

How They Croaked by Georgia Bragg -- July 28 (Pages 1-34)

If you were a royal Egyptian mummy, how would you feel about people digging you up, robbing your grave, and doing tests on you? How would King Tut have felt? (Use your knowledge of ancient Egyptian beliefs.) (7)

Caesar's battle cry was "Happiness!" If you had a battle cry, what would it be and why? (12)

Many people are wrong about how Cleopatra died, but that isn't the only way history is wrong. What other stories from the past have been proven wrong? (Think Thanksgiving.) What does this tell us about our studying history? (23)

If there were native people living on the land that Columbus sailed to, can we really say that he "discovered" it or that it was the "New World"? Why or why not? (31)

How They Croaked by Georgia Bragg -- July 29 (Pages 35-66)

Why did doctors in the 1500's use such strange medicines and methods? What would they say of our medicines and methods today? (39)

What makes a good king or queen? A bad one? Would you rather live under a monarch than in our American democracy? Why or why not?

When Pocahontas saw London, she would have thought it was uncivilized. Why would she have thought this? Explain. (55)

Should Galileo have accepted the death sentence in order to stand up for his beliefs (that the Earth orbited the sun, rather than the other way around)? Would his dying have made a difference? Why or why not? (62)

How They Croaked by Georgia Bragg -- July 30 (Pages 67-98)

Is a piano player without fingers still a piano player? (Mozart essentially lost use of his fingers at the end.) Why or why not? (70)

Like Marie Antoinette, have you ever been blamed for something that wasn't completely your fault? How did that make you feel? What did you do? (78)

What would life be like if you were descended from a hated man like Napoleon? How much effect would that have on you? (95)

How They Croaked by Georgia Bragg -- July 31 (Pages 99-134)

Is a composer that can't hear still a composer? How? (105)

How did Poe's life influence his writing? If the people he loved hadn't kept dropping like flies, would he have written the same things and still be famous today? (113)

What do you think: Did fame make Charles Dickens crazy, or was he famous for being crazy? Can you think of any celebrities today that have this problem? (123)

What does it mean to be assassinated? How is it different from being murdered? (Once they answer that only famous people get assassinated..) Is being famous worth the risks? (131)

How They Croaked by Georgia Bragg -- August 1 (Pages 135-163)

Charles Darwin had agoraphobia. What is the difference between a phobia and a fear? Do you or someone you know have a phobia? (140)

Why is it so important that women study science right alongside men? (147)

Einstein once said, "There is only one road to human greatness: through the school of hard knocks." What did he mean? Do you agree? Why or why not? (159)