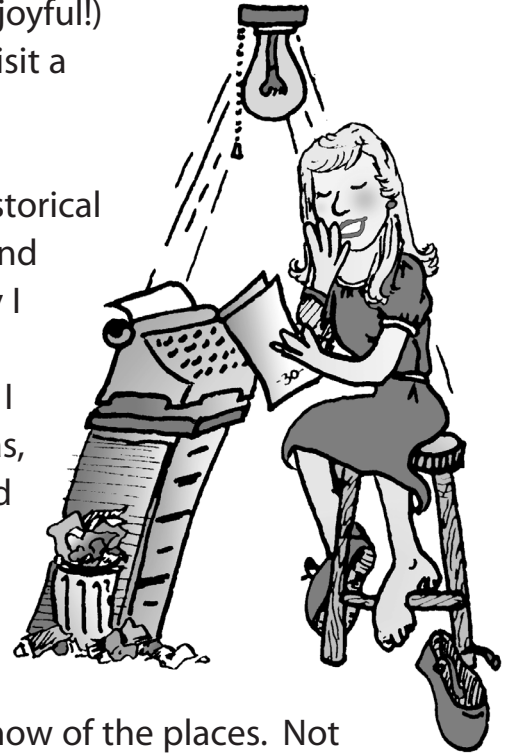


Dear Teachers,

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

People say that the Alamo is one of the greatest historical landmarks in America. For many Americans, the history and emotion connected with that battle is still fresh. Recently I attended the National School Supply and Equipment Association convention in San Antonio. My husband and I strolled the River Walk, gazed at the Tower of the Americas, and absorbed all the Alamo had to offer. Everyone should visit this place at least once!

Yes, the Alamo is a tourist attraction, but it's also one gigantic history lesson. At every San Antonio site, I tried to introduce the who, what, when, where, why, and how of the places. 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.



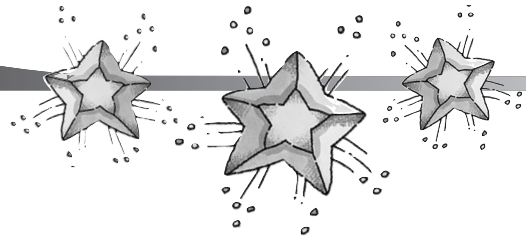
We learned a lot, but what we learned best is that kids and adults can learn together. Reading and going and seeing and doing is what education is all about, and most especially, that “adopting” a subject or place leads to a lifelong interest in an era, a place, the people, and all the fascinating facts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

Carole Marsh



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The Mystery of the
**ALAMO
GHOST**

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, we really did stick our toes in the cold ocean, climb Jockey's Ridge, and see *Flyer* for ourselves!)

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



Texas Visitor Information

Texas State Board of Tourism

P.O. Box 5064
Austin, TX 78763-5064
(800) 452-9292
(512) 462-9191

The Alamo

P.O. Box 2599
San Antonio, TX 78299
(210) 225-1391
www.thealamo.org

San Antonio Zoo San Antonio Zoological Gardens & Aquarium

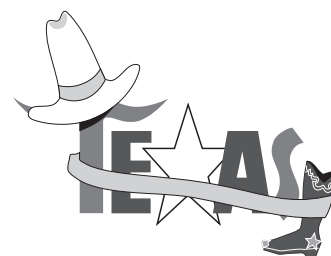
3903 N. St. Mary's Street
San Antonio, TX 78212
(210) 734-7184

Witte Museum

3801 Broadway
San Antonio, TX 78209
(210) 357-1900


Hertzberg Circus Museum

210 W. Market Street
San Antonio, TX 78205
(210) 207-7810



Chapter Subject

EXPLORE!

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Life | Why did Christina tell Grant not to scream in the airport? What other things shouldn't you do at the airport? Why? What are some good safety precautions to take at the airport? |
|  | | |
| 1 | Logic | Why does Mimi carry an umbrella and raincoat? Think of some examples when it is good to be prepared. |
| 1 | Geography | In which country and on which continent is Timbuktu located? [The country is Mali, and the continent is Africa.] |
| 1 | Vocabulary | What does the word "incorrigible" mean? [It means incapable of being corrected, unruly.] |
| 1 | Writing | Many people need a specific place to write. Some people like to write outside, in a coffee shop, or in the kitchen. Some like to play loud music, and some need absolute quiet. Some write with sharp pencils, and some people say they can't write without a computer! How do you write best? |
| 1 | Geography | Why do you think the author included a map? Is it helpful to the reader? How does the map help you to visualize the places in the mystery book? What else could go on the map? |
| 2 | Vocabulary | What is tarmac? [This is a type of road, or runway made of macadam.] Where else could you find tarmac? |
| 2 | Geography | The kids travel from Houston to San Antonio by car. How far away do you think San Antonio, Texas is from Atlanta, Georgia by plane? By car? |

Alamo History

Spaniards first explored Texas in 1519. Spaniard Francisco Vásquez de Coronado explored the area in 1542 looking for gold, but never found it.

Then in the late 1600s, Spain allowed missions to be established in Texas. Mission San Antonio de Valero was built in 1718 by Franciscan padres, but it closed in the late 1700s after several Indian attacks and structural problems.

In 1803, Spanish cavalry soldiers revisited the mission when fears of foreign invasion arose. This unit was referred to as the "Second Flying Company of San Carlos de Alamo de Parras." They were also called the "Alamo Company." The mission and fort became known as the Alamo.

