

A CHILD'S
GEOGRAPHY

Volume 2

EXPLORE THE Holy Land



MASTERBOOKS®
CURRICULUM



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About the Author



Ann Voskamp is the wife of a farmer, mama to 7, and the author of the four New York Times bestsellers, *The Broken Way*, *The Greatest Gift*, *Unwrapping the Greatest Gift*, and the sixty-week New York Times bestseller *One Thousand Gifts: A Dare to Live Fully Right Where You Are*, which has sold more than one million copies and has been translated into more than twenty languages.

Named by Christianity Today as one of fifty women most shaping culture and the church today, Ann is the co-founder of WeWelcomeRefugees.com and is a passionate and vocal advocate for the marginalized and oppressed around the globe, partnering with The Justice Conference, Mercy House Global, and Compassion International.

She's sharing the grace journey at: www.annvoskamp.com or [instagram/annvoskamp](https://www.instagram.com/annvoskamp).



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Teacher, Set the Course!

Course Description

This course is designed for 5th graders and scheduled for 3-day weeks over a year-long informative journey. Using a mix of geography and cultural details, students will not only learn about the countries that make up the Holy Land, but also about the impact of the Flood of Noah on the landscapes and natural resources available today.

The Holy Land is a beautiful and unique place. However, a trip to these special lands also requires an understanding of the conflicts of faith that are at the heart of so much of its history. These are lands that are claimed by the three largest religions in the world: Christianity, Islam, and Judaism.

Affirming Faith

As part of this course, we use the discussion of various religions as a teaching opportunity to help the student learn the crucial differences between Christianity, Islam, and Judaism. Students will learn that while some aspects of Islam and Judaism are mirrored in Christianity, it is vital for them to understand why Christianity and the God of the Bible are the ultimate truth.

In this study of the Holy Land, we affirm the truth of the One True God as revealed in His Word, the Holy Bible, as we explore countries who follow the different faiths of Judaism and Islam. Students will have helpful charts and learn about how man has taken God's truth and altered it in the religions of Islam and Judaism to reject the truth of Jesus in the New Testament as Savior. While not a primary focus for this geography course, it will be a helpful affirmation for students who might otherwise be confused about biblical truth vs. popular opinion when exploring religious areas, cultural traditions, and social interactions steeped in these other religions.

Excerpts from Master Books' *Counterfeits of Christianity: Volume 1 of World Religions and Cults* have been shared as part of the sidebars in some chapters within this study. For more information about this book and others in the series, visit www.masterbooks.com.

Course Objectives

Students completing this course will:

- 🌐 Discover unique geological points of interest and fascinating geographical sites among the countries of Turkey, Israel, Egypt, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, and Jordan.
- 🌐 Enjoy a photo-filled exploration of the history and the importance of many cities and natural wonders.
- 🌐 Explore how technology and innovation is changing desert life and the importance of natural resources to the economies and daily life of those who make the Holy Lands their home.

Activities

This course contains activities to help students have a more hands-on cultural experience during this journey. Activities also include optional recipes.

Materials List

There is a helpful supply list for the course on page 7.

Schedule

There is a helpful schedule included in this book. It starts on page 9 and has divided up the course into 3 days per week. As always, you can adjust the pace and content of the course per the needs of your student.

Quizzes and Additional Materials

In the back of this book, you will find quizzes in the form of chapter reviews and a final exam. A Scripture Copywork Collection, a glossary of terms, and answer keys are also included for your convenience.

In addition, a reference map section is in the back so students can complete their mapping activities.

Grading

It is always the prerogative of an educator to assess student grades however he or she might deem best. The following is only a suggested guideline based on the material presented through this course. To calculate the percentage of the worksheets and tests, the educator may use the following guide. Divide total number of questions correct (example: 43) by the total number of questions possible (example: 46) to calculate the percentage out of 100 possible.
 $43/46 = 93$ percent correct.

The suggested grade values are noted as follows:

90 to 100 percent = A	60 to 69 percent = D
80 to 89 percent = B	0 to 59 percent = F
70 to 79 percent = C	

Materials List

General Supplies

- Pencils
- Crayons
- Colored pencils
- Children's scissors

Chapter 4, Adventure Challenge 7: Mizrach

- Paper (colored or plain)
- Scissors

Chapter 8, Adventure Challenge 15: Per Kilowatt- Hour

- Calculator

Chapter 10, Bringing it Home (optional: Bas-Relief)

- Clay (self-hardening clay, oven bake clay, or playdough)

- Toothpick or clay tools for sculpting
- A design to sculpt (a simple shape such as a star is best to start with)
- Water (small amount)
- Newspaper or paper to cover the table or counter

Chapter 11, Adventure Challenge 23: Color Needed!

- Colored pencils

Chapter 13, Travel Log (Calligraphy)

- Colored pencils, crayons, or markers

Chapter 15, Bringing it Home (optional: Mosaic Map)

- Assorted colors of paper — plain, wrapping paper, magazine pages, foil, textured papers, or whatever

- you have on hand
- Scissors
- Piece of construction paper or poster board
- Glue (stick, liquid, or spray mount)

Chapter 16, Adventure Challenge 33: All About the Holy Land!

- Any assorted items you want to use during your three-minute presentation: drawings or pictures from magazines, music, a poster you have created, food, or other things

A Tasty Tour Recipe Grocery List (optional)

Chapter 3, Turkey – Part 3: Turkish Tea

- 4 cups of water
- Tea – your favorite kind, loose or in tea bags
- Optional: sugar or lemon
- Cooking supplies: tea pot or kettle, cup, measuring cup

Chapter 3, Turkey – Part 3: Noah's Pudding

- 1 cup barley
- 1 cup canned white kidney beans, washed and drained
- 1 cup canned chickpeas, washed and drained
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 10 cups water
- 10 dried apricots, soaked in water overnight, cut in pieces

A related recipe is included on some chapters of the course.

NOTE: Adult supervision and participation required for this part of the course!

- 10 dried figs, cut in pieces
- ½ cup raisins
- Garnish: ¼ cup walnuts, crumbled
- Cooking supplies: pot, measuring cups, large bowl, spoon, knife

Chapter 3, Turkey – Part 3: Turkish Delight

- 2 cups sugar
- 2 tbsp cornstarch
- 1 cup water
- ½ tsp cream of tartar
- 1 tbsp flavoring (extract) (such as lemon, orange, rose)
- Food coloring (appropriate to flavor, such as yellow for lemon)
- ½ cup toasted almonds or pistachios, chopped
- Confectioners' sugar
- Cooking supplies: medium-sized bowl for mixing, large pot, shallow

pan, candy thermometer, knife, Ziploc® bags

Chapter 6, Israel – Part 3: Hamentaschen

- ½ cup butter
- ½ cup sugar
- 1 egg
- ¼ cup pulp-free orange juice
- 1 cup white flour
- 1 cup wheat flour – no substitutes
- 2 tsp baking powder
- Jam of your choice
- Cooking supplies: wax paper (optional), hand mixer or blender, measuring cups, mixing bowl, spoon, rolling pin, and knife

Chapter 6, Israel – Part 3:
Bagels and Lox

- Poppy-seed or sesame-seed bagel
- Cream cheese
- Smoked salmon (lox)
- Optional: salmon-flavored cream cheese
- Cooking supplies: table knife

Chapter 6, Egypt – Part 3:
Hummus

- 2 cloves garlic
- ¼ cup lemon juice
- ¼ cup water
- 14 oz canned chickpeas (garbanzo beans), rinsed and drained
- ½ cup *tahini*
- 1 teaspoon salt
- Your choice of: cut up veggies, chips, or flat bread
- Cooking supplies: blender or food processor

Chapter 6, Iraq – Part 3:
Mamounia

- 3 cups water
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 tsp lemon juice

- ½ cup sweet butter
- 1 cup semolina (cream of wheat or you may use wheat flour)
- Whipped cream
- 1 tsp ground cinnamon
- Cooking supplies: large pot or saucepan, spoon, measuring cup, serving bowls

Chapter 6, Iraq – Part 3: It's a Date!

