



Ripley's  
**Believe It  
or Not!**<sup>®</sup>

**ODDITORIUM<sup>®</sup>**  
PANAMA CITY BEACH

# Elementary Education Packet

Ripley's Believe It or Not! Panama City Beach features an incredible collection of over 500 **UNIQUE, BIZARRE** and **INCREDIBLE** artifacts in 15 galleries.

Our goal is to **INSPIRE, INTRIGUE** and **SURPRISE** guests with remarkable oddities of nature, science, art, history and humanity.



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## • Who is Robert Ripley? •



The Ripley story begins on Christmas Day in 1893, when Robert Leroy Ripley was born in Santa Rosa, California. A talented self-taught artist, Ripley sold his first drawings to Life magazine when he was only 14! Ripley was also a natural athlete who longed for a career in baseball, but his dreams of pitching in the big Leagues were shattered when he broke his arm while playing his first professional game. After the accident, Ripley returned to his earlier goal of becoming a professional artist. He landed a job as a cartoonist covering sports for the San Francisco Chronicle, but soon after, he left California and headed for New York City.

Travel was Robert Ripley's lifelong obsession. During his career, he visited 201 countries, traveling a distance equal to 18 complete trips around the world! In 1920, he made his first trek across Europe. Two years later, he visited Central and South America and wrote about what he saw in a syndicated feature column called "Rambles Around South America". He was drawn to the Orient in 1925, crossing through Japan, Malaysia and the Philippines. Ripley felt most at home in China. He found Chinese culture to be fascinating, and adopted certain Chinese customs. When he entertained, he often greeted his guests in traditional Oriental costume. He presided over elaborate feasts in which he described the dishes of each course in precise detail, and at one point he even signed his cartoons "Rip Li"!



Ripley was called "The Modern Day Marco Polo." His travels took him to North Africa and Morocco, New Zealand, Tibet, New Guinea and Russia. On one trip he crossed two continents and covered over 24,000 miles from New York to Cairo and back again- in search of the unbelievable. The journey included 15,000 miles by air, 8,000 by ship and over 1,000 miles by camel, donkey, and horse!



## • Ripley Scavenger Hunt •

Travel the world with Mr. Robert Ripley through our Ripley's Believe It or Not! Museum. See how many of the following exhibits you can find on your travels. Then, use the map on page 4 to locate the city or country the exhibit came from. Write the number of the exhibit on the map. When you are finished, pretend that you are a "Modern Day Mr. Ripley." Write about which country you would travel to and tell what amazing artifacts or cultural traditions you would find there. Explain why you picked that area of the world.

1

Dinosaur Eggs found in China over 100 million years ago are believed to be the Hadrosaur.

I found the exhibit  I did not find the exhibit

2

Wood Whittled Civil War Fort- South Carolina's Fort Sumter that marked the first battle of the Civil War carved out of a large tree trunk.

I found the exhibit  I did not find the exhibit

3

Chinese Dragon Ship – Modeled after a real ship used by ancient Chinese emperors and carved from over 1,000 pounds of solid jade.

I found the exhibit  I did not find the exhibit

4

West African Shark Hat – People in Nigeria celebrate the shark by wearing this shark shaped head dress during a three day feast and dance ritual performed by a secret society known as "Egbukere".

I found the exhibit  I did not find the exhibit

5

Lord Krishna's swing – Acquired in Gujarat, India, this antique wood swing was designed to house a figurine of lord Krishna.

I found the exhibit  I did not find the exhibit





6

Titanic- How cold was the water temperature when the Titanic sunk? \_\_\_\_\_

*I found the exhibit*  *I did not find the exhibit*

7

Genuine Shrunken Head – In Ecuador, the Jivaro Indians commonly shrank the heads of slain warriors to act as trophies or symbols of bravery!

*I found the exhibit*  *I did not find the exhibit*

8

Abe Lincoln Portrait- The portrait of Abe Lincoln is made out of 4500 spent bullet shells.

*I found the exhibit*  *I did not find the exhibit*

9

Lake Nemi Ships- These detailed scale models of two ships built by Roman Emperor Caligula circa 40 AD; these ships sunk by Caligula's successor, Claudius and were destroyed by fire in 1944 during World War 2.

*I found the exhibit*  *I did not find the exhibit*

10

Mastadon- This prehistoric relative to the elephant was discovered buried underneath a golf course in Ohio.

*I found the exhibit*  *I did not find the exhibit*

11

Berlin Wall- This is a piece of the wall that separated East Berlin from West Berlin during the Cold War which was erected in 1961 and eventually taken down in 1989.