Trivia

The average Alamo defender was 29 years old. David Crockett was 49 at the time. Defenders traveled from at least 22 American states and six foreign nations. Only nine were born in Texas, and those men were of Mexican ancestry.



Estimate your answers, and then look up the facts. [Driving time is about 16 hours.]

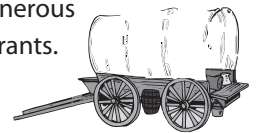
- 3 Science Christina notices the bluebonnets and lavender spread about the Texas countryside. What other types of flowers and trees grow in Texas?
- 3 Animals How are longhorn cattle different from other kinds of cows? Make a list of different types of cattle and a few of their characteristics.
- 3 History Who are Davy Crockett and Jim Bowie? Why do you think they fought for Texas independence? Were they Texas settlers? How did you feel when Mimi told Christina that the Texan defenders lost and that everyone died?
- 3 History What is a Bowie knife? Who invented it? What was it used for and when?
- 4 Vocabulary What is bail? [Bail is money or other security given in exchange for the temporary release of a prisoner before his or her court appearance. When the bail is paid, the government trusts that the prisoner will return for the trial.]
- 4 Writing How did you feel when Christina's wrist was grabbed? Scared? Confused? What did you think would happen next? Why do you think the author chose to cut the action off right there? Discuss "cliffhanger" writing techniques.
- 5 Life What do Juan and Rose think is true about Christina and Grant when they first meet? What benefits do the kids receive from their grandmother's mystery-writing profession? Do your grandparents own a business or have a side



Texas State History

The Spanish colony of Mexico declared its independence in 1821 after eleven years of rebellion. At that time, the Alamo mission and Texas territory fell under the reign of the Republic of Mexico. Mexicans who lived in Texas were called Tejanos.

The Mexican government encouraged settler migration to Texas, and Stephen Austin helped spur that exodus. Protestant Anglos converted to Catholicism, pledged allegiance to the Mexican Constitution, and came for the generous land grants.



During the 1830s, the Republic of Mexico began to limit immigration to Texas, especially among North Americans. In 1833, war hero and dictator

General Antonio López de Santa Anna basically voided the Mexican constitution with his reign. Both Mexicans and North Americans living in Texas began to think of rebelling.

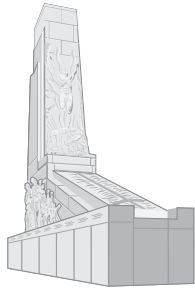
In 1835, the legendary "Come and Take It!" flag was raised, and the Texas revolution began.



(continued)

career? Do you or other family members ever help out with it?

- 5 Publishing Why might an author who writes children’s books make a school visit? What do you think happens during a typical visit? Would you like an author to visit your school? Write a letter to him or her and see what happens!
- 6 Vocabulary What is a mission?
- 6 History How might the story of the Alamo been different if the Texans had obeyed the orders of General Sam Houston? Why did Houston tell the men to abandon the mission? Why do you think they decided to take matters into their own hands? Why did the Alamo defenders fight to the death? Couldn’t they have just surrendered? What might have happened if they did surrender?
- 6 Psychology What is triskaidekaphobia [fear of the number 13]? What are some other phobias?
- 6 Literature When the author writes “double-double-toil-and-trouble-boil” during the spa scene, to which famous writer and play is she referring? [Shakespeare, *Macbeth*]
- 7 Writing Do you believe in ghosts? Why or why not?
- 7 Grammar What is the plural of the word “cactus”? [cacti]
- 7 Literature Christina mentions an example of alliteration. Define this literary term. Write down several examples of this writing technique.
- 7 Life At the restaurant, Christina orders something



Texas State History

(continued)

The 1836 Alamo siege and massacre of around 200 outnumbered Texas defenders preceded a battle between the rebel Texas army, led by Sam Houston, and Santa

Anna’s remaining troops at the San Jacinto River. General



Santa Anna was captured, and forced to acknowledge Texas independence with a treaty. Texas had won.

The independent



Republic of Texas joined the United States in December of 1845. After ratifying the U.S. constitution, Texas became the 28th state.

However, even though Texas had become a U.S. state, the Mexican government still claimed Texas. Inevitably the two powers went to war. Mexico was defeated.

After the Mexican American War ended in 1848, the United States acquired Texas, California, and other southwestern states from Mexico.



new to eat (a chimichanga). Why might her decision be a good idea? Are you a picky eater, or do you like to try new things? How can you learn to like new foods? Are there any foods that you have never tasted before? Try some!

7 Language The restaurant menu contained many Spanish words that perhaps the English-speaking kids could not interpret. How could you work around this problem? If you could pick three new languages to learn, which would they be and why? Discuss the usefulness of knowing a foreign language during travel abroad and interaction with people of other cultures.

7 Culture What is a piñata?

7 Food During dinner, Rose orders a quesadilla and Papa orders a fajita. What are these? Make a list of Spanish foods. Have you ever eaten any of them? Which are your favorites?

7 Language What does *Deguella* mean? This Spanish march tune was played at the beginning of the Alamo battle. What does “no quarter” mean? Can you think of other words that mean the same thing?

7 Math The Alamo battle began with 200 Texans and 6,000 Mexicans. By the end, every Texan defender had died (around 200), and 1,500 Mexicans died. What percentage died on each side? [100% Texans and 25% Mexicans]



7 Life Who are your heroes? What qualifies these people to be your heroes? Papa says that Davy Crockett was a hero because he fought for what he believed in and thought that freedom was



Places to Meet Downtown

Mentioned in the mystery book, the Alamodome is San Antonio's huge multipurpose indoor stadium. The structure, which opened in 1993, can seat up to 72,000 spectators for football games! Approximately 160,000 square feet of floor space is available for conventions, trade shows, entertainment, expositions, and major sporting events. There's even a permanent ice floor in the dome for skating events!