- Dates
- Variety of nuts
- Bananas
- Cooking supplies: knife

Chapter 14, Saudi Arabia –
Part 2: Arabic Coffee

- 2 cups cold water
- 6 tsp ground coffee
- 6 cardamom seeds (crushed) or ¼–½ tsp ground cardamom
- Cloves (2 to 4, based on your preference)
- A few strands of saffron
- Cooking supplies: measuring cup, saucepan or pot, coffee cups

Chapter 14, Saudi Arabia –
Part 2: Mint Tea

- 1–2 tea bags (or loose leaf tea if you have it; use unflavored tea)
- 2 tbsp fresh mint leaves
- 4 cups boiling water
- Sugar cubes (per your preference)
- Cooking supplies: measuring cup, saucepan or pot, cups

Chapter 16, Jordan – Part 2:
Pita Bread

- 1 package of yeast
- ½ cup warm water
- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- 1¼ tsp salt
- 1 tsp granulated sugar
- 1 cup lukewarm water
- Cooking supplies: small bowl, large bowl, measuring cups, towel, baking sheet, spatula, Ziploc® bags

Other books in this series:

Explore the His Earth

Explore the Classical World

Explore the Medieval Kingdoms

Explore Viking Realms

Schedule

Date	Day	Assignment	Due Date	✓
Week 1	1	Read Before Embarking on pages 13-14.		
	2	Read Chapter 1: "Turkey, Pt. 1: Directions to Eden, Please?" on pages 15-20.		
	3	Complete Adventure Challenge 1 on pages 21-22.		
Week 2	1	Continue to read Chapter 1 on pages 23-28.		
	2	Complete Adventure Challenge 2 on pages 29-30.		
	3	Read and complete Mapping It Out! and Travel Log on pages 31-32.		
Week 3	1	Complete Chapter 1 Review on page 337.		
	2	Read Chapter 2: "Turkey, Pt. 2: Beehives and Chimneys" on pages 33-38.		
	3	Complete Adventure Challenge 3 on pages 39-40.		
Week 4	1	Continue to read Chapter 2 on pages 41-46.		
	2	Complete Adventure Challenge 4 on pages 47-48.		
	3	Read and complete Chapter 2: Mapping It Out! and Travel Log on pages 49-50.		
Week 5	1	Complete Chapter 2 Review on page 339.		
	2	Read Chapter 3: "Turkey, Pt. 3: Wandering, Wrestling, and Whirling and" on pages 51-54.		
	3	Complete Adventure Challenge 5 and A Tasty Tour (optional) on pages 55-56.		
Week 6	1	Continue to read Chapter 3 on pages 57-62.		
	2	Read "Go into all the World" and complete A Tasty Tour (optional) on pages 63-64.		
	3	Complete Adventure Challenge 6 and Travel Log on pages 65-66.		
Week 7	1	Complete Chapter 3 Review on pages 341-342.		
	2	Read Chapter 4: "Israel, Part 1: The Land of Milk and Honey" on pages 67-74.		
	3	Complete Adventure Challenge 7 on pages 75-76.		
Week 8	1	Continue to read Chapter 4 on pages 77-82.		
	2	Complete Adventure Challenge 8 on pages 83-84.		
	3	Read and complete Mapping It Out! and Travel Log on pages 85-86.		
Week 9	1	Complete Chapter 4 Review on pages 343-344.		
	2	Read Chapter 5: "Israel, Part 2: Farms in the Desert and the Healthy Dead Sea" on pages 87-92.		
	3	Complete Adventure Challenge 9 on pages 93-94.		

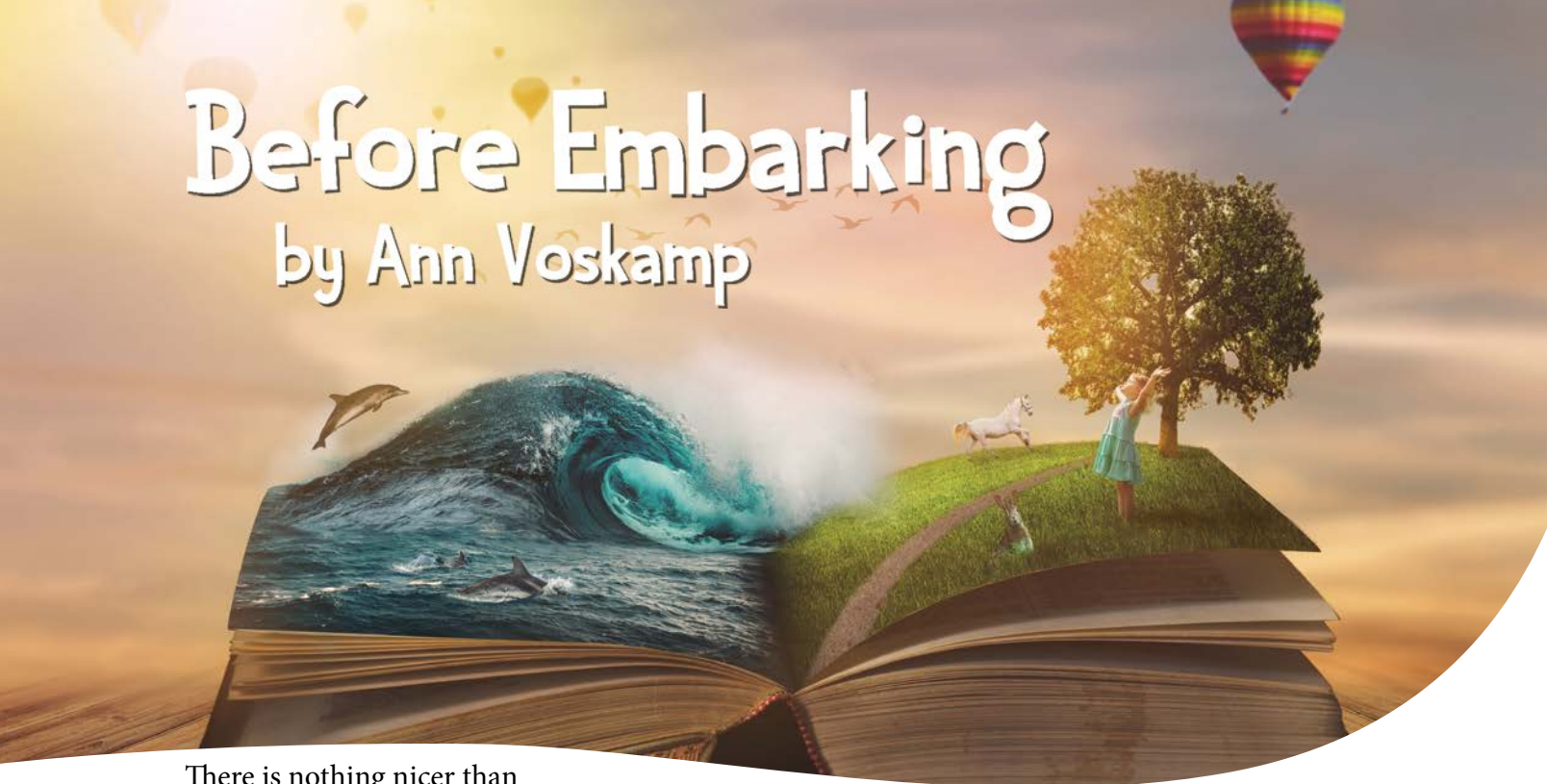
Date	Day	Assignment	Due Date	✓
Week 10	1	Continue to read Chapter 5 on pages 95-102.		
	2	Complete Adventure Challenge 10 and Mapping It Out! on pages 103-104.		
	3	Read Chapter 5: Bringing It Home and Travel Log on pages 105-106.		
Week 11	1	Complete Chapter 5 Review on page 345.		
	2	Read Chapter 6: "Israel, Part 3: Howdy, Pilgrim!" on pages 107-114.		
	3	Complete Adventure Challenge 11 on pages 115-116.		
Week 12	1	Continue to read Chapter 6 on pages 117-120.		
	2	Complete Adventure Challenge 12 on pages 121-122.		
	3	Complete Mapping It Out! And A Tasty Tour (optional) on pages 123-124.		
Week 13	1	Read Chapter 6: Go into all the World and Travel Log on pages 125-126.		
	2	Complete Chapter 6 Review on pages 347-348.		
	3	Read Chapter 7: "Egypt, Part 1: Wearing Egypt" on pages 127-132.		
Week 14	1	Complete Adventure Challenge 13 on pages 133-134.		
	2	Continue to read Chapter 7 on pages 135-140.		
	3	Complete Adventure Challenge 14 on pages 141-142.		
Week 15	1	Complete Mapping It Out! And Music on pages 143-144.		
	2	Read and complete Chapter 7: Bringing It Home on pages and Travel Log on pages 145-146.		
	3	Complete Chapter 7 Review on page 349.		
Week 16	1	Read Chapter 8: "Egypt, Part 2: Navigating the Nile" on pages 147-152.		
	2	Complete Adventure Challenge 15 on pages 153-154.		
	3	Continue to read Chapter 8 on pages 155-160.		
Week 17	1	Complete Adventure Challenge 16 on pages 161-162.		
	2	Read Chapter 8: Mapping It Out! and Travel Log on pages 163-164.		
	3	Complete Chapter 8 Review on page 351.		
Week 18	1	Read Chapter 9: "Egypt, Part 3: Digging for Good Dirt" on pages 165-168.		
	2	Complete Adventure Challenge 17 on pages 169-170.		
	3	Continue to read Chapter 9 on pages 171-176.		

