

Name:

Date:

Class:

Investigation of Mysteries



Go to www.euroclub-schools.org. Enter the Mystery Zone. Search for the answers to the following questions by clicking on the list of titles and reading the web pages.

1. Which ghost is believed to walk across the Bridge of Angels in Rome?

On which nights does the ghost appear?

2. Name the Frenchman who believed he could foresee future events.

In which year was he born?

In which format did he write his predictions?

3. Which Spanish portrait is considered to be mysterious?

Who painted it?

Which royal family is portrayed in the painting?

Why is it mysterious?

4. Which Italian woman was famous for preparing magic potions?

In which year was she born?

What is the name of the potion she created for eternal youth?

Which flowers were included in the recipe?

5. Which area of Italy is famous for its history of witches?

What is the name given to a witch from this area?

How do people protect themselves from these witches?

Name the liqueur that is produced in the town. What does the Italian name mean?

Which colour is the liqueur?

6. Which French mount is believed to be haunted?

The mount is named in honour of

What is interesting about the skull of *St. Aubert*?

Describe the area where the mount is situated.

7. Which interesting tree is situated in the town of *Magliano*, Italy?

How old is it?

8. Which novel was written by the French writer *Gaston Leroux*?

Where does the story take place?

Where does the main character live?

9. In Italy, which number is considered unlucky and why?

10. Where is the lake of *Baratz* situated?

According to a legend, what is hidden beneath the lake?

Why was the woman turned into stone?

11. According to a superstition, what should not be placed upside-down on an Italian dinner table?

12. Write any signs of the zodiac that have the same spelling in Spanish and English.



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NOTE: As an alternative to a written web quest, pupils could be asked to study the Mystery Zone web pages in preparation for an oral quiz in teams.

1. Which ghost is believed to walk across the Bridge of Angels in Rome? **Beatrice Cenci**

On which nights does the ghost appear? **On the nights of 10th and 11th September every year. This is the anniversary of her death. She was executed on the morning of 11th September.**

2. Name the Frenchman who believed he could foresee future events. **Nostradamus**

In which year was he born? **1503**

In which format did he write his predictions? **He wrote in quatrains (verses of four lines). The quatrains were grouped into a collection of one hundred verses known as *une centurie*.**

3. Which Spanish portrait is considered to be mysterious? **Las Meninas (The Ladies-in-Waiting)**

Who painted it? **Diego Velázquez**

Which royal family is portrayed in the painting? **The family of King Felipe IV of Spain.**

Why is it mysterious? **Nobody is certain what is actually taking place in the portrayal. The artist himself is portrayed painting at a canvas (a self-portrait) but it cannot be seen who is being painted on that canvas.**

There are many dimensions in the portrait with the possibility that we (the observers) are actually in the same pose as the king and queen who can be seen in the painting as a reflection on a wall opposite. This would mean that we are experiencing the same view as the posing king and queen. It is an experimental, multi-dimensional painting of the 17th century and the Spanish Golden Age.

4. Which Italian woman was famous for preparing magic potions? **Caterina Sforza**

In which year was she born? **1463**

What is the name of the potion she created for eternal youth? **Acqua Celeste meaning 'heavenly water.'**

Which flowers were included in the recipe? **Carnations. Elderflower. Red and white roses.**

5. Which area of Italy is famous for its history of witches? **Benevento**

What is the name given to a witch from this area? **Janara**

How do people protect themselves from these witches? **They sprinkle salt in front of their doors.**

Name the liqueur that is produced in the town. What does the Italian name mean? Which colour is the liqueur? **It is called *Strega*, meaning 'witch'. It is yellow in colour.**

6. Which French mount is believed to be haunted? **le Mont-Saint-Michel in Normandy**

The mount is named in honour of **the Archangel Michael**

What is interesting about the skull of *St. Aubert*? **It has a hole in it, believed to have been caused by the finger of the Archangel Michael.**

Describe the area where the mount is situated. **It stands on the sandy sea bed where the tides come rushing in and out. This means that the mount has two images: 1. It appears to be an island surrounded by sea. 2. It appears to be a high hill surrounded by sand.**

7. Which interesting tree is situated in the town of *Magliano*, Italy? **L'Olivo della Strega - the Witch's Olive Tree. It is believed to have magical powers.**

How old is it? **It is believed to be over three thousand years old.**

8. Which novel was written by the French writer *Gaston Leroux*? **Phantom of the Opera**

Where does the story take place? **The opera house of Paris called *Palais Garnier*.**

Where does the main character live? **Beneath the opera house.**

9. In Italy, which number is considered unlucky and why? **Number 17 is considered unlucky. In Ancient Roman times the numerals XVII represented the number 17. The same numerals (although in a different order) belonged to the Latin word VIXI meaning- I lived. Therefore, this group of numerals was associated with 'having already lived' and 'no longer being alive'.**

10. Where is the lake of *Baratz* situated? **Near to the town of Alghero, on the Italian island of Sardinia.**

According to a legend, what is hidden beneath the lake? **A submerged town. According to the legend, a tidal wave flooded the town. There is also a mysterious rock in the shape of a woman carrying a child and a basket.**

Why was the woman turned into stone? **She turned around to look at the town as it was being flooded. She had been warned by God not to do this.**

11. According to a superstition, what should not be placed upside down on an Italian dinner table? **Bread.**

12. Write the signs of the zodiac that have the same spelling in Spanish and English. **Aries, Cancer, Leo, Virgo, Libra.** (The Spanish version of **Cancer** has an accent over the letter a.)