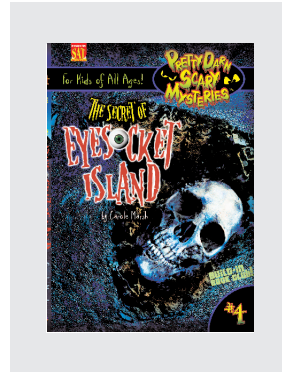


Teacher's Guide for:

THE SECRET OF EYESOCKET ISLAND

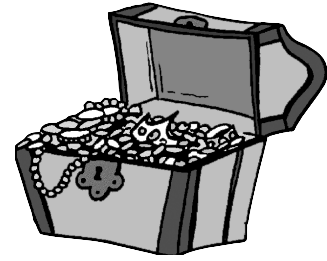
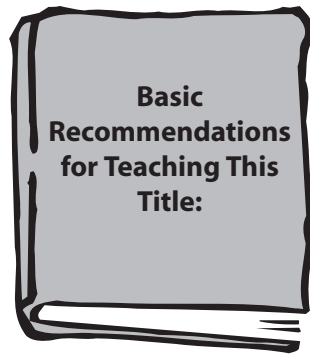
A Word From Carole Marsh



The Secret of Eyesocket Island is the fourth book in my new Pretty Darn Scary mystery series. This new series combines real locales and fascinating historical facts with a touch of intrigue, a splash of spooky situations, and a deliberate dose of life lessons!

My husband Bob and I have spent many hours exploring the coastal islands off the Carolinas and Georgia. I am always struck by the beauty of the islands, as well as their vulnerability to the pitfalls of modern development. And it's easy to see a mystery brewing in the twists and turns of the marshes, sounds, and rivers that run along the coast.

In this book, a twin brother and sister test their mettle in a quest to find a mysterious island that doesn't appear on any map. Along the way, they learn a lot about themselves and the people who call these islands "home." Readers will see how these characters take on a challenge, adjust to the situations they encounter, and in the end, trust their instincts!



- Because of the short chapter with intriguing endings, this book is a good choice to read aloud in class.
- Consider using some of the topics below to discuss after the chapter where the subject matter is mentioned.
- Ask students to select a subject for a short written essay, oral report, or a project. They can work in teams or individually. Subjects might include:

Animals and birds of the coastal barrier islands: Georgia's coast is home to many fascinating land- and water-dwelling creatures. What are some of these creatures? How do they live? What do they eat, and who eats them? How is the environment dependent upon them? How is the economy dependent upon them?

Sea life off the coast of Georgia: Many aquatic animals make their home in the waters off the coast of Georgia's barrier islands. Right whales, jelly fish, manatees, sea turtles, and dolphins are examples of the some of this marine life. Are any of these creatures endangered? If so, why? Have students choose a specific animal to research.

The biome of the coast: This is where the land meets the sea. It is a fascinating mix of various types of ecosystems. The Georgia coast is divided into the following ecosystems: coastal marine, barrier island, estuaries and sounds, mainland upland, rivers, and swamps. Have students research and report on one of these ecosystems. Discuss how manmade and natural factors affect this environment. How is erosion different from accretion? How do they affect the terrain?

People groups of the area: A variety of people groups have inhabited the areas in and around coastal Georgia, beginning with the natives, to Europeans (Spanish and English), to African slaves. How have these varied cultures—the histories, languages, and customs—affected the current culture(s) of coastal Georgia? Are there any examples of people still practicing their original culture today? Have students write about an imaginary "vision quest" that they might take.

Yummy chocolate: The original Chocolate Plantation was named for a Guale Indian village on the island named "Chucalate." This plantation was built in 1819 on Sapelo Island. Cotton and sugar cane were grown there. The original plantation buildings included a main house, a commissary, a barn, and slave houses. They were built out of tabby, which is made from oyster shells broken and burned over a grate, then mixed with sand and water. The result was a cement-like mixture that was very strong. The plantation's slave houses still stand today.