Date	Day	Assignment	Due Date	✓
Week 19	1	Complete Adventure Challenge 18 and read Go into all the World on page 177-179.		
	2	Read and complete A Tasty Tour (optional), Mapping It Out! and Travel Log on pages 180-182.		
	3	Complete Chapter 9 Review on pages 353-354.		
Week 20	1	Read Chapter 10: "Iraq, Part 1: Tell-ing the Past!" on pages 183-186.		
	2	Complete Adventure Challenge 19 on pages 187-188.		
	3	Continue to read Chapter 10 on pages 189-194.		
Week 21	1	Complete Mapping It Out! And Bringing It Home on page 195-196.		
	2	Complete Adventure Challenge 20 and Travel Log on pages 197-198.		
	3	Complete Chapter 10 Review on pages 355-356.		
Week 22	1	Read Chapter 11: "Iraq, Part 2: Mixing Water and Oil!" on pages 199-202.		
	2	Complete Adventure Challenge 21 on pages 203-204.		
	3	Continue to read Chapter 11 on pages 205-208.		
Week 23	1	Complete Adventure Challenge 22 on pages 209-210.		
	2	Read Chapter 11: Mapping It Out! and Travel Log on pages 211-212.		
	3	Complete Chapter 11 Review on page 357.		
Week 24	1	Read Chapter 12: "Iraq, Part 3: River Ride!" on pages 213-218.		
	2	Complete Adventure Challenge 23 on pages 219-220.		
	3	Continue to read Chapter 12 on pages 221-224.		
Week 25	1	Complete Adventure Challenge 24 on pages 225-226.		
	2	Read Chapter 12: Go into all the World and do A Tasty Tour (optional) on pages 227-228.		
	3	Complete Mapping It Out! And Travel Log on pages 229-230.		
Week 26	1	Complete Chapter 12 Review on page 359.		
	2	Read Chapter 13: "Saudi Arabia Part 1: Migrations, Mecca, and Mosques!" on pages 231-236.		
	3	Complete Adventure Challenge 25 on pages 237-238.		
Week 27	1	Continue to read Chapter 13 on pages 239-244.		
	2	Complete Adventure Challenge 26 on pages 245-246.		
	3	Read Chapter 13: Mapping It Out! and Travel Log on pages 247-248.		

Date	Day	Assignment	Due Date	✓
Week 28	1	Complete Chapter 13 Review on pages 361-362.		
	2	Read Chapter 14: “Saudi Arabia Part 2: Treasures of a Hidden Kingdom” on pages 249-254.		
	3	Complete Adventure Challenge 27 on pages 255-256.		
Week 29	1	Continue to read Chapter 14 on pages 257-262.		
	2	Complete Adventure Challenge 28 and read Go into all the World on pages 263-265.		
	3	Read and complete A Tasty Tour (optional), Mapping It Out! and Travel Log on pages 266-268.		
Week 30	1	Complete Chapter 14 Review on page 363.		
	2	Read Chapter 15: “Jordan, Part 1: The Highway Men Came Riding” on pages 269-274.		
	3	Complete Adventure Challenge 29 on pages 275-276.		
Week 31	1	Continue to read Chapter 15 on pages 277-280.		
	2	Complete Adventure Challenge 30 and Bringing It Home on pages 281-284.		
	3	Read Chapter 15: Mapping It Out! And Travel Log on pages 285-286.		
Week 32	1	Complete Chapter 15 Review on pages 365-366.		
	2	Read Chapter 16: “Jordan, Part 2: Rock of Ages” on pages 287-292.		
	3	Complete Adventure Challenge 31 on pages 293-294.		
Week 33	1	Continue to read Chapter 16 on pages 295-298.		
	2	Complete Adventure Challenge 32 on pages 299-300.		
	3	Complete Mapping It Out! and A Tasty Tour (optional) on pages 301-302.		
Week 34	1	Read Go into all the World and complete Chapter 16: Travel Log on pages 303-304.		
	2	Complete Chapter 16 Review on page 367.		
	3	Review maps and Chapter Review 1-3.		
Week 35	1	Review maps and Chapter Review 4-6.		
	2	Review maps and Chapter Review 7-9.		
	3	Review maps and Chapter Review 10-12.		
Week 36	1	Review maps and Chapter Review 13-16.		
	2	Review Glossary Words. Study day for final exam.		
	3	Complete Final Exam on pages 369-371.		

Before Embarking

by Ann Voskamp



There is nothing nicer than curling up with a good book and your children. You are invited. Come. Snuggle. Explore. Discover. Delight. Worship our Creator. Here are just a few thoughts before we “Explore the Holy Land” together...

This course offers you a ticket to an unforgettable adventure through six countries in sixteen chapters!

Readings

Whether you gather the kids around for a read-aloud or your older students read alone, it is best to study geography with visual aids. Make sure to have an open atlas and/or a globe at hand to look up all the places you’ll be exploring. Each chapter is divided into two sections. These sections may be too long for younger readers or too short for older readers. Feel free to adapt the length to fit your family.

Memory Joggers

Memory Joggers can serve as narration questions or chapter information reviews. Answers are found in the back of the book.

Adventure Challenges

Each chapter also contains an Adventure Challenge after each section that helps the student apply their knowledge. A variety of skills and worksheets will help them reinforce concepts and help with information retention.

Mapping It Out!

These opportunities help students to be able to hone their spatial skills and memory by recreating maps. They also help the student understand how geography and borders play a role in history, politics, and industry. They will be asked to draw a map of the country we have been studying and label important cities and regions, along with some of the sights we’ve seen along the way.

Travel Logs

Every good explorer keeps a record of their journey. The Travel Logs are so your student can record their favorite parts of each chapter and things they would like to remember about each country.

A Tasty Tour

This volume in the series also provides an optional activity to create food that is popular in the countries being studied. A grocery and supply list is provided at the front of this book.

Bringing It Home


Each country offers a world of culture for us to explore. We have tried to offer a taste of all these lands by sharing music, simple art projects, suggested reading lists, poetry, and more that allow you to bring each country into your own home. All of these activities are optional. We have tried to keep these activities as simple as possible, thus making them accessible for busy homeschooling families.

Go Into All the World

Our deepest desire in writing a Christ-centered geography is to help young children develop a love for each of the countries and cultures we study. We hope you will join us at the end of each country study as we pray for the beautiful peoples God has created across the world. Each Prayer Walk is written as a prayer and includes specific requests for that particular country. You may want to pray along with us at the end of each of your lessons.

With all the details taken care of, we are ready to embark on our journey. Grab your kids and let's go!

From Mount Scopus, Jerusalem, Holy Land, photochrom, ca. 1890-1900.



*The whole
earth is full of
His glory!*

Isaiah 6:3 (NIV)



1 Turkey: Directions to Eden, Please? [part one]

When I was young and summer days grew warm and long, I used to swim in the cool of the Maitland River, fish in its murky shadows, and canoe under its leafy canopy. The Maitland River isn't well known, so you've probably never heard of it. But perhaps you have heard of these four well-known rivers from the beginning of time, written of in Genesis 2:10–14 (NASB): *“Now a river flowed out of Eden to water the garden; and from there it divided and became four rivers. The name of the first is Pishon.... The name of the second river is Gihon... The name of the third river is Tigris... And the fourth river is the Euphrates...”* There are children today who do indeed read in the Bible of the river that streams just outside their house! Wouldn't you catch your breath if you read that verse in the Bible and realized, “That's the very river I swim in on summer afternoons!”? The stories of the Bible happen in real, actual places on earth. God's story, through the ages, is rooted in **geography**. The words of Scripture are firmly rooted in the ground of our world, places you can see and touch and experience today. I can't wait to experience those rivers and mountains and lands with you!

