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**ALCATRAZ**

**THE EIFFEL  
TOWER**

**THE GRAND  
CANYON**





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Where Is  
Alcatraz?



by  
Nico Medina

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## Chapter 5

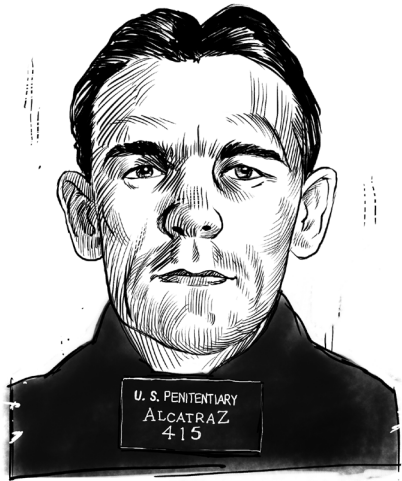
### Escape from Alcatraz

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For some desperate prisoners, no price was too high to pay for the sweet taste of freedom. Over the course of many months in 1946, Bernie Coy (Inmate #415) came up with an escape plan that became known as the Battle of Alcatraz.

Coy worked in the library. He could move around the cell house and talk quietly with other inmates while he delivered books. Coy watched the guards carefully, learning their habits.

At Alcatraz there were strict rules for the guards as well as the prisoners. For example, if a guard



BERNIE COY

needed the key to go to the Yard, he would tap on the door. Then a guard on the West Gun Gallery—a walkway that overlooked the cell house—lowered a key to the first guard.

On the afternoon of May 2, Bernie Coy and his partners took advantage of this routine.

The cell house was mostly empty after lunch. Coy quietly swept the corridors. He tapped on the door to D Block. This was the signal for his partner “Crazy Sam” Shockley to start screaming. Crazy Sam raised a big ruckus. The officers patrolling the cell house went to D Block to see what was going on.



Meanwhile in the kitchen, inmate Marv Hubbard asked to be excused. He was finished with his work and said he wanted to go to the Yard for some fresh air. Permission was granted, and Hubbard left the kitchen. Hubbard stood outside the door, so Officer Bill Miller could search him.

At this point, Bernie Coy put down his broom and snuck up behind Officer Miller. Coy pinned Miller's arms behind his back. Then Hubbard punched the officer, knocking him out cold.

Coy took the officer's keys and opened a cell door. He had been watching for months to learn which keys opened which doors. Coy and Hubbard took Officer Miller's pants and jacket, bound and gagged him, put him in the cell, and locked him inside. Then, using Miller's keys, Coy started opening cell doors for his other friends.



Next Coy grabbed a small tool bag he had hidden. In it was a “bar-spreading” tool made from toilet fixtures. With the bag in his mouth, Coy climbed up to the Gun Gallery. He took out his tool and got to work, spreading apart the bars that protected the Gun Gallery. Coy squeezed through the tiny opening. He’d been dieting for months to be sure he’d fit through.

He found a club and crouched down to hide. He gave the signal to Joseph Cretzer, one of the men he’d just freed. Cretzer tapped on the Yard door, signaling the officer up in the Gun Gallery to come out and lower the key to him. The officer had no idea what had been happening. When he appeared, Coy hit him with the club, knocking him unconscious.



Coy quickly found a key ring and a pistol, and gave them to Cretzer. He found a rifle and took it for himself. For the next several minutes, the men tried to find the right key—#107—to open the door to the Yard. But it wasn't there. They tried all the keys. None of them worked.



Little did Coy know that Officer Miller had broken the rules earlier that day. Rather than return key #107 to the Gun Gallery that morning like he was supposed to, he had put it in his shirt pocket.

More guards and prisoners stumbled onto the scene. They were taken hostage. Coy and his men were running out of time. They demanded to know where key #107 was. Miller lied and said it must be in the Gun Gallery, where it belonged. By then Miller had hidden the key in the cell.

A guard from the basement came upstairs and realized what was happening in the cell house. He ran back downstairs and called Warden Johnston. The alarm was sounded.

Coy grabbed his rifle. He knocked out some windows and took aim, shooting at the guards in three watchtowers. Cretzer took his pistol and opened fire on the officers they had taken hostage. He wanted to leave no witnesses.



For three days, the Battle of Alcatraz raged on. Gunfire was exchanged. More guards were flown in from federal prisons in Washington State and Kansas. They threw tear-gas canisters into the cell house. They fired machine guns and mortars. Marines were called in to guard the prisoners who were still in the Yard, locked

But while Cretzer wasn't looking, one of the officers wrote on the ground the names of the six prisoners who were trying to escape. Then he circled the names of the leaders: Coy, Hubbard, and Cretzer.

Officers called inside the cell house. They wanted to discuss a way to end the violence. Cretzer screamed back that he'd never be taken alive!



outside the cell house. Coast Guard boats circled the island.

Eventually, a hole was drilled into the cell-house ceiling, and grenades and explosives were dropped through. The blasts could be heard across the bay in San Francisco, where people watched through binoculars as the battle raged.

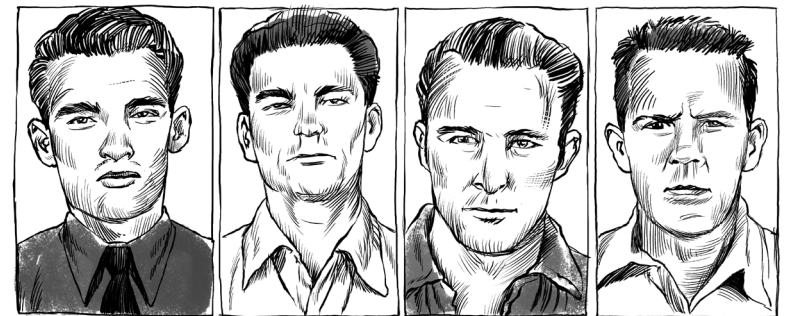


At the end of the Battle of Alcatraz, Coy, Cretzer, and Hubbard were found dead. “Crazy Sam” Shockley and another partner in crime were put on trial and convicted. They were

executed in the gas chamber at San Quentin State Prison, seated next to each other. The sixth man received an additional ninety-nine-year sentence. Officer Miller died from his injuries. Remarkably, the other hostages survived. But another guard, Harold Stites, was killed in the battle.