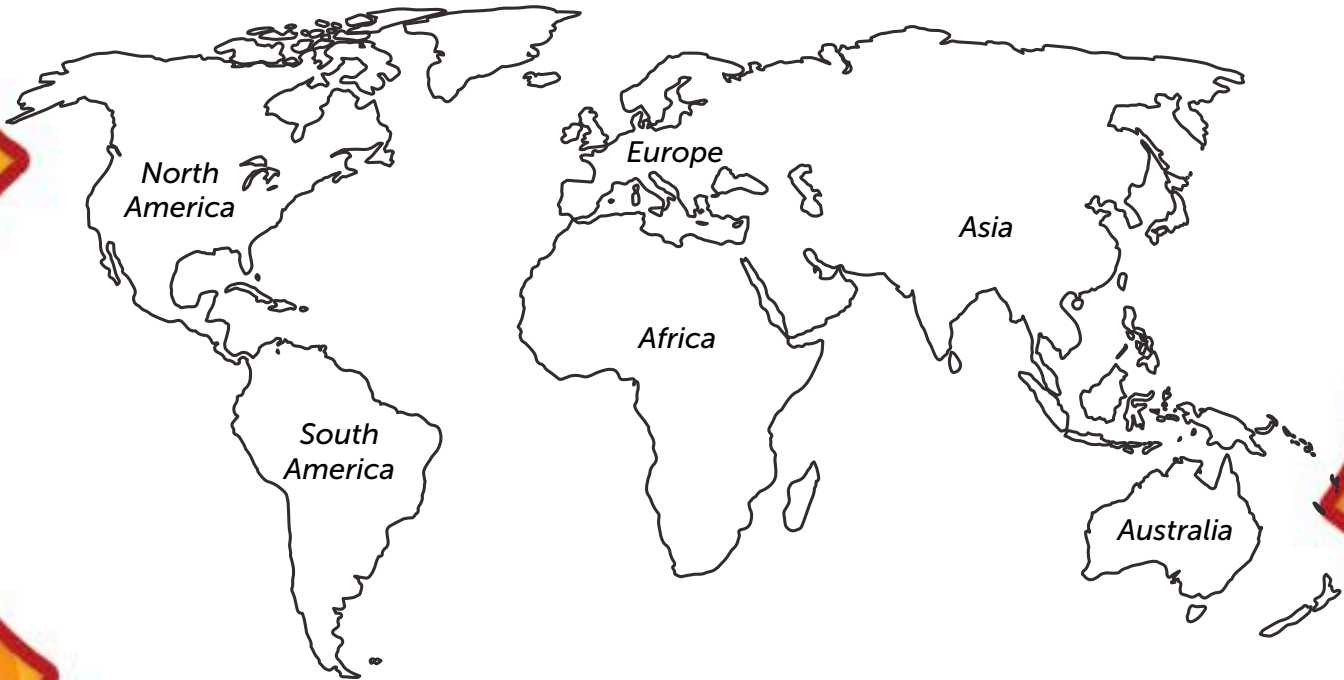
*I found the exhibit*  *I did not find the exhibit*

**BONUS:** How many cricket performers are in the matchstick oil rig kids' crawl?



# • World Map •

(Refer to the Scavenger Hunt Exhibits)



Which country would you travel to?

What amazing artifacts or cultural traditions would you find here?

Why did you pick this area of the world?

## • Culture •

One of the things that makes the planet earth such an interesting place to live is the wide variety of cultures found throughout the world.

The word 'culture' means, *"The patterns of behavior and thinking that people living in social groups learn and create."* Discuss cultural diversity in your class. What exhibits did you see at the Ripley's Believe It or Not! Museum that reflect the uniqueness of a culture? Using the Internet or resources in your school's media center, research the following cultures and fill in the chart about what makes their culture unique.

	Jivaro Indians	Ubangi	Samurai	Dani
Geographic Location				
Language				
Customs				
Food				
Clothing				

## • Math Activities •

1

Shapes are an important part of geometry. Identify the basic shapes of circle, square, triangle, and rectangle. In the spirit of Ripley's, see what interesting items you can use to create three-dimensional shapes. (Some of Ripley's exhibits have been made out of match sticks, paper bags and even toast!) If you come up with something creative, submit it to you local Believe It or Not! Museum.

2

Measurement is also crucial in geometry. See if you can measure the following items using both inches and feet, and centimeters and meters.



	Inches & Feet	Centimeters & Meters
a. Your math book	_____	_____
b. Your foot	_____	_____
c. Your waist	_____	_____
d. The blackboard	_____	_____
e. Top of your desk	_____	_____
f. The window	_____	_____
g. The door frame	_____	_____
h. Your teacher's foot	_____	_____



## • Math Mania- Ripley's Style! •

1

Some of the animals in the Ripley's Believe It or Not museum have extra parts! How many of the following parts did each have?