Of course, geographers pack their bags before embarking on a Holy Land exploration, but the most important elements of a journey simply cannot be tucked into a suitcase. Firstly, wise travelers have observing eyes that are focused to truly see the sights. Secondly, astute adventurers nurture strong memories to net their adventures and keep them as their own. And thirdly, sensible geographers carry with them a healthy faith. A growing faith gives our heart the eyes to see the evidence and glory of God everywhere we travel. With our trio of essentials, let us depart!

geography: comes from the Greek language meaning “to write about the earth”

The Bible begins with the story of geography: the story of earth and its creation... and it begins with a garden. The Bible reads, *“Then the LORD God planted a garden in Eden in the east”* (Genesis 2:8; NLT). This is the first mention of an exact, geographical location on our earth. It speaks of a real garden that once existed: the Garden of Eden. If I cracked open my Bible, could I find a map that told me where the Garden of Eden is today? No! No modern map can show us where to find the ancient Garden of Eden. Genesis 6 and 7 tell us of a global Flood and a man of faith named Noah who was saved along with his family and the many animal kinds. This event changed the surface of the earth and the actual site of the Garden of Eden.

Perhaps we could, however, gather some ideas regarding its location from the Bible and its clue of those four rivers: *“Now a river flowed out of Eden... and became four rivers...”* (Genesis 2:14; NASB). Since Eden means “delight” in Hebrew, we will need to look for a place of delight! Let’s begin in a place where children today can eat a candy called “Turkish Delight.” These children live in the Middle Eastern country of Turkey...and one of the rivers that flowed through the Garden of Eden begins in that country. Do you think earth’s very first inhabitants, created masterfully by God’s

own hand, walked through the dark green valleys of this country in the beginning? What was it like before and just after the Flood? Why don’t we hop on a helicopter to see this beautiful country and along the way see if we can gather clues about where the Garden of Eden might have been?

Hold a globe in your hand and spin it until you find where God has intersected the Mediterranean Sea and the continents of Europe and Asia; there you will pinpoint Turkey. Now that you’ve landed, let’s make our way to the crowded Turkish Grand Bazaar in the city of Istanbul. (Can you locate Istanbul in the northwest corner?) A **bazaar** is the Persian word for market, and it is here in the Grand Bazaar of Istanbul that we would find an ornate Turkish carpet called a ***kilim*** [KEE·lim]. Here, in alleys so narrow one can

Bazaar: the Persian word for "market"; is a market lining a street with shops and stalls, especially in the Middle East

Kilim: a brightly colored Turkish rug, woven with geometric designs





hardly squeeze through, stringing along more than 65 streets, merchants from over 4,000 shops shout out to passing shoppers, trying to sell their colorful wares. Some shopkeepers of the Grand Bazaar grab our arms, tugging us into their stalls, while others tickle our ears with whispered prices especially negotiated for us. In one shop selling carpets, I imagine our fingers reaching out to feel the dark hues and naturally dyed colors. Perhaps the shopkeeper, Ahmet, may roll the kilim out for us, chuckling, “Evet, evet” (“Yes, yes” in Turkish), teasing us that our carpet, like others in popular myths and fiction stories, may float away, sweeping us up over the Grand Bazaar and all of the city of Istanbul. The helicopter is definitely a safer and more realistic ride!

With your eye on your globe and Turkey far below, what image can you form out of the shapes you see? I imagine a strange creature with the Sea of Marmara as an eye. Can you pinpoint where Istanbul and the Grand Bazaar might be?

Turkey covers an area of 302,535 square miles (783,562 sq km), which is about the size of the states of Texas and Virginia combined. While we may have an easy overview of the entire country from our helicopter, Turkey actually spans about 1,000 miles (1,609 km) from end to end. We’d have to start driving before the sun rose and drive long after sunset to cross the entire country.



Sea of Marmara



Black Sea



Aegean Sea



Mediterranean Sea

From your perch in the sky, you would surely have noticed the four great bodies of water bordering Turkey: the Mediterranean Sea, the Aegean Sea, the Sea of Marmara, and the Black Sea. What makes these bodies of water seas and not oceans or lakes? A **sea** is a stretching expanse of salty water that is usually a reaching arm of ocean, butting into a **continent** of land. If you look carefully, you'll find that the Mediterranean Sea, for instance, is really just an arm of the Atlantic Ocean that God has allowed to reach into the lands of Africa, Europe, and Asia. Out of the Mediterranean

Sea stretches another arm, the Aegean Sea... and out of the Aegean Sea extends the arm of the Sea of Marmara... which reaches out even farther as the Black Sea. This arm of seas from the Atlantic Ocean is a long-reaching arm indeed! (Our travels will lead us to seas that are not connected to oceans at all but are entirely surrounded by land, called **landlocked seas**. Such a body of water is nearly always a body of salty water. An exception is the Sea of Galilee. A **lake**, on the other hand, is a large body of usually fresh water surrounded by land.)

Wave-tossed by this quartet of seas, the country of Turkey is actually like a bridge between the two continents of Asia and Europe. Yes, all that separates these two continents is a sliver of water — with the city of Istanbul on either side of the ribbon of blue waves. Istanbul, Turkey's largest city of just over 15 million people, is the most famous city in the whole wide world that is known for being built on two continents. (You may have heard of Istanbul's ancient name, Constantinople, in your history studies.) That thread of water, which separates the city into East Istanbul and West Istanbul and separates Europe from Asia, is one of the most important trade waterways in the world: the Bosphorus Strait. It is the connecting waterway for ships from the Black Sea to sail out to the Sea of Marmara, then to the Aegean Sea, on to the Mediterranean Sea, and out into the Atlantic Ocean.

sea: The continuous body of salt water covering most of the earth's surface

continent: One of the principal land masses of the earth (The seven continents are Africa, Antarctica, Asia, Australia, Europe, North America, and South America)

landlocked seas: Seas that are not connected to oceans but are entirely surrounded by land.

lake: A large inland body of fresh water or salt water

strait: A narrow channel joining two larger bodies of water

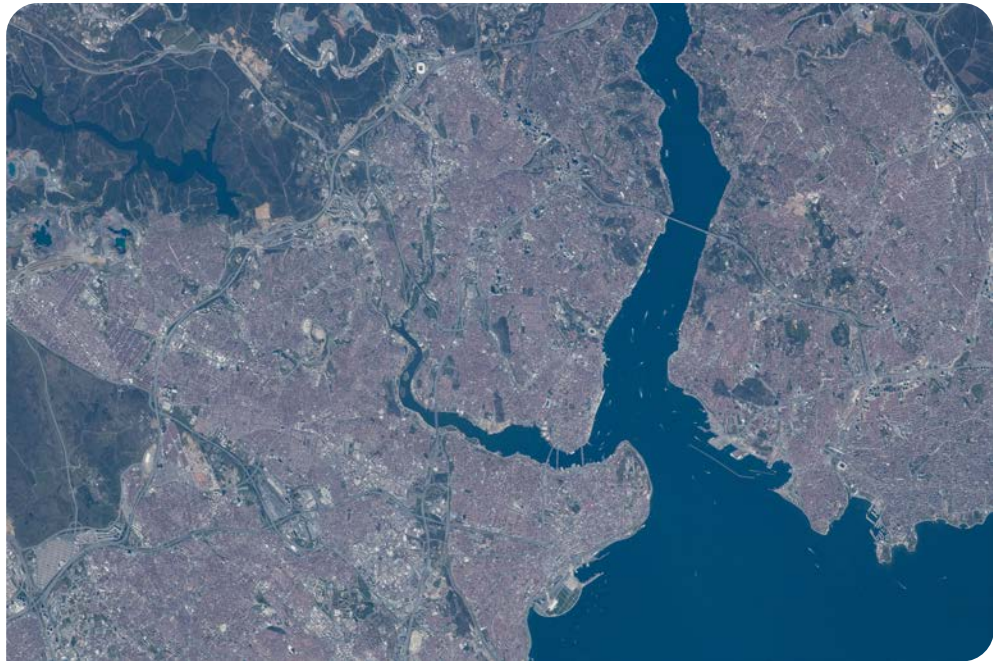


Although the Bosphorus is a strait of water, that doesn't mean it flows perfectly straight without winding around bends and curves. Actually, the word **strait** has nothing to do with "straight" lines but means it is a narrow channel of water that God put in place between two landmasses.