The Battle of Alcatraz was not the first escape attempt at Alcatraz. And it wouldn't be the last. In its twenty-nine years as a federal prison, Alcatraz saw fourteen escape attempts. No one escaped alive . . . but not everyone believes that.

Perhaps the most famous attempt was the thirteenth, in June 1962. Frank Lee Morris, a



FRANK LEE  
MORRIS

ALLEN  
CLAYTON  
WEST

CLARENCE  
ANGLIN

JOHN  
ANGLIN



genius and an escape artist, planned an escape with three partners: Allen Clayton West, and brothers John and Clarence Anglin.

Over many months, every night, the men chipped away at the wall surrounding their ventilator grilles. They used spoons stolen from the Mess Hall. They wanted to reach a corridor



on the other side. Out of view from the guards, this corridor ran between the two rows of cells in the block.

Bit by bit, the wall around the ventilator grilles crumbled. The rocks and dust were flushed down the toilet or scattered the next day when they went to work. While two men dug, the others acted as lookouts. To cover the holes they were digging, they made a look-alike grille out of cardboard. They painted the grille to match the real thing perfectly.

Part two of the plan involved more arts and crafts! Using soap, cotton rags, toilet paper, and real hair collected from the barbershop, they built papier-mâché heads, then painted them.



These heads would be placed on their beds the night of the escape, to fool the guard who made the nighttime counts.

Finally, they needed a way off the island. Frank Morris got an idea from *Popular Mechanics* magazine. He would create a raft and life vests out of raincoats.

After lights-out on June 11, Morris and the Anglin brothers put their dummy heads to bed,



then squeezed out of their cells into the corridor. Allen West couldn't remove the grille from his cell wall in time. It was stuck. He was left behind.

Morris and the Anglins climbed up to the roof of the building. Avoiding the spotlights from the watchtowers, they climbed down a fifty-foot shaft to the ground and ran toward the water. After scaling a barbed-wire fence, they

finally reached the waters of San Francisco Bay. They inflated their raft, then got in the water and started paddling to shore.

The next morning, a guard tried to wake up Frank Morris. When he nudged Morris's "head," it rolled onto the floor. That must have been a surprise!



Alcatraz went on lockdown right away. The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) arrived with bloodhounds. They followed the inmates' trail to the water. State and local police joined the Coast Guard in the biggest manhunt in San Francisco history.

Pieces of the raft and life vests were found scattered across the Bay Area. But no suspicious crimes—no robberies, no stolen cars—were reported nearby. The men seemed to have vanished into thin air.

The FBI closed the case in 1979. Frank Morris and the Anglins were declared dead. Drowned in the churning waters of San Francisco Bay.

But no bodies have ever been found.

# Where Is the Eiffel Tower?



by Dina Anastasio

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## Chapter 7 What Can You Do with a Tower?

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Paris officials wanted to take down the tower when the fair closed. That had been the plan from the start. The city owned the land it was built on, and the city wanted it back. Gustave, on the other hand, hoped the tower would stand forever.

An agreement was finally signed. His tower could remain where it was until 1909. That was better, but not good enough for Gustave. He now had twenty years to figure out how to make the tower a permanent landmark, one that would stand for hundreds of years.

Gustave soon came up with a plan. At that time, people used telegraphs to send messages long distances over land. At sea, ships in

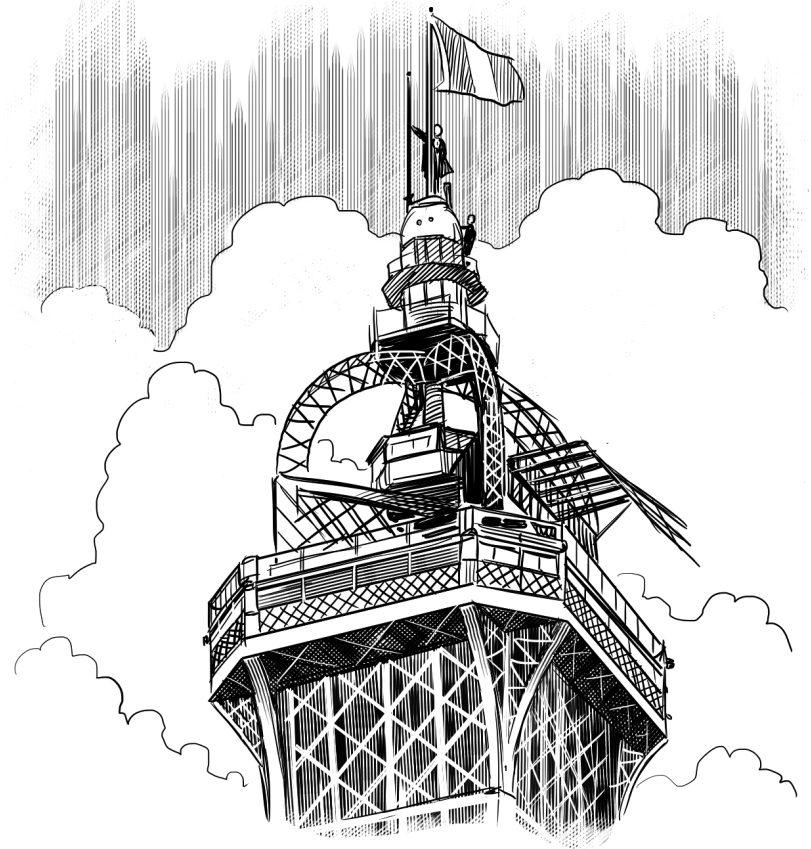
trouble used Morse code. Messages were carried through wires and cables under the ocean.

