

Online Book Club

The Golden Gate Mystery

Book Club Activities!

1. Origami can have many different meanings, depending on the shape of the origami. Look up the different meanings of origami on the Internet. Find an origami shape that you like. Create that piece of origami and present it to your book club.
2. Create a treasure chest out of a shoebox or another box and put special things in it! Hide it in a secret place, like in your closet, under your bed, or in another special place. Present a list of possible hiding places to your book club. See if anyone can guess where you hid your chest!
3. Have a Chinese feast during your book club meeting! Ask parents to help you make a Chinese dish or order some items from a Chinese restaurant. Get some chopsticks! Tell everyone that they must eat their food with chopsticks, or at least try!
4. How far are you from San Francisco? Use the Internet to find out how far away San Francisco is from your town. Then, draw a map of the United States on a piece of poster board. Draw a line from your town to San Francisco. Write the mileage above the line. Would you like to drive there or fly there on an airplane?
5. Create your own newspaper! Pretend you are a newspaper reporter. Write a news account of an earthquake in San Francisco. Explain what happened, and then write another story about how the people joined together to rebuild the city after the quake.



Online Information

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Fascinating Facts

San Francisco

- Levi Strauss invented denim jeans in San Francisco during the Gold Rush. He created them for the miners who needed tough, comfortable clothing.
- The last prisoners on Alcatraz Island were released on March 21, 1963. Alcatraz means “pelican” in Spanish.
- Cable cars are the only moving National Historic Landmark. About 10 million people ride the cars every year!
- The first fortune cookie was baked in San Francisco at the Japanese Tea Garden.
- The Golden Gate Bridge has been closed three times due to high winds around 70 mph—in December of 1951, 1982, and 1983.
- America’s first Chinese immigrants arrived in San Francisco in 1848.
- San Francisco is known for tart, crusty sourdough bread, created by French baker Isidore Boudin during the Gold Rush.
- During the summer, the infamous fog has been known to linger on the shore for days!
- San Francisco is one of the most popular tourist destinations in the United States. Over 17 million people visit the city every year!
- The original Spanish name for San Francisco was *Yerba Buena*. It means “good herb.”





Fact

or

Fiction

The Golden Gate Mystery

Write Fact or Fiction next to each sentence below.

- _____ 1. Grant and Christina arrive in San Francisco on a clear, sunny day.
- _____ 2. The Golden Gate Bridge was named for its shiny gold color.
- _____ 3. Although lots of people went to California for the Gold Rush, only a few found real gold.
- _____ 4. Fortune cookies were invented in China.
- _____ 5. Another name for Alcatraz is "The Tank."
- _____ 6. The name of the Investigative Reporter for the San Francisco Star is Amanda Royal.
- _____ 7. Fort Point was built during the Revolutionary War.
- _____ 8. Tang Wong used his skills a trained ninja to "disappear" as the Golden Gate Bridge ghost.

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Pop Quiz!

1. What item did Grant find in the crack in the ground at Alcatraz?
2. Which character was leaving the origami messages?
3. How did Grant, Christina, Lynn, and Scott escape from the jail cell at Alcatraz?
4. True or False? Grant's key opened the door at Fort Point.
5. Where did Mimi first meet Angela Reynolds, the reporter?
6. What reward did the girls receive for helping find Big Al?
7. Where did the kids find Angela Reynolds and the treasure?
8. Where were the kids when they felt an earth tremor?



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Book Club Questions!

1. How would you react if you saw something moving on a bridge in the middle of the night? What would you do?
2. Who is your favorite character in the book? Why? Which character is most like you?
3. Grant and Christina visited many places in San Francisco. Which one of those places would you most like to visit? Why?
4. Mr. Wong drove Grant, Christina, Lynn, and Scott around in a limousine. Have you ever taken a ride in a limousine? If so, where did you go?
5. Grant and Scott rode down Lombard Street on skateboards. Have you ever done an exciting and adventurous activity like that? If so, what did you do?
6. What was your favorite part of the book? Why was that part your favorite?
7. Grant and Christina used Morse code for help. Have you ever used Morse code or any other signal to contact someone else? If so, what did you use?
8. San Francisco has a lot of fog! Have you ever been in fog so thick you could not see anything around you? If so, how did that make you feel?
9. It was frightening when the brakes on the cable car suddenly stopped working. Have you ever been in a scary situation like that?
10. Mr. Wong's brother dressed up like the Ghost of the Golden Gate Bridge to get his job back. Do you think that was a very good idea? Did it work?



Know your SAT Words!

Mystery Name: **The Golden Gate Mystery**

SAT Words



1. Clandestine_____
2. Disclose_____
3. Inclination_____
4. Maverick_____
5. Reprieve_____

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



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Trivia

The Golden Gate Bridge is known as the bridge that couldn't be built. Check out these other interesting facts about the beloved bridge!

- Even though the bridge appears to be red, it is actually painted international orange!
- Including approaches, the bridge is 1.7 miles long.
- The total weight of the bridge is 894,500 tons. Now that's heavy!
- A net suspended under the flooring of the bridge during construction saved the lives of 19 men.
- Steel used in the bridge construction came from as far away as Pennsylvania.
- Due to high winds in excess of 70 mph, the bridge has been closed three times.
- On February 22, 1985, the one billionth car crossed the bridge.
- In February 1976, the bridge appeared as a backdrop on the cover of Rolling Stone magazine.
- A local newspaper referred to the bridge as a "thirty-five million dollar steel harp" on its opening day.

