Sci-Map Site
SFCC Earth and Space Science Museum

Name of Activity
Read: The Mary Celeste- An Unsolved Mystery from History

Before, While, or After?
Before You Go

Materials
Book: The Mary Celeste, An Unsolved Mystery from History by Jane Yolen and Heidi Elisabet Yolen Stemple
ISBN-10 : 0689851227
ISBN-13 : 978-0689851223
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pcntmarQSws

Procedure
Read the book, The Mary Celeste or listen to the youtube read along (link above)
Take notes on the "facts" of the case.
Think about what you know and need to know.
Discuss the case with friends and family to see if you can infer what may have happened. Form a lot of questions and try to solve the mystery.
VISIT THE Santa Fe College Earth Science Museum to see a real historical mystery collection.
THE WALLACE PREBLE COLLECTION - See photo in Supporting File 1 below.

The Science Behind It
The process of science is discovery. Science starts when you don't know the answer. Critical thinking skills are necessary to evalute data and understand what may have occured. While a lot of science is experimentation and observation in order to determine patterns that can become "laws", much of science, especially the science of Geology, is an evaluation of observations and evidence as to what has already occurred. Using critical thinking skills and looking at processes that occur now, we can apply what we know to infer what may have happened in the past. This principle is called Uniformitarianism and it assumes that things that happened in the past still happen by the same mechanisms now. By observing today we can infer the past history. This book does not answer the question about what happened. Science cannot definitively answer the questions about what happened to our Earth in the past. The best we can do is collect the most data and infer the best "story".
This book introduces the reader to the process of collecting data, inferring and determining the best "story".
In other words, this is a great book to introducing students to the real field of Science and getting them comfortable with practicing exploring a true unknown.

Post Image

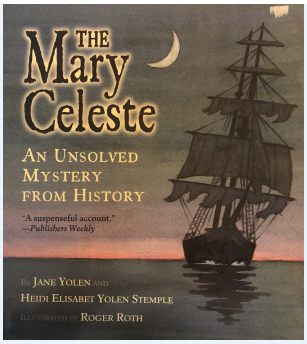

Photo of The Book The Mary Celeste - An Unsolved Mystery from History,

Supporting File 1 - Printable templates or additional information

- exhibit-background.png

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