But something new was happening. An inventor named Guglielmo Marconi was working on a way to send messages long distances through the air on radio waves. His invention did not use wires. Messages would be transmitted and received using an antenna.

Wireless radio waves fascinated Gustave. He had been using his tower to conduct weather experiments. Why not use it to experiment with radio waves?

Gustave worked hard. He brought in an inventor named Eugène Ducretet to help. They raised an antenna above the third floor. Finally, on November 5, 1898, a signal was sent from the tower and picked up at the Panthéon, about three miles away. Still, Paris officials insisted the tower had to be taken down in 1909.

Gustave was desperate. How could he convince the officials to let his tower stand?



Hadn't they been impressed with his radio work?

Then Gustave had a brainstorm. Wasn't the French military doing wireless experiments? Didn't it need a better way to transmit and receive messages?

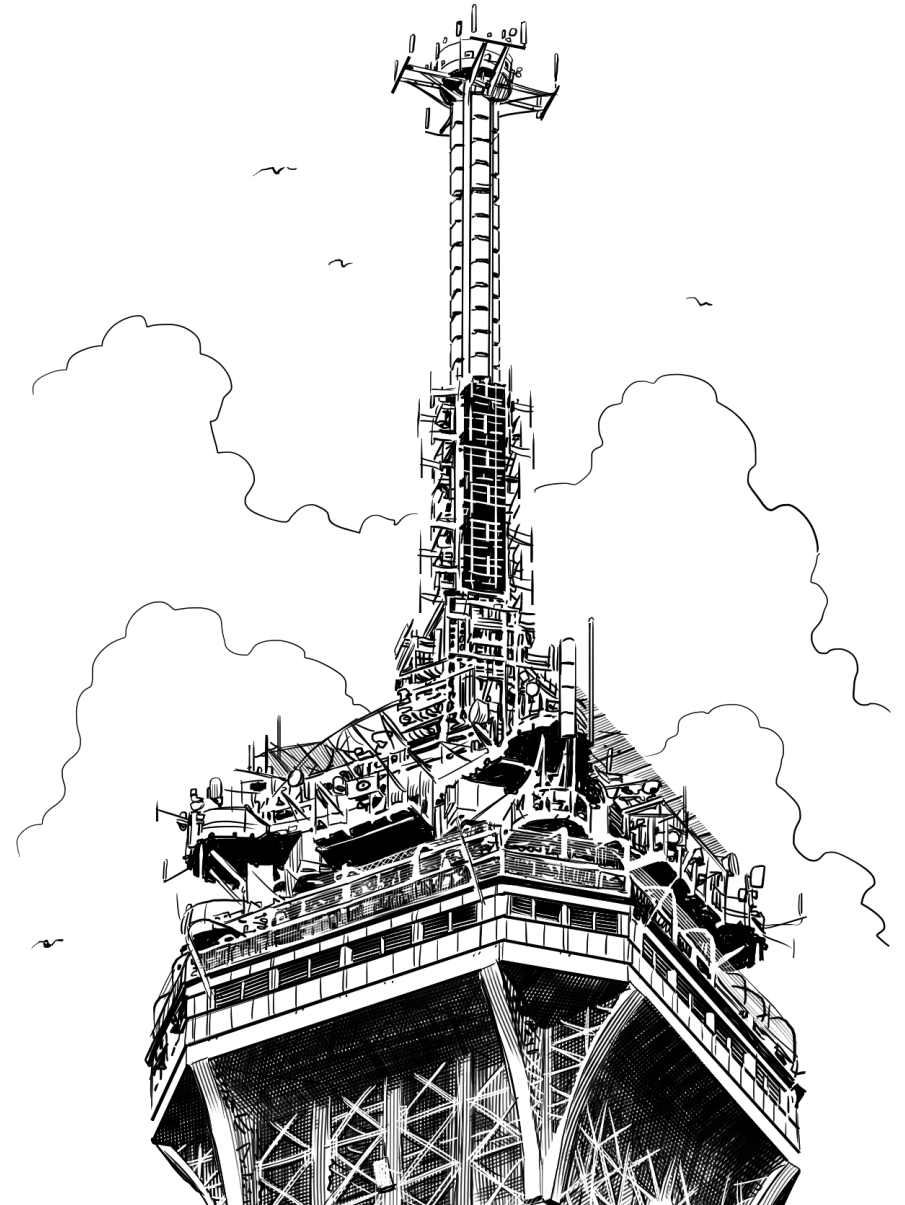
Gustave went to the military. Okay, the officials said. They'd agree to try using the tower

for some of their experiments. The military installed better and higher antennas. It worked. They could send clearer messages and orders to more distant soldiers and sailors.

The military was convinced. Now Gustave had to convince the Paris officials. It took time, but eventually, on January 1, 1910, an agreement to save the Eiffel Tower was signed.

Over the years, new ways to use radio waves were discovered. More advanced wireless devices were invented. By 1920, a machine called the radio could broadcast programs that people listened to from far away. In the mid-twentieth century, television began broadcasting programs that people could see as well as hear. The tower was becoming more and more important. Higher antennas were added to help send and receive signals.

Today, 120 antennas at the top of the Eiffel Tower help send messages to the farthest points of the globe.



