

THE BIG BOOK OF MYSTERIES



AGE
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This bumper book of 95 packed pages explores over 100 real-life mysteries. These include disappearing people, UFOs, natural phenomena, undiscovered creatures, hoaxes, disappearing places, spirits & ghosts, mind over matter, intelligent ancestors and unexplained objects. An engaging book for anyone with a curious mind to browse and dip into. When introducing the book, choose an extract or two to read aloud. The Story of the Mary Celeste on page 16, for example, or The Nazca Lines on page 77.

AUTHORS

Tom Adams is an award-winning television producer and non-fiction author. With a science background, he was inspired to start writing children's books once his eldest son started asking questions about how the world worked. He lives in Kent with his wife and their three teenage sons.

ILLUSTRATOR

Yas Imamura is an Asian American illustrator living in Portland, Oregon. Her preferred materials are gouache and watercolour and often finds herself drawn to projects that are playful, mysterious and a little offbeat.

LINKS

Fascinating insight into the work of illustrator Yas Imamura: annacrowleyredding.com/2021/07/27/meet-the-illustrator-yas-imamura-and-the-magical-power-of-visual-storytelling/

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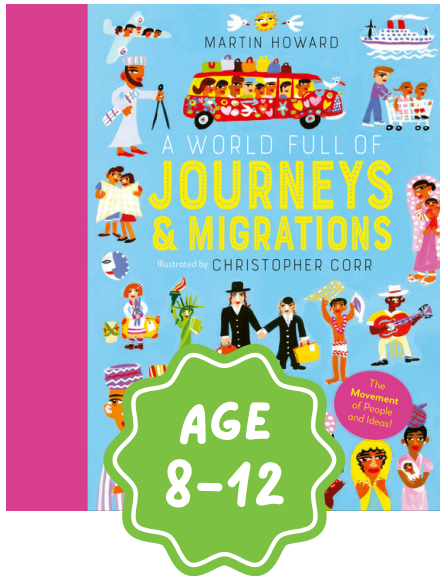
Fact or fiction? The introduction on page 7 warns the reader to 'beware of false evidence' ...'even though something appears on the internet, or on the television or even in a book, it's important to understand that it doesn't always mean it's true.' Use this as a starting point for a discussion about the importance of using reliable sources and checking information.

Writing inspiration 1. Almost any of the mysteries described could be used to inspire a piece of imaginative writing.

Writing inspiration 2. Choose a favourite mystery and do some more research about it, using other books, websites and articles. Use your research to create a new piece of non-fiction writing about the mystery, combining information from your different sources. Don't forget to list the sources at the end.

NOW READ ON

Real-life Mysteries: Can You Explain the Unexplained? by Susan Martineau & Vicky Barker, b small publishing, 2017. Award-winning book that investigates a fascinating collection of strange phenomena from around the world,
History's Mysteries: Freaky Phenomena: Curious clues, Cold Cases, and Puzzles from the Past by Kitson Jazyanka, National Geographic, 2018. One of a spine-tingling series about solving puzzles of the past.
Strange but True: 10 of the World's Greatest Mysteries Explained by Kathryn Hulick & Mr Gordy Wright, Frances Lincoln Children's, 2019. Perfect for students of the paranormal, aspiring myth busters and anyone with a curious mind.



A WORLD FULL OF JOURNEYS AND MIGRATIONS

A World Full of Journeys & Migrations is about the movement of people AND ideas! The stories are organised according to the five continents, with additional sections about the spread of storytelling, music and food, for example, as well as the journeys made by animals, plants and even diseases. When introducing the book, choose an extract to read aloud. The Story of Brick Lane on pages 68-69, for example, describes what each wave of new arrivals brought with them to London over time.

AUTHOR

Martin Howard is the author of many titles for both adults and children, including the Bad Dog's Diary series, The Wickedest Witch books and The Extraordinary Life of Neil Armstrong. He lives in France with his family.

