

## **THE COLLECTOR'S GRAIL SOLVE**

Location: Cisco, Tx at the Old Abandoned Zoo Trail

Cisco Texas was a major road trip destination during the 1920s-1970s. Beneath the Cisco Lake dam was "The world's largest concrete swimming pool." There was a big waterslide, a diving platform, an event center with a roller rink on the roof, and of course a zoo. The property is now owned by the city with hiking trails open to the public.

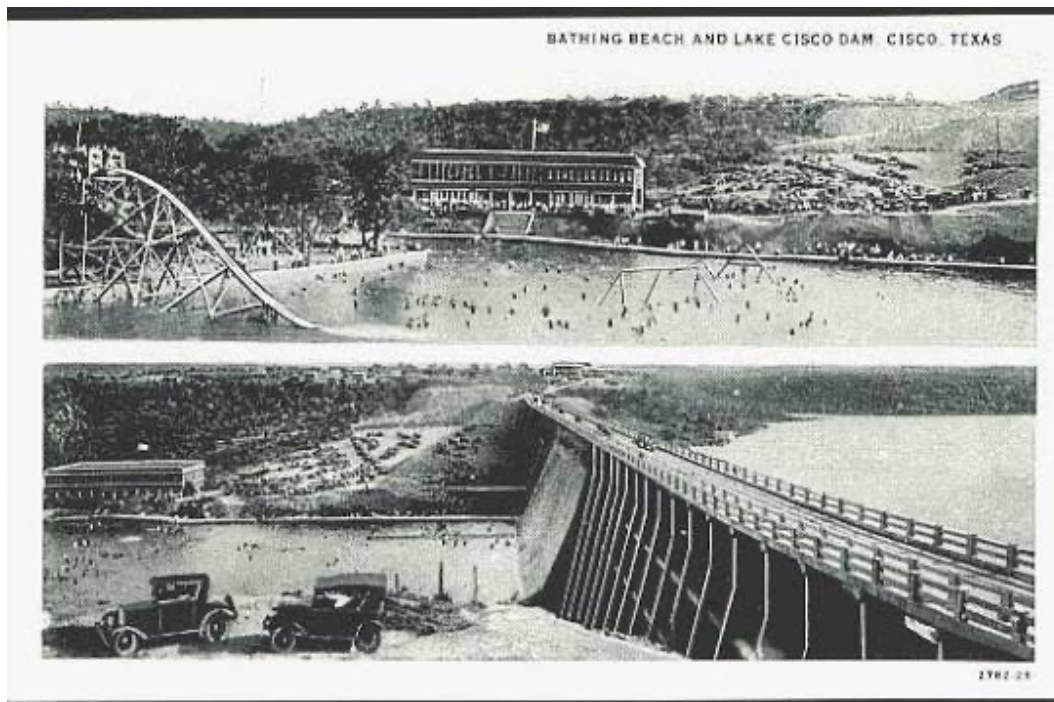
Cisco is famous for several things which I centered my clues around:

1. Conrad Hilton started Hilton Hotels in Cisco, Tx. His very first hotel, The Mobley Hotel, is still standing with a statue and plaque that you can visit. (Conrad Hilton is Paris Hilton's great-grandfather, but I did not include a Paris Hilton clue lol.)
2. The Santa Claus Bank Robbery. In 1927 Marshall Ratliff dressed up as Santa Claus with 3 other outlaws and robbed the First National Bank in Cisco. I threw in a Santa Claus (St. Nick) clue.
3. The zoo. What stood out to me the most was that the zoo closed down in the mid 1930s due to the bear being poisoned... allegedly.

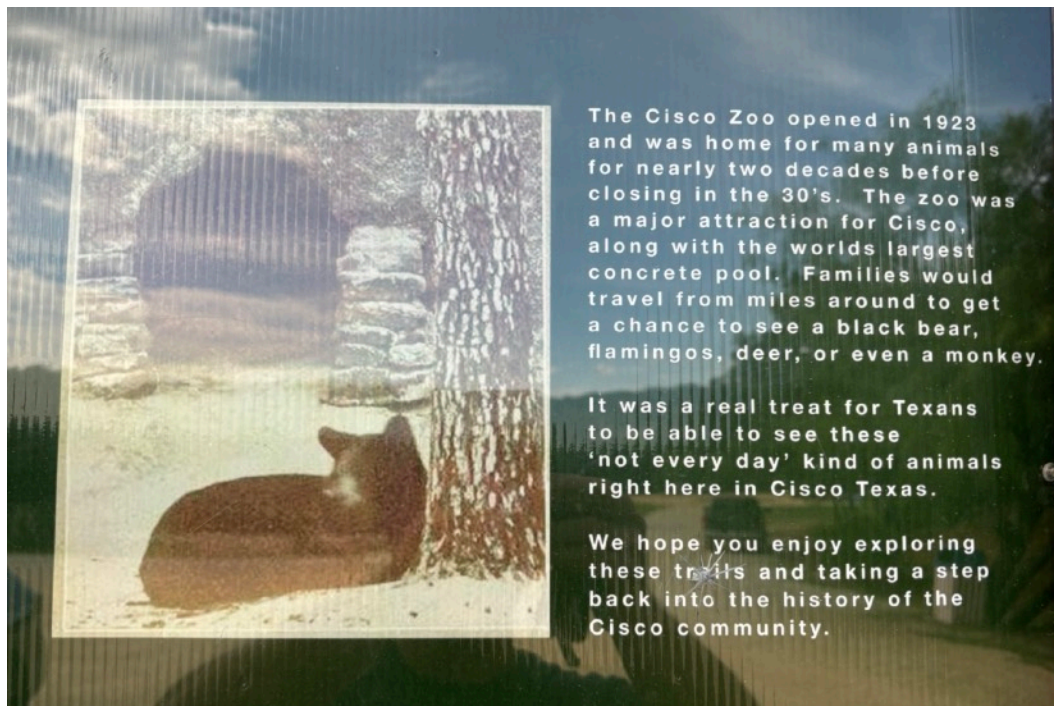
Here are some Cisco photos before we get started:



Caption



Caption



Caption



Caption



Caption



Caption

# The Solve...

## Boundaries

The green area marks the boundaries for The Collector's Grail. If your solve takes you anywhere outside of the green area, you are simply in the wrong place. The box is not buried but it is concealed enough to prevent a non-treasure hunter from finding it. The box is placed inside of a black, pelican-style case, and is covered with sticks, rocks, leaves, ect. If the box is well hidden, how will you know when to begin looking? I have cut a X out of a large piece of flagstone and left it close to the box's hiding spot. If your solve leads you to a flagstone X, then the location you chose is undeniable and The Collector's Grail is waiting nearby.



As you make your way through these pages from beginning to end, please remember what this treasure hunt is truly about. This is about being spontaneous, adding adventure back into your life, and doing something that you wouldn't normally do. Do not let the driving distance stop you from making a lifelong memory. I can assure you, even if you don't find it, you and your family will still look back fondly and laugh at your awesome day together. So skip the soccer practice, call in sick to work, force your spouse in the car at 3am, pull your kid out of school for the day, and break the boring chain of monotony that infects so many of us. Stay sharp, pin down a location, take action, and you will certainly come out ahead!

Caption

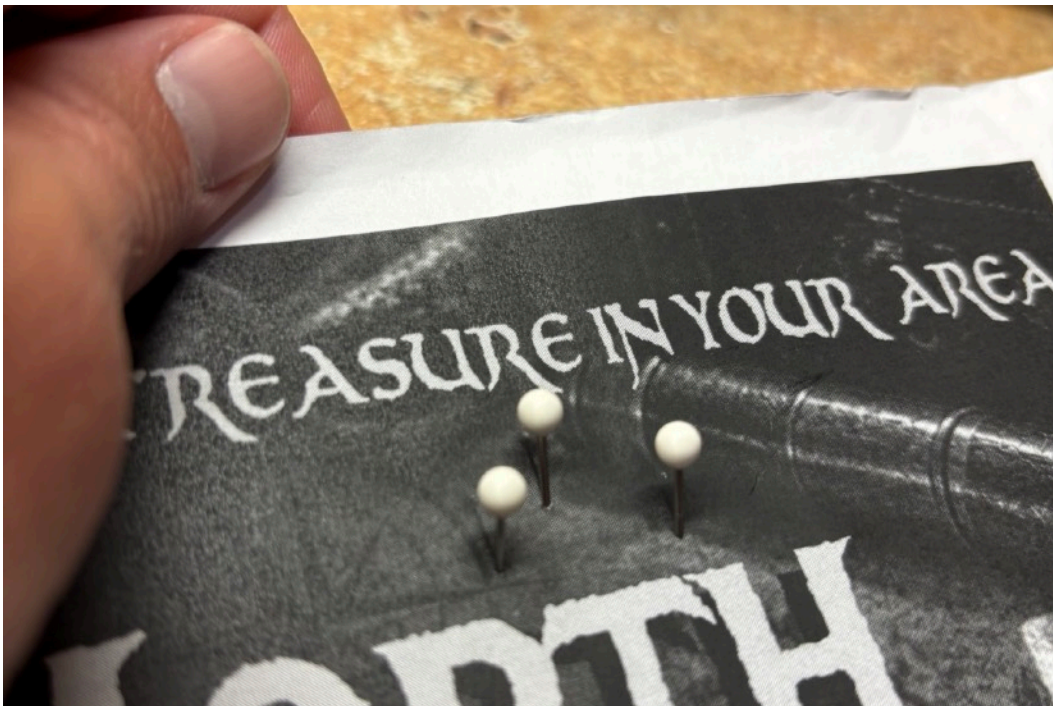
The first paragraph does contain a clue but we will come back to it later, as it pertains to another page. Let's look at the beginning sentence of the second paragraph. "As you

