Unsolved Mysteries

Do you enjoy watching TV shows like Law & Order, NCIS, or Cold Case? Do you think you have what it takes to investigate and solve crimes, even crimes that occurred many years ago? In this project, you will put your detective skills to work by analyzing historical documents including police records, interviews, and other materials to see if you can figure out “whodunit!”

Your tasks:

- Choose an unsolved mystery with your partner or group.
- Investigate! Read all the information provided and gather facts that will help you to solve the mystery. Record the key points to use in your PowerPoint presentation.
- Review the facts and make an educated guess (hypothesis) about who committed the crime!
- Create a PowerPoint presentation to share with your class about your mystery. Follow all the guidelines carefully.

Frequently Asked Questions (or everything you need to know about this project!)

1. What unsolved mysteries can we choose to investigate?
   - The Redpath Mansion Mystery
   - Explosion on the Kettle Valley Line
   - Death on a Painted Lake
   - Aurore!
   - Who Killed William Robinson?
   - Heaven and Hell on Earth
   - Jerome
2. Where do we find our information?
   All of the information for your project will come from the following Web site: http://www.canadianmysteries.ca/mysteries/indexen.html
   (You should watch the introduction and read all the information provided. Use the links on the top and right side of the page to gather all the information you need to solve the mystery. It would be a good idea to divide the sections between the members of your group so that you can cover all the material in a reasonable amount of time.)

3. What do we do with the information?
   You will need to keep a list of what you believe to be the important facts about your case. This is your evidence! You will use this information to explain the case to your peers (who will serve as the jury—they will decide whether you presented enough information to “convict” the person you accuse of committing the crime.)

   It’s a great idea to keep your evidence in a Microsoft Word document. (You can also use scratch paper if you wish.) Remember you will use the information to create your PowerPoint presentation.

4. How do we solve the mystery?
   With the evidence (information) that you collected, you will need to present a hypothesis (educated guess) about who committed the crime and why they did it. Make sure that you use your evidence to support your hypothesis.

5. What about the presentation?
   You will need to create a PowerPoint presentation so that you can present your unsolved mystery to the class. Please carefully read and follow the instructions when creating your PowerPoint presentation.

6. What if my group can’t work together?
   It’s important that you learn to work together in a group. Sometimes conflicts occur when you work with others. It is your responsibility as a group member to stay on-task and focused on your project. You will receive grades for on-task behavior while working in your group.
PowerPoint Guidelines:

Read all instructions carefully. As you complete each step, check off the task.

☐ Open PowerPoint and save a new slide show as LAST NAMES - UNSOLVED MYSTERY to the Grade 8 Presentations folder on the student apps drive. (You must save to the student apps drive so that your group can access your presentation in case someone is absent.)

☐ The minimum requirement for your presentation is 12 slides. (You may include more slides if you wish.)

☐ Use words and phrases on your slides; don’t use full sentences. (It’s too much information for your audience to read.)

☐ Don’t clutter your slides with too much text, clipart, or photos.

☐ Slide 1
  o Layout: Title Slide
  o Include the name of your unsolved mystery
  o Include the names of all members of your group
  o Use clipart or photos that compliment your layout

☐ Slide 2
  o Layout: Your choice
  o Title: Introduction
  o Provide a brief introduction of your mystery (tell your audience what your mystery is about)
  o Use clipart or photos that compliment your layout

☐ Slides 3 & 4
  o Layouts: Your choice
  o Title: The Crime
  o Give your audience specific details about the crime or mystery that occurred
  o Use clipart or photos that compliment your layout.

☐ Slides 5, 6, & 7
  o Layouts: Your choice
  o Title: The Cast of Characters
  o Describe the suspects in the crime or the people involved in the mystery. (Who are they? What was their involvement? What was the potential motive they had for committing the crime?)
You don't need to list everyone; just highlight a few of the most important people.
- Use clipart or photos that compliment your layout.

**Slide 8**
- Layout: Your choice
- Title: Hypothesis
- What does your group think happened? What conclusion did you come to about your mystery?
- Use clipart or photos that compliment your layout.

**Slides 9-10**
- Layouts: Your choice
- Title: The Evidence
- Support your hypothesis. Give your audience evidence that supports your conclusion to the mystery.
- Use clipart or photos that compliment your layout.

**Slide 11**
- Layout: Your choice
- Title: Wrap-up
- Provide a compelling conclusion to your mystery. Review the key facts and evidence that support your hypothesis.
- Use clipart or photos that compliment your layout.

**Slide 12**
- Layout: Your choice
- Title: Works Cited
- Provide references for any Web sites that you used to gather information or photos.

**Slide Design & Color Scheme**
- Choose a slide design that is complimentary to your presentation.
- Choose a color scheme that is complimentary to your presentation. (Remember, light colors on dark backgrounds, dark colors on light backgrounds)
- Make sure that your slides are not too cluttered with information or clipart.

