

Online Book Club

The Mystery of the Northern Lights

Bring It To Life!

1. There are almost as many legends of the Northern Lights as there are groups of Inuit Indians. Imagine living in the subpolar region. Make up your own legend to explain the Northern Lights. Illustrate it and share.
2. Use what you've learned about totem poles to draw your own. Explain its purpose and the story it tells. Be sure to include animal figures.
3. The Capilano Bridge was originally a way for the owner of the land to more easily walk around his property. Research: 1) who purchased the land; 2) why he purchased the land; 3) what the Capilano Bridge was originally made out of; 4) how the land is used today; and 5) what other structures have been added.
4. Write an alternate ending to the mystery, beginning with these words in Chapter 20: *"Excuse me, Papa, I really need to go to the bathroom!" cried Grant. "I'll go with him!" offered Christina. She didn't want to risk losing Grant in the huge park.*
5. One of the totem-pole clues led the kids to Tom Thompson's totem pole in Algonquin Park. A poem was attached to the back of the totem pole. Choose a person, place, thing, or idea from the book to write a poem about. Examples might include Grant, Horseshoe Falls, the Calgary Stampede, syrup, or bravery.



Online Quiz

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Fact or Fiction?

- _____ 1. Canada is located north of the United States.
- _____ 2. The Hopewell Rocks in the Bay of Fundy are nicknamed “Flowerpot Rocks.”
- _____ 3. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police wear distinctive green uniforms.
- _____ 4. French is the official language of the province of Quebec.
- _____ 5. All of the kids except Christina participated in the EdgeWalk attraction at CN Tower.
- _____ 6. The Canadian part of Niagara Falls is known as Horseshoe Falls.
- _____ 7. Canada is made up of ten territories.
- _____ 8. The Northern Lights appear only in different shades of green.
- _____ 9. Chuckwagon racing is one of the events at the Calgary Stampede.
- _____ 10. Canada is the largest country in the world.



Online Information

The Mystery of the Northern Lights

Fascinating Facts

1. In 1716, Edmund Halley theorized that the Earth's magnetic field and the Northern Lights were somehow connected.
2. *Aurora borealis* comes from the Roman goddess of the dawn, Aurora, and the Greek word *boreas*, which means "wind of the north."
3. Ancient folktales suggested that the aurora can create faint noises like static, clapping, or crackling. Recent scientific research recorded clapping sounds during an aurora display—showing that the folktales just might be true!
4. At the poles, the Earth's magnetic field is weaker, so the Sun's negatively charged particles sometimes enter our atmosphere and collide with the oxygen and nitrogen in our atmosphere.
5. Solar wind particles that collide with oxygen in our atmosphere produce green and yellow light, while nitrogen makes red, purple, and blue light.
6. Jupiter and Saturn also experience auroral ovals on both hemispheres.
7. In 1989, people living as far south as Florida could see the Northern Lights because of a geomagnetic storm on the Sun.
8. Because the International Space Station and the Northern Lights are at the same height in space, the astronauts see the Northern Lights from the side.
9. Ancient cave paintings depicting the Northern Lights have been found in France.
10. In North America, the best places to watch the Northern Lights are in Alaska and in the northwestern parts of Canada, particularly the Yukon, Nunavut, and Northwest Territories.



Know your SAT Words!

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SAT Words



1. covert
2. exhilaration
3. precariously
4. statuesque
5. unkempt

Write a sensational sentence using all five SAT Words from this mystery.



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Talk About It!

1. Koda and Anana's grandfather tells the Labrador Inuit legend of the Northern Lights. Talk about why different Inuit groups across Canada might have different legends to explain the Northern Lights.
2. Discuss the role Two Words plays in the mystery. How would the mystery be different if he weren't in the book?
3. Christina felt like she had to prove to Grant that she was brave enough to go on the EdgeWalk at CN Tower, even though she was afraid. Have you ever been in a situation like that? If so, what did you do?
4. For ten days out of the year, people from all over the world participate in the Calgary Stampede, an annual rodeo, exhibition, and festival that showcases the western culture of cowboys, horses, cattle, etc. What do you like about western culture, and why?
5. Pretend that you are a famous mystery writer on a book tour. Discuss what you would write in the books to your fans and how you would sign your name.
6. Grant says, "Blood is thicker than syrup." What does he mean by this? Do you agree with the original expression, "Blood is thicker than water?"
7. Grant chose to keep the last clue that was attached to the jar of syrup. Discuss why Grant did this and whether you support his decision.
8. Which of the activities in the mystery would you most like to do? Examples might include visiting the Bay of Fundy, experiencing the EdgeWalk at CN Tower, shopping at the RÉSO, or crossing Capilano Bridge. Which would you least like to do?