ILLUSTRATOR

Christopher Corr is an established author/illustrator whose many books have won him international acclaim. He lives and works in London as an artist and tutor at Goldsmiths University. To view examples of his vibrant artwork visit christophercorr.com

LINKS

Watch a six-minute film which explains why all maps are wrong: youtu.be/kiID5FDi2JQ

Footprint template:

patternuniverse.com/download/footer-pattern

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Why we move Discuss the main reasons for people moving. Use the image on pages 6-7 as a point of reference. Can your class or group think of different examples from history or the present day?

Mapping the world Look at the map on pages 10-11. How does this look different from the view of the world we are more used to. Ask your pupils to find some of the different 'projections' of the world – the Mercator, the Peters and the Pacific-centred, for example. Discuss how they make us look at the world differently and ask which one they think is the most accurate. You might also want to watch 'Why All Maps Are Wrong' (in Links),.

Footprint art Create a border for a display to represent 'journeys' or 'migrations' using the footprint template (in Links). Decorate with maps, landscapes, transport, people, animals, plants, flags, etc..

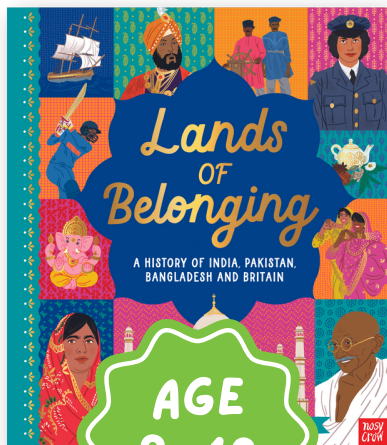
NOW READ ON

Migrations: Open Hearts, Open Borders, Various Authors, Otter-Barry Books, 2019. A book of postcard messages about human migration, showing how cultures, ideas and aspirations flow despite borders, barriers and bans.

Who are Refugees and Migrants? What Makes People Leave Their Homes and Other Big Questions, by Michael Rosen & Annemarie Young, Wayland, 2019. Thought-provoking, informative and relevant to what's happening in our world today.

Harriet Tubman: A Journey to Freedom by Sandra A Agard, Stripes Publishing, 2019. The remarkable story of a slave who led many to freedom on the Underground Railway (mentioned on page 89).

LANDS OF BELONGING



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Published for the 75th anniversary of the partition of India in August 2022, this book is a unique exploration of the rich and complicated history of India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Britain. *Lands of Belonging* is both a historical deep dive and a modern celebration of South Asian influence. Choose an extract to read aloud as part of your introduction to the book. For example, try *Inventive Ancient India* (pages 10-11) or *A Day in Your Life* (pages 42-43).

AUTHORS

Donna and Vikesh Amey Bhatt were inspired to write this book for their two young sons. Donna and Vikesh love exploring the past and are passionate about cultural representation in children's books. They live in London with their children and dog.

ILLUSTRATOR

Salini Perera was born in Sri Lanka and currently lives in Toronto, Canada with her husband and three cats. Having started to draw as a youngster, she now gets to make art for picture books, fulfilling her life-long dream!

LINKS

Teaching pack:

<https://nosycrow.com/resource/lands-of-belonging-ks2-teaching-resources/>

Short news report about the unveiling of the Sikh Troops war memorial in Leicester, which commemorates the sacrifices made by Sikh soldiers in the World Wars and other campaigns.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LF6bkkEh784>

Six-minutes animation which explains the 1947 Partition of India.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DrcCTgwbsjc>

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Chronological order. The information in this book is written in chronological order, with a timeline on pages 58-62 which summarises the key events. Practice using this useful approach to historical information by creating a timeline of some of the main world events from the last forty years. Alternatively, pupils could be invited to create timelines for their own lives, perhaps with the help of their family members.

Sports and games. Using the book, make a list of games and sports mentioned that have South Asian connections. Compare the merits of the different methods you use to find this information such as skim reading the book, or using the contents and index.