make your way **through these pages** from **beginning to end..**" I wanted you to literally go "through these pages" from "beginning (very first page) to end (very last page.)" This is why I said to make sure you print it out, single-sided. Lets look at the end sentence. "Stay sharp, pin down a location, take action, and you will certainly come out ahead." This tells us we need to use something sharp, maybe a *pin..* to make our way *through these pages from beginning to end.* How would you know where to stick the sharp object? The front cover of this pdf (beginning page) contains the image of 3 pins as seen in the photo below..



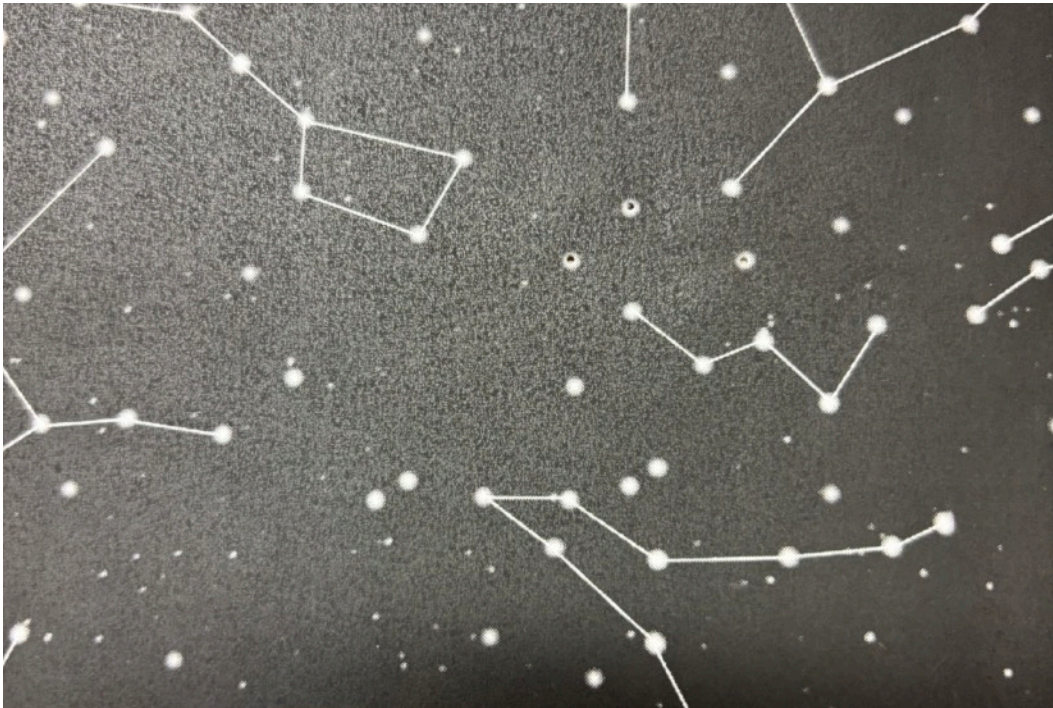
Caption

All you need to do is stick 3 pins/tacks/nails/needles into the paper exactly where I have them placed on the beginning page, then look and see where the holes develop on the end page. Make sure your papers are perfectly stacked when you do this. You don't actually need to stick the pin through the entire stack, just the first and last page put together. Holding the first and last page stacked together, and holding it up to light will also reveal the clue if you don't have any sharp objects around.



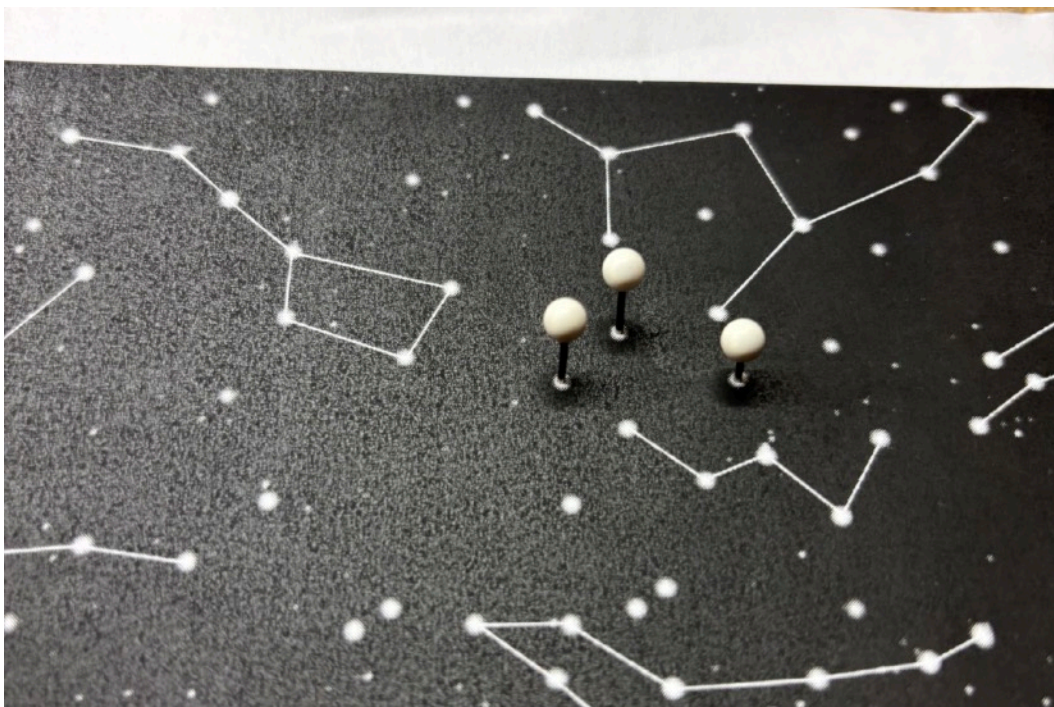
Caption

Lets take a look and see where the holes developed on the last page....



Caption

See the 3 holes on the white dots next to the big dipper? I'll stick the pins in them in case you can't see..



Why is this important? I have the Big Dipper constellation shown, but the Big Dipper is actually a small part of a larger constellation called **Great Bear** (Ursa Major) I included the other stars that make up the constellation but I didn't connect the dots. Let's see what Great Bear looks like overlayed on the Big Dipper...

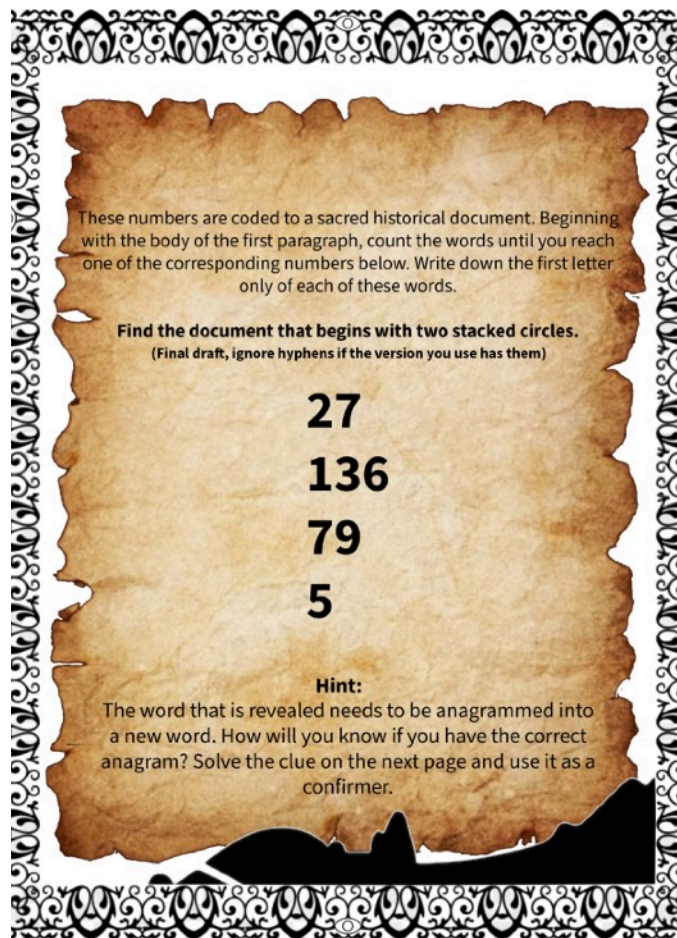


Caption



Caption

Notice that the 3 pinholes fall on the 3 stars that form the head of the Great Bear. This is why I said "...and you will certainly come out ahead." As in literally.. A HEAD.



