

# Online Book Club

## The Mystery on the California Mission Trail

### Bring It To Life!

1. Map it out! Draw a basic outline map of California. Label each of the 21 Spanish missions. Then, label a California city closest to each one. What do most of the mission locations have in common? Why were those locations chosen?
2. Create a mission! Start with a very large box, like an appliance box. Cut off one side of the box. Draw the front of a mission on the remaining middle section. Cut away the excess cardboard from the mission outline. Cut out bell towers, windows, and doors. Make little bells out of aluminum foil and hang them from the bell towers with thread or string. Stand your mission up by using the side panels for support. Finally, give your mission a name!
3. Put on a play! Ask for volunteers to portray some miners looking for gold in California. Dress the part—wear some boots, jeans, cowboy hats, and bandannas. Create a scene where the hard-working miners find gold! Eureka!
4. Write about it! Ask for volunteers to write a new ending for the mystery. Ask each volunteer to read his or her new ending to the group. Ask book club members what they think about each new ending! Which one do they like best? Why?





# Fact or Fiction

## The Mystery on the California Mission Trail

Write Fact or Fiction next to each sentence below.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. The Spanish built 21 missions in California.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Lupe is the name of Clara and Maria's mother.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Indians never attacked the California missions.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Grant noticed some mysterious shoe prints when he found the bell clapper at Mission Santa Bárbara.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Christina received clues to solve the mystery by e-mail.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. The missing mission bells were made of heavy iron.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Grant rescued Maria, Clara, and Christina from the storage closet where they were trapped.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. One of the California missions was built to keep the Russians out of California.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Grant's earthquake detector beeped just before the earthquake hit.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. The man who stole the bells was hoping to find a bell made of gold.

# Online Book Club

## The Mystery on the California Mission Trail

### Talk About It!

1. Who was your favorite character? Why?
2. What was your favorite part of the book? Why?
3. As you read the book, why did you think someone was stealing the mission bells?
4. Were you surprised to learn who had been sending all those e-mail messages to Christina? Who did you think was sending them?
5. What was the scariest part of the book? Why?
6. What did you think was causing the beeping in Grant's backpack?
7. Which mission would you most like to visit? Why?
8. What do you like most about reading mysteries?



# Write a letter!

Christina, Grant, Mimi, and Papa love to hear from their friends. Write a letter to your favorite Carole Marsh Mysteries Character. Mail your letter to:

Carole Marsh Mysteries  
PO Box 2779  
Peachtree City, GA 30269



Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_