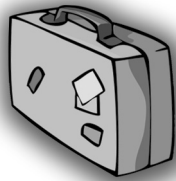




The
**Awesome
Atlanta**



Mystery



Teacher's Guide

by
Carole Marsh

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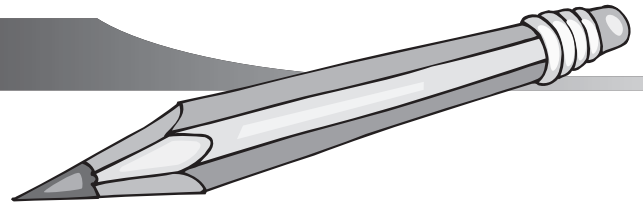
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A Word from the Author



Dear Teacher,

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

I was born and raised in Atlanta, so the town is very dear to my heart. It is a place that I would love for young readers to know. When I was a teen, I lived with my grandmother in a big brick apartment building in the center of town. Mary Mac’s Tea Room was our lunch spot; the big Krispy Kreme store was just down the street. And so was the roller rink! The Varsity was the date place: chili dogs, frosted oranges, onion rings and those fried peach pies—yum!

The Fox Theatre, in all its dramatic Moorish grandeur, was our everyday and Saturday matinee movie house. Even as kids we weren’t unimpressed by the beauty of the Fox, but more so its uncanny spookiness; even going to the Egyptian bathrooms on the lower level was scarier than the horror movie showing upstairs! I don’t know how old I was before I realized that the night sky and stars overhead were not the real thing...I’m still not sure I believe it!

I do love my Atlanta, and I hope kids enjoy getting to know it as they read *The Awesome Atlanta Mystery*. I also love getting letters from teachers and parents who say they read the book with their class or child, then visited the historic site themselves. That is wonderful! Reading and going and seeing and doing is what education is all about!

So step out onto Peachtree Street! Eat some grits, see some sites, and learn about this great town! I think you will come to love Atlanta as much as I do!

Carole Marsh

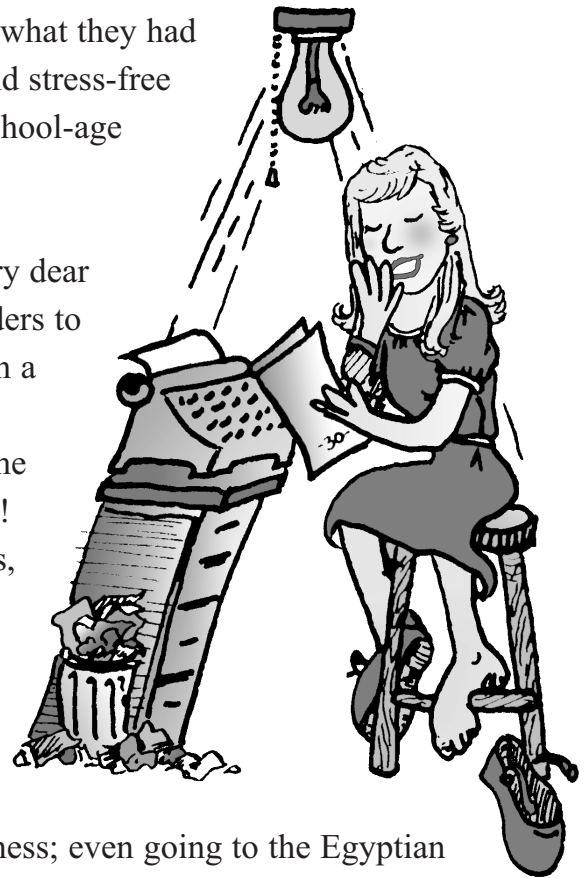
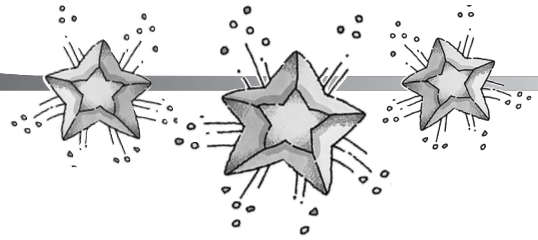


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Page-by-Page Guide

Page #	Subject	<u>EXPLORE!</u>
11	Geography	Atlanta’s terrain is very hilly. The city’s elevation is anywhere between 738 to about 1,050 feet above mean sea level. The Atlanta skyline basically sits atop a ridge just south of the Chattahoochee River.
12	People	Turner Field is named after Ted Turner, founder of the cable news network CNN and one-time owner of the Atlanta Braves. The field is nicknamed “The Ted.”
12	History	Oakland Cemetery was founded on six acres of land as a public burial ground for Atlanta in 1850. It was designed as a rural garden cemetery rather than a traditional graveyard. It grew quickly to about 48 acres during the Civil War due to all the soldiers killed during the battles around Atlanta. Today, there are no plots left, about 70,000 people are buried there, and it is surrounded by Atlanta city neighborhoods.
12	People	Margaret Mitchell was born, lived, and died in Atlanta. She wrote <i>Gone With the Wind</i> , a novel about the Civil War and the Battle of Atlanta. It is one of the most famous books ever written.
13	People	Bobby Jones is a famous amateur golfer who was born in Atlanta. He earned his living as a lawyer and only competed in golf tournaments as a hobby. He won all four major golf tournaments of his era (1923–1930) and retired from golf competition when he was 28 years old.
13	Vocabulary	To be <i>perplexed</i> means to be completely baffled or confused by something.
14	Geography	Grant calls Stone Mountain a “big rock,” and it is! The mountain is 825 feet tall and covers 583 acres. The top of the mountain is 1,683 feet above sea level. Geologists believe the dome of Stone Mountain was formed as a result of the up-swelling of magma from within the earth’s crust. The magma solidified to form granite within the crust 5 to 10 miles below the surface. Over eons of time, erosion exposed the present mountain.