Caption

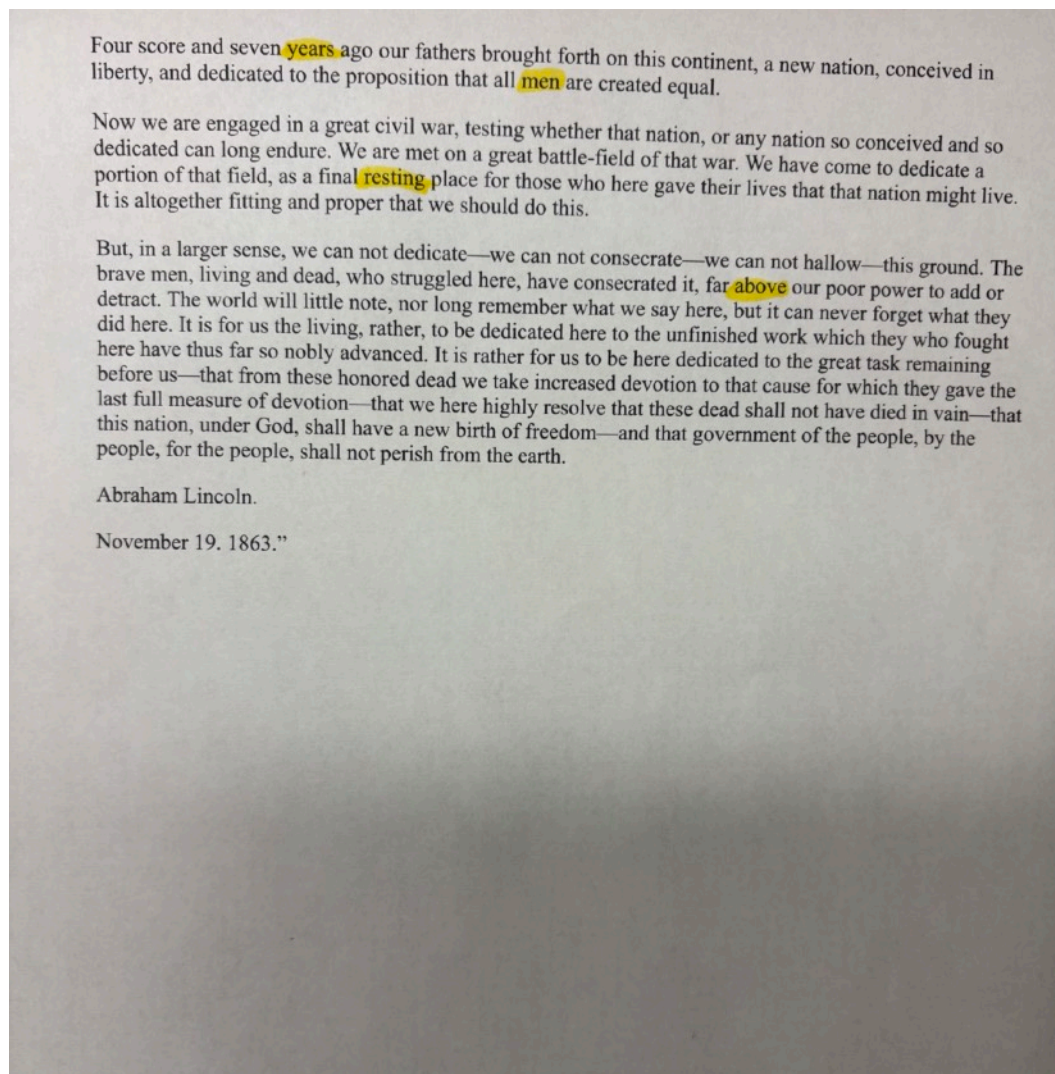
The document you were intended to find is The Gettysburg Address. The Bliss copy is widely accepted as the final draft. The first line of the Gettysburg address begins with, “Four score and seven years ago...” What does this line mean?

Four score and seven years ago translates to “87 years ago..”

Back in biblical times Shepards held a scoring stick. Every time they counted 20 sheep they would carve a “Score” into a stick to represent 20. So... 4 score is  $4 \times 20 = 80$  and

seven = 87. This was an old way of speaking... even for Abraham Lincoln.

This document begins with 87. Visually, the number 8 is literally *two stacked circles*. Originally, the clue was going to be “Find the document that begins with an 8”, but AI picks up on this right away and it needed to be one more step removed.



Caption

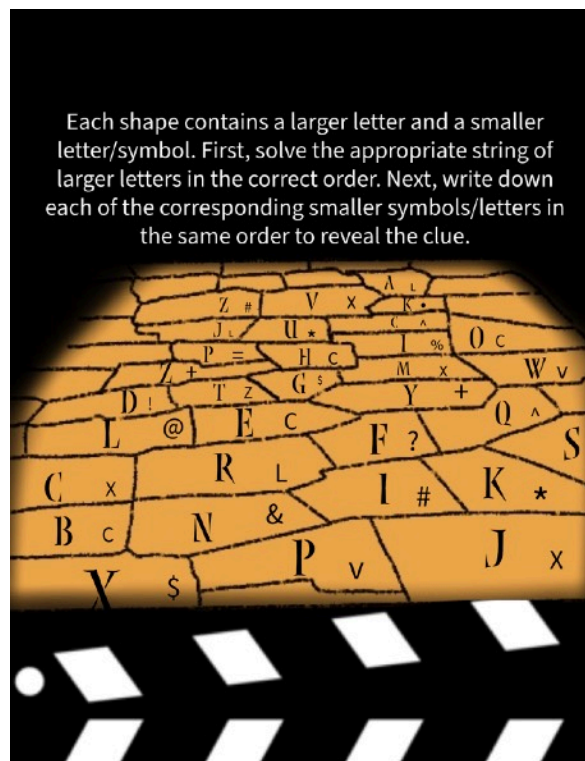
Lets count the words beginning with the first paragraph. I have highlighted all of the words above. The reason I instructed to ignore hyphens is because some versions placed a hyphen in battle field, and I wanted to make sure you counted it as two separate words. Word number 27 is men (M). Word number 136 is above (A). Word number 79 is resting (R). Word number 5 is years (Y). This forms the word **MARY.**

This word needs to be anagrammed into a new word. I provided a clue with the black image to help you. The black image is a Bishop (from a chess set) turned on its side.



The correct anagram for the word MARY is MYRA. Myra is a place that is now known as modern day Turkey. And who is the most famous historical figure to serve as the *Bishop* of Myra?... that would be Saint Nicholas. He was the Bishop during the early 4th century. Saint Nicholas is obviously the origin of Santa Claus.

This was a tough clue to solve, so I threw in another clue on the next page to act as a confirmer that Santa Claus, was in fact, the correct answer to the clue.



Caption

The black and white stripes at the bottom are from a hand held director's cut, so you know that you are looking for a movie. What movie? Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade. He

goes on a quest with his dad to find the Holy Grail. This movie seemed like an appropriate pick since you are searching for The Collector's Grail. The outline of the shapes in my clue are the exact outline of the collapsing floor tiles that Indiana Jones walks across.

Here is the image from the movie...



