

5 Mystery Solved!

- 1 Where do you think this statue is located? How do you think it got there? Do you think it's mysterious? Why or why not?
- 2 What is the strangest animal you have ever seen or read about?
- 3 Name three places on Earth that are considered mysterious. Which one would you most like to visit? Why?

Unit Outcomes

In this unit, you will learn to:

- use modals of possibility in the past, present, and future
- speculate about mysteries
- refute ideas
- use *wh*- questions to help you plan a story



Vocabulary

absorb to reduce the force of something; soak up or take in

aggressive acting in an angry or violent manner

case a situation or incident

clue something that helps you find the answer to a problem

mystery something that is difficult to understand or explain

observation the act of carefully watching someone or something

solve to find an answer to a problem or crime

surroundings the immediate area around you

theory a formal idea that is intended to explain something

twist to turn

uncover to discover something previously unknown or hidden

unharmed not hurt or damaged in any way

Usage: *Twist* is a verb, but it can also be used as a noun as it is below in **bold**. What is the meaning of that usage of *twist*?

A Use words from the list to complete the two stories below.

 Work with a partner.

Animal Mysteries

Sam the Parrot

Parrots are popular pets because they're friendly and intelligent.

Sandy, who recently married Ken, has a parrot named Sam. Sam was a loving pet . . . until about six months ago. He became (1) _____ and started biting Ken. Sandy can't understand why Sam has changed from a loving pet to an attack bird. There are few (2) _____ to explain Sam's behavior.

Can you help Sandy by solving this (3) _____?

PARROT FACTS:

- Parrots can "talk" (say short words) like people do. They do this to fit into new (4) _____.
- Parrots form close pair bonds. In the wild, a parrot couple can stay together for decades.
- We know that parrots feel that "three's a crowd."



Acrobatic Cats

We all know from personal (5) _____ that when cats fall, they almost always land on their feet. There are stories of cats surviving long falls out of building windows virtually (6) _____.

There's a **twist** to this story, though. In a recent study, veterinarian Michael Garvey (7) _____ a mystery about cats. He discovered that cats that fall a longer distance have fewer injuries than cats that fall shorter distances.

CAT FACTS:

- When cats fall, the first thing they do is twist their heads around quickly to straighten their bodies.
- Then, they completely relax their bodies.
- Finally, they land on all four feet in order to (8) _____ the impact.

B Work with a partner and answer the two questions below. Come up with a theory for each mystery.



1. Why did Sam's behavior suddenly change?
2. Why do cats that fall shorter distances have more injuries?