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- 16 Vocabulary The dome was *sheathed* in gold, meaning it was covered with a layer of gold.
- 21 Vocabulary The man vanished into the crowded hotel lobby. To *vanish* means to disappear.
- 26 History The trusses, or framework, that support the monument at Five Points represent trolley tracks. Trolleys were old-time buses that used to run in Atlanta and other cities. A wheel attached to a pole on top of the bus collected current from an overhead wire to drive the streetcar, or trolley bus.
- 26 Science An artesian water well is a drilled well from which water flows up like a fountain so that it produces a constant supply of water with little or no pumping.
- 28 History The Georgia Railroad Freight Depot was built in 1869, four years after the Civil War ended, and is the oldest standing building in downtown Atlanta. The building served as the main freight depot for the Georgia Railroad and was restored in 1981 for public use. A fire destroyed the upper floors and cupola in 1935.
- 29 Vocabulary An *emporium* is an old-fashioned word for a large retail store that sells a wide variety of goods.
- 29 History A player piano is a self-playing piano. It is fitted with a mechanism that enables it to be played automatically. Player pianos were very popular in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Improvements in phonograph recordings and technology brought about the decline of the player piano.
- 29 History A calliope was an old-time keyboard instrument that looked like an organ but its notes were produced by steam whistles. It mainly was used on showboats and in traveling fairs.
- 29 Pop Culture Coin-operated, fortune-telling machines were popular at amusement parks and penny arcades in the 1930s and after. They featured exotic figures like gypsies, mummies, skulls, devils, wizards, Puss-in-Boots, or in fact, any character that seemed magical. One of the best-known fortune-telling machines was Zoltar the Fortune Teller from the movie *Big* that changes the boy character into an adult played by Tom Hanks.

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- 31 People General William T. Sherman was the commander of Union forces during the Civil War. He led his troops to siege and then capture Atlanta during the Battle of Atlanta in the summer of 1864.
- 31 History The Battle of Atlanta was a Civil War battle fought on July 22, 1864, when Union troops commanded by General William T. Sherman overwhelmed and defeated Confederate forces defending the city under the command of General John B. Hood. It was a very bloody battle: about 3,600 Union soldiers and about 8,500 Confederate soldiers were killed. The Confederate soldiers retreated, and Sherman and his army eventually made their famous “March to the Sea.”
- 34 Figure of Speech Christina thinks that perhaps the stranger is a “Good Samaritan.” What is a Good Samaritan? Where does this expression come from?
- 34 People Sherlock Holmes is an extremely perceptive private detective in stories written by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle during the late 1800s and early 1900s. Stephen King is a contemporary novelist who writes mystery and horror stories. Have you ever heard about either of these people? Why would Christina refer to them?
- 35 Pop Culture Mimi buys everyone pretzels at a food cart vendor. Atlanta, like many large cities, allows vendors to sell foods from carts on city sidewalks. Have you ever stopped at a food cart vendor? Where? What did you eat?
- 36 Vocabulary The word *reconversion* refers to converting something back to a former state. What are some things that could go through a reconversion process?
- 39 History Peachtree Street is the “Main Street” of Atlanta. Atlanta basically grew up along Peachtree Street! Many of Atlanta’s municipal buildings and historical houses were located along the street. People often joke, however, that half the streets in Atlanta are named “Peachtree.” Maybe not half the streets, but at last count, there were about 75 with “Peachtree” in the name, including Peachtree Lane, Peachtree Way, Peachtree Walk, and Peachtree Battle Avenue.

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- | | | |
|----|------------------|---|
| 41 | Figure of Speech | The police got an “anonymous tip” that someone was trying to steal the bus. What is an anonymous tip? |
| 45 | Culture | Mimi and Papa are taking the kids to the Fox Theatre to see the Atlanta Ballet perform <i>The Nutcracker</i> . <i>The Nutcracker</i> is a two-act ballet scored by the famous Russian composer Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky. The story is adapted from E. T. A. Hoffmann’s “The Nutcracker and the Mouse King.” The Sugar Plum Fairy, the Mouse King, and the Nutcracker are characters that have become well known. The Atlanta Ballet has performed <i>The Nutcracker</i> during the holidays for more than 50 years. |
| 46 | Architecture | In architecture, a turret is a small tower that projects vertically from the wall of a building, such as a medieval castle. At first, turrets were used as lookout towers for defense. As their military importance faded, turrets became decorative features on buildings. |
| 50 | Vocabulary | <i>Casbah</i> is an Arabic word, meaning citadel, or fortress. |
| 51 | People | The man wore a black Zorro-like mask. Who was Zorro? What did his mask look like? |
| 51 | Emotion | Christina put her arms around all the kids. What was Christina trying to show everyone by this gesture? |
| 55 | Vocabulary | A <i>landmark</i> is an object or feature of a landscape or town that is easily seen and recognized from a distance. What are some landmarks you know of in your town? |
| 60 | Math | The capitol dome is a convex shape, which means that the surface or outline is curved like the exterior of a circle or sphere. What else do you know of that has a convex shape? What is the opposite of convex? |
| 61 | Literature | Brer Rabbit is the main character in the Uncle Remus stories collected by writer Joel Chandler Harris. He is a tricky character who succeeds by his wits rather than by his brawn, or strength. |

