Motel
of the Mysteries
In 2013 a cataclysmic event of huge proportion extinguished virtually all forms of life on the North American continent.

Because of a reduction in postal rates, mail literally buried the North Americans under tons of brochures and fliers.

In less than a day, the most advanced civilization of the ancient world had perished.
IN THE YEAR 4022, HOWARD CARSON (AN ARCHEOLOGIST) SET SAIL TO EAST USA TO TRY TO CHIP AWAY AT THE GREAT RUBBLE LEFT BEHIND ON THE CONTINENT. ...

LESS THAN A MONTH LATER HE ARRIVED AMONG THE GREAT RUBBLE ALONG THE PERIMETER OF A DESERTED EXCAVATION SITE....
The ground below his feet suddenly gave way.

He found himself at the bottom of a great shaft...

Where he saw a tomb door.
CARSON, WITH HIS COMPANION HARRIET BURTON, BEGAN SEVEN YEARS' WORK OF EXCAVATION OF THE MOTEL OF MYSTERIES COMPLEX.

TOMB 26...
At first everything was dark.

"Howard, can you see anything?"

"Yes," he replied, "wonderful things!"
Seeing two pairs of shoes implied a double burial.

So he immediately began looking for another chamber.
The contents of the inner chamber were even more dazzling than those already discovered.
The excitement of the early days gave way to the drudgery of cataloguing and drawing each item in the tomb.
HARRIET PROUDLY STRODE AROUND THE SITE WEARING THE SCARED COLLAR AND MATCHING HEADBAND.
Slowly, a vast funerary complex began to emerge from the soil. The tombs, which had all been destroyed except, quite miraculously, for Number 26, lined both sides of a long ceremonial passage. At intervals along the passage were a number of large painted metal containers inscribed with the marking BEVER- AGES, in which coin hoards were discovered, and a few communal ICNFs.

The overall structure was laid out on the familiar "U" plan, and at the base of the "U" was the communal sanctuary. By far the largest and grandest rooms of the complex, the sanctuary contained a magnificent altar covered entirely in sheets of plantaia penjina or, as it was called by the ancients, "Pomena." Behind the altar and mounted on the wall stood a beautifully crafted unit that contained several rows of identical slots, each with a number apparently corresponding to a tomb. Offerings from friends and relatives of the deceased were probably placed in a particular slot once the tomb had been sealed.

Behind the sanctuary was the room in which the sacrificial meals were prepared. Beyond this area was the great courtyard, in the center of which was the ceremonial pool. Prior to the ceremony within the tomb, each body was apparently washed in the pool, which was also fed by the sacred spring. Specially marked funerary game areas intended to occupy the spirits of the dead during eternal life were located around the sacred pool and were accessible to each of the tombs through sliding panels.
TWO VOLUNTEERS BEGAN TO EXCAVATE THE GREAT SIGN.
The museum finally agreed to show the treasures from the motel of the mysteries in a major exhibition.
CARSON SPONTANEOUSLY PUT ON THE SACRED COLLAR AND CEREMONIAL HEADBAND AND PERFORMED THE RITUAL CHANT TO THE SACRED URN.
Thus for the past 32 years hundreds of pilgrims have flocked to the motel of mysteries...
THE TREASURES
THE SACRED SEAL

Constructed from plasticus eternicus.

It was placed upon the handle of the great outer door by officials following the closing of the tomb.
THE GREAT ALTAR

Everything in the outer chamber was directed toward this magnificent structure. It represents the religious communication as practiced by North Americans. It primarily communicated with the gods MOVIEA and MOVIEB.

Communication with the altar was symbolically continued into eternal life by placing the communicator box in the hand of the dead.
THE BELL SYSTEM

This percussion instrument was found near the statue of WATT. It may have been used to make connections with the gods. The Bell System was used by holding half of the instrument in each hand and banging them together in a pattern. The impact would cause a small bell on the inside to ring.
THE INTERNAL COMPONENT ENCLOSURE

This container stood on a table in the outer chamber. Made of plasticus petrificus it is most likely priceless. Since no trace of an internal organ was found in the ICE, its function as a Canopic Jar is merely symbolic.
SMALL RELIEF

This fine piece of workmanship served as a portable shrine. It's delicate inscriptions were intended to identify an individual's religious preference along with the burial site to which the body should be delivered.
A MOSAIC TILE

Ancient North American's covered the ceilings of their buildings with mosaics. Each tile was decorated with a series of perforations and then color was added by applying the occasional watermark.
MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

The two trumpets on the left were attached to the inner chamber. Music was played by forcing water through the trumpets under great pressure. The instrument on the right was probably of the percussion family, but the method of playing remains a mystery.
THE SACRED PENDANT

This piece of jewelry was found lodged in a hole in the floor of the sarcophagus. It is carved out of rubber and hangs delicately on a silver ring and a silver chain.
THE CEREMONIAL BURIAL CAP

This headdress was made for the deceased.
THE SACRED URN

This most holy of relics was discovered in the Inner Chamber. It was carved from porcelain and highly polished. The URN was the focal point of the burial ceremony. The celebrant would kneel before the URN and would chant into it while water from the sacred spring flowed to mix with the sheets of the sacred parchment.
THE SACRED COLLAR

This article was worn at the burial ceremony. One would place it over their head and wear it around their neck. Experts date this collar at A.D. 1979.
THE SACRED HEADBAND

Another priceless treasure, the Headband was worn to hold the sacred collar in place. The inscription on the front is the holy chant.
THE MUSIC BOX

This instrument was found about the SACRED URN. By pulling the handle, the flow of water would create a simple musical accompaniment which would last for the duration of the ceremony.
THE SACRED POINT

Very little is known about the origin of the Sacred Points except that they were very rare and Carson thought they pointed the way to eternal life.
THE SACRED ASPERGILLIUM

This beautifully crafted instrument was dipped in the water of the Sacred Urn and shaken over the deceased. This represented the cleansing of the eternal home.
Imagine yourself as a future archeologist, hundreds of years from now. You stumble across a strange artifact from the past. What is it? What was it used for? Is it an everyday object or something used for a special occasion?

Your assignment is to choose an object from your home, school, or everyday life and describe it as though you don’t already know what it is used for. If someone else found the object years from now, how might they mistake it for something else?

On the back of this worksheet, draw and color your artifact as someone else might misinterpret it. Place the name of your artifact on the line below the frame.
ARTIFACT NAME: Sacred Organ Removal Device (SORO)
Be sure to answer the questions in detail and in a humorous manner!

**Mysterious Artifact (No. 1)**

Name of the artifact: ____________________________

What material is your object made of?

Who or what created your artifact?

How was your artifact used in the past?

What does your artifact tell future archeologists about the people who used it?
Tips:

1) Try to think of a random object

2) You cannot use anything that was in the text yesterday.

3) Be FUNNY! Creativity matters!

Exotic Nose Plug

Used to plug nose during battles with enemies.