This narrow strait joins two larger bodies of water. Try

thinking of it this way: Have you ever squeezed on a long, thin balloon? Just as a skinny balloon bulges out into large shapes when you squeeze it in the middle, so the strait of water "squeezed" by the two landmasses swells into two larger bodies of water on either side! Looking at your globe or map of Turkey, can you determine which two larger bodies of water bulge out of the squeezed (only 0.5 to 2 miles [800 to 3,200 m] wide!) Bosphorus Strait? Yes, the Sea of Marmara and the Black Sea!

Recall that little Maitland River that I used to play in? Big old Hereford cattle use to wander down its banks to lap up the thirst-quenching cool water or sometimes splash across to the other side of the river. The Greeks had a myth about the false god Zeus supposedly hiding a cow in the silvery, narrow waters of the Bosphorus Strait. Thus, in the Greek language, Bosphorus means "the cow crossing-place." (That makes it rather easy to remember that the Turkish city of Istanbul is on the Bosphorus Strait — the cow passage!) You are not likely to see any cows swimming down there in the Bosphorus Strait, but you will probably see streams of cars crossing over the strait on the Bosphorus Bridge, the twelfth-longest suspension bridge in the world. This stretch of steel allows you to drive from the continent of Europe right into Asia.



The Bosphorus Strait separates the continents of Europe and Asia. A 4,593 foot [1,400 m] rail tunnel, running 180 feet [55 m] underneath the Strait, opened December 20, 2016, connecting Europe and Asia. Photo courtesy of NASA Earth Observatory.

Memory Joggers

What an amazing start to exploring the country of Turkey! We even learned about Adam, Eve, the Garden of Eden, and the Great Flood. ❶ What important place from the Bible might have been located in Turkey? ❷ What are three essentials that a geographer brings to every exploration? ❸ What does the country look like from above? ❹ What bodies of water border Turkey? Which continents? ❺ What are seas? ❻ What is a strait? What are the bodies of water the Bosphorus Strait connects? ❼ What kind of bridge spans the Bosphorus Strait?

Adventure Challenge I

name _____

Fill-in-the-Blank

Read the following verse and fill in the missing words.

Genesis 2:10-14 (NASB 1995)

Now a river flowed out of Eden to water the garden; and from there it divided and became 1. _____ rivers. The name of the first is 2. _____; it flows around the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold. The gold of that land is good; the bdellium and the onyx stone are there as well. The name of the second river is 3. _____; it flows around the whole land of Cush. The name of the third river is 4. _____; it flows east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the 5. _____.

Euphrates
Pishon
Tigris
Gihon
four

Word Connections

Draw lines to match each word to its meaning.

- | | |
|--|----------------|
| 1. Hebrew word “Eden” means | bazaar |
| 2. A kilim is a | Turkish carpet |
| 3. Turkish for “yes” | evet |
| 4. The Persian word for “market” | delight |
| 5. The Greek word for the “cow crossing-place” | Bosporus |



Map Clues!

This is the oldest known map of the city of Constantinople, now known as Istanbul. It was drawn in the year A.D. 1422 before it was conquered by the Ottomans in A.D. 1453. Look at the map closely — the image details let us know a little more about this ancient city. What are 5 things you have discovered about this ancient city by looking at the map?

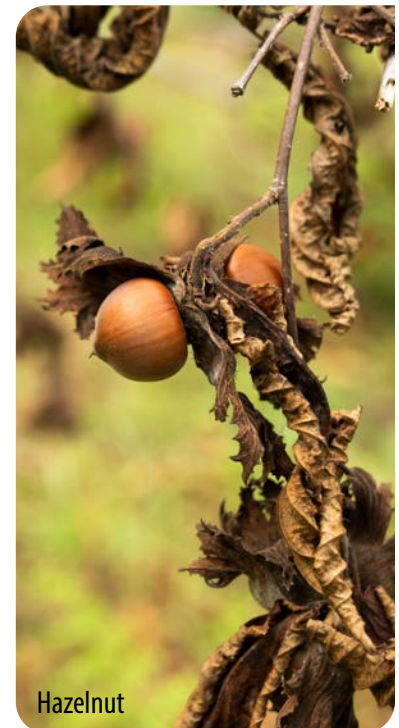


1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

→ While you may not see any cows crossing the Bosphorus Strait, if you look across Turkey, can your keen eyes determine where you might find cows in this country? Cows in Turkey like to chew exactly what cows along the banks of my little Maitland River like to chew: lush, green grass. Rich green grass is waiting for us if we soar east from Istanbul up along the northern coast of Turkey. You will notice how the skies are gray with rain clouds here, but the coastal mountains below us are deep green. Indeed, here along the Black Sea, you may actually see many cows grazing to produce Turkey's very best milk and butter. The **climate** of this area of Turkey is what we call **temperate**. Climate is the meteorological conditions, including temperature, precipitation, and wind, that characteristically prevail in a particular region. So a temperate climate is an area with weather that is not too cold and not too hot — but just right! In temperate regions — like here on the Black Sea coast of Turkey — changes between seasons are not extreme, with searing hot days followed by freezing cold days, but subtle, with moderately warm days giving way to moderately cool days.



Green meadow fields and hazelnut trees at the highlands of Ordu, Turkey



Hazelnut

As the warm air blowing in off the Black Sea rises over the north coast of Turkey, rain clouds are formed, which creates rainfall year-round. This area of Turkey gets almost 8 feet (2.4 m) of rain during a year, which is four to six times the rainfall in other regions of Turkey. (That amount of rain is about as high as you sitting on your dad's shoulders!) The rain clouds that God sends off the Black Sea make these steep mountain slopes verdant and lush with grass and crops. Imagine looking over this mountainous northern coast, where workers bring in harvests of cherries from what some believe to be the world's oldest cherry orchards, and gather billions of hazelnuts and expansive tea and tobacco on local plantations. Four in every ten Turks live by working in God's land, growing crops or grazing herds of livestock such as goats or cattle. Imagine working here, deeply inhaling those aromas of teas, cherries, and hazelnuts drifting in on the sea breezes up through this garden-like area of Turkey; we can't help but sing praise to our God, who owns *"the cattle on a thousand hills"* (Psalm 50:10; NIV) and who *"care[s] for the land and water[s] ...enrich[ing] it abundantly"* (Psalm 65:9; NIV)!



The landscape of the Hasankeyf region.
Ancient residential area in Anatolia, Turkey



The dark canyon and the road over Euphrates River

Speaking of fertile, lush gardens, can you spot the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers down there in the southeast part of Turkey? Recall these words from God’s Word: “Now a river flowed out of Eden to water the garden; and from there it divided and became four rivers... The name of the third river is Tigris... And the fourth river is the Euphrates” (Genesis 2:10, 14; NASB). Today, we know very little of the rivers of Eden. We do know there are two rivers with the same name found today, the Euphrates and Tigris. The name Euphrates itself comes from a root word that means “to gush forth,” and we can see that it does just that as the river winds and meanders its way through steep canyons and gorges. As you gaze down on the Euphrates, one can imagine how Abraham must have felt when God said to him, “Unto thy seed have I given this land... unto the great river, the river Euphrates” (Genesis 15:18; KJV). This great river is the northeastern boundary of the Promised Land and the site of great historical events such as the battle between Nebuchadnezzar II of Babylon and Pharaoh Necho II of Egypt in 605 B.C. (Jeremiah 46:2).

The Tigris River, on the other hand, comes from a word that means “the river that goes,” which it certainly does, coursing throughout Turkey faster and with a greater volume of water than the Euphrates. The Euphrates and Tigris Rivers both begin high up in a rugged region of Turkey called Anatolia. (Can you locate the Anatolian Plateau stretching across the center of Turkey?) From






way up in space, we see this vast central region of the Anatolia as dry and rolling. Thus, we aren't surprised that in the Greek language, Anatolia means "land of the mother sun." The Anatolia is what geographers refer to as a plateau.