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- 61 Pop Culture The conga line is a Cuban carnival march that was first developed in Cuba and became popular in the United States starting in the 1930s. Dancers form a long line and move with the beat of the music. How do you think the kids’ “cloak and dagger conga line” looked? Act it out.
- 65 Literature Do you know the story of Brer Rabbit and the Tar Baby? Have someone tell the story. What is its meaning?
- 73 Culture The High Museum of Art is the leading art museum in the southeastern United States. It has more than 12,000 works of art in its permanent collection. Have you ever been to an art museum? What did you like most?
- 77 History Piedmont Park is a large urban park about two miles from downtown Atlanta. At first the land was used as a place for fairs and expositions. But in 1904, it was turned into a public city park. Today, the park is a popular place for events, swimming, fishing, picnicking, and playing.
- 79 Nature Storza Woods is one of the last mature hardwood forests in Atlanta. Atlanta has been known as a city of trees, but many trees have been cut down due to development. What is a hardwood forest? What do you think it means to be one of the last mature hardwood forests? Would you like to walk through this forest?
- 81 Figure of Speech What does the term “quick as a bunny” mean? How do you think Leah ran?
- 89 Natural History Mimi and the kids went to Fernbank Museum of Natural History. What is meant by “natural history”? What would you expect to see at a museum of natural history?
- 89 Vocabulary Mimi interviewed the *curator* of the museum. A curator is a person who is in charge of a museum or zoo. Do you think that would be a good job? Why or why not?
- 90 Prehistoric History Grant backed into a fossilized crocodile. What do you think that is? Have you ever seen any fossilized creatures?

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- 95 History The Atlanta Cyclorama is a painting that is 42 feet tall and 358 feet in circumference. The foreground of the painting is a large-scale diorama with figures of wounded and fighting soldiers in a battle landscape. German artists worked in three groups to paint the cyclorama: landscape painters, figure painters and animal painters. The artists came to Atlanta in 1885 (21 years after the battle) and studied the site where the Battle of Atlanta took place from a 40-foot tower they built. Then, they painted the cyclorama in studios in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. It was completed in 1886. It toured large cities in the United States and was brought to Atlanta in 1892, where it has stayed ever since. The painting has been repaired many times. The last restoration was in 1979-1982 when the Cyclorama building also was updated.
- 95 Vocabulary *Panoramic* refers to a picture, a photograph, or in this case, a painting containing a wide view of an area.
- 96 Food Mimi bought everyone a bag of peanuts at the zoo. Georgia is the number one producer of peanuts in the United States, and Georgia peanut farmers provide more than 45 percent of the U. S. peanut crop each year. Probably the most famous Georgia peanut farmer is former President Jimmy Carter, who ran his family's peanut farm and businesses before being elected Georgia's governor in 1970 and U. S. president in 1976.
- 99 Food Mimi and the kids ate "soul food" on Auburn Avenue. Have you ever eaten soul food? What did you eat?
- 100 People Martin Luther King, Jr. was born in Atlanta's Sweet Auburn neighborhood in 1929. He was a Baptist minister and a civil rights activist who promoted using nonviolent methods to gain civil rights. He led the 1955 Montgomery Bus Boycott and the 1963 March on Washington where he delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech. In 1964, he became the youngest person to receive the Nobel Peace Prize. He was assassinated on April 4, 1968, and is buried at the King Center on Auburn Avenue.

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- 103 History Pharmacist Dr. John S. Pemberton created the formula for a flavored syrup that could be mixed with carbonated water and sold at soda fountains. His business partner and bookkeeper, Frank Robinson, is credited with naming the drink, Coca-Cola. The first Coca-Cola was sold for five cents per glass at Jacob's Pharmacy in Atlanta. It was initially sold as a medicine that would cure a variety of illnesses. During the first year, the partners sold an average of nine servings of Coca-Cola per day in Atlanta. Today, it is estimated that 1.6 billion servings are sold per day around the world!
- 104 Pop Culture A soda fountain is a device that dispenses carbonated drinks. The name also refers to a small eating area, usually a counter, that could be found within a pharmacy during the 1800s and early 1900s. A soda fountain mainly served soda beverages, like Coca-Cola, and ice cream.
- 108 Art The sculpture on Stone Mountain is said to be the largest high relief sculpture in the world. The carved surface measure 3 acres. The carving towers 400 feet above the ground, measures 90 x 190 feet, and is recessed 42 feet into the mountain. Three sculptors worked on the carving. Work started in 1916 and stopped and started several times over the next 56 years. The carving was completed in 1972.
- 108 People The figure on the far left of the Stone Mountain carving is Confederate President Jefferson Davis. Davis, who was born in Kentucky, was a Democratic U. S. senator representing Mississippi before the Civil War. He was elected President of the Confederacy in 1861 and served until the end of the war when the South was defeated. He was captured by Union forces on May 10, 1865 and eventually charged with treason. Though he spent some time in jail, he was never tried.
- 108 People The figure in the middle of the carving is Confederate General Robert E. Lee. He was the commanding general of the Confederate army during the Civil War. General Lee surrendered to Union General Ulysses Grant at Appomattox Court House on April 9, 1865, marking the end of the war. Lee was recognized as the great Southern hero of the war and an iconic figure of American military leadership.

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- 108 People The figure on the far right is Confederate General Stonewall Jackson. Jackson was the best-known Confederate commander after General Lee. He was shot accidentally by his own troops at the Battle of Chancellorsville in May 1863. His arm was amputated and it was thought he would survive, but he died eight days later of pneumonia. His death was a serious blow to the South and its morale. He became an icon of Southern heroism.
- 109 Vocabulary The word *savages* refers to people who are regarded as primitive and uncivilized.
- 109 Figure of Speech The Indians on the train did a “frenzied war dance.” What do you think that looked like?
- 110 Nature Underbrush is the term for the very small shrubs and seedling trees that form the lowest height level of plant life in a forest. Have you ever walked on icy underbrush? What did it sound like? What can you compare it to?
- 115 Figure of Speech What is meant by a “bank of fog?” What do you think it looked like to Grant? How would you have felt if you were in Grant’s place on the side of the mountain surrounded by fog?
- 120 Vocabulary Grant began *embellishing* the drama of his rescue from Stone Mountain. What does that mean? Pretend you are Grant. What would you say?
- 121 Climate Since Atlanta is in the southern United States, it does not receive much snow. Some winters have no snow at all, so when snow falls in Atlanta, it is a major story. When it does snow, the average is about 2.5 inches. In 2010, Atlanta had its first “White Christmas” since 1882.
- 124 Transportation The Pink Pig is a monorail. That term is used to describe a railroad in which the track consists of a single rail, typically elevated, with the trains suspended from it or balancing on it.
- 126 Vocabulary Christina doesn’t think it was a *coincidence* that one of the men chasing them on Stone Mountain was on top of the capitol dome. What does she mean by that?

