

TO THE TEACHER

The short, high-interest reading passages in this book were written to capture the interest of readers who are not reading at grade level. The engaging “mini mystery” format encourages the reader to become a detective alongside the main character, as they work to solve each mystery.

The Flesch-Kincaid Readability Scale was used to determine the approximate reading level for each story. Use your own judgment to determine if the story is at an appropriate reading level for your student. Since the story is high interest, there may be vocabulary that the student is not familiar with. On the **Words to Know** pages, we have featured these words along with their definitions and a sample sentence. In some cases, students may need extra help pronouncing the names of the people, places, or things in the story.

Start with the **Before You Read** page. Take some time to discuss the **Background Information** with the student. This will help to set the scene for each mystery. A map skills activity can be added as students find where the story takes place on a map. **Find Out More**, which adds a research element, and **Make a Prediction** are extra activities to enhance learning.

After You Read engages students in the comprehension process of reading. These research-based activities follow state standards and incorporate some of the **Best Practices in Reading**.

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Introducing Inspector Tippington

Inspector Tippington is a world-famous detective who is retired from Scotland Yard. He is also an expert in world history. He has spent his life traveling around the world learning about the customs and cultures of the different countries he visits.

Along the way he has made many good friends. Now that he is retired, he is called to exciting places all over the world to help his friends discover the truth about perplexing mysteries.

Join Inspector Tippington as he follows the clues and solves each mystery!



Name: _____

Before You Read

To Start

1. Read about Inspector Tippington.
2. Read the title of the story.
3. Read the **Background Information**.
4. Get familiar with the **Words to Know** list.

Background Information

This story takes place at the Great Wall, which is located in the country of **China**. It was built by Chinese emperors over 2,000 years ago, and is over 4,000 miles long. The emperors wanted to protect their land from attackers from the north. In the end, many of the attackers just went around the wall. The Great Wall is the longest structure ever built by man. Astronauts can even see the wall from space!



Find Out More

Use the Internet, encyclopedia, atlas or other resource to answer these questions.

1. On what continent is China located?

2. Are there still emperors today? If so, where?

3. How was the Great Wall constructed?

Make a Prediction

Using the information from the title, the Words to Know list, and the Background Information, make a prediction about happens in the story. Write it on a separate sheet of paper. Then, read the story to find out if your prediction is correct.

Name: _____

Words To Know

ancient

very old; having to do with times long ago

*Example: Life was very different for people in **ancient** times than for people today.*

emperor

the ruler of an empire

*Example: An **emperor** ruled over the many countries that made up his empire.*

artifacts

old tools, weapons, cooking pots, and other things made by people in the past

*Example: **Artifacts** are sometimes found buried in ancient graves.*

docked

having tied a boat to a platform in the water

*Example: The captain **docked** his boat to get fuel.*

century

a period of time lasting 100 years

*Example: The bridge was built over a **century** ago.*

Choose two words from above and use each in a new sentence.

1. _____

2. _____

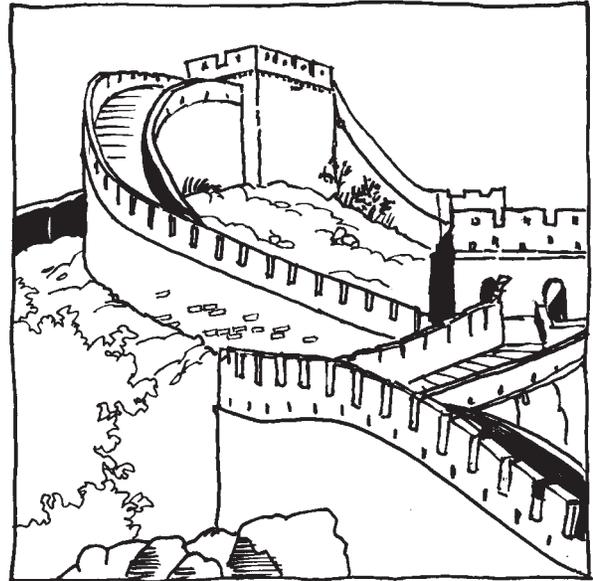
The Mystery of the Great Wall

Inspector Tippington received a phone call from his friend, Chian, a police officer in China.

“Inspector, I need your assistance please!” said Chian. “Someone is stealing blocks from our Great Wall!”

“I would be happy to help you Chian,” said Tippington. “I will book the first available flight.”

Tippington thought about the Great Wall on the plane. It was built in sections and took many centuries to complete. The emperors built it to protect their lands from attackers. Now it was a major tourist attraction for China.



After a long flight, Tippington finally arrived in China. He headed straight to the Great Wall.

“Look Inspector!” said Chian. There was a gap in the wall, and many of the stone blocks were missing. The blocks looked very heavy. Tippington saw some tire tracks in the mud.

“Let’s follow these,” he said. The tracks led all the way to a river where boats were docked.

“Now how are we going to find them?” asked Chian.

Tippington looked at the boats, and saw one that was floating low in the water. “Chian, what does that boat say?” he asked.

“It says *Huang’s Ancient Artifacts*. Why?”

Think about it...

Tippington knows who took the missing blocks. Do you?

Name: _____

After You Read

Drawing Conclusions

1. What clues led Tippington to the thief? _____

Cause and Effect

2. Why did Tippington go to China?
a. He felt like taking a trip.
b. His friend Chian called him.
c. The Wall fell over.
3. How did Chian know that part of the Wall was being stolen?
a. There were missing blocks.
b. There were tracks in the mud.
c. The Great Wall was so large.

Sequence

4. Number the events in the order they happened.
_____ Tippington finds the boats
_____ Tippington followed the tracks.
_____ Tippington saw the tracks.

Analogy

5. thief is to stealing as detective is to _____
a. running
b. crime solving
c. jumping

Name: _____

After You Read *(continued)*

Reading for Details

6. What did Tippington find in the mud near the wall?

Summarizing

7. Write two sentences to tell what happens in the story. _____

Fact or Opinion *(Write F for fact, O for opinion)*

8. _____ One of the boats in the river was floating low in the water.

Compare and Contrast

9. How are Chian and Tippington the same? _____

- a. They like to catch fish.
- b. They are both from China.
- c. They both want to catch the thief.

Predicting Outcomes

10. What might happen if the Great Wall thief was never caught? _____

- a. More of the wall would be missing.
- b. The blocks would be put back.
- c. Chian would go on vacation.