Caption

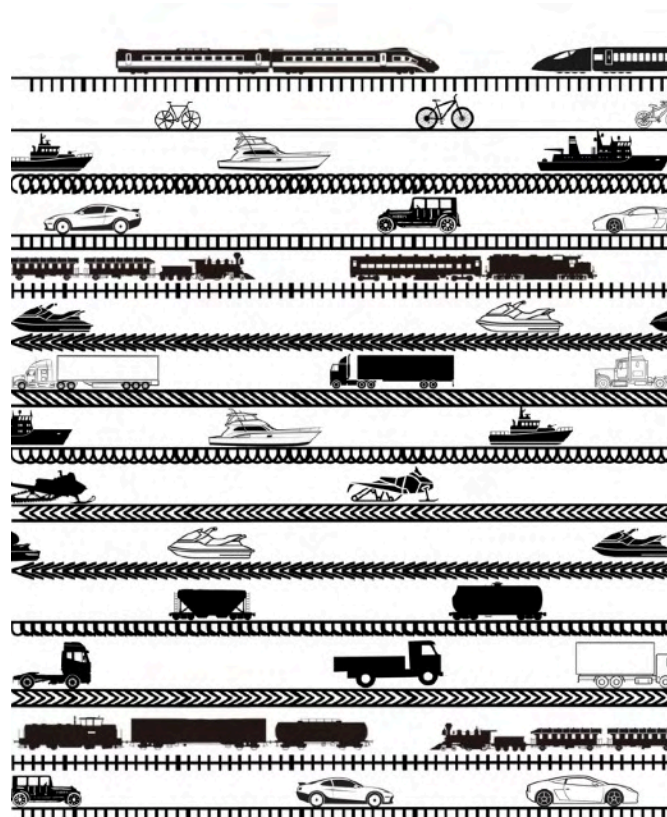
In the movie, Indiana must solve the clue and walk across the floor, stepping on the correct letters, to make it across. The clue in the movie was "The name of God. Only in the footsteps of God will he proceed." Indiana realizes the answer to the clue is Jehovah. He steps on the J and the floor gives way, almost falling through. He then remembers that in latin, Jehovah begins with the letter "I". Both "Iehova" and "Iehovah" are used in latin. If you watch the clip, Indiana spells out the version of Iehova without the "h" at the end. He steps on the

letters “lehova” to make it across safely. You must use the spelling that he uses in the movie to get the correct answer.

This is this answer to my clue. Write down “lehova”.. now write down the smaller symbol/letter next to each letter in the same order. You will get “#CCCXL”

#CCCXL is the roman numeral for number 340.

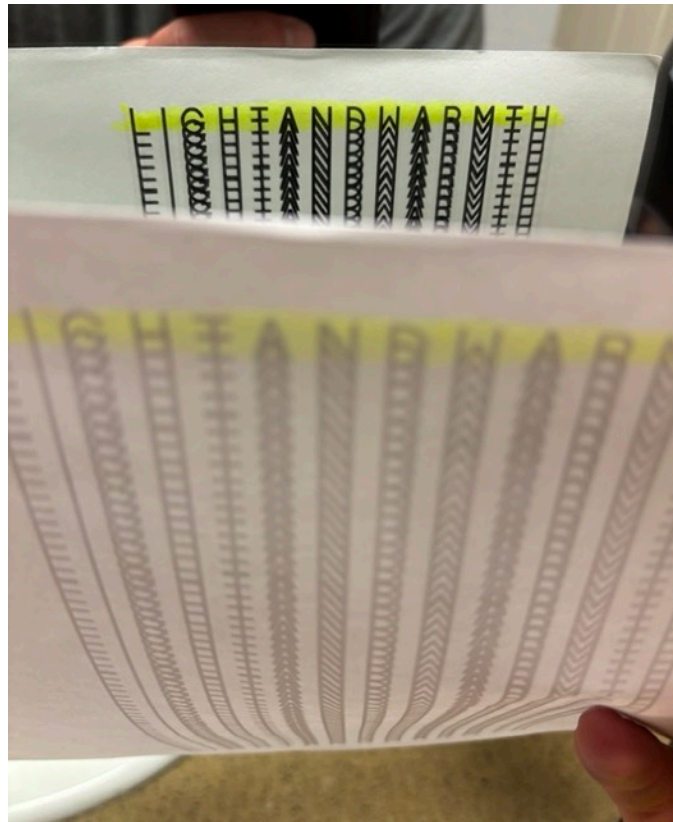
The 340th day of the year is The Feast of Saint Nicholas (Dec. 6th). This is your confirmer that Santa Claus/Saint Nicholas is the clue. Search Youtube “Name of God Indiana Jones movie” to see the clip.



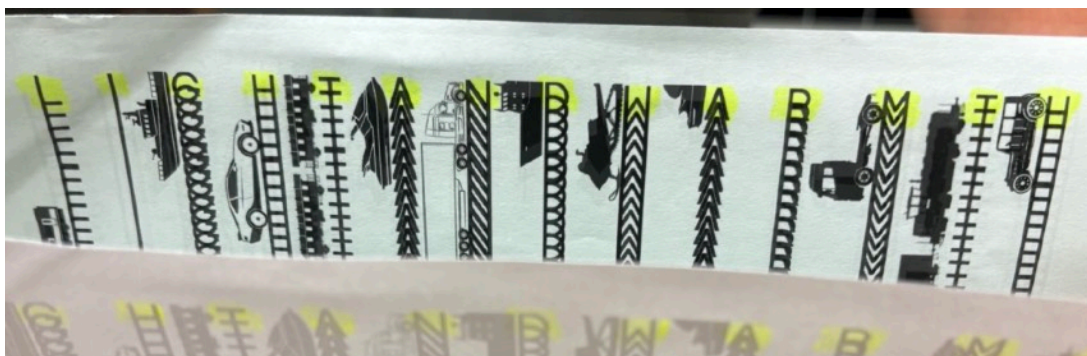
Caption

The lines going across the page that look like tracks are actually not tracks at all, it is a short phrase repeated all the way across the page. When you stack the same letter on top of itself over and over, I noticed it looks a lot like tracks left behind from various forms of transportation. I thought adding

these modes of transportation would be a slick way to disguise what is really going on. The phrase is reversed so you must put it up to a mirror to read it. I removed the transportation and highlighted the top line so you can easily see it. The clue says "LIGHT AND WARMTH"



Caption



Caption

Why is LIGHT AND WARMTH important? One of Hilton Hotels early slogans was, “To fill the earth with the ***light and warmth*** of hospitality.” As mentioned above, Hilton Hotels was founded in Cisco Tx.

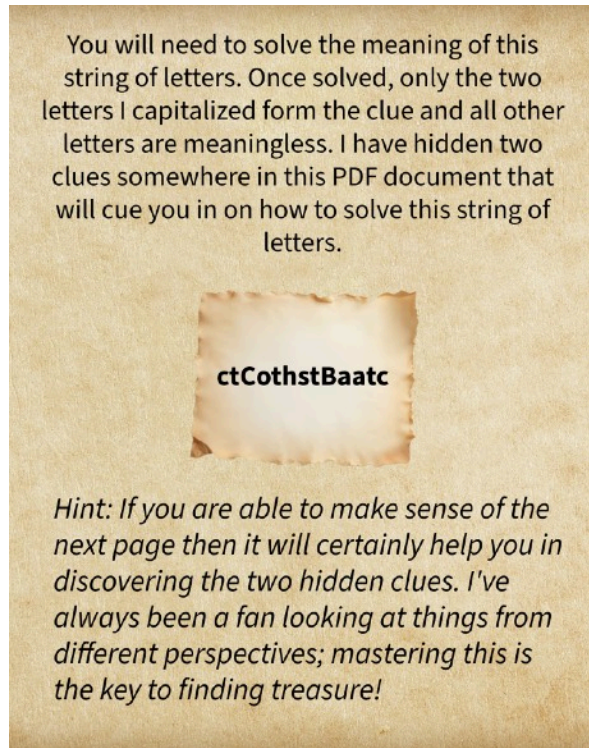
I had to make the above clues fairly difficult. At this point you could ask Chat GPT or any other AI something along the lines of... “I’m looking for a city in Texas. Find me a city with a connection to Santa Claus and “light and warmth” (or a bear and Santa Claus). Use the history of each Texas city to find this location.” Any prompt similar to what I wrote above would likely reveal to you that it is Cisco Tx. (Cisco only has one hiking trail, so it must be it.)

Lets continue..

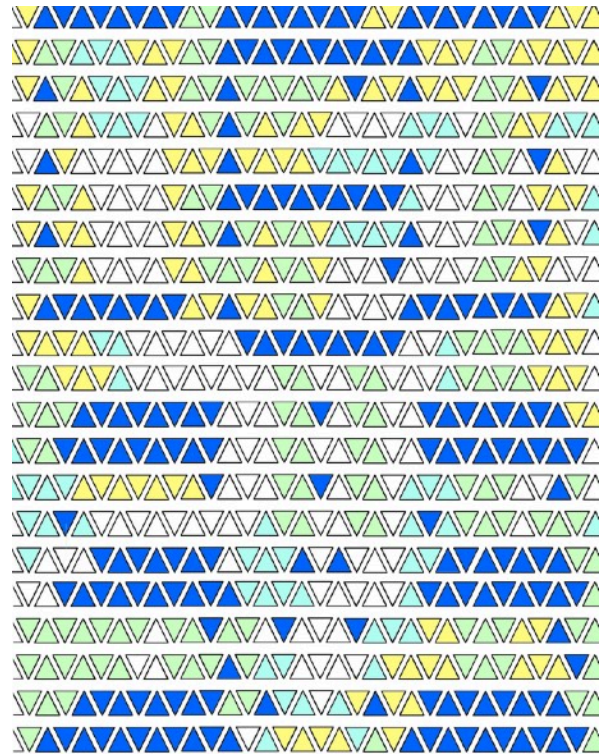
Lets start with solving the hint at the bottom in order to find the two hidden clues.