A **plateau** is like a mountain without a peak. Similar to a mountain, the Anatolian Plateau of Turkey rises high into the air, but unlike a mountain, God creates plateaus with a relatively flat top. A plateau can be regarded as a flat-topped mountain or an oversized table of land rising up out of the landscape. Think of the Anatolian Plateau as a table rising up out of the central interior of Turkey, a tableland, where the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers begin and course down through its rugged terrain.



View of River Euphrates near Erzincan, Turkey



 Mesopotamia is the land between the Tigris and the Euphrates Rivers, crossing three countries: Turkey, Syria, and Iraq

The lands that lie in between the winding Tigris and Euphrates Rivers are known as Mesopotamia. **Mesopotamia** literally means “the land between two rivers.” Sometimes, Mesopotamia is also referred to as the “Cradle of Civilization.” I picture this part of Anatolia as having two arms, the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers, which cradled some of earth’s earliest towns, farms, and societies here in Mesopotamia, “the land between the two rivers,” following the great Flood detailed in the Book of Genesis.

Are these two rivers of Turkey the same rivers of the biblical Garden of Eden? Probably not. The Tigris and Euphrates Rivers of Turkey today flow on top of thousands of feet of fossil sediments believed to be from Noah’s Flood. Thus, it is argued, these two rivers are not the same rivers of the Garden of Eden. Then why do they have the same names, you ask? The Maitland River that coursed near my house was named after a long-ago governor, Sir Maitland. And it may be that the families who settled this part of Turkey after the Flood named these two rivers after the long-ago rivers they remembered flowing out of the Garden of Eden. The original Tigris and Euphrates Rivers of the Garden of Eden fed and watered Adam and Eve’s paradise, just as the modern Tigris and Euphrates Rivers do today for great areas of Turkey.



Take a look down there at the southeastern Anatolian Plateau, where some believe Noah's descendants may have built homes after the Flood and cultivated farms. Ever since, this sweeping Anatolian Plateau has been the site of a chain of civilizations and peoples whom God has used in mighty ways to write the world's history. The Hittites of the Bible lived here. The Persians, Romans, and Byzantines ruled here.

Copper, one of the first metals used by mankind, is still mined here in Turkey, near the Tigris River. When we read in the Bible of how Adam and Eve's son was a farmer and that their great-grandson's great-grandson worked with metal, we wonder if the very first people ever to walk the dust of this earth, Adam and Eve, lived in the Turkish Mesopotamia, between the Euphrates and Tigris Rivers. In all truth, we simply do not know. The global Flood of Noah's day dramatically and catastrophically changed the landscape of our world.



Copper mine in Siirt, Turkey

Peer out the helicopter's window, and perhaps you may see a young girl dipping her pail in the Euphrates or watch two boys watering their cattle at the river's edge and another man netting mullet fish. Since the creation of the world, water has been necessary for living. All rivers, like the meandering Maitland River or the great Euphrates and Tigris Rivers, provide drinking water for livestock and people, irrigation for crops, a means to transport goods, travel waterways, and a source of food. Thus, all throughout history before and

The Ataturk Dam Reservoir on the Euphrates River in southeastern Turkey



after the Flood, humans have built towns, which have grown into prospering cities, close to where God has provided running water.

Industrious beavers often built dams of sticks and mud across my Maitland River. But what we see as we gaze carefully down from above are definitely not beaver-built structures stretching across the rivers. Nor were these here in the day of Adam and Eve. Do you see the massive concrete **dams** spanning the width of the rivers? More than 20 such dams are built over both rivers to generate electricity for the Turkish people and to irrigate over 17 million square miles (44 million sq km) of Turkey's land in need of water. While the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers may be dammed up to benefit families in Turkey, dams actually leave less water for other families down river.

dam: a barrier built across a waterway to control the flow or raise the level of water

How God created our earth — geography — weaves through the stories and peoples of the past, powerfully affects where and how people live on this globe today, and influences the family of humanity's future. The God-designed geography of Turkey, with its Bosphorus Strait, Anatolian Plateau, temperate coastlines, and the course of its rivers, determines where families live, what they eat around their tables, how they work, and what they do. God formed humanity out of the dust of the earth, and for all of our days, we are intimately connected to the dust under our feet, to the geography of earth.

We've explored some of the highlights of Turkey's geography, but we have yet to visit Turkey's highest — and most secretive — point, its whirling dervishes, its underground cities to crawl through, its magnificent churches, and its camel wrestling to shake your heads over. So hold on! Our journey will soon continue!

Memory Joggers

I can't wait to hear your memories and field notes from our first flight over Turkey! Tell me...

- 1 What is the climate of the Black Sea region?
- 2 What is grown there?
- 3 Do you remember what the names of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers mean?
- 4 Where do they begin?
- 5 Why do you think these rivers have the same names as the rivers near the Garden of Eden in the Bible?
- 6 How do the rivers help the people of Turkey today?
- 7 What does its name Mesopotamia mean?
- 8 What else is it sometimes called?
- 9 Can you name some of the people groups that lived here?
- 10 What is a plateau, or tableland?
- 11 What famous plateau lies in the center of Turkey?

Adventure Challenge 2

name _____

Multiple Choice

Circle the letter of the correct answer.

- The name Euphrates comes from the root word that means
 - “the river that goes”
 - “land of the mother sun”
 - “to gush forth”
 - “land between two rivers”
- Another name for Mesopotamia is:
 - The Promised Land
 - Anatolian Plateau
 - Black Sea coast
 - Cradle of Civilization
- What item wasn't mentioned as being grown in Turkey?
 - Teas
 - Avocadoes
 - Hazelnuts
 - Cherries
- The word “Anatolia” means:
 - Mesopotamia
 - Land of the mother sun
 - Boundary of the Promised Land
 - Rivers of Eden
- The Black Sea coast has a climate that is very
 - Temperate
 - Tropical
 - Polar



Short Answer

- List several things mentioned in this chapter that rivers help provide for people.



The Turks are known for their brilliant colors and intricate geometric designs in textiles and tiles. One beautiful town named Bursa is known for its

hand-painted tiles that became popular during the Ottoman Empire.



Tile wall in Harem of Topkapi Palace, Istanbul, Turkey



Tile wall in Harem of Topkapi Palace, Istanbul, Turkey

Color Tiles!

Can you color a Turkish tile? Make a pattern and repeat it as close as you can in each square. Use your favorite colors and share you project with someone when you are done!

name _____

Mapping It Out!

Turkey is very interesting! Now, let's work on your map skills. First, we will make an outline of the shape of Turkey in this box. Here is a sample of its shape. Drawing it will help you remember it better. Your map doesn't have to be perfect, but do your best. Make it large enough to write in the labels of the places below. Be sure to use your reference map from page 395. Hint: Notice the difference between the names of cities and the names of lakes or seas.



Label the following places on your map:

Istanbul

Bosporus Strait

Sea of Marmara

Tigris River

Black Sea

Aegean Sea

Euphrates River

Mediterranean Sea



name _____

Geographers write what they've seen in order to share the adventure with others — and so they can revisit the places in their memories! On your travel log, record two important sights you want to remember from your tales of Turkey.

Lined writing area for the travel log.



Music captures so much of a land and people. Research how each of these traditional Turkish instruments sound — ask your parent for permission before searching. Circle the instrument that most interests you.



bağlama: a stringed, long-handled lute

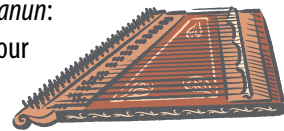


kaval: a flute which has two types— with and without a reed



tef tambourines

Black Sea fiddle, *kanun*: which is held on your knees when played



Have you ever stood on your head so that up was down and down was up? Of course, to everyone else, your down was up and your up was down. Now that you are completely confused, come see why Egypt's up is down and down is up.

Generally, we speak of places in southern locations as being “down south.” In Egypt, however, the southern region of the country is unexpectedly called Upper Egypt. Why, you ask? Egypt's south is “up” because the Nile River flows from mountains in southern Africa downstream to the Mediterranean Sea in the north. Since southern Egypt lies upstream, it is referred to as Upper Egypt. On the other hand, we normally refer to northern locales as “up north.”