- See if your students can figure out the significance of the two characters' names (Simon and Frederica) in the story. "Simon" is the name of the most populated coastal barrier island, St. Simons. It was originally called *Guadalquini* after the Guale Indians who inhabited the area. The modern name came from the Yemassee Indian village of San Simon, which was abandoned in 1684. "Frederica" is the name of a river that runs through St. Simons Island, and was named for Frederick, the Prince of Wales. There is also a fort named for the river, where in 1742 the British fought the Spanish—and won—for control of the colony of Georgia.

- There actually was a nuclear bomb lost off the coast of Georgia! On February 5, 1958, a B-47 bomber carried a hydrogen bomb on a simulated combat mission. The plane collided with an F-86 fighter. The B-47 was damaged, but could fly. However, it could not land with the bomb on board because of the potential risk of detonation. So the plane was granted permission to drop the bomb into the Atlantic Ocean off the coast of Savannah. The Air Force could not find the bomb after a nine-week search, and declared it irretrievably lost. Since then, the bomb's precise location has not been discovered, although it is known to be close to Tybee Island. It is often referred to as the "Tybee Bomb."

- There are real wild horses that roam Cumberland Island, one of Georgia's coastal barrier islands. The horses were most likely brought over by 16th century Spanish explorers, and were either abandoned on the island, or shipwrecked there along shallow shores. The island is mostly undeveloped, designating it the nation's largest wilderness island.

- Another feral animal—animals once domesticated turned wild—is the feral hog. The hog also arrived with Spanish explorers in the 1500s. They spread from Florida into the Georgia colony by the 1700s. According to one account, James Oglethorpe ordered an execution of these wild hogs, because they destroyed earthen fortifications at Fort Frederica. Today, they still live in the coastal regions of the state, and are considered a nuisance because they damage crops and livestock. They also carry diseases. Hunting feral hogs is a sport encouraged by state wildlife authorities to control the population.

- Pirates were originally private boat owners hired by the English in the early 1700s to raid Spanish ships returning from the Americas. After the War of Spanish Succession ended in 1713, these pirates began doing their own raiding. They would often hide among the coastal waterways of Georgia. Edward Thatch, commonly known as "Blackbeard," was a famous pirate who supposedly hid treasure among these barrier islands.

Bibliography, Other Resources and Ideas!

- *The Longstreet Highroad Guide to the Georgia Coast & Okefenokee*, by Richard J. Lenz, is a guidebook for discovering the coastal barrier islands. He describes the history of the coastal islands, the animals, birds and plants that inhabit them, and the fragile ecosystem that sustains them.
- *The Georgia Coast: Waterways and Islands*, by Nancy Shwalbe Zydler and Tom Zydler, is a wonderful resource for exploring the coast of Georgia. This book provides information about flora and fauna of the area, maps and chartlets of the waterways, and guides to coastal activities such as fishing, sailing, hiking and cruising.

The coastal islands are a wonderful place to visit! Here are some great locations to see and explore. If you can't schedule a field trip to any of these fascinating places, then visit them on the internet.

- Jekyll Island State Park – Take tours of the various aspects of Jekyll history and culture, as well as the nature and wildlife of this beautiful island.
- Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary – Explore the live bottom reef located off the coast of Sapelo Island.
- Sapelo Island and Lighthouse – Visit this island that boasts a mere population of about 125 people.
- St. Simons Island – Take a salt marsh nature tour or go on a dolphin watch, visit the Pier, the Lighthouse, Neptune Park, or Fort Frederica.
- Cumberland Island – Camp in the Cumberland Island National Park, or visit the Greyfield Inn.
- www.stsimonsislandexperience.com
- www.gacoast.com
- www.coastalgeorgia.com



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THE GHOST OF PICKPOCKET PLANTATION

THE SECRET OF SKULLCRACKER SWAMP

THE MYSTERY AT FORT THUNDERBOLT