Notice I say “...always been a fan of looking at things from different perspectives” The key words here are “fan” and “different perspectives.” I want you to **fan** fold this paper, then look at it from **different perspectives** to reveal the clue. Simply fold the top horizontal line of triangles over itself, then fold it backwards on the next line of triangles over itself.

Repeat until it looks like a fan. Stretch it out, then lean down and look at from the front perspective, then turn it around and see the back perspective.



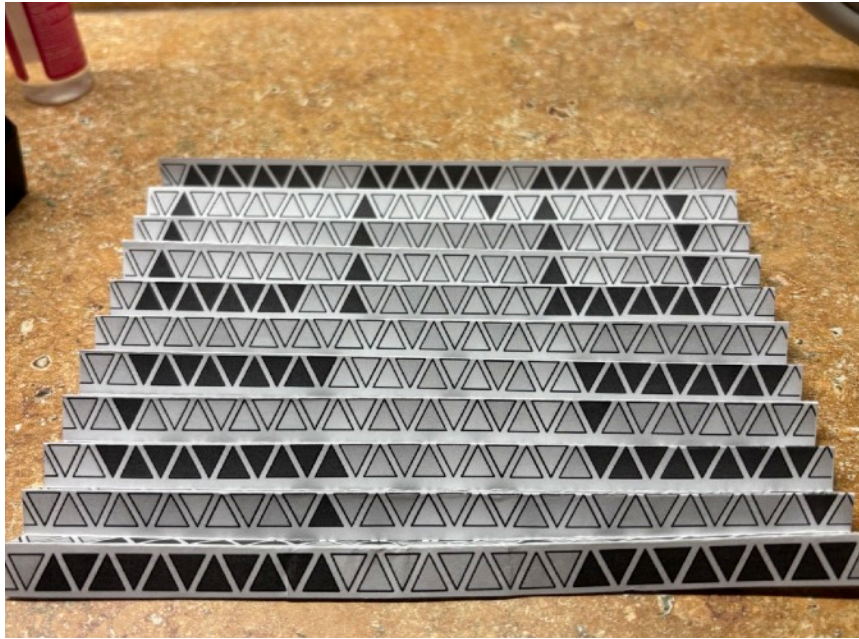
Caption



Caption

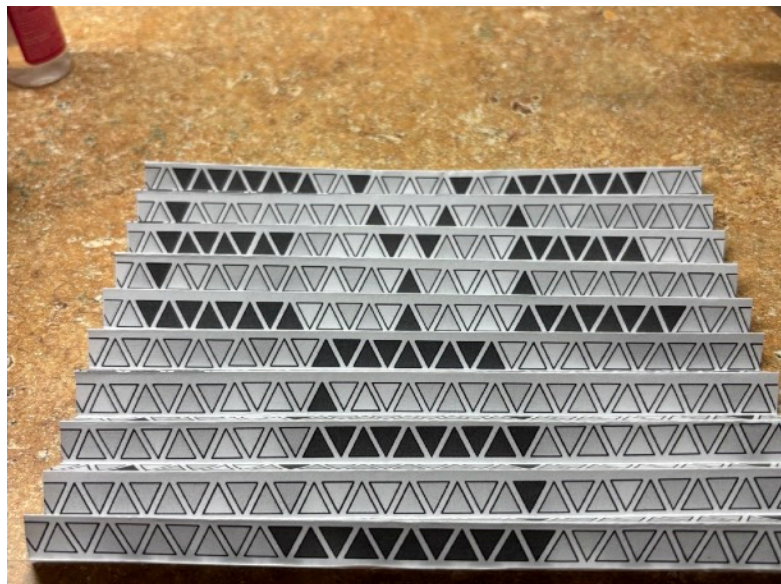
Here is the front perspective (Below).

Notice it says “Cross”  
Now spin it around...



Caption

Here is the back perspective. Notice it says “EYES”



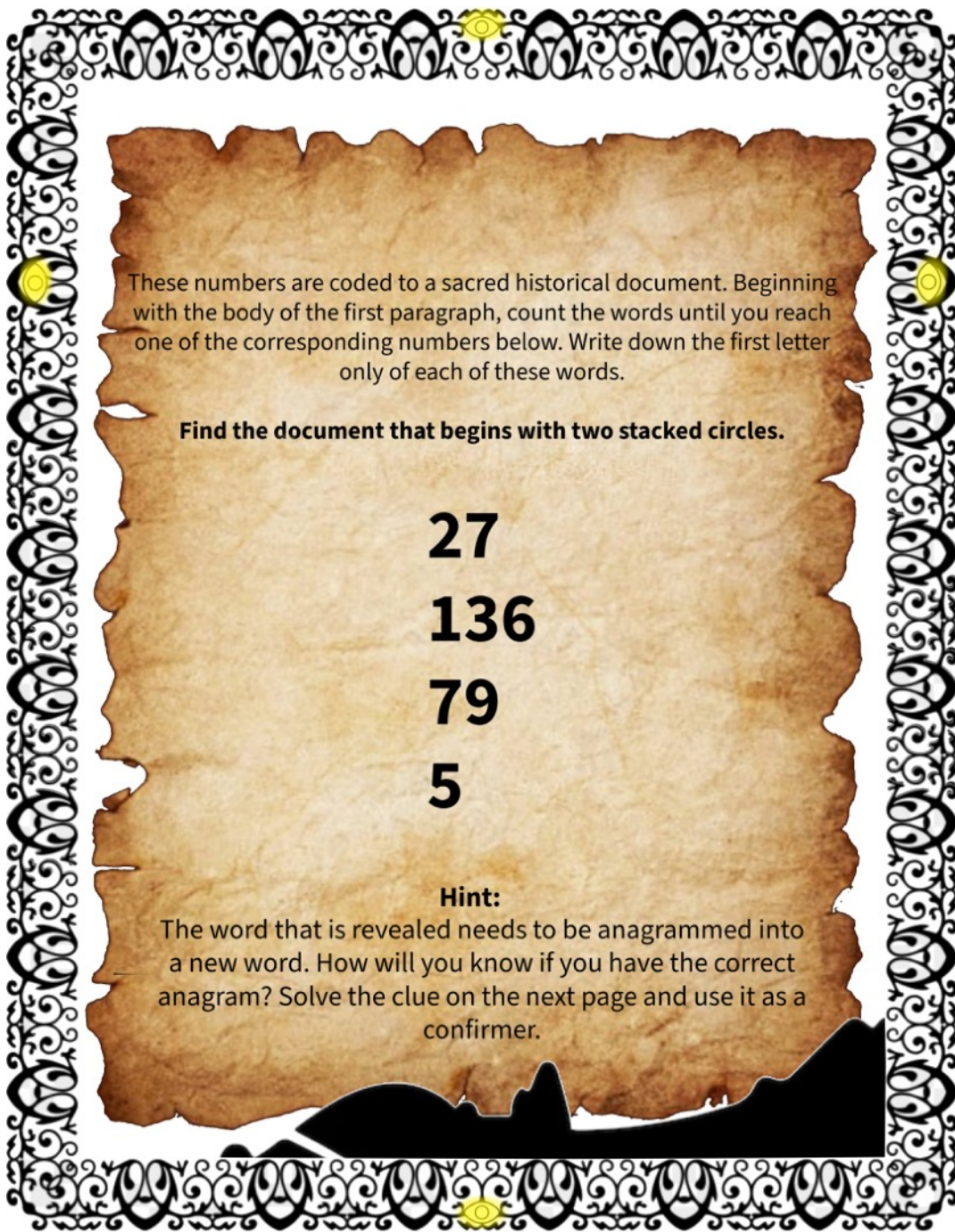
Caption

The hint to finding the two clues hidden in the pdf is to  
“Cross EYES”

There are sets of EYES hidden on two different pages within the PDF. You must draw a straight line or use a straight edge to Cross the Eyes. The place where the two lines cross is the clue.