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- 128 Vocabulary *Barricades* are improvised barriers erected across a street or other passageway to prevent or delay someone or something's ability to get around. What kind of barricades do you imagine were placed around the Pink Pig ride? How do you picture this scene?
- 131 Science Christina says that "Au" is the symbol for gold on the periodic table of the elements. The periodic table of the elements is a tabular display of the 118 known chemical elements. The elements are arranged in order of atomic number and grouped on the table according to certain properties of their atomic structures.
- 132 Vocabulary If someone looks *menacingly* at you, how do they look? What is the opposite of menacingly?
- 133 Government A dozen GBI agents came out from behind the Great Tree with Santa Claus. GBI stands for Georgia Bureau of Investigation. The GBI is an independent statewide agency that provides assistance to the state's criminal justice system.
- 135 Vocabulary An *accomplice* is a person who helps another person commit a crime.
- 135 Figure of Speech Santa said they solved the mystery in the "nick of time." What does that figure of speech mean? What was about to happen to the shipments of Coke?

Discussion Questions

1. In the very first chapter of the book, Papa, Mimi, Christina, and Grant are getting a bird's-eye view of downtown Atlanta from the rotating restaurant on top of the Westin Peachtree Plaza Hotel. Discuss some of the things they see. What things are previews to places they will visit later in the book? What do they see that is a preview of the mystery to come?
2. Mimi and the kids go to Underground. Underground is a location unique to Atlanta. Discuss how Underground came to exist. Would you like to visit Underground? Do you think it would be spooky or fun? Why?
3. Discuss all the things you learned about Atlanta and the Civil War by reading the book, including Solomon Luckie, the Battle of Atlanta, General Sherman, and the Confederate heroes carved on Stone Mountain.
4. Atlanta not only has Civil War history, it also has an extraordinary history in civil rights. Discuss Martin Luther King, Jr. and his connection to Atlanta. Why is he such a great historical person?
5. Have you ever been in a scary or a life-threatening situation, like Grant was in when he fell down Stone Mountain? Discuss any other ways Grant could have gotten away from the bad guys.
6. How do you feel about Mr. Black Trenchcoat? Did you think he was going to be one of the bad guys or did you have a feeling he was trying to protect the kids? How do you feel about him bugging Grant and using the kids to lure the bad guys? How do you think Mimi felt about it?

Bonus Info!

Atlanta Civil War Facts

Jan. 19, 1861—Georgia secedes from the Union.

Vital Transportation Hub—Several major railroads converge in Atlanta. Many roads radiate out from Atlanta, connecting it to nearby towns and states.

Fortifications—Confederate troops build a series of redoubts (forts) around the town (sites include present-day Fox Theatre to the north and Grant Park, where Cyclorama and Zoo Atlanta are now located, to the east), as well as earthworks, trenches and rows of abates.

July 22, 1864—Battle of Atlanta—Confederate forces fall back into the town, and Gen. William T. Sherman's troops begin siege of Atlanta, which lasts until Confederate troops withdraw from the town.

Sept. 1, 1864—Confederate Gen. John Bell Hood's troops burn supply houses and evacuate Atlanta.

Sept. 2, 1864—Mayor James Calhoun surrenders the city.

Nov. 15, 1864—Union troops burn train depot and all other war resources and begin Sherman's March to the Sea.

Geography: Find It!

1. Find Georgia on a map of the United States. Now, find Atlanta. Find your location on the map. Plan a trip to Atlanta. How will you get there? Use a highlighter to trace your journey. How many miles will you have to travel?
2. Use whatever resources you have to find the longitude and latitude of a location. What is the longitude and latitude of the Georgia State Capitol in Atlanta? What is its elevation?
3. Write a report on the geographical features of Atlanta. Use the Internet and any books you have to find information. The Eastern Continental Divide, the Piedmont Plateau, the Chattahoochee River, and the Alabama Chattahoochee Flint (ACF) River Basin are all things you should consider in your report.
4. Use books and the Internet to find some of the geographical and geological characteristics of Stone Mountain. Find Stone Mountain on a Google Earth Map (it is to the east of the town of Stone Mountain, Georgia). Look at Stone Mountain's relationship to Atlanta. Zoom in on the map and look all around it. See if you can find the carving of the Confederate heroes. It is a very small portion of the mountain, but if you look carefully, you should be able to distinguish it. Hint: It's on the north face of the mountain.

Bonus Info!

Stone Mountain Facts

Stone Mountain is a quartz monzonite (igneous rock) dome monadnock (an isolated hill, ridge, or erosion-resistant rock rising above a more or less level land surface).

Elevation—825 feet.
Covers 583 acres. The top is 1,686 feet above sea level.

Base—The mountain is more than 5 miles in circumference at its base.

Plant life—There is very little plant life on the top, just bare rock and rock pools where rainwater collects. Lower slopes are wooded. The rare Georgia oak grows on the summit, along the trails and in the woods. The very rare Confederate Yellow Daisy grows in wooded areas and in rock crevices.

View—From the summit, you can see the Atlanta skyline, Kennesaw Mountain, and on a clear day, the Appalachian Mountains.

Carving—The carving is said to be the largest bas-relief sculpture in the world.

Mathematics: Calculate It!

