

# Online Information

## The Mystery at the Ancient Pyramids

# Fascinating Facts

## Egypt

- The Suez Canal in Egypt allows ships to travel from Europe to Asia without going around Africa! It takes a ship between 11 and 16 hours to pass through the canal.
- The Nile River overflows its banks every year in the spring. The flood is a good thing, though—it deposits rich soil good for farming.
- Tooth decay was a big problem for ancient Egyptians! Experts believe that desert sand found its way into the flour they used to make bread. The sandy bread wore down their teeth, leading to infections!
- Ancient Egyptians (both men and women) wore makeup such as green eye shadow, blush, and black eyeliner! They also wore jewelry and wigs.
- Before a body was mummified in ancient Egypt, the brain was carefully removed through the nose! Ouch!
- Women in ancient Egypt had almost as many rights as men. This was very unusual in the ancient world! Egyptian women could own property, buy and sell things, and even ask for a divorce!
- Greyhounds were used as hunting dogs in ancient Egypt. Don't look now—there's a greyhound gaining on you!



# Online Quiz

## The Mystery of the Ancient Pyramid

### Fact or Fiction?

Write Fact or Fiction next to each question below.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Camels have an extra eyelid to keep the sand out of their eyes.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Mimi has a necklace with her name written in hieroglyphs.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Christina and Grant found the first mysterious note in the airport restaurant when they first arrived in Egypt.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Grave robbing is not a serious crime in Egypt.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Christina was afraid to ride a camel when she and her family were visiting the pyramids.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Mummies were buried with things they might need in the afterlife.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Christina was extremely frightened after the man spoke to her from behind the columns in the Great Hypostyle Hall and warned her to give up trying to solve the mystery.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. The weather is never hot in Egypt.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Christina and Grant got to sleep under the stars on a ship called a felucca.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. When Grant dropped cheese and crackers on the floor in the mummification lab, mice came out and frightened the mad archaeologist.



# Online Book Club

## The Mystery at the Ancient Pyramids

### Talk About It!

1. Does Egypt seem like an exotic country to visit? If you live there, what country seems "exotic" to you?
2. Why does Christina get so interested in archaeology? What things lead us to be interested in certain careers?
3. Would you like to travel around the world with interesting grandparents and help solve mysteries?
4. What parts of this story do you think the author made up, and what parts are actually factual?
5. Why do you think Christina is so headstrong and determined to solve the mystery without any help from adults? Do you think she is brave...or foolish?
6. Why did the author let Grant tell funny King Tut riddles?
7. Did you think Grant was clever to get the mice to come out and scare the mad archaeologist?
8. What did you learn about Egypt that you did not know before?
9. If you have read other Carole Marsh Mysteries, what did you learn about Grant and Christina that you did not know before?
10. If you wrote your own "real kids/real places" mystery, what real place locale would you choose for the setting?



# Online Book Club

## The Mystery at the Ancient Pyramids

### Bring It To Life!

1. Make pyramids! Use your geometry tools and skills to cut squares and triangles and build some pyramids. These could be tabletop individual pyramids made from index card stock, or larger pyramids for the floor built out of heavier cardboard. Decorate the outside of the pyramids.
2. Using the Hieroglyph Alphabet provided, have each student write their name in hieroglyphs. You can draw these on card stock, color, cut out, and string on black cord to wear around the neck.
3. Make a pyramid cake by baking a sheet-style poundcake, cutting out a square and triangle and "gluing" together with frosting. Then frost the entire outside of the cake with a light cocoa frosting or white frosting tinted with food color. You can add a green frosting oasis and blue frosting lake around your pyramid if you wish.
4. Play Egyptian or Arabic-style music and have students get some aerobic activity by belly-dancing, whirling like a dervish, or walking like an Egyptian.
5. Draw a King Tut style headdress and cut out the center "face" so that students can put their face in and have their pictures made!
6. Have students make up and tell their own King Tut or other Egyptian-based riddles.
7. Host a "Thousand and One Nights" storytelling session. Let students write and illustrate a story based in Egypt, then take turns telling their stories aloud, one per day.