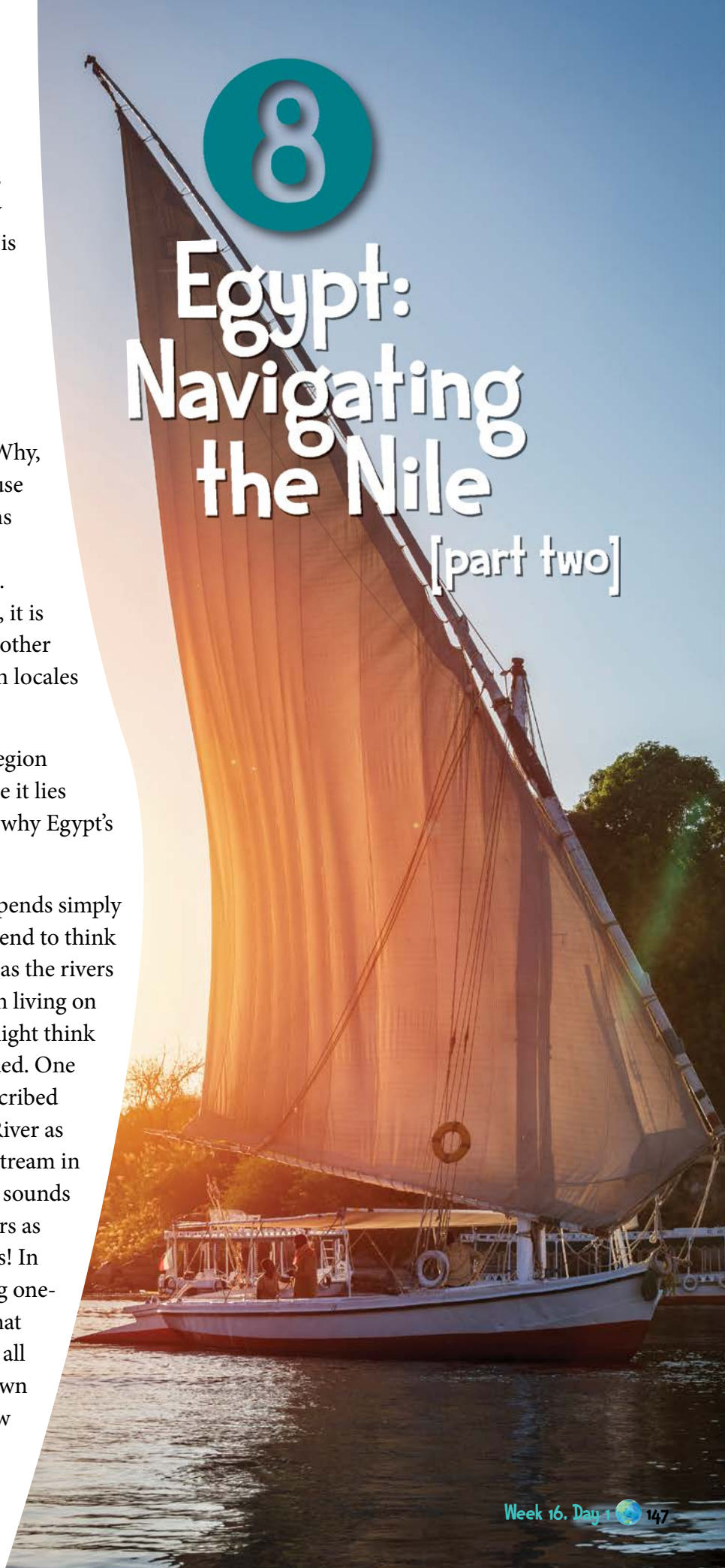
But not so in Egypt; the northern region is actually named Lower Egypt since it lies downstream. Can you now explain why Egypt's up is down and down is up?

While the direction a river flows depends simply on where mountain ranges are, we tend to think all rivers flow in the same direction as the rivers we live near. If you were an Egyptian living on the north-flowing Nile River, you might think that the rest of the world was upended. One Egyptian pharaoh, Tuthmosis I, described the great south-flowing Euphrates River as “the inverted water that goes downstream in going upstream.” The poor pharaoh sounds as confused over south-flowing rivers as we may be over north-flowing rivers! In Egypt, it is the mighty Nile, covering one-sixth of the earth's circumference, that determines upper and lower — and all of life. Step on board for a cruise down the Nile that will change forever how you see Egypt!

8

Egypt: Navigating the Nile

[part two]





In the dim before dawn, we wake early on the deck of our felucca [fi·luh·kuh], a traditional Egyptian sailboat, to watch as the Nile riverbank stirs to life. Do you hear the blaring chant of the muezzin in a hidden village mosque calling sleepy Egyptians to prayer? A kingfisher skims inches above the waters. The felucca's triangular white sail billows in a gentle gust of wind. Did you catch a glimpse of the pure white egrets standing stock still in the bulrushes clumped along the water's edge? On the riverbank, a brown humpbacked cow chews its cud under the shade of a date palm. Farther down the river, fishermen in a small rowboat haul in their nets of catch. Don't you almost want to crane your ear for the baby's cry, to peer over the railing in hopes of sighting a glimpse of a bobbing basket? For this is the same Nile River that carried baby Moses to the feet of Pharaoh's daughter. The waters of the Nile have known

Egyptian
goose



Aristotle, Alexander the Great, Mark Anthony, Cleopatra, and Julius Caesar. Can you envision Joseph, second in command only to the Egyptian pharaoh himself, floating down these same waters past the towering pyramids? Isn't it hard to imagine this magnificent Nile running red with blood during one of God's ten plagues? Jesus, the Christ Child, journeyed here to Egypt and her regal river. The longest river in the world, the Nile may transport you and me back through the pages of history and the Bible, but for Egyptians today and for thousands of years of history, the Nile River has been the essence of existence, the life breath of the desert.

Coursing almost 1,000 miles (1,600 km) through the heart of Egypt, the Nile River forges a gorge of green growth 10 miles

reservoir: a natural or artificial lake for storing water

(16 km) across at its widest point. (The word “Nile” comes from the Greek word that means “river valley.”) Today, nearly all of Egypt’s 103 million people live within a slender 12 miles (19 km) of the Nile River, only a narrow 4% slice of Egypt’s land.



Burqa



Fellahin

Through the mist rising off these waters, we see women in dark burqa [*boor-kuh*] gowns (a loose robe worn by Muslim women, covering them from head to toe, with veiled holes for their eyes) carrying laundry from mud-brick houses with flat straw roofs down to the Nile. Sons of the farmers, called fellahin [*fel-lahin*], not much older than you, herd sheep and goats to drink Nile waters before leading them out to graze. A boatman, heading south, rows slowly against the Nile’s northerly stream. Today, as in the sweep of Egyptian history, we see the waters of the Nile River as Egypt’s wash tub for families, as its garden hose for thirsty crops, and as its highway, carrying boatloads of tourists, sugarcane, and cotton bales across the country. Yet this magnificent river has changed with the march of time. If you will travel south, to Upper Egypt, you’ll discover how.

Near the city of Aswan (can you locate that on your map?), you can’t miss seeing one of the world’s most massive structures, the Aswan High Dam, rising 364 feet (111 m) out of the depths of the Nile. It would take three 12-story apartment buildings stacked on end from the Nile’s riverbed to reach the height of this enormous granite wall corking the Nile! Taking ten years to construct, one billion dollars to fund, and enough rock to build seventeen Great Pyramids, the Aswan High Dam, straddling 2.3 miles (3.7 km) across the river, is Egypt’s heavy net to capture the Nile! The **reservoir** [*reh-zr-vwaar*] formed by the dam is one of the world’s largest man-made lakes, the 312-mile (502-km) wide Lake Nasser.