## GUGLIELMO MARCONI (1874–1937)

GUGLIELMO MARCONI WAS BORN IN BOLOGNA, ITALY, ON APRIL 25, 1874. WHEN HE WAS A BOY, HE WAS FASCINATED BY SCIENCE. AS HE GREW OLDER, HE BECAME INTERESTED IN THE WAY PEOPLE SENT AND RECEIVED MESSAGES AND SIGNALS OVER LONG DISTANCES. AT THE TIME, INFORMATION WAS TRANSMITTED OVER WIRES AND CABLES.

MARCONI HAD A BETTER IDEA. MAYBE IT WAS POSSIBLE TO SEND SIGNALS THROUGH THE AIR USING ELECTROMAGNETIC RADIATION. HE CREATED EQUIPMENT THAT PRODUCED RADIO WAVES. THEN HE CONDUCTED EXPERIMENTS. BEFORE LONG, HE WAS ABLE TO SEND SIGNALS, FIRST ONE MILE, THEN TWELVE MILES.

MARCONI WONDERED HOW FAR HIS SIGNALS COULD GO. COULD A WIRELESS SIGNAL BE SENT FROM ENGLAND TO NEWFOUNDLAND, CANADA? IT WAS 2,100 MILES, ALL THE WAY ACROSS THE ATLANTIC OCEAN. MANY PEOPLE THOUGHT IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE. BUT MARCONI DECIDED TO TRY.

ON DECEMBER 12, 1901, HE SUCCEEDED. NO WIRES OR CABLES WERE USED. WIRELESS WAS BORN.



In September 1914, Europe was fighting World War I. German troops had taken over Belgium. They were fighting to capture France. As the Germans moved closer to Paris, French soldiers fought one of the most important battles of the war. It took place at the Marne River, thirty miles from Paris.



The tower was closed to the public during the war, but the antennas continued to be used. As the battle raged on, messages to French troops were being transmitted from the top of the

tower. Also, the tower's transmitters were able to pick up German messages. This helped the French soldiers know what the enemy was up to. The Battle of the Marne lasted about a week. When it was over, the Germans retreated. Paris was safe. In 1918, Germany surrendered, ending World War I.

A little more than twenty years later, Germany again went to war against many countries in Europe, including France. In 1940, German Nazi soldiers moved into the center of





Paris to occupy the city. It was a terrible time for France.

At the Eiffel Tower, a French fireman was forced to take down the national flag of France. The Nazis then raised their own flag.

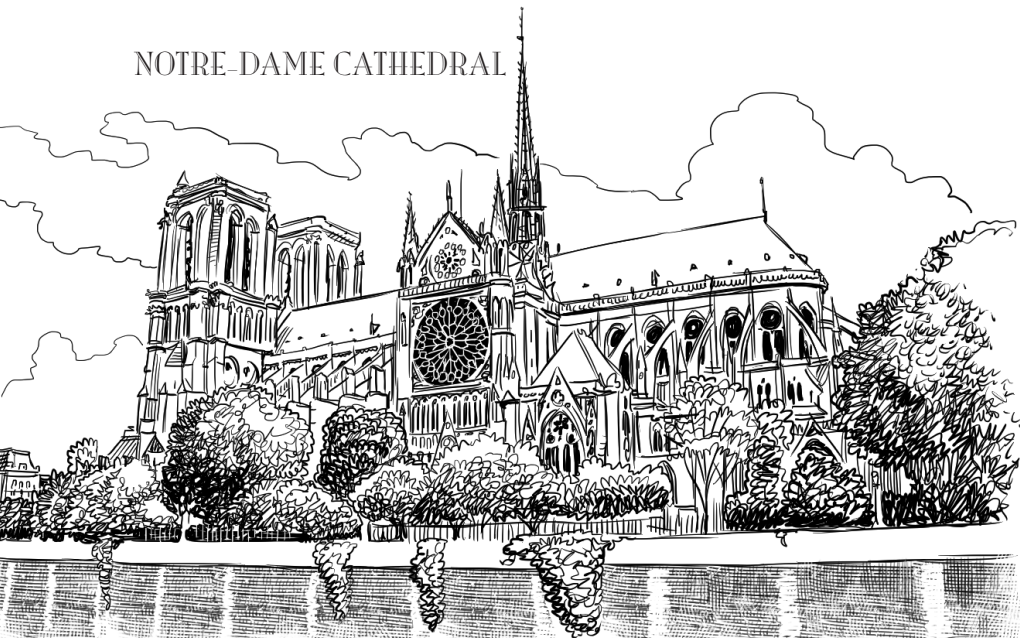
However, by 1944, Adolf Hitler, the Nazi leader, could see that Germany was losing the war. So he called in General Dietrich von Choltitz. He was the German commander and governor of occupied Paris. Hitler gave him an order: Before Paris was free again, von Choltitz must reduce the city to rubble. No famous

building or monument could be left standing. Notre-Dame Cathedral, the Louvre Museum, the Arc de Triomphe, the Eiffel Tower, and other beloved Parisian landmarks must be blown up. Under no circumstances should von Choltitz leave Paris without destroying it.

The battle to free Paris from the Germans began in August 1944. The Allied troops (Americans and British) were moving closer and closer to Paris. Soon they would arrive and liberate the city. Hitler ordered that explosives be put in place around Paris—on bridges, buildings, and monuments. Von Choltitz followed these orders. But he did not obey Hitler's final command. He never pushed the buttons that would have fired the explosives.

On August 24, French and American troops moved into Paris. Parisians took up guns and rushed into the streets to help win back their city. The Germans surrendered on August 25, 1944.

NOTRE-DAME CATHEDRAL



Von Choltitz had plenty of time and opportunity to destroy Paris. Why, instead, did he save the city? His reasons are still unclear.