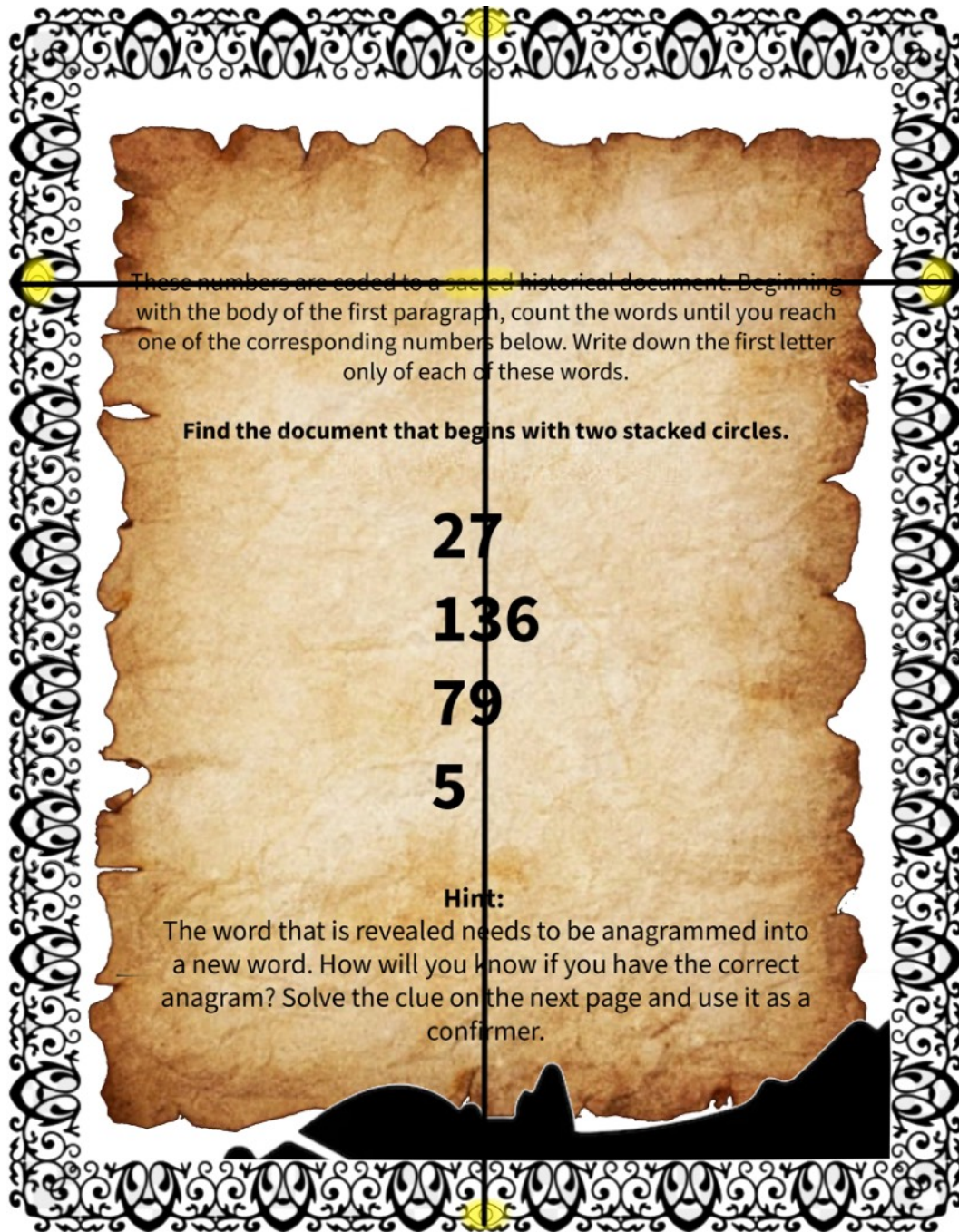
I highlighted the first set of eyes below...

Now lets cross them...



Caption

Notice Below the intersection point of the eyes crossing lands on the word SACRED.



Caption

# Boundaries

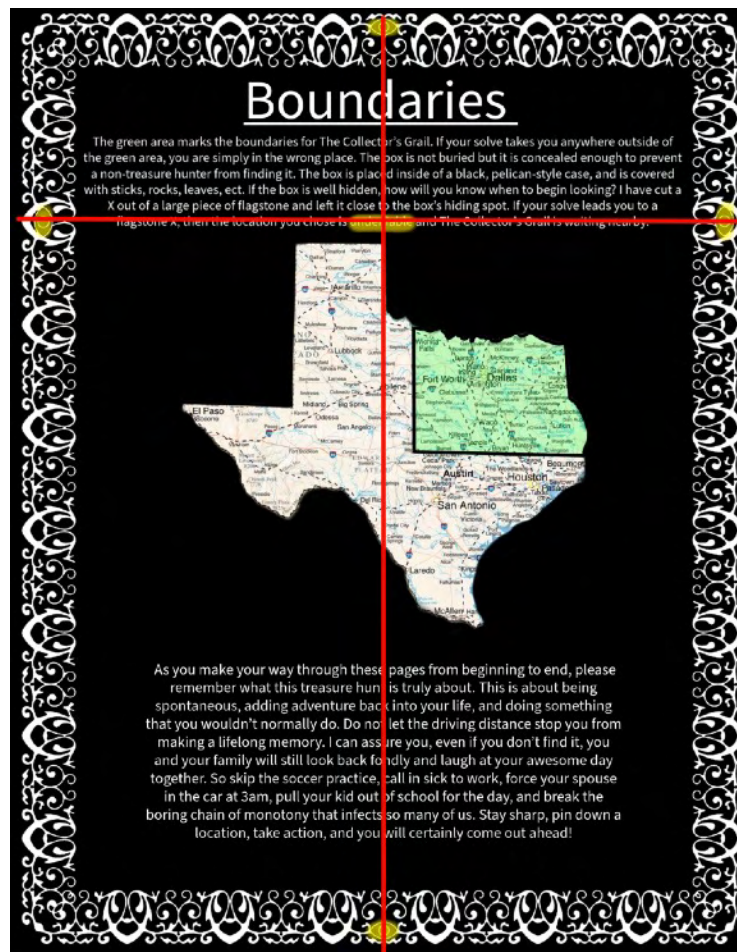
The green area marks the boundaries for The Collector's Grail. If your solve takes you anywhere outside of the green area, you are simply in the wrong place. The box is not buried but it is concealed enough to prevent a non-treasure hunter from finding it. The box is placed inside of a black, pelican-style case, and is covered with sticks, rocks, leaves, ect. If the box is well hidden, how will you know when to begin looking? I have cut a X out of a large piece of flagstone and left it close to the box's hiding spot. If your solve leads you to a flagstone X, then the location you chose is undeniable and The Collector's Grail is waiting nearby.



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Caption

Notice that the intersection point between the crossed eyes lands on the word **UNDENIABLE**.

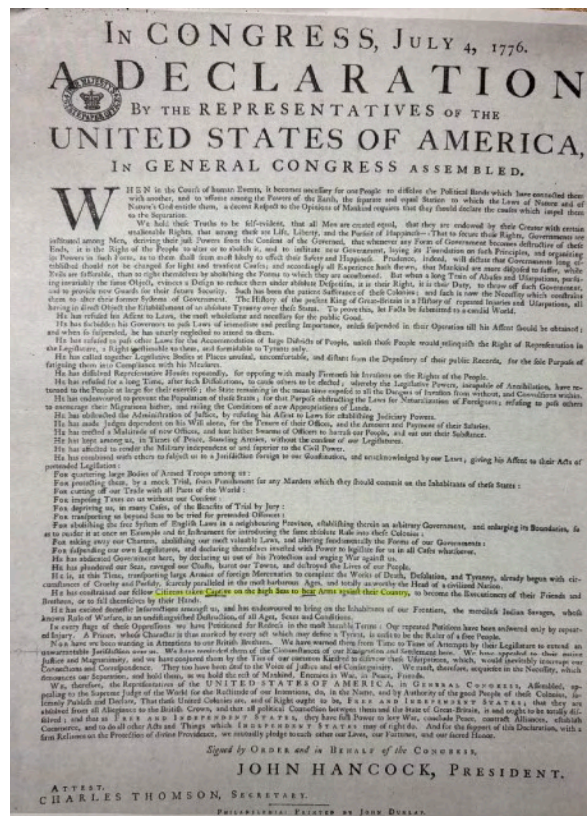


Caption

The clue to solving the string of letters is **SACRED AND UNDENIABLE**. This is a hint to use the Declaration of Independence. Remember the well known line in the Declaration that states "We hold these truths to be self-evident"? Well this was not the original line. Benjamin Franklin originally wrote, "We hold these truths to be sacred and undeniable." It was later changed in the final draft to read "self evident" instead. If you were to go to google or AI and

say “Where in history is the phrase sacred and undeniable from?” The Declaration of Independence and the above story will be the first thing to pop up.

Now we need to scan through the Declaration of Independence and find this string of letters. Each letter is the first letter of a word. Once you find the string of letters, only the two letters that capitalized form the clue.