1. Christina needed to buy 4 tickets to the tram on Stone Mountain. Each ticket cost \$7.95. How much money did the tickets cost? Christina had \$40. How much change did she get back?
2. Papa bought dinner for everyone at The Varsity. He ordered 5 slaw dogs for \$2.25 each, 1 pimento cheese sandwich for \$2.65, 6 Cokes for \$1.35 each, 2 orders of onion rings for \$1.90 each, 3 orders of chili cheese fries for \$2.70 each, and 4 peach fried pies for \$1.69 each. How much did Papa owe?
3. Snatch the deliveryman needed to deliver 100 cases of yellow Coke to The World of Coke, 50 cases to Zoo Atlanta, 30 cases to Fernbank, 45 cases to the High Museum, and 74 cases to the Atlanta Botanical Garden. How many cases of yellow Coke did he put in his delivery truck?
4. Mr. O'Hare needed \$525,000 for his political campaign. If each bottle of gold was worth \$300, how many bottles of gold did he need to sell?
5. At Zoo Atlanta, the kids counted 25 flamingos, 6 panda bears, 5 lemurs, 2 lions, 4 giraffes, 18 monkeys, and 3 tigers. How many animals did they count?

Bonus Info!

Atlanta by the Numbers

Atlanta was first named Terminus (1837), then Marthasville (1843), and then Atlanta (1847).

The city has a total area of 132.4 square miles. It is 1,050 feet above mean sea level.

According to the 2010 census, Atlanta's population is about 420,000. The population of the Atlanta Metropolitan Area is more than 5 million people.

Atlanta contains the country's third largest concentration of Fortune 500 companies. It is the world headquarters of Coca-Cola, CNN, Delta Air Lines, The Weather Channel, Home Depot, UPS, and Turner Broadcasting, among others.

The 1996 Summer Olympics took place in Atlanta.

Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport is the world's busiest airport.

English: Write It!

1. Write a book report on *The Awesome Atlanta Mystery* and include the following information. What is the setting? Who are the main characters? What is the plot? What is the climax of the story? Is there a theme or a big idea that the author is trying to get across? What do you think it might be? What is your favorite scene? Did you like the book? Why or why not?
2. Who is your favorite character in the book? Write a paragraph describing that character (physical description and character traits). What are his/her strengths and weaknesses? How is the character important to the plot of the story?
3. Pretend you are traveling through Atlanta. Write a travelogue about your adventures. Draw pictures to describe where you go and what you see.
4. Pretend you are a reporter visiting Zoo Atlanta. Write a news story about your trip. Be sure to include journalism's Five W's (Who, What, When, Where, and Why – and sometimes How) when writing your article. Write a sidebar article about your favorite animal at the zoo!
5. Research one of the many well-known people who have lived in Atlanta. *The Awesome Atlanta Mystery* mentions Martin Luther King, Jr., Margaret Mitchell, and Joel Chandler Harris. Write a report about the person. Add a paragraph at the beginning of your report describing why you chose that person. When you are finished, make a poster with an illustration or photo of the person.

Bonus Info!

Elements of a Story

Every story has to have several essential elements.

Setting—where and when the story takes place

Characters—the people in the story

Exposition—background information on characters and setting explained at the beginning of the story; sometimes called the backstory

Plot—what happens in the story; all major events that occur; all the action

Conflict—the problem faced by the characters

Climax—when the conflict of the plot is resolved

Resolution—the end of the story

Theme—a general idea or “universal truth” that is derived from the story

Vocabulary: Use It!

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

1. A thing that is a complete failure
ACISFO I _____
2. To undermine the power and authority of an established system
VSETUBR U _____ R _____
3. Done just to be mean
CISIMULOYLA
_____ C O _____
4. Handwriting or print that is clear enough to read
GEELLIB L _____ E
5. A dramatic piece with exaggerated characters and exciting events
DEMAAMLOR
_____ E _____ M _____
6. Curved or rounded like the outside of a sphere or circle
VONEXC O _____
7. The time of someone or something's greatest success or popularity
YEDHYA H _____
8. A lot of harsh, unpleasant noise
OCONPCAHY
_____ C _____ Y
9. Bitterness or resentfulness
CNORRA _____ N _____
10. Able to be touched or felt
EPPLBLAA _____ L A _____

Bonus Info!

Atlanta Trivia

Atlanta is the capital of Georgia and the county seat of Fulton County.

Atlanta has a humid subtropical climate. Atlanta is nicknamed "Hotlanta" because of its climate.

The airport code for the Atlanta airport is ATL. The Chattahoochee River runs through Atlanta.

Atlanta is the only city in North America destroyed by a fire as an act of war.

The Eastern Continental Divide runs right through downtown Atlanta. Rainwater that falls on the south and east side of the divide runs eventually into the Atlantic Ocean while rainwater on the north and west side of the divide runs into the Gulf of Mexico.

Atlanta is one of only two cities in the world to be home to two Nobel Peace Prize winners: Martin Luther King, Jr., in 1964 and former President Jimmy Carter in 2002.

Art: Create It!

1. Draw a picture of your favorite character in the mystery! If you want, you can draw them in your favorite scene in the story. Compare your drawing to someone else's drawing who has chosen the same character.
2. Make a short comic book about Christina and Grant's visit to Atlanta. Pick 3 of your favorite scenes from the book to illustrate, including scenery, characters, and dialogue.
3. Christina and the kids had a close encounter with a giant panda at Zoo Atlanta. Find a picture in a book or on the Internet and draw a large-scale giant panda or some other animal you would find at the zoo. Write a short paragraph about the animal's characteristics. Have all students cut out their animals and make a "zoo" bulletin board or wall. Place the paragraph about each animal next to its picture.
4. Draw your favorite scene from *The Awesome Atlanta Mystery*. Discuss that scene in front of the class and explain why that was your favorite scene. (A variation of this is to go through the book and select one scene for each person in the class to draw. When they are finished with the drawings, let the students tell the story of *The Awesome Atlanta Mystery* by discussing the drawings, or "scenes," in order.
5. Use modeling clay to create your own miniature model of Stone Mountain. Sculpt Stone Mountain's three figures on one side of your model. Use craft items like green pipe cleaners, construction paper, and toothpicks to make trees to go around the base of the mountain.