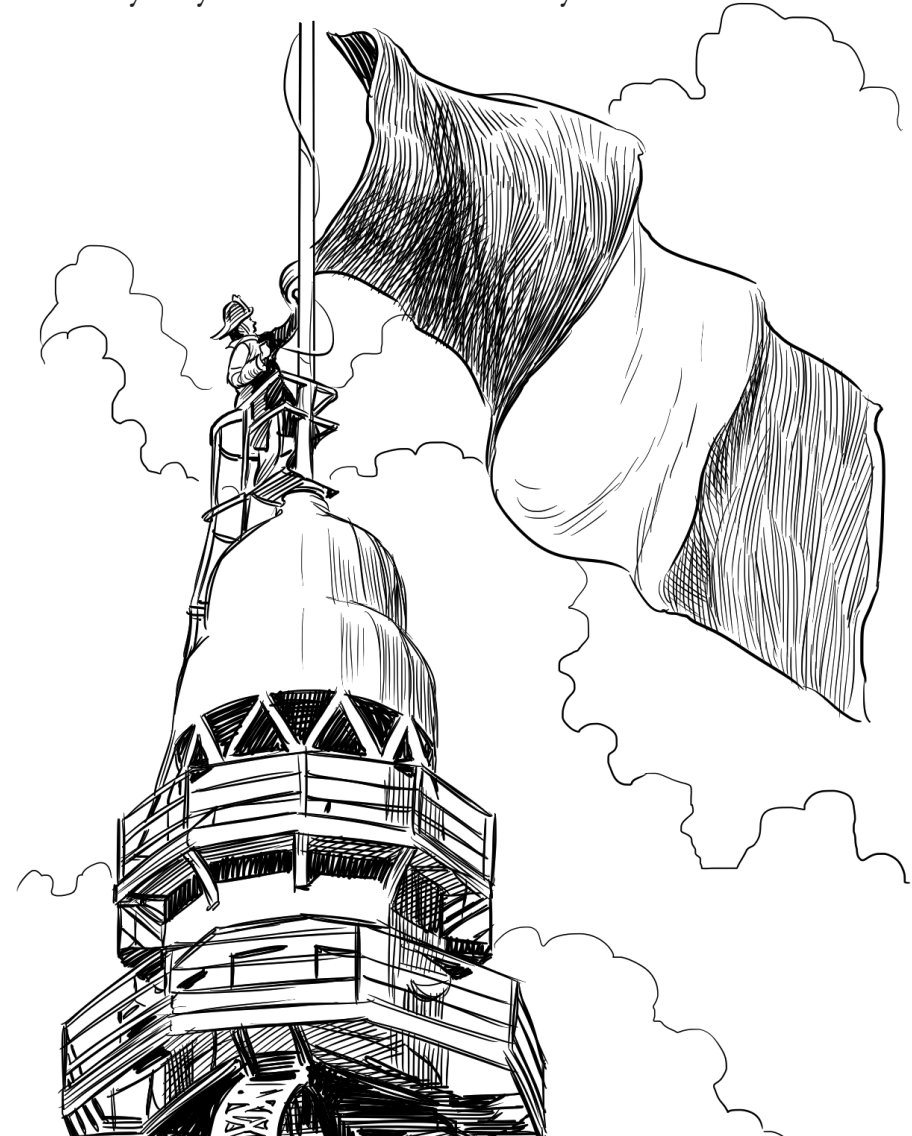
There are many different theories. Von Choltitz himself stated, “If for the first time I had disobeyed, it was because I knew that Hitler was insane.” His son maintained his father understood there was no reason to take down the buildings and chose to save the city.

French people found that impossible to believe. Von Choltitz had killed many Parisians; he had no love for their city. So perhaps somewhere in Paris, a Parisian stopped von Choltitz from that horrible act.

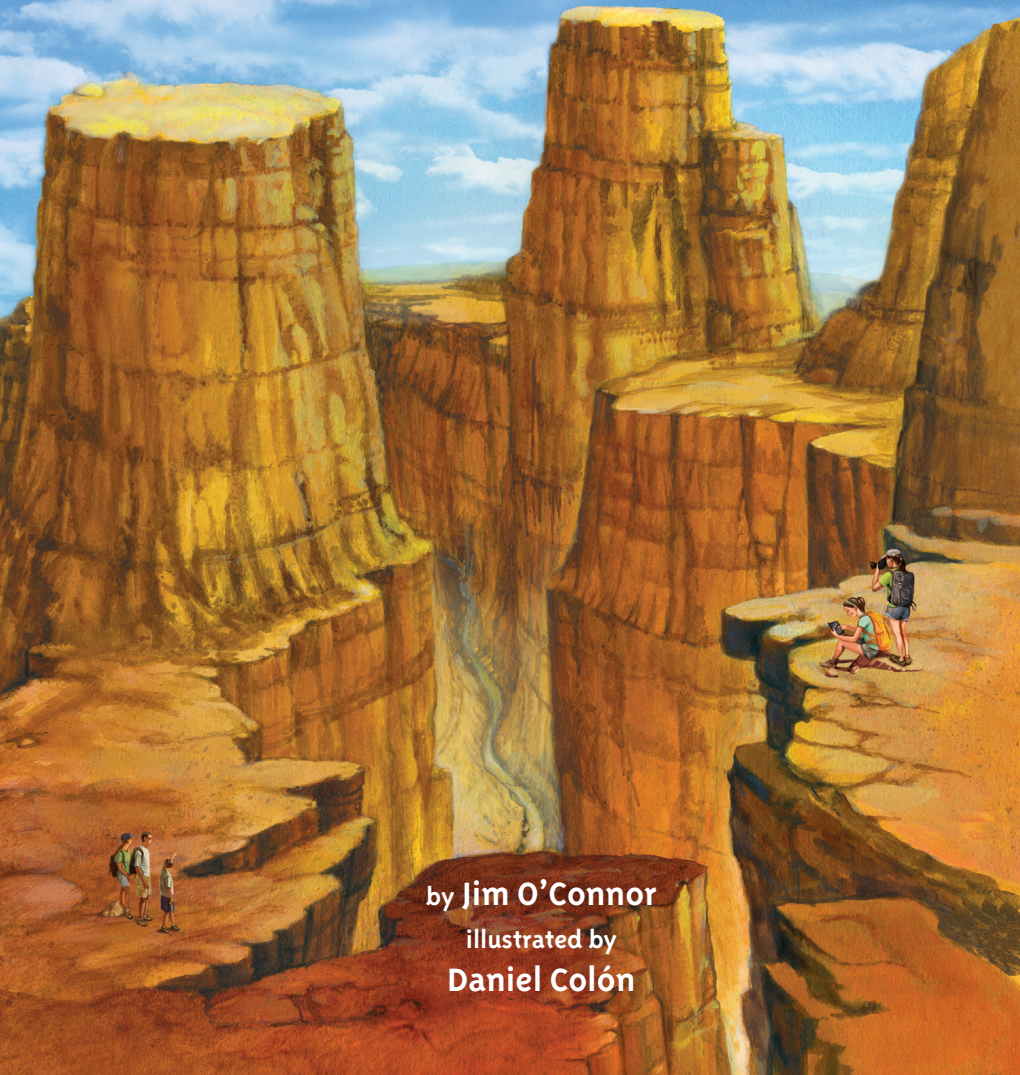
With Paris now freed, the moment had come to pull down the hated Nazi flag from the Eiffel Tower. The same man who had removed the French flag in 1940 was chosen to put up the *tricolore* of blue, white, and red. But all French flags had been destroyed by the Nazis during the war. So he ended up making