Other important buildings in downtown San Antonio include the Tower Life Building, Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center, Municipal Auditorium, Convention Center Area, and several major hotels. A huge mural, entitled “The Confluence on Civilizations in the Americas,” can be found on an external wall of the Convention Center.



worth dying for. Do you agree with him? Why or why not? Would you be willing to die for your freedom or for the freedom of other Americans?

8 History



What did you think about the description of life in the Alamo? Would you have wanted to live there? What advantages and disadvantages would there be to living during that time?

8 Vocabulary

What is a shrine? What is a powder magazine? What purpose did these and other structures serve in the Alamo Mission?

8 Safety

What should you do if your clothing catches on fire? What should you do if you see a fire in your school, your home, or some other building?

9 Logic

Use the information provided by the author thus far to think about what the first clue means.

9 Vocabulary

What does “supernatural” mean? Discuss examples from the book.

9 Writing



A simile is a figure of speech that compares two unlike things, often with the words “like” or “as.” Find the simile on this page. What other similes can you think of to describe goosebumps? What other similes can you find in the book?

10 Museums

What is a curator? What is an intern? Where else might interns work?

10 History

Why does Mimi want to learn so much about the Alamo during the tour? Discuss the importance of soaking up history wherever you visit, taking the tour, reading the historic markers, etc.

Flan for Everyone!

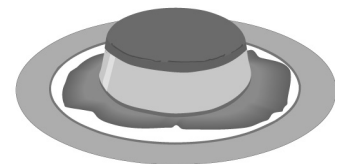
Flan is a type of Mexican dessert. Here’s a simple recipe!

Ingredients:

- 8 eggs
- 1 (14 oz.) can sweetened condensed milk
- 1 1/2 tsp. vanilla extract
- 1 1/2 cups white sugar

Directions:

Preheat oven to 300 degrees F. Combine eggs, condensed milk and vanilla, and blend until smooth. Cook sugar in a medium saucepan, stirring constantly, until it liquifies. As it turns light brown, remove from heat and pour into a 9 inch round cake pan. Pour egg mixture over liquid sugar. Line a roasting pan with a dampened cloth, and set a baking dish on the cloth. Place the roasting pan on an oven rack, and fill it with water to reach halfway up the baking dish sides. Bake 70 minutes or until an inserted toothpick comes out clean. Remove pan from water bath and let it cool completely (60 minutes). Run a knife along the edge of the pan, place a serving plate on top, and invert.



- 10 Science What is adobe and how is it made? Adobe is a kind of baked brick made with mud. Many Native Americans built adobe homes.

 - 10 History Who were the Spanish conquistadors and explorers? Discuss the history of Francisco de Coronado, Cabeza de Vaca, Hernan Cortes, Francisco Pizarro, Fracisco de Orellana, and Hernando de Soto. Discuss the impact of these Spaniards on the people and culture of Mexico, South American, Texas, and North America.
-
- 10 History Why do you think the padres (priests) worked so hard to come to America, build missions, and work with the native peoples? What was the result of their work?

 - 10 History Discuss the Mexican American War and the events that led up to Texas independence and eventual annexation to the United States.

 - 10 History Do you think Sarah Seely DeWitt and the Texans were brave or foolish for making the “Come and Take It” flag? How did the Mexicans react? Would you have chosen to fight?
-
- 10 History How did the Battle of the Alamo Mission help win the Mexican American War?

 - 10 Society Who are the Daughters of the Republic? Why do you think they were so interested in “saving” the Alamo for historic preservation?

 - 11 Society Why is Christina sad about the buildings and businesses that have developed around the Alamo? Discuss the conflict and pros/cons of historic preservation and modern development.

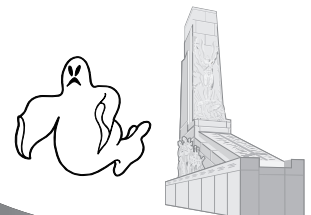
Save the Alamo!

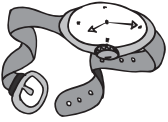

Following the bloody Mexican American War (1845-1848), the Alamo buildings weren't a high priority. Used for storage, the compound began to show severe signs of wear. The state of Texas purchased the chapel in 1883, but plans for a new hotel downtown threatened its preservation.

Then the Daughters of the Republic of Texas (DAR), led by Adina De Zavala, led a noble fundraising drive to save the Alamo. But when their efforts were not enough to collect the needed funds, Clara Driscoll saved the day. She helped buy the historic structure with her own \$65,000 and gave the title to the state of Texas.

In time, the buildings were restored and a museum was created. The Daughters of the Republic of Texas still maintain the Alamo. Though the original mission plaza and outer walls were torn down decades prior, the chapel and its artifacts still stand intact.

Thousands of visitors flock to the site every year to see the grounds, artifacts, museum, chapel, San Antonio, and perhaps a few ghosts!