**Slide Transitions**
- Apply transitions to your slide show
- For consistency, each slide should have the same transition.
Animation Scheme/Custom Animation
  o Add an animation scheme to the text on your slide. (For consistency, use the same scheme for your entire presentation.)
  o Custom animate some of the objects (clipart or photos) on your slides.

Project Guides are available to help you create your slides.
  o PowerPoint Tips and Tricks
  o “In Ten Steps or Less” guides
    ▪ Slide Design & Color Scheme
    ▪ Slide Transitions
    ▪ Animation Schemes
    ▪ Custom Animations

Submitting your Project:
  o Carefully proofread your project before submitting it for grading.
  o Save your project to the dropbox for your class period. (Save As—Student Apps drive—Dropboxes—Miss Sullenberger—Grade 8—Period 8 or 9)
Unsolved Mystery Descriptions

The Redpath Mansion Mystery

When shots rang out at the Redpath mansion in Montreal’s most elite neighborhood at 6 p.m. on June 13, 1901 and the servants found Ada Maria Mills Redpath dead and her 21-year old son dead, why didn’t they call the police? Only two shots were heard and yet three bullets were retrieved from the bodies. In this case, which might have served as the inspiration for the board game Clue, we get a voyeuristic look into the lives of the rich and famous as we try and find out what really happened?

Explosion on the Kettle Valley Line: The Death of Peter Verigin

An explosion on a rail car in October 1924 near Castlegar, British Columbia, took the life of Peter “Lordly” Verigin, the charismatic leader of the pacifist Doukhobor religious community. Eight others were also killed, including Verigin’s 17-year-old female companion and a member of the provincial legislative assembly. A host of theories sprang up to explain the explosion. Was it dissident Doukhobors upset with his worldly ways, nativists jealous of the success of the Russian immigrants, agents of the Canadian or B.C. government trying to undermine Doukhobor resistance to public schooling, Verigin’s own son, Soviet enemies, or merely an accident? To this day the explosion that rocked the Doukhobor community remains an unsolved mystery, a tragedy that throws an intense light onto Canadians’ attitudes towards immigrants in the interwar era.

Death on a Painted Lake: The Tom Thomson Tragedy

The death of Tom Thomson in the summer of 1917 has contributed to the mythic status of the painter as a rugged wilderness man, a sensitive genius whose life was cut short by cruel fate. For some, however, Thomson’s death has also become the focal point of an unresolved and complex set of mysteries. Was the drowning of the excellent canoeist on a calm July day accidental, or did it have some connection to a love triangle and a German American draft dodger hiding in the remote resort?

Aurore! The Mystery of the Martyred Child

Fortierville, February 1920, looked like a quiet Quebec village — fields blanketed with snow and wood stoves burning in the simple wooden houses grouped around a tall church spire. A peaceful scene — you might think. But in one house on the edge of the village, a young girl, only ten years old, was being beaten, whipped and burned. Who could have done this? How, in such a small village where everyone knew everyone else’s business, could such a thing not be noticed? Not until they were faced with a corpse. And why does this tragic case still haunt the collective memory of the Québécois?
Who Killed William Robinson?

When three Black men are murdered in the space of 18 months around 1868 on bucolic Salt Spring Island, alarm bells go off. Who is killing the Blacks of Salt Spring? A year later an Aboriginal man was charged, tried and hanged in short order for one of the murders, that of William Robinson. But did he really do it? Take a close look at the evidence.

Heaven and Hell on Earth: The Massacre of the “Black” Donnellys

The notorious Donnellys emigrated from Ireland in the 1840s with the hope of finding success in what would later become Canada. Yet, in 1880 the Donnelly farm was burned to the ground. The bodies of James, his beloved Johannah, their son Tom and niece Bridget were in the ashes, the victims of a vicious mob. Another son lay dead in a separate murder the same night. To this day, despite a great deal of evidence (including an eyewitness), no one has been found guilty of the crime. Many had no doubt “who done it”, but two trials ended without any guilty verdict. Was this a community taking justice into their own hands when the justice system failed, or was it mob rule terrorizing rural Ontario? Did the Donnellys deserve their fate? Why was there no justice for the Donnellys?

Jerome: The Mystery Man of Baie Sainte-Marie

“Jerome” is all the tombstone says. The marker in the cemetery at Meteghan, in Clare, Nova Scotia, is silent about who he was and where he came from, but the local folklore is not. On September 8th, 1863, a stranger was found on the beach of nearby Sandy Cove, alive but legless and mute. He lived nearly another fifty years, cared for by the people of Baie Sainte-Marie, and his story grew to include the mafia, pirate tales, European nobles, Civil War deserters... Who was this “mystery man” and how did he come to the shores of Acadia?