a three-color flag out of sheets, then climbed to the top of the tower and raised the giant banner.

The Eiffel Tower stood proud once more, truly a symbol of France’s liberty.



# Where Is the Grand Canyon?



by Jim O'Connor  
illustrated by  
Daniel Colón



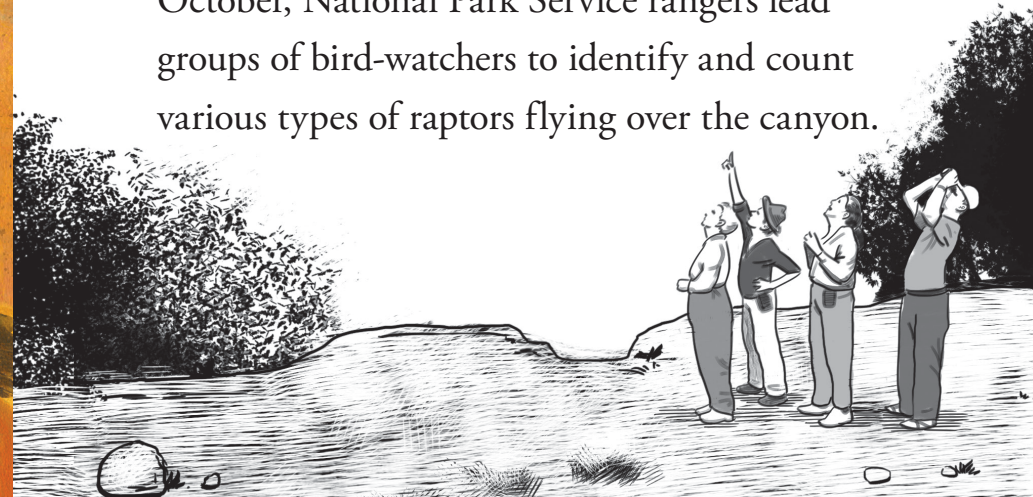
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## Chapter 6 Wildlife in the Canyon

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First-time visitors usually are blown away by the sight of the canyon itself. All the rock! They are unaware of the incredible number of animals and plants that make the Grand Canyon their home.

Riding the canyon's swirling air currents are bald eagles, ravens, red-tailed hawks, turkey vultures, and other birds of prey, which are also called "raptors." Every year in September and October, National Park Service rangers lead groups of bird-watchers to identify and count various types of raptors flying over the canyon.



In addition to the raptors, there are 350 different species of birds that fly over or live inside the canyon.

At the bottom of the canyon, there are seventeen kinds of freshwater fish that live in the Colorado River or its feeder streams. There are forty-seven reptile species, including geckos, lizards, Gila monsters, iguanas, and three kinds of rattlesnakes.

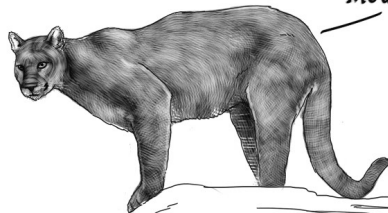
There are all kinds of mammals, from small creatures such as chipmunks, squirrels, mice,

weasels, porcupines, raccoons, and bats to big bears, elk, deer, sheep, mountain lions, and mule deer.