- "Bessie" the cow had how many legs? \_\_\_\_\_
- "Sammie" the sheep had how many legs? \_\_\_\_\_
- There was a duck with how many heads? \_\_\_\_\_

2

Abraham Lincoln became President of the United States in 1861. How many years ago was that?

3

The Maya Mira Ship was created by Bruno Previtali and his son, Massimo. The model took over five years to make. How many total days is five years? Hours? Minutes?

- Days \_\_\_\_\_
- Hours \_\_\_\_\_
- Minutes \_\_\_\_\_



## • Word Power •

Find the following words on your travels throughout the Believe It or Not! Museum. See if you can understand the meaning of the word from the exhibit and write the meaning beside the word below. If you cannot derive the meaning of the word from the exhibit, use the reference materials in your classroom or library and write the definitions. Complete the puzzle on the following page that uses your unbelievable words!

**Culture:**

**Tribe:**

**Superstition:**

**Ancient:**

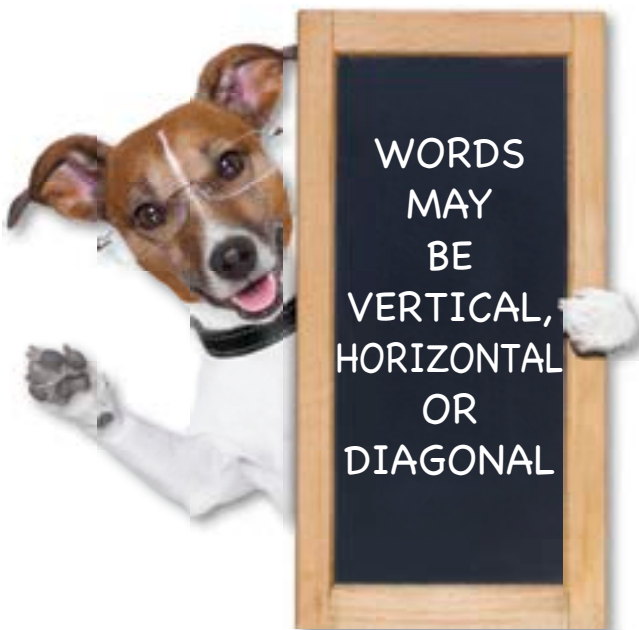
**Ritual:**

These big words  
really give your  
brain a work-out!



## • Word Search •

X D E M A V Y J E D Z P U C V  
O X W T P N M Q G Y G M V U S  
K S S K C U C O W F A W P S Y  
F W D P E Y T I N Y E O C T E  
G N B S E I R V E U D E E O L  
I B U A B Y I N U N J U U M P  
Y M X I L V L B D U T D V S I  
N H H F C F Q E F E X W T H R  
U X P A P V H L T M N G K B D  
E Q Z A J K K I R D A H K L K  
M B B E R V L E I A D S T B F  
B B I Z C G F V B R C S Y X C  
Z Q N O Z R O E E N K T O S O  
M D W P E A O E E R U T L U C  
X J F X D B G V G B E L F O C



- Ancient
- Believe
- Culture
- Customs
- Exhibit
- Geography
- Museum
- Ripleys
- Tribe



## • **ODD IS IN - Bullies are OUT!** •

Robert Leroy Ripley was many things to many people. He was an artist, an entrepreneur, and a world traveler. He spent much of his adult life traveling the globe searching for exciting new cultures, rituals, and people! One thing Robert Ripley was not was a bully. Through his travels, Ripley met some of the most interesting people from around the world. People who were tall, short, big, small, some who ate bugs, some who pierced their bodies with bone, and others who had spent their lives being ridiculed for their physical differences. He met women with full beards, men whose faces were entirely covered with hair, people that were over 8 feet tall, and those who were barely more than two feet tall. In the end, Robert Ripley welcomed them all into his home, on board his ship, and into every fiber of his life. In fact, he made them his life.

Ripley was very protective and caring towards those who were "different" than what our society says that they should be. In those day, sideshows featured what they called "Freaks." Ripley would have none of that. To this day, the word has been banned from the company's vocabulary. Our entire company is founded on the principle that all people are created equal and deserve to be treated as such. We should learn to appreciate the fact that all people are not the same and celebrate these differences rather than exploiting them or abusing those who differ in appearance. We hope that you will utilize these lessons in an effort to help children come to accept and celebrate all people from all walks of life. After all, we at Ripley's believe that 'ODD IS IN!'

**For more information on Ripley's Believe It or Not! fight against bullying, contact your local Odditorium for our "Odd Is In" slide show, class presentation and buttons.**



### *Features:*

1. Identifying the 4 Types of Bullying In Our Society
2. Dealing With Bullying
3. Discussion Questions
4. Embracing Our Differences
5. Interesting ODD People in the History of Ripley's





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