Bonus Info!

Atlanta People

Atlanta has been home to many well-known people. Here are a few of them:

- President Jimmy Carter—39th president of the United States, Nobel Peace Laureate, Governor of Georgia
- Martin Luther King, Jr.—civil rights leader, Nobel Peace Laureate
- Margaret Mitchell—1937 Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Gone With the Wind*
- Ted Turner—founder of CNN; former owner of the Atlanta Braves
- Hank Aaron—in baseball's Hall of Fame, Major League Baseball's home run leader from April 1974 to August 2007
- S. Truett Cathy—founder of Chick-fil-A
- Bernie Marcus—co-founder of Home Depot
- Julia Roberts—actress
- Ryan Seacrest—TV/radio personality
- Evander Holyfield—heavyweight boxing champion
- Bobby Jones—only player to ever win golf's Grand Slam

Science: Cook It!

Grits are not eaten in many parts of the United States, but they sure are popular in Atlanta and the rest of the South. Use uncooked, old-fashioned grits in each of these recipes, rather than any type of instant grits.

Simple Breakfast Grits

3 cups water
½ teaspoon salt
1 cup uncooked grits
freshly ground black pepper
1 tablespoon butter
½ cup shredded sharp Cheddar cheese (optional)

Bring water and salt to a boil in a saucepan. Whisk in grits and continue to whisk for 1 minute. When mixture comes to a boil again, turn heat to low. Stir frequently; cook 10 to 15 minutes. Remove grits from heat and add pepper and butter and cheese if desired; mix well. Stir until butter and cheese are melted.

Baked Cheese Grits

6 cups water
2 ½ teaspoons salt
1 ½ cups uncooked grits
½ cup butter or margarine
4 cups (1 lb) shredded Cheddar cheese, divided
3 eggs, beaten

Combine water and salt in a saucepan; bring to a boil. Stir in grits; cook until done, following package directions. Remove from heat. Preheat oven to 350°. Add butter and 3 ¾ cups cheese; stir until completely melted. Add a small amount of hot grits to eggs, stirring well. Stir egg mixture into remaining grits. Pour grits into a lightly greased 2 ½ quart baking dish; sprinkle with remaining ¼ cup cheese. Bake for 1 hour and 15 minutes. Yields 8 servings.



Bonus Info!

Love Those Peanuts!

Peanuts, the world's most popular nut, is one of the top ten cash crops in the United States. Georgia is the fourth-largest producer of peanuts in the world! On the average, each American consumes about three and a half pounds of peanuts each year.

Peanuts can be purchased raw in the shell, shelled with red skins intact, or shelled and blanched with red skins removed. Most often, however, people buy processed peanuts—peanuts that are either roasted in the shell, roasted and salted in the shell, boiled in brine, oil roasted, oil roasted and salted, or dry roasted.

Half of all edible peanuts in the United States are roasted and ground to make peanut butter. The average American eats 6 pounds of peanut butter a year.

Peanuts are not nuts; they are legumes, like beans and peas. The peanut plant is unusual because it flowers above the ground, but fruits below the ground.

Activities

News Flash!

CNN is a global, 24-hour news network based in Atlanta. Pretend you are a CNN news team and produce a live newscast about *The Awesome Atlanta Mystery*.

1. Choose a scene from the book that would make a good news story. (Consider Chapter 25 when Christina, Grant, Leah, Philip and all the other characters are on the roof and have solved the mystery.)
2. Choose classmates to be the news director, a news reporter, the news anchor(s), a cameraman and sound person, and any people the reporter needs to interview to get the story. If you choose Chapter 25, interviews could include any of the kids, Mr. Black Trenchcoat, Mimi and Papa, or any bystanders who witnessed the action. Maybe there are characters who are not in the scene that the news anchors could interview in the newsroom, like the mayor, or a Coca-Cola public relations person, or the store manager whose pyramid of Cokes was knocked over.
3. Discuss questions the news reporter needs to ask in order to get the story—the who, what, when, where, and why of the story.
4. Build a studio “news set.” Arrange tables and chairs to create a set for broadcasting the news. In another part of the room, use whatever props you need to create the “remote location” where the action takes place.
5. Write scripts for the news anchors about the “Breaking News” at Lenox Square in Atlanta.
6. Action! Take your places and perform the live newscast!
7. Afterwards, discuss the newscast. Watch a CNN newscast and compare your efforts. Would you like to work for a news organization some day?

Activities

The Awesome Atlanta Mystery Word Search

Search for the mysteriously hidden words below!

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

WORD BANK

ATLANTA
CANOPY
CAPITOL
CIVIL WAR
COKE

CYCLORAMA
DOME
GOLD
GREAT TREE
M. L. KING

MUSEUM
MUSTANG
PANDA
PEANUTS
PIEDMONT PARK

PINK PIG
POLITICIAN
SKATEBOARD
STONE MOUNTAIN
ZOO

Chapters 1-4 Worksheet

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

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

1. cacophony
2. heyday
3. reconversion
4. legible

Answer the following questions using complete sentences.

5. What was the big rock that Grant pointed out from the restaurant on top of the hotel?
6. According to the newspaper, what were workers doing on top of the capitol dome?
7. What was the man in the elevator wearing on his lapel?
8. Who got on the MARTA bus right before Mimi and the kids?

Write T for True and F for False.

9. ____ The man with the hairy hand took Grant's homework.
10. ____ Christina got her fortune from an old gypsy walking through Underground.