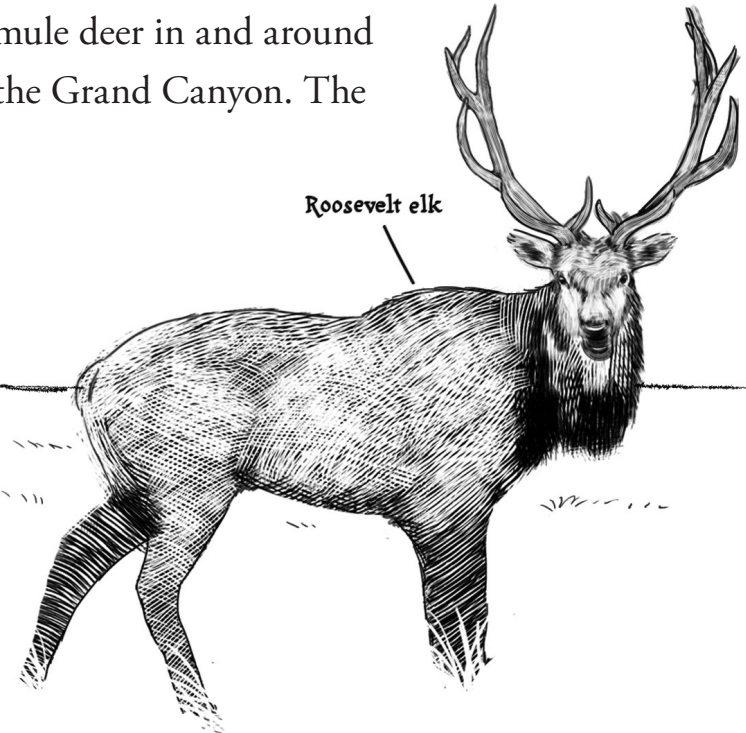
Depending on the time of year, visitors might glimpse elk near Grand Canyon Village. They are called Roosevelt elk and were brought to Grand Canyon Park after a native species of elk was killed off by hunters in the early 1900s.

For thousands of years, people have hunted bighorn sheep, mountain lions, black bears, and mule deer in and around the Grand Canyon. The

Mountain lion



Roosevelt elk

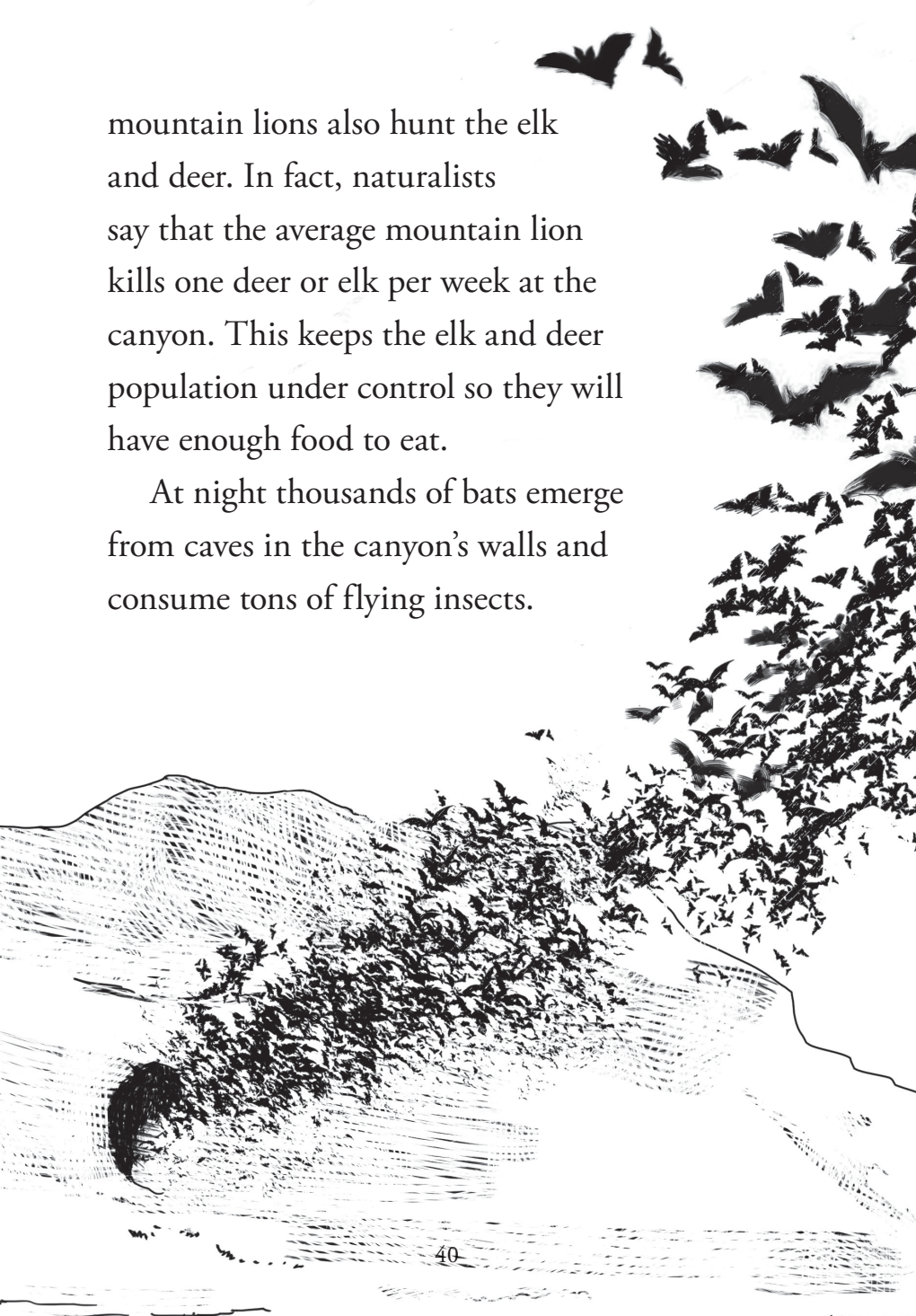


Gila monster



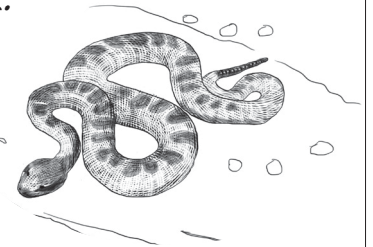
mountain lions also hunt the elk and deer. In fact, naturalists say that the average mountain lion kills one deer or elk per week at the canyon. This keeps the elk and deer population under control so they will have enough food to eat.

