

EDUCATORS' GUIDE

MAGIC TREE HOUSE®

MERLIN MISSIONS

Night of the New Magicians



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ABOUT *Night of the New Magicians*

Merlin sends Jack and Annie on a mysterious mission to Paris, France, over a hundred years ago. There they must find four magicians and give them an urgent message from Merlin himself. When Jack and Annie land in Paris, they make their way to the 1889 World's Fair. Below the Eiffel Tower, built especially for the fair, there are thousands of exhibits from all over the world. But how will Jack and Annie find the magicians in the crowds of people? And who are the magicians anyway? Jack and Annie are about to find out in another adventure filled with history, magic, and amazing surprises!

CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS

They Could Do Magic

When Jack and Annie are whisked off to the time of the dinosaurs, they find themselves in the Cretaceous Period, A magician is defined as someone with “an extraordinary power or influence” (Merriam Webster). The four men who are the magicians in this story each developed something that was an engineering advance. Discuss with students how the inventions of Alexander Graham Bell, Thomas Edison, and Louis Pasteur still influence their lives today, focusing on why the men were viewed as magicians.

Have students write an update to these men, indicating how their own lives are better because of their inventiveness. Encourage them to use a news story format to describe how the invention played a role in a situation in their lives. Remind them to include the who, what, where, when, why, and how of the story and how the inventor's achievements started it all.

CURRICULUM: *Science • Social Studies • Language Arts*

World's Fair Wonders

A world's fair is an exposition of new products and inventions. Stage a “world's fair” in your classroom where students reveal the products they use. Have them research the origin of the product and make a display highlighting the product's history and uses. Encourage them to identify a new way that others can use the

specific product. Some products include televisions, telephones, automobiles, bicycles, backpacks, etc.

A world's fair is also an exposition of cultures from around the world. Have students research their cultural backgrounds and identify something to share that is a part of their family heritage. They then make a display featuring the tradition and item, and explain why it is important to the specific culture and to the rest of the world.

Since new inventions were highlighted at the world's fair, challenge students to invent something they think would be useful. They can make a model or draw a picture of a prototype of their invention, and demonstrate its use. Encourage them to plan a presentation that would convince the other students that they need this new invention.

CURRICULUM: *Science • Social Studies*

Parisian Pleasures

Jack and Annie travel to Paris in 1889. Have students use the information in this book and do other research to identify the sites and activities that made Paris so special in the late 19th century. Then have them make a travel brochure encourage others to visit the city.

A trifold format for the brochure might include a picture of the most significant feature of Paris in 1889 on the outside front cover; a description of the unique cultural aspects (food, entertainment, art, shopping) on the inside left flap; main 1889 Paris attractions to visit on the inside center; a possible three-day itinerary on the inside right cover; and a description on how to travel to Paris (with illustrations) on the back cover.

Readers who travel to 1889 Paris with Jack and Annie can send a postcard home. Have them draw a Parisian scene on one side of a 5" x 8" file card. Divide the back side of the card into two sections for a message to a friend or family member about their trip on the left side, and the address on the right side.

CURRICULUM: *Science Art • Language Arts*

Magical Secrets

Each of the magicians in this story had a secret. Make a magic hat for each magician from a gallon ice cream container. Cover the container with black construction paper, and make a construction paper brim to attach to the top (opening) of the container. Write one of the magician's magic secrets on each hat along with the magician's name:

GUSTAVE EIFFEL: "I have a taste for adventure and a love of work and responsibility."

LOUIS PASTEUR: "Chance favors the prepared mind."

THOMAS EDISON: "Genius is one percent inspiration and ninety-nine percent perspiration."

ALEXANDER BELL: "When one door closes, another door opens."

As a class, discuss the meanings of these secrets. Then, as students do something that reflects one of these magic secrets, they write a description of the situation on a construction paper rabbit with their name on the reverse side. On a regular basis pull a rabbit out of the magician's hat, and ask the students to share their magical moment with others.

CURRICULUM: *Social Studies*

Teaching ideas by Dr. Peggy A Sharp, a national children's literature consultant.