Chapters 5-9 Worksheet

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

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

1. maliciously
2. fiasco
3. convex
4. melodrama

Answer the following questions using complete sentences.

5. What did Mimi and the kids discover once the police came on board the bus?
6. What type of car was the man in the black trench coat driving?
7. Who had the piece of paper the men were looking for?
8. What dance did the kids do in the Fox Theatre and again in their hotel room?

Write T for True and F for False.

9. ____ The friendly bus driver dropped Mimi and the kids off at the Fox Theatre.
10. ____ The men in the Fox Theatre demanded that Grant give them the piece of paper he found in the elevator.

Chapters 10-13 Worksheet

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

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

1. entourage
2. pirouetted
3. palpable

Answer the following questions using complete sentences.

4. Who were the kids surprised to see at The Wren's Nest?
5. What did Grant ride down the ramp at the High Museum?
6. What was in the Coke bottles the man was delivering to the museum?
7. Who did Christina notice following them through the Atlanta Botanical Garden?

Write T for True and F for False.

8. ____ Grant got to read the news on CNN and everyone cheered.
9. ____ Mimi rode Grant's skateboard through Piedmont Park.
10. ____ Storza Woods is one of the last mature hardwood forests in Atlanta.

Chapters 14-17 Worksheet

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

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

1. curator
2. panoramic
3. diorama

Answer the following questions using complete sentences.

4. Who played baseball on a field down the street from Mary Mac's Tea Room?
5. Who does Grant recognize delivering Cokes at the Fernbank Museum of Natural History?
6. What did the kids view at the Atlanta Cyclorama?
7. What animals did the kids decide to see first at Zoo Atlanta?

Write T for True and F for False.

8. ____ Mimi, Papa, and the kids ate some tea and scones at Mary Mac's Tea Room.
9. ____ The Coke deliveryman chased the kids through a darkened Fernbank Museum.
10. ____ The kids noticed a yellow Mustang cruising by everywhere they went.

Chapters 18-21 Worksheet

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

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

1. kiosk

2. underbrush

Answer the following questions using complete sentences.

3. Who was born and is buried in an Atlanta neighborhood called Sweet Auburn?

4. What did the attendant at the soda fountain not let Grant taste?

5. What did the kids decide to ride first at Stone Mountain?

6. After he slipped down the mountain, Grant realized he was perched on whose ear?

Write T for True and F for False.

7. _____ Christina believes Mr. Black Trenchcoat helped them find their way out of the panda's cage because he thinks they have the note.

8. _____ At the World of Coke, Christina loved the Coke product that tasted like licorice.

9. _____ The carving on Stone Mountain is of Southern Civil War heroes Gen. Ulysses S. Grant, President Abraham Lincoln, and Gen. William T. Sherman.

10. _____ In a maintenance shed at Stone Mountain, the kids find another clue.

Chapters 22-26 Worksheet

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

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

1. monorail
2. accomplice
3. rancor
4. subvert

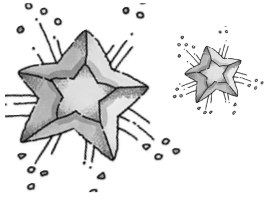
Answer the following questions using complete sentences.

5. What does Christina ask Mimi to let the kids ride at Lenox Square?
6. Who do the kids spot walking through the mall?

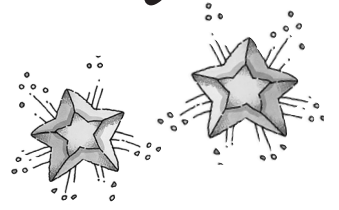
Write T for True and F for False.

7. ____ Grant was rescued off the mountain by the robbers and Indians.
8. ____ Christina figures out that Mr. Black Trenchcoat has been stealing the gold off the capitol dome.
9. ____ On top of the Macy's roof, the kids run into the real Santa Claus.
10. ____ Grant blurts out the reconversion process to the men and they take off with the gold.

The Awesome Atlanta Mystery



Vocabulary End-of-Unit Quiz



NAME: _____

DATE: _____

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

WORD BANK

CACOPHONY

CONVEX

FIASCO

HEYDAY

LEGIBLE

MALICIOUSLY

MELODRAMA

PALPABLE

RANCOR

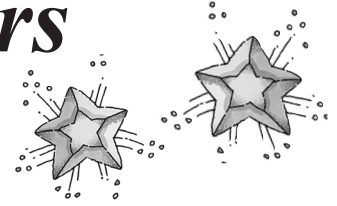
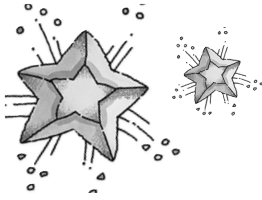
SUBVERT

1. Grant threw away the clue because it wasn't even _____.
2. A player piano, a miniature calliope, and the tinny clang of the monkey's cymbals all added to the _____ at the emporium.
3. Mr. Black Trenchcoat was sorry that he had bugged Grant and used the kids as bait to _____ a plot and convict a criminal.
4. Mimi and the kids were headed to the Fox Theatre on the bus when the bus-jacking _____ occurred.
5. The man grinned _____ at Christina through the rearview mirror.
6. Old photographs of Atlanta in its _____ of horses and carriages were displayed on the walls of Underground.
7. The man swore with _____ that the entire scheme was O'Hare's idea.
8. As they walked through the garden, Christina had a _____ sense that the men were staring a hole straight into her back.
9. The kids laughed at the thought of such a _____ as a guy in a Zorro mask dueling with Brer Rabbit at the Krispy Kreme.
10. Workers stood on the _____ side of the capitol dome cleaning the gold.