At night thousands of bats emerge from caves in the canyon's walls and consume tons of flying insects.



## ONLY IN THE CANYON

THE PINK GRAND CANYON RATTLESNAKE IS FOUND NOWHERE ELSE IN THE WORLD. THE SNAKE CAN GROW TO OVER FOUR FEET LONG AND HAS A UNIQUE PINK COLOR. THAT ALLOWS IT TO BLEND IN WITH ROCKS OF THE SAME COLOR IN THE LOWER CANYON.



BESIDES THE PINK RATTLESNAKE, THERE IS ALSO A SPECIES OF SQUIRREL-THE KAIBAB SQUIRREL-THAT IS FOUND ONLY IN THE CANYON AND ONLY ON ITS NORTH RIM. KAIBABS ARE LIGHT GRAY IN COLOR WITH BLACK BELLIES AND SNOW-WHITE TAILS. LONG TASSELED EARS ARE ITS MOST UNUSUAL FEATURE. UNLIKE MOST SQUIRRELS,

KAIBABS DON'T STORE FOOD FOR THE WINTER. THEY EAT THE SEEDS OF PONDEROSA PINE-CONES AS WELL AS THE BARK OF THE TREE.



The most dangerous animal in the Grand Canyon—at least, to tourists—is a small, furry, cute creature called the rock squirrel. Rock squirrels gather in busy areas because they use humans as vending machines.

Tourists try to lure the squirrels for pictures by holding out nuts, sandwiches, fruit, and other treats. Often tourists end up getting bitten. Besides being painful, squirrel bites can transmit disease and cause bad infections.



Although people don't usually use the color green to describe the Grand Canyon, it is home to 1,750 plant species.

That is more than in any other national park in the United States. Cliff-rose, Apache plume, grizzly-bear prickly pear, mariposa lily, and desert columbine bloom throughout the canyon and give it color.

One reason for the variety of plants and trees is the many different climates within the canyon. The canyon is so deep that the climate changes depending on where visitors are.

Each different climate supports different kinds of plants and animals. This is what is known as a biotic community—a group of plants and animals that live together in a certain area. There are six different biotic communities within the canyon. They too are stacked one on



GRIZZLY-BEAR  
PRICKLY PEAR

top of another like layers in a gigantic cake.

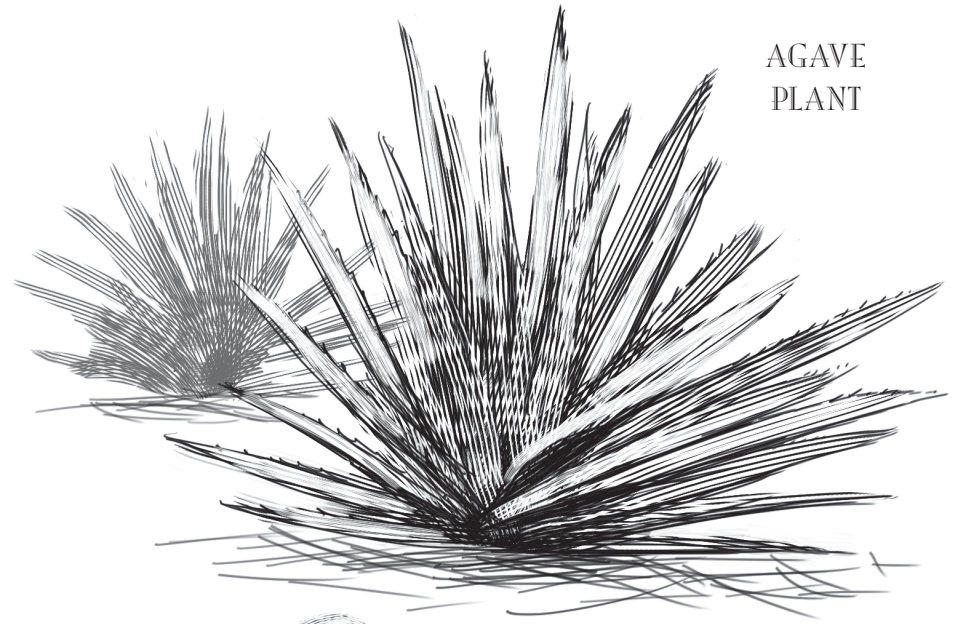
At the floor of the inner canyon, the climate is desert-like. In the summer the temperature may reach over 105 degrees. The floor gets only eight inches of rain a year, so desert plants like cacti and yucca thrive there.

Agave plants bloom once every fifteen to twenty-five years. They are found deep in the canyon. The plant's flowers, leaves, stalks, and sap can all be eaten. It is sometimes called the "century plant" because it takes so long to bloom. The banana yucca blooms every two or three years and produces a fruit that tastes a bit like bananas.

The creatures that live on the canyon floor, such as kangaroo rats, desert iguanas, and cactus mice, have also adapted to the harsh environment. They can survive in extremely hot, dry weather.

A very different biotic community is found on the canyon's North Rim. It is covered with

AGAVE  
PLANT



KANGAROO  
RAT



pine trees and is home to mountain lions, elk, and bighorn sheep. The North Rim gets an average of thirty inches of rain and snow every year. That's a lot. In fact there is so much snow on the North Rim of the Grand Canyon that it is closed to tourists from October to May. All that precipitation, however, is necessary for

ponderosa pines, Douglas firs, and spruce. The roots take hold in cracks in the sandstone so that the trees can grow.

Many North Rim animals could not survive in the hot desert conditions of the canyon floor. Likewise, the plants and animals that thrive deep down in the canyon would not survive the rainy, cold North Rim winters. Although the difference in climate is like traveling from Mexico to Canada, amazingly these biotic communities are only a mile apart!





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