- 11 Society Why do we build monuments, memorials, and cenotaphs to honor those who die in war? Discuss patriotism, pacifism, and war.
- 12 Manners  What does it mean to synchronize watches? Why is it rude to be late? What message do you communicate when you are late?
- 12 Language What diseases did Europeans bring to the Americas? Discuss measles, smallpox, other diseases, and immunity.
- 12 Landmarks Discuss the Alamodome, Tower of the Americas, and the 1968 HemisFair (see sidebar).
- 12 Geography What other famous city has a river running through it? Hint: people ride gondolas there!
- 12 Writing What is editing and proofreading? Is there a difference? Every writer should be a good rewriter. Discuss the importance of these elements. Pair up students to review each other's writing during the English activities.
- 12 Life What is vandalism [willful destruction of property]? Why do you think some people vandalize? What would you do if another kid asked you to vandalize with him or her?
- 12 Writing  How many times has the author mentioned a black sleeve in the book so far? Do you think these are hints for what may come? Discuss the writing technique of foreshadowing.
- 13 Education How do you think Davy Crockett became a Congressman with 100 days of school? What else might have qualified him for that office?

1968 HemisFair

The 1968 HemisFair was the first officially designated international exposition in the Southwestern United States. San Antonio was celebrating its 250th founding anniversary at the time, and the ethnically mixed city was eventually chosen to host the fair.

As the purpose was to celebrate the cultural heritage shared by San Antonio and the nations of Latin America, the fair's theme was the "Confluence of Civilizations in the Americas." This was also the title of a famous mural in the convention center.

More than thirty nations participated in the fair. Theme exhibits featured space exploration, toys and miniatures, major art works from the Prado Museum in Madrid, and performances by the Ballet Folklórico de México and the Bolshoi Ballet from Russia.

Though the fair started off with great expectations, attendance fell short of the goal and the fair lost a reported \$7.5 million. The event did attract 6.3 million visitors and inspire great structures such as the Tower of the Americas and the Institute of Texan Cultures.



14 Language



Do you know what the Spanish word “rio” means [river]? Where might you have seen it before? List examples of words commonly used in English that are really foreign words.

14 History

During his stay with the tribe, Sam Houston became a legal Cherokee citizen. He also married an Indian woman named Tiana Rogers. She was related to the cowboy Will Rogers!

14 Writing

Does the author’s description of Grant’s hair make it seem more real to you? What is this kind of writing technique called [simile]?

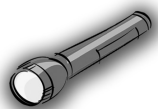
15 Music

What kind of music do mariachi bands play? Have you heard it, and do you like it?

15 Writing

What was your first thought when you read that Grant was gone? Look back over the previous few pages for clues that may have led up to his disappearance.

16 Logic



The kids chose to go to the Alamo instead of looking for Grant near the water. Would you have made a different choice? Should they have found an adult to help?

16 Vocabulary

What is a varmint? Think of an example.

16 Vocabulary

What does it mean to walk nonchalantly? Ask the students to demonstrate different ways of walking around the classroom (strolling, meandering, sauntering, etc.).

17 Logic

At the entrance of the Alamo, the kids stop and “recap” the situation. What does this mean, and why is a good idea? How will this decision

San Antonio Missions

The Alamo isn’t the only historic mission in San Antonio. Check out these other preserved sites!

Mission San Juan

- Provides agriculture learning opportunities
- Church with unique side entrance
- Museum housed in the original convento
- Portion of the original acequia system that once moved water from the San Antonio River to the fields
- Natural trail (3/10 mile long) where students can learn about native plants and wildlife

Mission San José

- Known as the “Queen of the Missions”
- Largest of the San Antonio missions
- Indian quarters, supply granary, Spanish soldier quarters
- Remains of a two-story convento with arches still exists

Mission Espada

- Small church with layered belltower
- Stone carved entrance portal with Moorish design
- Old school building, now a museum with exhibits about ranching and vaqueros

Mission La Concepción

- Oldest unrestored stone church in America
- Library with 18th century frescoes
- Storage room with petrified wooden beams



help them? What does “deduce” mean?

17 Logic Why is Christina so upset with Grant? Why is it a bad idea to wander off by yourself? Discuss the dangers of being without a buddy or adult.

18 Life Should the kids have trespassed into the Alamo at night without supervision or permission? Could they get in trouble?

18 Life Is Christina brave for going into the Alamo chapel alone in the dark? Discuss the difference between bravery, courage, and foolishness.



19 Logic How did the adults and the police all know what was going on just in time?

19 Vocabulary What does “grouse” mean?

19 Writing How do you think Angelina feels knowing her descendent chose not to fight? Is she proud of his decision, or does she regret it?

20 Vocabulary What does interrogate mean?

20 Reading How can you become a better reader? How can you improve your oral reading? Discuss practice and the love of reading!

20 Travel Mimi says that you can’t do everything when you travel so you try to come back. How can you make the most of your trips? Discuss seeing as much as possible and learning about history wherever you go.



Be sure to read Carole Marsh Mystery #5: *The Mystery on the California Mission Trail*

Texas Sayings

Fair enough.
 He throws up too much dust.
 He’s got a ten-gallon mouth.
 I spent a year there one day.
 I could sit still for that.
 Take your hat off, but leave your boots on.
 You’re a sight for sore eyes.
 Let’s chew the rag.
 Common as cornbread
 It’s so cold the cows are giving milkshakes.
 There’s no flies on my mama.
 Her phone’s off the hook.
 Sweet as a slop jar
 A she-bear in satin
 She sure cleaned your plow.
 He’s all broth and no beans.
 She’s jumping like water on a hot skillet.
 If she crows, the sun is up.
 Too rich for my blood
 Mad as an old wet hen.
 So poor I had a tumbleweed for a pet
 He broke his arm patting himself on the back.
 It’s right airish out.
 Full of sass and vinegar.
 Rare as a poor politician
 He’s trembling in his boots.
 He could find a whisper in a whirlwind.
 A dead snake can still bite.
 He’ll squeeze a dollar till the eagle screams.
 Let’s hallelujah the country.
 Raised on concrete.
 It’s time to swap spit and hit the road.
 This ain’t my first rodeo.