The Awesome Atlanta Mystery

Matching Characters

End-of-Unit Quiz



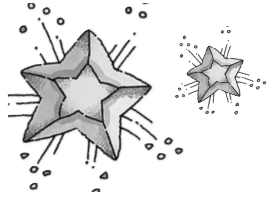
NAME: _____

DATE: _____

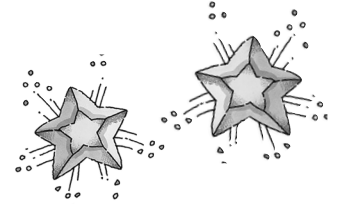
Match the mystery characters with their descriptions.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| _____ 1. Papa | A. Likes to run |
| _____ 2. Mimi | B. Was also Snatch |
| _____ 3. Christina | C. Took the note that Grant threw away |
| _____ 4. Grant | D. Was running for political office |
| _____ 5. Leah | E. Used to ride the Pink Pig when she was a little girl |
| _____ 6. Philip | F. Wanted to get a head start on Christmas shopping |
| _____ 7. Mr. Black Trenchcoat | G. Appeared on television two times |
| _____ 8. Mr. Smooth Voice | H. Confronted the kids in the Fox Theatre |
| _____ 9. The Coke deliveryman | I. Studying Civil War at school |
| _____ 10. Mr. O'Hare | J. Dressed up like Santa Claus |

The Awesome Atlanta Mystery



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



NAME: _____

DATE: _____

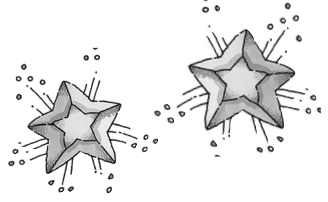
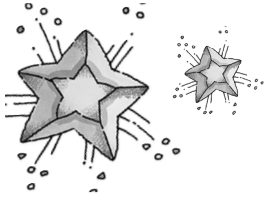
Fill in the blanks to complete the following:

1. From the top of the Westin Peachtree Plaza, Mimi, Papa and the kids watched workers repairing what?
 C I
2. This is where the engineer of the Western and Atlantic Railroad drove a stake into the ground.
 R P
3. Grant found a note about this type of process.
 U V O
4. In Atlanta, there are dozens of streets named this.
 A E
5. This car played a big part in the story.
 Y T
6. This is where the kids played cloak and dagger.
 F T
7. Grant found a campaign flyer after he skateboarded along this at the Atlanta Botanical Garden.
 P L
8. Christina had a run in with this at Zoo Atlanta.
 A P
9. Grant took a flying leap off of this big rock.
 T N
10. The kids came face-to-face with this on top of the snow-covered roof of Lenox Square.
 T R T

The Awesome Atlanta Mystery

True or False

End-of-Unit Quiz



NAME: _____

DATE: _____

Write T for True and F for False.

- _____ 1. Stone Mountain is one of the largest exposed pieces of granite in the world.
- _____ 2. The Georgia capitol dome is sheathed in gold panned from Northern California.
- _____ 3. Five Points in downtown Atlanta is where two old Creek Indian trails once intersected, the Pitch Tree Trail and the Sandtown Trail.
- _____ 4. Underground is a place to go spelunking in Atlanta.
- _____ 5. The Varsity in Atlanta is the world's largest drive-in restaurant.
- _____ 6. The Wren's Nest is the home of Joel Chandler Harris, who wrote down stories he had heard as a boy about Brer Rabbit.
- _____ 7. Christina and the kids ended up in the giant panda cage because they were trying to get away from Mr. Black Trenchcoat.
- _____ 8. Martin Luther King, Jr., was born in a house on Auburn Avenue, one of the most historic African American streets in America.
- _____ 9. When Grant missed the cable car down Stone Mountain, he called the park rangers.
- _____ 10. The kids missed the lighting of the Great Tree because they were riding the Pink Pig.

Answer Key

Page 15, Mathematics: Calculate It!

1. \$31.80 owed, \$8.20 change; 2. \$40.66;
3. 299 cases; 4. 1,750 bottles; 5. 63 animals

Page 17, Vocabulary: Use It!

1. fiasco; 2. subvert; 3. maliciously;
4. legible; 5. melodrama; 6. convex; 7. heyday;
8. cacophony; 9. rancor; 10. palpable

Page 22, Chapter Worksheet (1-4)

5. Stone Mountain; 6. cleaning and repairing it;
7. a campaign button; 8. a new driver; 9. T;
10. F

Page 23, Chapter Worksheet (5-9)

5. Grant was gone; 6. a mustard-colored Mustang;
7. Christina; 8. cloak and dagger;
9. F; 10. T

Page 24, Chapter Worksheet (10-13)

4. Mr. Black Trenchcoat; 5. his skateboard;
6. mustard-yellow Coke; 7. two men; 8. F;
9. F; 10. T

Page 25, Chapter Worksheet (14-17)

4. the Atlanta Crackers; 5. the man who snatched his homework;
6. panoramic painting of the Battle of Atlanta; 7. the giant pandas; 8. F;
9. T; 10. T

Page 26, Chapter Worksheet (18-21)

3. Martin Luther King, Jr.; 4. yellow Coke;
5. the scenic railroad; 6. Gen. Robert E. Lee;
7. T; 8. F; 9. F; 10. T

Page 27, Chapter Worksheet (22-26)

5. the Pink Pig; 6. Snatch and the bus-jacker;
7. F; 8. F; 9. F; 10. F

Page 28, Vocabulary End of Unit Quiz

1. legible; 2. cacophony; 3. subvert; 4. fiasco;
5. maliciously; 6. heyday; 7. rancor;
8. palpable; 9. melodrama; 10. convex

Page 29, Character Matching End of Unit Quiz

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

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

1. capitol dome; 2. zero mile post;
3. Au reconversion; 4. Peachtree; 5. yellow Mustang;
6. Fox Theatre; 7. Canopy Walk;
8. giant panda; 9. Stone Mountain;
10. the Great Tree

Page 31, True/False End of Unit Quiz

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