Caption

I highlighted the string of letters that begin with  
ctCothstBaac

Notice I only capitalized the C for Captive and the B for bear.

arters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with Power to legislate for us in all Cases, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us. s, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our Towns, and destroyed the Lives of our People. sporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to compleat the Works of Death, Desolation, and Bloodshed, scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous Ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized Nation. low Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become by their Hands. Insurrections amongst us, and has endeavoured to bring on the Inhabitants of our Frontiers the most undistinguished Destruction, of all Ages, Sexes and Conditions. In all these Transgressions we have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble Terms: Our repeated P

Caption

Put these together and the clue is **Captive Bear**. This is the second clue for bear in case you didn't figure out the constellation clue.

You have now researched what all these clues have in common and figured out that the box is in Cisco Tx. (Great bear constellation, Santa Claus/St. Nick, Light and Warmth/Hilton Hotels, and Captive Bear.)

Lets get to the trail...

**Now that you know  
the city/trail, use the  
next 3 pages to solve  
where I am on/off  
the trail. Each  
paragraph has its  
own unique way of  
revealing my  
location.**

Caption

The background of the photo is a super zoomed in part of a photograph that is located inside the case at the trailhead.



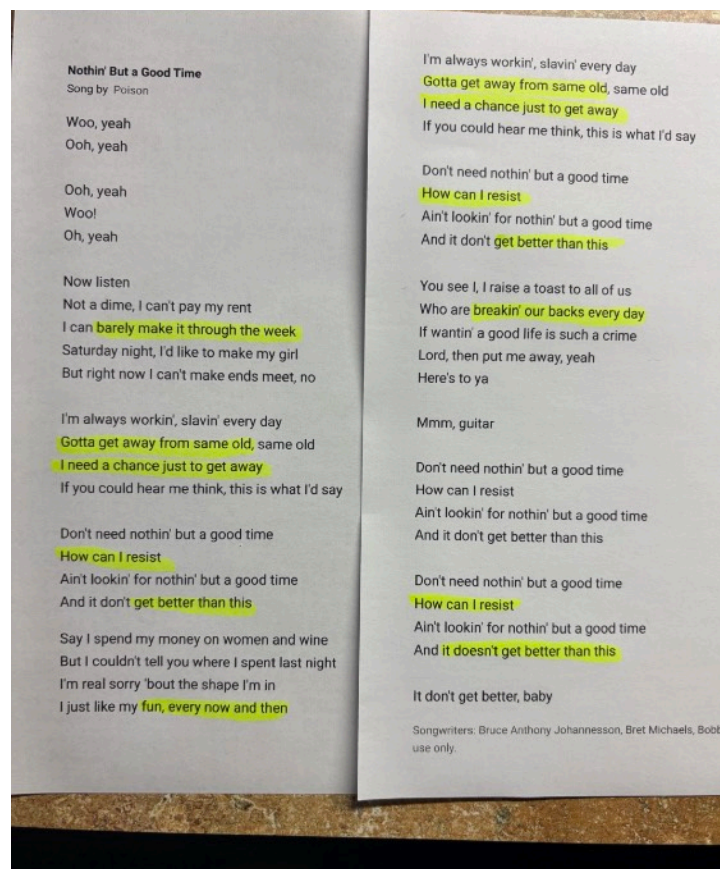
Caption

You wouldn't have been able to know this from sitting in your armchair at home. I wanted to put this in there for when you got to the trailhead, you would see the photo, recognize the faded blue background, and know that you are 100% in the correct location.

I arrived at the hiking area excited to find a hiding place for our treasure box. I locked my truck, placed The Collector's Grail into my backpack with the flagstone X strapped to the outside, put in my earbuds and sprayed myself for ticks, then headed towards the trail head. I had a few different choices of where I could go, but I settled on hiking to a shaded area where I could sit and think. I wondered about each of you and all the many reasons you may have chosen to search for this treasure. Many of you may have seen it as an opportunity to experience adventure for the first time in so long, or maybe just a chance to get away and get a break from the same old routine. Some of you may have felt disconnected from a family member and needed an activity to bond over and rebuild that relationship. Other searchers are barely making it through the week after breaking their backs every day, and simply need some fun every now and then. No matter your reason, I have one underlying thing in common with all of you that seems to have been ingrained into every treasure hunter since the beginning. Greed. How can I resist a shot at being the first one to a box of valuable treasure? I want so badly to feel the pupil-dilating thrill of opening the lid to a hidden box of precious metals and rare collectibles, knowing that I was somehow faster, more clever, and more determined than anyone else. But as I sat and reflected it occurred to me that maybe there is no happiness to be found in my greed or desire to boast. Maybe the real happiness can only be found by providing this experience to searchers who need to feel it more than I do. I refocused my thoughts on gratitude and knew that it doesn't get better than this, the rare chance to impact the lives of many!

Caption

Before getting to the trail I knew you would research the history of the zoo. If you researched enough you would know that the bear was allegedly poisoned. The shaded area I am referring to in the first paragraph is the bear's cave. How would you have known this? Near the top of the paragraph I said I "put in my earbuds". I said this to cue you in that I am listening to music. This entire first paragraph was written to conceal the lyrics to song by the band called POISON. Upon finding this, you would undoubtedly know to go to the location of the animal who was poisoned. This is a very famous song by the way, one that most likely everyone has heard at some point. If the idea crossed your mind that it may be music/song, you could put this paragraph into AI and ask it to find hidden lyrics. I did not try this but I imagine it would work. I highlighted all the lyrics I put in the paragraph... (Nothin' but a good time by Poison.)



Caption

Photo of the bear cave..



Caption

From inside the bear cave looking out...



Caption

I walked straight out to the ledge from the shaded area I was sitting in. I panned to the right and could see a landmark across the way peeking through the trees. I pulled the water bottle from my backpack, chugged some fluids, and made my way towards the landmark. The trail took a quick dip downwards to a low point followed by a short but steep, muscle burning, incline. I made it to the top then sat down to decompress my legs and decide where to hide our treasure. The flagstone X on my back was beginning to get heavy so I was eager to hide the box soon. From where I was sitting, I could spot the general direction I wanted to go but I couldn't get there in a straight line. I headed back down the incline, shifted my focus and jotted down the directions, in code, just to be safe...

!@ !% @#  
!^ !% ( !\$ @)  
!\$ !% !\* @) \*

Next I wrote down the distance...

240° 120°x2 210°x3 90°x2 90°x2  
210°x3 180°x3 180° 60° 180°x2  
60° 60°x3 240° 240°x2 210°x4

(A clock is 360° around. This clue will give you a string of numbers. If you see "x2" simply write down the same number twice. Once you have the string of numbers, ask someone in their late 30's or so to translate it for you; they may need to think back to when they were young.)

Caption

The first line describes me walking out straight out from the bear cave. If you walk out to the ledge and look to the right you can see a landmark called Spider Rock sticking out from the trees. Photo below...



Caption

I included a cool fact I learned about spiders as a clue to see if any of you insect nerds would catch it, but this clue was unnecessary to solve since there is only one landmark in view from the bear cave and wouldn't be confused with anything other than Spider Rock. Spiders don't have muscles in their legs like humans. They use hydraulics to move. Spiders compress fluid into their legs to move them, then decompress fluid to relax them. This is why I mentioned drinking fluids and then decompressing my legs when I made it up the incline to Spider Rock.

So we are now leaving the bear cave and headed down towards Spider Rock. You will see a downward angled arrow sign labeled Spider Rock...



Caption

The trail immediately dips down to a low point from here...



Caption

I'm standing next to the arrow sign. You can see the trail headed downward to the low point. From there the trails goes straight upward to Spider Rock. Here is Spider Rock...



Caption

View from top of Spider Rock..



Caption

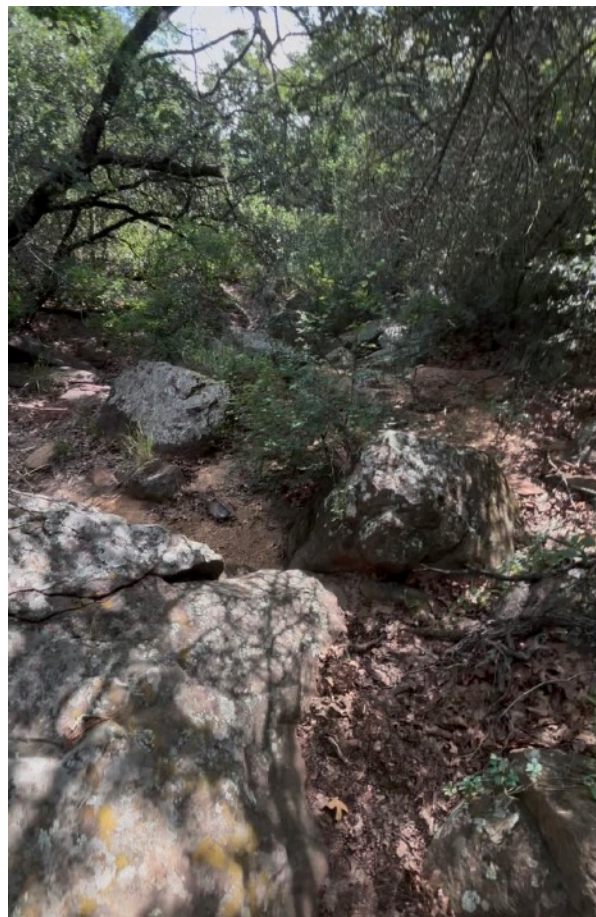
Now for the first cipher. Notice I said “SHIFTED my focus”. All of these symbols are made when you Press SHIFT on your keyboard then press a number. Lets first translate the symbols I used to the corresponding number on the keyboard...