Discussion Questions

❖ Were the Alamo defenders brave or unwise for choosing to fight to the death? Why or why not? What would you have done? Discuss the importance of courage and patriotism. Also talk about how one can disagree with war and still be patriotic.



❖ In what ways, though not in war, do other countries still attack or fight America? Discuss media coverage, lack of support from allies, economic struggles, and debt.

❖ Juan and Rose seem to know a lot of history and information about their town. This is partly because they are proud of San Antonio. How much do you know about your town, your family, your school, your religion, or your favorite hobby?



❖ Is Christina adventurous, brave, or unwise for going out at night without supervision to solve the mystery of the Alamo ghost?

❖ Do you believe in the existence of ghosts? Why or why not?

❖ Were the Spanish words hard or easy for you to pronounce? Study the glossary of Spanish words (Teachers, see sidebar on easy Spanish phrases). Discuss the advantages to learning a second language (career, expanding future realm of experience, humanitarian work, etc.).

¡hola!

buenos días

adiós



Texas Trivia

• The first rodeo was held in Pecos, Texas in 1883.



• Guadalupe Point in Culberson County is the highest point in Texas.

• Texas is bordered by Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Gulf of Mexico, Red River, Sabine River, Rio Grande, and Mexico.



• In 1901, the Girls Industrial College became the first women's college in Texas.

• Oil makes up more than 90% of Texas mineral production.



• Texas is 808 miles (1,300 km) north to south.

• The last battle of the Civil War was fought at Palmito Ranch, near Brownsville, on April 9, 1865. It took place more than a month after the Confederates had surrendered in Virginia!



• The first European settlement in Texas was a Spanish mission established in 1682 at Ysleta.

• The ocelot, red wolf, black footed ferret, Houston toad, Texas blind salamander, greater long nosed bat, and jaguarundi are all endangered animal species found in Texas.



Geography: Find It!

1. Draw an architectural floor plan of the Alamo mission in San Antonio. Include various rooms, the chapel, courtyard, etc. Would you ever want to live there?
2. Compare Peachtree City, Georgia (where Grant and Christina live) with the big city of San Antonio, Texas (where Juan and Rose live). Do your research online and from the mystery book. What are the differences between the two cities? What are the similarities? In which city would you like to live? Why?
3. Draw a map of the historic district of San Antonio. Use colored markers to distinguish the many historic sites and attractions. Include a key, map symbols, title, and chart of locations.
4. Construct a model of the San Antonio River with blue yarn. Wind your river through the San Antonio map project around the various landmarks. Add some fish, boats and swimmers!
5. List the geographical benefits of living in the state of Texas. What benefit means the most to you? What wouldn't you like about living in Texas? How is Texas unique in comparison to the other 49 states in America?



Great Places to Visit in San Antonio!

- The Alamo
- Tower of the Americas
- San Fernando Cathedral
- Spanish Governor's Palace



- The River Walk
- La Villita

- Arneson Theatre



- Market Square
- Hertzberg Circus Collection

- Southwest Craft Center

- Alamodome

- Hemisfair Park

- Fiesta Texas

- Majestic Performing Arts Center



- King William District

- Mission San José

- Botanical Center

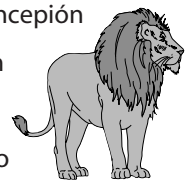
- Halsell Conservatory

- Mission Concepción

- Mission San

Juan

- San Antonio Zoo



- Mission Espada

- Museum of Art

- Japanese Tea Garden

- Sea World



Mathematics: Calculate It!

1. If each kid sleuth finds 5 clues, how many clues have they found?

2. If the left wall of the Alamo is 175 bricks high and 250 bricks wide, how many total bricks were used to build the left wall?



3. A budget is a list of expenses. Total this budget for the San Antonio mystery trip.

\$600 – airfare, \$200 – meals, \$300 – lodging, \$100 – attractions, \$75 – souvenirs and miscellaneous

4. If a tree planted along the River Walk has 10 branches and each branch holds 60 white lights, how many lights illuminate the tree? If there are 60 lit trees along the River Walk, how many lights are on the trees?



5. The Tower of the Americas is 750 feet tall. If the elevator stopped on 25 floors, how many feet would separate each floor from the next floor?

6. If Christina's ice bucket held 56 ice cubes and 17 ice cubes fell out in the hall, how many ice cubes would Christina have left?



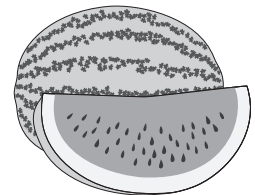
7. If there are 94 city blocks in San Antonio and 109 city blocks in Houston, how many more blocks does Houston have?

8. If the plane flies 400 miles per hour, and it is 90 miles between Houston and Atlanta, how long will the trip take?



Annual Events in Texas!

- Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Exposition (February-March)
- Texas Independence Day (March)
- Jefferson Historical Pilgrimage in Jefferson (April-May)
- Watermelon Thump in Luling (June)
- Aqua Festival In Austin (August)
- East Texas

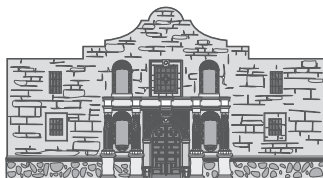


Yamboree in Gilmer (October)

- Texas State Fair in Dallas (October)
- Festival of Lights in San Antonio (December)
- Fiesta San Antonio (April)
- Texas Folklife Festival (June)



1. Compose a poem about those who died defending the Alamo. Your poem may be written using any style.
2. 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? Write a short description of that character and answers to the other questions.
3. Recall each mystery clue after you finish reading the book. Write down why each clue makes sense now that you know the ending of the story.
4. What are your three favorite books? Do you remember them today? Write a paragraph summary of each book.
5. Why should America “remember the Alamo”? Write an essay explaining your opinion on the subject.
6. What is the “conflict” in this mystery? What is the plot?
7. Write five new titles for *The Mystery of Alamo the Ghost*. Write new chapter headings for every chapter in the book.
8. Write a new ending for the last chapter of the mystery.
9. What is a glossary, and why is it important for the reader? Write down a list of words you didn’t know in the mystery. Define each of them to compile your own glossary.
10. Write a fictional story about something that happens in San Antonio.



Texas Books

Best Tales of Texas Ghosts
By Docia Schultz Williams

San Antonio Bonechi Guide

America the Beautiful: Texas
By Captain Charles Johnson

Voices of the Alamo
By Sherry Garland

Portrait of America: Texas
(Steck-Vaughn)
By Kathleen Thompson

San Antonio Missions
By Luis Torres

A Bowl of Red
By Frank X. Tolbert & Hallie Stilwell

In a Narrow Grave: Essays on Texas
By Larry McMurty



Vocabulary: Spell It!

Study the words below. Then fold the page in half and take a spelling test! Unfold the page to check your work. Study the words you miss!

HERITAGE _____

CACTUS _____

SLEEVE _____

KIDNAP _____

FLAN _____

RIVER _____

MEXICO _____

CENOTAPH _____

MISSION _____

GUNPOWDER _____

SAN ANTONIO _____

RESEARCH _____

GHOST _____

MYSTERY _____

TEXAS _____

IMAGINATION _____

EMBER _____

CHARACTER _____

MAGAZINE _____

PRICKLE _____

VALET _____

ADOBE _____

MUSKET _____

RESTORATION _____

FAMILY _____

ARMADILLO _____

SPANISH _____

DEFENDER _____

PIÑATA _____

Spanish Phrases!

Hello!

¡Hola!
(Oh-lah)



Good-bye.

Adiós.
(Ah-dee-OCE)

Good morning.

Buenos días.
(BWEH-noce DEE-ahs)

Thank you.

Gracias.
(GRAH-see-ahs)



I'm sorry.

Lo siento.
(Loe-see-EHN-toe)

Excuse me.

Disculpe.
(Dees-KOOL-peh)

Please.

Por favor.
(Pohr fah-VOR)

How much is it?

¿Cuánto es?
(KWAHN-toe-ehs)



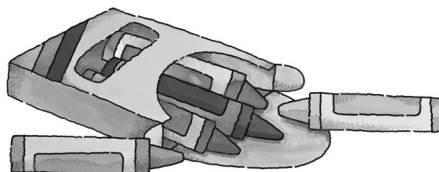
I'm lost.

Estoy perdido.
(Ehs-Toy pehr-DEE-doe)



Art: Create It!

1. Construct a three-dimensional town of San Antonio using miniature objects, cardboard, toothpicks, grass, etc. You could even make an edible version and eat it with the class!
2. Paint a picture of the siege against the Alamo defenders. Don't forget to include some American heroes like Davy Crockett and James Bowie!
3. Fold an origami bluebonnet flower. Look for directions online.
4. Sketch portraits of each mystery book character. Add specific details in the background like clues, a cactus, a boat, the river, or cell #13.



5. Sculpt the Tower of the Americas complete with an antenna and elevator. You may need to prop it up against something because this building is so tall!
6. Design a new cover for *The Mystery of the Alamo Ghost* book!
7. Build a model of the Alamo with modeling clay bricks. Ask an adult to help you “bake” the clay so it will harden. Make people to go inside the mission.
8. Draw pictures of each event in the Texas quest for freedom. Assemble the pictures together to create an historical timeline of Texas independence!



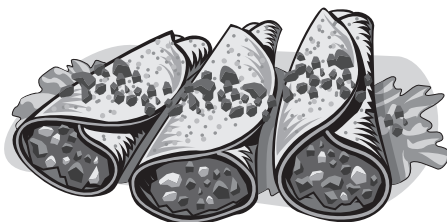
Cook up some Tex-Mex dishes!

San Antonio Tortillas

Makes 12 tortillas

Ingredients

3 cups all-purpose flour
2 tsp. baking powder
1/2 tsp. salt
1 cup water



Directions

Mix and knead ingredients until smooth. Separate and roll into 12 equally sized balls of dough. Cover with a warm cloth for about 15 minutes. Using a rolling pin, flatten the dough balls into thin pancake shapes about 6 inches in diameter. Use a lightly floured board or counter for rolling. Fry the tortillas on a non-stick skillet (over medium heat on the stove) until blisters appear on the surface. Press down with a spatula and flip to cook the other side. Remove the tortillas and keep warm in a folded paper towel. Serve with spiced meat, diced tomato, salsa, fresh lettuce, and grated cheese.

