

Online Book Club

The Mystery at Death Valley

Bring It To Life!

1. Put yourself in Scotty's Castle! Use the Internet to find pictures of Scotty's Castle and find out more about it. Pretend that you and your best friend get the chance to live there for a weekend. Write a journal entry about what you did, where you went, what you ate, etc.
2. Learn about life in the desert! Use the Internet to research what animals live in Death Valley. Choose your favorite creature. Draw a picture of it on poster board and write some facts about your animal. Present your animal at your next book club meeting!
3. Write about it! Write three other possible titles for "The Mystery at Death Valley." Let the book club vote on their favorite title.
4. Make up a story! Choose ten nouns, ten verbs, ten adjectives, and ten adverbs from the mystery book. Write them on the board. Assemble book club members in a circle. Go around the circle and make up a story about Death Valley Scotty using the chosen words. Remember, he had a pretty exciting life! Each member will use the next word on the list to keep the story moving.



Online Quiz

The Mystery at Death Valley

Pop Quiz

1. What decision led Juliet Brier's family to get lost in Death Valley in 1849?
 - a. followed a band of Native Americans to find water
 - b. took a shortcut around some mountains
 - c. followed an out-of-date map
2. Erin's home was in which state?
 - a. North Carolina
 - b. Florida
 - c. South Carolina
3. Scotty worked with what animals most of his life?
 - a. horses
 - b. dogs
 - c. cattle
4. Death Valley Scotty's real name was:
 - a. F. Scott Fitzgerald
 - b. Scott Walters
 - c. Walter E. Scott
5. Who paid to build Scotty's Castle?
 - a. Mr. Johnson
 - b. Dr. Stone
 - c. Death Valley Scotty
6. What is the lowest spot in North America?
 - a. Devils Tower
 - b. Bloody Gap
 - c. Badwater
7. What caused Erin to feel sick?
 - a. too much heat
 - b. a cold virus
 - c. not enough sleep
8. Scotty's dog was named:
 - a. Windy
 - b. Little Scotty
 - c. Wilbur



Know your SAT Words!

The Mystery at Death Valley

SAT Words



1. Emigrant: _____
2. Incredulous: _____
3. Instigate: _____
4. Itinerary: _____
5. Ominous: _____

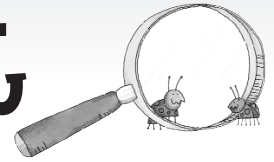
Write a sensational sentence using all five SAT Words from this mystery.



Online Activity

The Mystery at Death Valley

Scavenger Hunt



Want to have some fun? Let's go on a scavenger hunt! See if you can find each item either in the book or when you visit the real place. Good luck! *(Teachers: You have permission to reproduce this page for your students.)*

1. ____ A blanket
2. ____ A pothole
3. ____ Sunscreen
4. ____ A kiva fireplace
5. ____ A leather sofa
6. ____ A security guard
7. ____ Scotty's grave
8. ____ Menus in the shape of a saguaro cactus
9. ____ Rattlesnake juice
10. ____ A photograph of Death Valley Scotty



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Talk About It!

1. Mimi and Papa love to travel and see new places. Do you like to travel? If so, what places would you like to visit? Is Death Valley one of them?
2. If you were Juliet Brier, would you have agreed to wait in Death Valley while the men pressed on ahead? Do you think she made the right decision?
3. Erin wanted to go to the beach instead of Death Valley. Have you ever gone to a place that you didn't want to go to, and then had a really good time?
4. The book says that Death Valley Scotty had lots of talents. What are some of your talents? What talents do other people in your family have?
5. Mr. Johnson and Scotty were very different. For example, Scotty was a physically active person and lived an exciting life, while Mr. Johnson was physically weak and worked in an office. How did they help each other? Do you have friends that are different from you? If so, how do you help each other?
6. Why did Scotty brag about things that weren't true? Do you know people who do that? Why do you think they make things up?
7. Erin became ill from too much heat. Have you ever felt sick after being in the sun for a long time? What is something you should do frequently when you are out in heat and sun?
8. Dr. Stone told Erin that Scotty liked his small, three-room house better than the castle. Why do you think he liked it better?
9. Who was your favorite character in the book? Why?
10. If you have read other Carole Marsh mysteries, did you find this one different? What did you like about it, and what didn't you like?