Kabaddi, one of the team games mentioned, which is extremely popular in South Asia. Have a go at playing it, following the instructions on page 49.

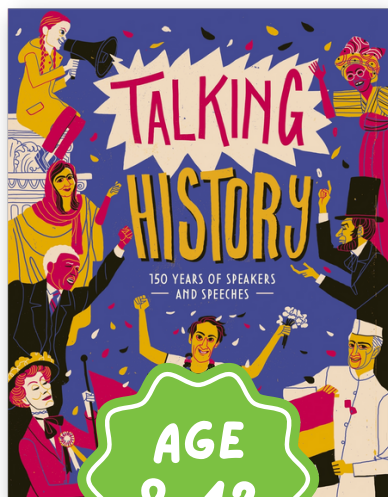
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India, Incredible India by Jasbinder Bilan & Nina Chakrabarti, Walker Books, 2022. A vibrant celebration of India's people and places, inspired by special objects retrieved from grandmother's trunk.

Princess Sophia Duleep Singh (My Story) by Sufyia Ahmed, Scholastic, 2022. Read the fictionalised story of a real-life princess and suffragette. (Mentioned on page 50).

Noor Inayat Khan (My Story) by Sufyia Ahmed, Scholastic, 2020. Read the thrilling story of a British-Indian World War Two heroine. (Mentioned on page 23).

TALKING HISTORY



Talking History: 150 Years of Speakers and Speeches contains the stories of 16 fascinating people, from different parts of the world, living in momentous times. Presented in contemporary graphic novel style, covering a wide range of important issues, this book will inspire a new generation of thinkers and talkers. Each of the speeches is allocated two double-page spreads which explore the events leading up to the speech, include quotes from the speech and reveal the impact of the speech on the world. When introducing the book select one of the speeches. Give a guided tour of the pages, reading some extracts aloud and point out the signposts to more information at the end of each section.

AUTHORS

Joan Haig was born in Zambia, but now lives in Scotland. Her first novel, *Tiger Skin Rug*, was nominated for the CILIP Carnegie medal and won the Foreword INDIES Book of the Year Award in 2021. She also edited *Stay at Home!* a collection of poems and prose for children living in lockdown. Joan Lennon was born in Toronto, Canada, but now in Scotland. She is an author of novels, short stories, poetry and most recently, non-fiction. Find out more here: <https://joanlennon.co.uk/>

ILLUSTRATOR

André Ducci is a Brazilian comic artist based in Italy. His illustrations for *Talking History* were drawn in pencil and then digitally coloured using Photoshop.

LINKS

Free downloadable classroom notes created by Templar Books: <https://joanhaigbooks.com/schools/talking-history-teacher-notes/>
Greta Thunberg's rousing 'How dare you' speech: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KAJsdgTPJpU>

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Downloadable activities. Look at the classroom notes provided by the publisher (see Links) and choose from the following activities: Speeches – How They're Made and How to Make Them; Geography – Around the World; History – Words Through Time; Technology; or Evaluating Information – Believe It or Not?

Watch and listen The book quotes from Greta Thunberg's 'Our House is on Fire' speech made in January 2019 (link in notes). Eight months later she made the 'How Dare You' speech at the UN Climate Action Summit in New York (see Links). Described as a 'blistering criticism of the world leaders' inaction on climate change.' Discuss how you think Greta has made a difference?

Design a banner based on one of your favourite quotes from the book.

NOW READ ON

The Extraordinary Life of Greta Thunberg (Extraordinary Lives) by Devika Jina & Petra Braun, Puffin, 2022. From a series of brilliant biographies for 7-12s.

Nelson Mandela: Little Guides to Great Lives by Isabel Thomas & Hannah Warren, Laurence King, 2022. From a series about amazing people from around the world and across history aimed at 7-10s.

Emmeline Pankhurst (History VIPs) by Kay Barnham, Wayland, 2016. From a series about famous Britons aimed at 9-11s.