Side Suggestions

Quick Quesadillas

Place a tortilla on a warm griddle and sprinkle with grated Mexican mixed cheese. Cover with another tortilla. Press down with a spatula and heat on medium until cheese begins to melt. Flip and repeat. Enjoy!

Queso Dip (makes 2 cups)

Ingredients

1 tbs butter
1 tbs cornstarch
3/4 cup sour cream
1 cup shredded cheddar cheese
1 tbs salsa

Directions

Melt butter over medium heat in a medium saucepan. Stir cornstarch in well. Add Sour cream and stir. When mixture bubbles, mix in cheddar cheese and salsa. Continue stirring about 10 minutes until cheese has melted. Allow it to thicken. Serve warm with tortilla chips.

Pico de Gallo

Combine 1 medium diced tomato, 1 finely chopped small onion, 1/2 of a seeded and chopped jalapeno pepper, 2 sprigs of finely chopped fresh cilantro and one finely chopped green onion together in a medium bowl. All 1/2 tsp. garlic powder, 1/8 tsp. salt and 1/8 tsp pepper (to taste). Stir until evenly mixed, cover and refrigerate for a half hour.

Mexican Mess

Ingredients

1 lb. ground beef
1/2 cup diced onions (if desired)
2-4 tsp. chili powder
2 cups shredded lettuce
2 cups diced fresh tomatoes
1 cup shredded cheese
2 cups small tortilla chip pieces
1/4 cup salsa

Directions

1. Brown ground beef and onions in a skillet. Add chili powder, set aside.
2. Prepare vegetables and cheese.
3. Combine all ingredients in a large bowl. Toss. Serve while warm with extra salsa, sour cream, and guacamole!



The Mystery of the Alamo Ghost Cascarone



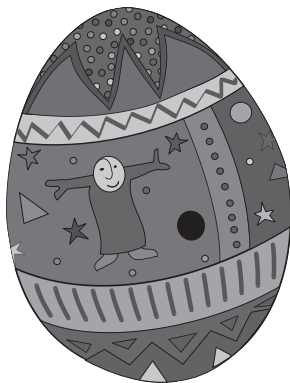
Cascarones, or Mexican confetti eggs, are a popular part of fiestas. Girls and boys try to crack a cascarone over the head of someone they secretly like. Everyone will be covered in confetti by the end of the celebration!



Celebrate Cinco de Mayo in your classroom or home. Play the music of a popular mariachi band, bake some quesadillas, and make some cascarones to crack over the heads of your friends and classmates (be gentle!). Now let's celebrate!

Instructions

1. Use a large sewing needle to pierce both ends of a raw egg.
2. Cut a small hole in one end.
3. Blow through the needle prick to push the yolk and whites into a bowl.
4. Try to puncture the yolk to make the egg run out of the shell easier.
5. Carefully rinse the empty eggshell and let it dry.
6. Fill eggs with multi-colored confetti and cover the small hole by gluing some tissue paper over the opening.
7. Use paints or markers to decorate the eggshells.
8. Get cracking!



The Mystery of the Alamo Ghost Pair Up



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



RIVER

FAIR

SAN

THE AMERICAS

DAVY

MUSEUM

ALAMO

TAPH

TOWER OF

ANNA

CURATOR'S

THIRTEEN

CENO

WALK

ALAMO

STATE

HEMIS

DEL RIO

CIRCUS

GHOST

PASEO

DOME

CELL

INTERN

LONE STAR

ANTONIO

SANTA

CROCKETT



Piñata!

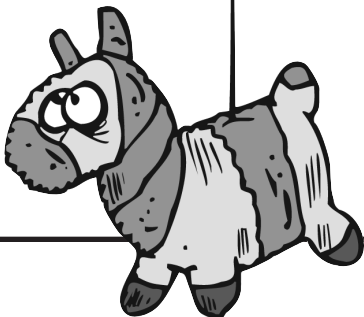


Follow the steps to make a piñata. Throw a party and serve yummy food!



Materials

- ☼ *round balloon*
- ☼ *newspaper sheets*
- ☼ *flour*
- ☼ *water*
- ☼ *tempera paints*
- ☼ *colored crepe paper*
- ☼ *string*
- ☼ *scissors*
- ☼ *candy*



Steps

1. Loosely blow up a balloon.
2. Make a paste mixture with flour and water in a shallow dish.
3. Cut up the newspaper sheets into thin strips.
4. Dip each strip into the flour paste.
5. Attach the strips to the balloon surface.
6. Cover the whole balloon.
7. Let the strips dry over night.
8. Repeat the process for 4 days.
9. Let the project completely dry on the fifth day.
10. You can either paint the outside or glue square pieces of colored crepe paper to the outside. Orange and yellow streamers make beautiful rays of sunshine. White streamers could form a trail of mist behind a ghost.
11. When the ball is completely dried, cut a hole in the top and fill it with candy.
12. Poke holes on opposite sides for a string through the piñata.
13. Tie the piñata onto a pole and enjoy with your classmates or friends!



The Mystery of the Alamo Ghost Clue Scramble



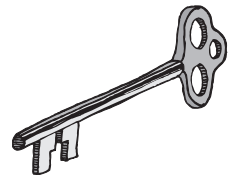
Unscramble the words below to find the mystery clues!

