

Geronimo Stilton

Thea Stilton AND THE ICE TREASURE



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RAIN, RAIN, GO AWAY!

It was a miserable evening in New Mouse City. I was headed home after a whole day in the office, and every inch of my fur was **soaking wet**.

As you know, dear reader, I work at *The Rodent's Gazette*, the most famous **newspaper** on Mouse Island. My brother, Geronimo, is the publisher, and I, **THEA STILTON**, am a special correspondent.

Now, I'm not usually a desk editor. To me, spending a whole day shut up in the office is a real **pain** in the tail. But Geronimo had asked me to cover for him, since he was taking the



RAIN, RAIN,



GO AWAY!

day off to spend time with our **nephew**, Benjamin, and I certainly couldn't say no.

That's why after a long day **indoors**, I walked home, even though it was **pouring** outside. I really needed to stretch my **paws**.

I was just a few steps away from my front door when a blue **CAR** zoomed by at top **SPEED**. I was hit by a giant wave.



RAIN, RAIN,



GO AWAY!

SPLAAASH!!!

Brrrrrrr! The freezing water had soaked my **fur**.

Just then, I heard my cell phone.

BEEEP-BEEEP-BEEEP-BEEEP!

I pulled the phone out of my pocket. On the screen was a picture of a water bottle labeled “**Icewater: Take a Dip in the Arctic!**”



I rolled my **EYES**. Clearly someone was pulling my tail. I wondered if it was my cousin Trap; he’s the family **prankster**.



But it wasn’t Trap. Instead, it was a **text message** from my dear friend Nicky. Her next message read: “Hi, Thea! We’re in Barrow!”

The **THEA SISTERS** were five former students of



mine—*Colette*, *nicky*, **PAMELA**, **PAULINA**, and **Violet**. I met them while I was teaching a journalism course at their school, **MOUSEFORD ACADEMY**. We'd formed such a close bond that the five mouselets had named themselves after me!

Now, the name Barrow made my snout spin. Barrow . . . Barrow . . . I was sure I knew that name, but from where?

Aha! I had it at last. Barrow is the **northernmost** city in the United States! It's in Alaska! Moldy Brie, what was Nicky doing there?

The message continued: "I'm here with *Colette*, **PAMELA**, **PAULINA**, and **Violet**! Read the e-mail we sent you, and you'll get the full cheese!"

There was just one thing to do.

I **SCAMPERED** home, took a nice

RAIN, RAIN,



GO AWAY!



I **SCAMPERED** home,



took a nice **long shower**.

and made myself a **hot cup** of tea.

long shower, and made myself a **hot**

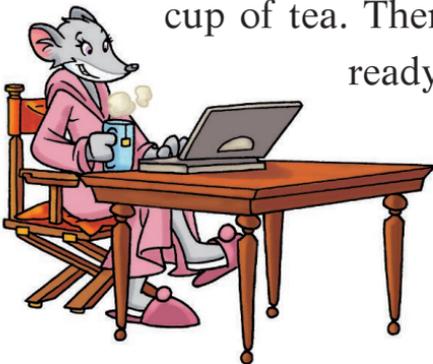
cup of tea. Then I curled up and got

ready to read the newest

adventure of my good

friends the **THEA**

SISTERS!





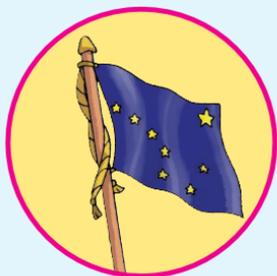
HISTORY

During the first half of the eighteenth century, Vitus Bering and Aleksey Chirikov explored the territory that became Alaska, and the famous captain James Cook visited it in 1778 during his hunt for the Northwest Passage to Europe.

Russia established a colony in Alaska in 1784 and for years profited from the land's natural wealth. But by the mid-nineteenth century, the Russian colonists had overhunted on land and sea, and the czar began to lose interest in the colony.

Russia sold Alaska to the United States in 1867. In 1912, it became an official territory of the United States. On January 3, 1959, it became the forty-ninth state.

ALASKA



Capital: Juneau

Largest city: Anchorage (more than 275,000 residents)

Surface area: 571,951 square miles.

Alaska is the largest state in the United States.

Inhabitants per square mile: Ninety percent of the state has fewer than ten residents per square mile.

State motto: North to the Future

State nickname: Land of the Midnight Sun

GEOGRAPHY

Alaska is one of only two states in the United States that don't share a border with any other states (the other is Hawaii). In fact, Alaska's only border is with Canada. Most of the state is surrounded by the sea. The Bering Strait separates it from Russia.

BARROW

Barrow is the northernmost city in Alaska, and in the United States. During the summer, the sun is out for eighty-four straight days, even at midnight; in winter, the sun does not rise for the same period of time. Barrow's Inupiat name, Ukpeagvik, means "place to hunt snowy owls."