12 15 23  
16 15 9 14 20  
14 15 18 20 8

There are 26 letters in the English Alphabet. So now just swap the number with its place in the alphabet. The 12th letter of the alphabet is L. The 15th is O, and so on...

LOW  
POINT  
NORTH

Easy right? You already know where the low point is, because you just passed it! So lets walk back down to the low point and face North. Here is a photo of exactly that..



Caption

If you continue to walk North it looks like this..



Caption

How far should you walk? Lets look at the next cipher. A clock is a circle so its  $360^\circ$ , so every number on the clock is associated with a certain degree.

$30^\circ=1$   $60^\circ=2$   $90^\circ=3$   $120^\circ=4$   $150^\circ=5$   $180^\circ=6$

$210^\circ=7$   $240^\circ=8$   $270^\circ=9$   $300^\circ=10$   $330^\circ=11$   $360^\circ=12$

I gave you the degrees, so now just write down the number on the clock associated with that degree. If you see X2, write it twice, X3 write it 3 times. There are a few instances where a degree number butts up against the same degree number.

Example on the second line ( $180^\circ \times 3$   $180^\circ$ ) this would be translated to (666 6) and NOT (6666). This spacing I provided is important! Here is the whole thing translated..

8 44 777 33 33

777 666 6 2 66

2 222 8 88 7777

Remember when texting first came out? It was called multi-tap texting. To spell a word you had to press the number on the keypad multiple times to get the letter you wanted.



Caption

Translating these numbers are pretty self explanatory. First line: If you press 8 one time you get T, press 4 two times you get H, press 7 three times you get R, 3 twice you get E, 3 twice you get E.

THREE  
ROMAN  
ACTUS

This is an ancient Roman unit of measurement. 1 Roman actus is just under 120 feet. So 3 Roman actus is about 360 feet (...or 100 yards. The length of a football field.)

Since this distance is approximate, the next cipher reveals a landmark so you know when to stop...

As I hiked I came across a...

α 🍷 α 🇵🇪 🇵🇪

👯 🏢 α 👯 🚩 🏆 🏔️

Δ 🏆 🍷 📅 🇮🇳 📅 🏔️ 👯 🏔️ α Δ

🏆 🦊 🚔 🧑

From here I took a left turn and dropped the  
flagstone X. I hid The Collector's Grail somewhere  
near by. I stepped back, looking at the spot I had  
chosen to hide the box, and felt it was necessary  
to say a few last words. I crossed over the river  
and rested under the shade of the trees before  
making the short walk back to my truck.

Found the box?

Email the verification code, found inside the box, to  
NorthTexasTreasure@gmail.com

You will receive free clue books for all future hunts,  
indefinitely! Please put the verification code in the headline  
of the email.

Caption

The Phonetic alphabet is used to clarify spelling over radio traffic. Typically used in the military, first responders, truckers, and many other lines of work. I'm sure you've heard of (whiskey, Tango, Foxtrot, ect.) These are all part of the phonetic alphabet, here is the full list...

| <b>Phonetic Alphabet</b> |                     |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>A - alpha</b>         | <b>N - november</b> |
| <b>B - bravo</b>         | <b>O - oscar</b>    |
| <b>C - charlie</b>       | <b>P - papa</b>     |
| <b>D - delta</b>         | <b>Q - quebec</b>   |
| <b>E - echo</b>          | <b>R - romeo</b>    |
| <b>F - foxtrot</b>       | <b>S - sierra</b>   |
| <b>G - golf</b>          | <b>T - tango</b>    |
| <b>H - hotel</b>         | <b>U - uniform</b>  |
| <b>I - india</b>         | <b>V - victor</b>   |
| <b>J - juliet</b>        | <b>W - whiskey</b>  |
| <b>K - kilo</b>          | <b>X - x-ray</b>    |
| <b>L - lima</b>          | <b>Y - yankee</b>   |
| <b>M - mike</b>          | <b>Z - zulu</b>     |

Caption

Now all you do is match up the emoji to the word that most closely resembles it on the phonetic list and write down the letter. Most of them are self explanatory. Some of the harder ones are, Dancing lady=tango, Peru flag= Lima (Lima is the capital of Peru, Bat= Echo (bats use echolocation), Mountain=Sierra ( a Sierra is a jagged mountain line), Triangle= Delta (Triangle is delta symbol in greek alphabet), calendar= November, Police officer=uniform, farmer=papa.

The message spells...

## **A Wall That Goes Down Instead Of Up**

After Walking approximately 3 Romas Actus you eventually come up to a wall that goes down. Here is a photo as you approach the wall...



Caption

Photo standing on the wall looking down..



Caption

Taking a left turn then looking back at wall...



Caption

While standing on top of the wall you can vaguely see the Flagstone X to the left, see the gray blob?



Caption

Here is the up close. Just a few steps away from the wall..



Caption

Take a look at the last line. “I crossed over the river and rested under the shade....”

There actually is no river in the area at all. The previous line clues you in on why I said this. It was the hiding spot itself that made me feel the need to say some **LAST WORDS**. “Let us cross over the river, and rest under the shade of the trees,” was the famous last words of Thomas Jackson (famous general during the American Civil War.) He is better known by the nickname he earned at the First Battle of Bull Run, **Stonewall Jackson**. The reason I chose Thomas Jacksons last words while looking at my hiding spot, is because the box was hidden in the *Stonewall* nearby the flagstone X.

From the flagstone X you can see a short stone wall barrier..



Caption



Caption

I chose a spot within the stonewall behind this small grouping of trees. The box is about 10-12 large steps from the flagstone X..



Caption

Placed on the ground...



Caption

Then covered up...



Caption

Red dot shows the general area within our boundaries of the location..



Caption

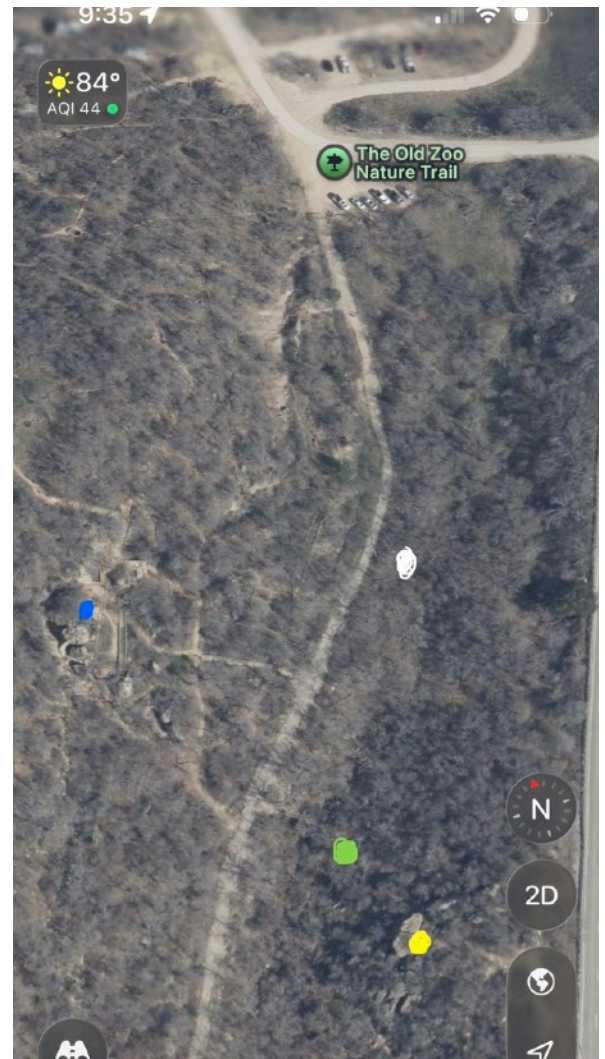
Photo—>

Blue= bear cave

Yellow= Spider rock

Green= Low point

White= Treasure box



Caption

Thank you all for participating in this project!