1. CCATSU _____

2. RRVIE _____



3. CREEIPT _____



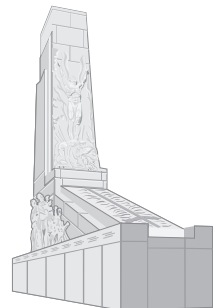
4. EAGT _____

5. SVLEEE _____

6. WOWIND _____



7. AERRBL _____



8. EKY _____

9. OTNE _____

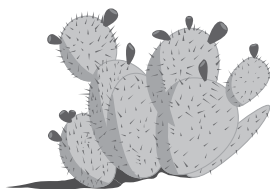
The Mystery of the Alamo Ghost Word Search



*Search for the mysteriously hidden words below!
What words can you find that aren't in the word bank?*

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

- | | | | |
|---------|-----------|---------|--------------|
| RIVER | SILVER | CHAPEL | ALAMO |
| GHOST | REMEMBER | MYSTERY | ANCESTOR |
| CURATOR | CHARACTER | CLUE | CACTUS |
| SPA | TEXAS | NATIVE | INDEPENDENCE |



The Mystery of the Alamo Ghost Fill-in-the-Blank Crossword



Fill in the blanks to find the missing words!

1. Holy place where ghosts like to lurk:

T _____ A _____

2. Sip tea and gaze at flowers in the:

A _____

G _____



3. Texas city where the Alamo still stands:

A _____ N _____

4. This just loves Grant's backside!

T _____

5. Rise up and look around!

O _____

A _____ C _____

6. Take a walk along the San Antonio:

V _____



The Mystery of the Alamo Ghost Matching Facts



Match these mystery characters with their facts!

- | | |
|--------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Papa | A. Curator's intern |
| 2. Rose | B. Tends to get lost |
| 3. Christina | C. Mystery writer |
| 4. Papaya | D. Protective of her heritage |
| 5. Grant | E. Knowledgeable |
| 6. Angelina | F. Adventurous |
| 7. Mimi | G. "Trail Boss" |



The Mystery of the Alamo Ghost Quiz



Use the clues find each fun place to visit in San Antonio! You may need to research outside the book for a few of these!



1. Crawling with interesting animals:

2. Only Spanish colonial residence left in Texas:

3. Place to worship in the Alamo:

4. Entertainment park in a limestone quarry:

5. City where Grant and Christina live:

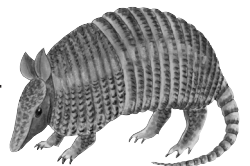
6. Historical district in San Antonio:

7. Fairyland of lights:

8. Sanctuary flanked by twin towers:

9. Tex-Mex place to dine:

10. The Alamo was a religious:



The Mystery of the Alamo Ghost True or False



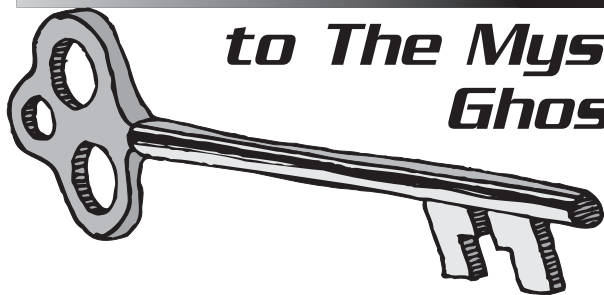
*Mark each statement true or false.
Can you replace the word that is false in each statement?*

- _____ 1. Juan and Rose live in Dallas, Texas.
- _____ 2. The first mystery clue was found near a trash barrel.
- _____ 3. The curator's intern was named Mango.
- _____ 4. Grant is fluent in Spanish.
- _____ 5. Every Alamo defender died in battle.
- _____ 6. Texas used to belong to Mexico.
- _____ 7. Diamonds brighten the trees on the River Walk.
- _____ 8. The Alamo was established in 1718.
- _____ 9. The Tower of the Americas looks like a short arc.
- _____ 10. Texas is known as the Lone Star State.



Answer Key...

to The Mystery of the Alamo Ghost Activities



Math Activities

1. 20 clues; 2. 43,750; 3. \$1,275; 4. 600 lights, 36,000 lights; 5. 30 feet; 6. 39 ice cubes;
7. 15 blocks; 8. 2 1/4 hours

The Mystery of the Alamo Ghost Pair Up

RIVER WALK; SAN ANTONIO; DAVY CROCKETT; ALAMO GHOST; TOWER OF THE AMERICAS; CURATOR'S INTERN; CENOTAPH; ALAMODOME; HEMISFAIR; CIRCUS MUSEUM; PASEO DEL RIO; CELL THIRTEEN; LONE STAR; SANTA ANNA

The Mystery of the Alamo Ghost Clue Scramble

CACTUS; RIVER; RECEIPT; GATE; SLEEVE; WINDOW; BARREL; KEY; NOTE

The Mystery of the Alamo Ghost Fill-in-the-Blank Crossword

1. THE ALAMO; 2. JAPANESE GARDENS; 3. SAN ANTONIO; 4. CACTUS; 5. TOWER OF THE AMERICAS; 6. RIVER

The Mystery of the Alamo Ghost Matching Facts

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

The Mystery of the Alamo Ghost Quiz

1. San Antonio Zoological Gardens; 2. Spanish Governor's Palace; 3. Alamo Chapel; 4. Fiesta Texas; 5. Peachtree City; 6. Yuanaguana; 7. River Walk; 8. San Fernando Cathedral; 9. Adobe Armadillo; 10. mission

The Mystery of the Alamo Ghost True or False?

1. False – San Antonio; 2. True; 3. False – Papaya; 4. False – English; 5. True; 6. True;
7. False - lights; 8. True; 9. False – tall spike; 10. True