Aswan High Dam



For thousands of years, the Nile, swollen from rains in southern Africa, annually overflowed its banks, flooding the entire valley. In modern times, the Nile swamped the basements of homes in the northern city of Cairo. When the Nile ebbed away, it

gifted Egyptians with four million tons (3.6 million metric tons) of rich silt spread over their fields. But the Bible records how God sometimes chose not to raise the Nile: “[He] shall smite the waves in the sea, and all the deeps of the [Nile] shall dry up...and the sceptre of Egypt shall depart away” (Zechariah 10:11; KJV). When the Nile did not flood the valley, the power of Egypt indeed departed — crops withered in the fields, and tummies ached for food. During the 1960s and 1970s, Egyptians decided to capture the annual **flood** (water overflowing onto land that is usually dry) with a dam across the river and release the water steadily over the course of the year. The thunder of foaming white waters that now roars continuously through the dam not only aids faster travel of boats down the Nile but also generates electricity used throughout the country. Without the annual flooding of the Nile, the Egyptian fellahin now plant three seasons of crops; have more fields to cultivate; and irrigation of crops such as cotton, onions, rice, and potatoes is much easier. The Aswan High Dam has changed the flow of the Nile and the face of Egypt.

parasite: an organism that grows and feeds on another organism but does not contribute anything to its host

While people may have good reasons for changing the God-given geography of a place, there are often harmful outcomes. As the Aswan High Dam inflated Lake Nasser with the Nile River, more than 90,000 poor Egyptian peasants were forced to pack up what little they owned and move out of the way of the rising waters. The

lake formed by the dam also threatened to flood some Egyptian treasures that couldn't be easily moved, such as the stone temple of Abu Simbel. Would the four 66-foot (22-m) high statues of the Pharaoh Ramses (that's as high as 12 tall men standing one on top of another!) that had stood at the entrance to the temple for thousands of years drown in the rising waters of Lake Nasser? Heroic rescuers from all over the world rushed to save Abu Simbel's temple and the four statues, cutting each into hundreds upon hundreds of blocks, hauling the sections to the new lake shore, and reassembling the puzzle of pieces. It took ten years to complete this rescue mission!

Some effects of the Aswan High Dam, however, cannot be altered; the rich silt God intended to fertilize the parched desert land during the annual floods now lies trapped behind the dam at the bottom of Lake Nasser. Egyptian farmers, clad in flowing *galabeas* [gal-abeas] (an ankle-length loose shirt), can be seen today spreading a million tons of artificial fertilizer on their fields as a substitute for the natural nutrients that God once deposited on the dry floodplain. Pharaoh's daughter may have bathed in the Nile, but today, one warily avoids these waters. The construction of the Aswan High Dam has increased the population of a tiny **parasitic** worm that can penetrate the skin of anyone swimming in contaminated water. With no dry spells between floodings, the parasitic worms thrive, making infected children especially sick with fever. God designed the world in an intricate balance; when we alter His creation in hopes of making it better in some ways, we often inadvertently make it worse in other ways.

The massive Aswan High Dam captures floodwater during the rainy seasons and releases the water throughout the year. The dam also generates tremendous amounts of electric power for Egyptians — more than 10 billion kilowatt-hours every year. That's enough electricity to power one million televisions for 20 years.

Egyptian farmers





Weaving date leaves



Date tree

Across the river, children wave to us from the balcony of their cruise ship, one of the hundreds that sail the Nile River. Egyptian merchants paddle their rowboats out to the larger cruise ships, tossing up towels emblazoned with pictures of famous Egyptian monuments. The tourists barter for a deal, tossing down money in return for a keepsake from Egypt. Nearly 500 years before the birth of Jesus, there were tourists sailing up and down the Nile, pursuing the wonders of already ancient Egyptian civilization. A tourist named Herodotus, possibly history's earliest recorded travel writer, wrote his own field notes of his Egyptian excursion: "Egypt is the gift of the Nile." Today, tourism is one of Egypt's main industries. Everywhere, we see sightseers streaming from one ancient Egyptian wonder to the next. We also see armed tourist police monitoring travelers' safety and safeguarding the all-important business of tourism.

During our northward sail down the Nile, the captain of our small felucca docks often, and we slip under the dappled shade of a date palm tree. Egypt is the world's top producer of dates. In some fields, a crop of cabbages grows in the shade of the date palms.

We often see millions of harvested dates spread out like a pebbly carpet, drying in the Egyptian sun. With woven baskets at their feet, veiled Egyptian women diligently sort through the rug of dates by hand. As you bite into your next date, remember those Egyptian women — perhaps it was one of them who sorted your date!

On our sail toward the Egyptian city of Luxor and the Valley of the Kings, do you notice that none of the mud houses of the fellahin villages have windows of glass but merely open spaces in the walls? Call "Assalaamu aleikum" [ah-sah-LAY-koom] (Arabic for "hello") to the young girl collecting cow dung for fuel in the open hearth of her family's outdoor kitchen. While your family may cook dinner outside on the BBQ during the summer months, rural Egyptians cook dinner outside year-round!

Memory Joggers

What an exciting trip down the Nile! There are so many beautiful and surprising sights along the river. 1 In which direction does the Nile flow? 2 In which direction do rivers usually flow? 3 What famous baby floated on the Nile in a basket? 4 Why do the majority of Egypt's peoples live close to the Nile? 5 What lake is formed by the dam? 6 Before the dam was built, what would happen to the Nile's rising waters? 7 What happens now? How has that affected the land? 8 Which kind of ships sail up and down the river each day? 9 What is a fellahin? 10 How do some of the villagers prepare their food?

Adventure Challenge 15

name _____

Testing Your Knowledge

Which of the following people were listed in your chapter as having been on the Nile River? Circle them.

Moses

Marco Polo

Aristotle

Alexander the Great

Cleopatra

King Arthur

Mark Anthony

Julius Caesar

Per Kilowatt - Hour



Aswan High Dam

(Note: You will need a calculator.)

The Aswan High Dam produces more than 10 billion kilowatt-hours every year. Kilowatt-hours is defined as a “measure of electrical energy equivalent to a power consumption of 1,000 watts for 1 hour.”¹

First calculate the kilowatt-hours for the following appliances.

This the formula: $\text{Watts} \times \text{hr} \div 1000 = \text{kWh}$. Use your calculator.

See if you can do the following math:

1. A stove using 3000 watts of power for a period of 1 hour. _____ kWh
2. A refrigerator using 650 watts of power for a period of 5 hours. _____ kWh
3. A 50-inch TV using 150 watts of power for a period of 3 hours. _____ kWh

¹ *The Oxford Pocket Dictionary of Current English*; Thompson, Della – editor. Oxford, England: Oxford University Press, 2000.

The Aswan High Dam - Know the Numbers



Use a calculator to find the missing information about the dam.

1 foot = 0.3048 meters

1. _____ m (13,000 ft) long
2. _____ m (3,220 ft) wide at the base
3. _____ m (130 ft) wide at the crest
4. _____ m (364 ft) tall

1 cubic meter = 35.3 cubic feet or 1.3 cubic yards

5. 43,000,000 cubic meters _____ (cu yd) of material

1 cubic meter/second = 35.31467 cubic feet per second

6. Around 11,000 cubic metres per second (_____ cu ft/s) of water maximum can go thru the dam.



→ Near Luxor, we drift past fields where electric pumps bring water to irrigate crops and donkeys pull two-wheeled carts heaped with sugar cane. Together with other tourists from around the world, we line up in the Valley of the Kings to see the ancient tombs of Egypt's long-dead pharaohs. Can you hear the commentary of our guide over the voices of the other German, Italian, and Spanish guides educating their own groups of explorers? Travelers come to descend the steep ramps down into the stuffy burial chambers. The walls of the pharaohs' tombs still radiate today with the original paintings from thousands of years ago!

The site nearly every tourist comes to Egypt to see lies farther north on the Nile, near the city of Cairo [KY·roh]. (Can you locate Cairo on your map?) Outside of Cairo looms the world's most enormous and renowned grave markers, weathered by thousands of years of Egyptian sands. Perhaps you have visited quiet cemeteries, kneeling to run your hands across names carved in granite





Valley of the Kings

headstones? Nothing you have ever seen in a cemetery prepares you for this breathtaking burial site. The famous French general Napoleon came to these sands outside of Cairo; looked up at the towering, indescribable gravestones; and declared, “From atop these pyramids, forty centuries look down upon you.” If you lined each freezer-sized stone of this grave marker end to end, the stones would pave a one-lane road stretching from San Francisco on the southwest coast of the United States to New York City on its northeast coast! These are the Pyramids of Giza [gee-zuh].

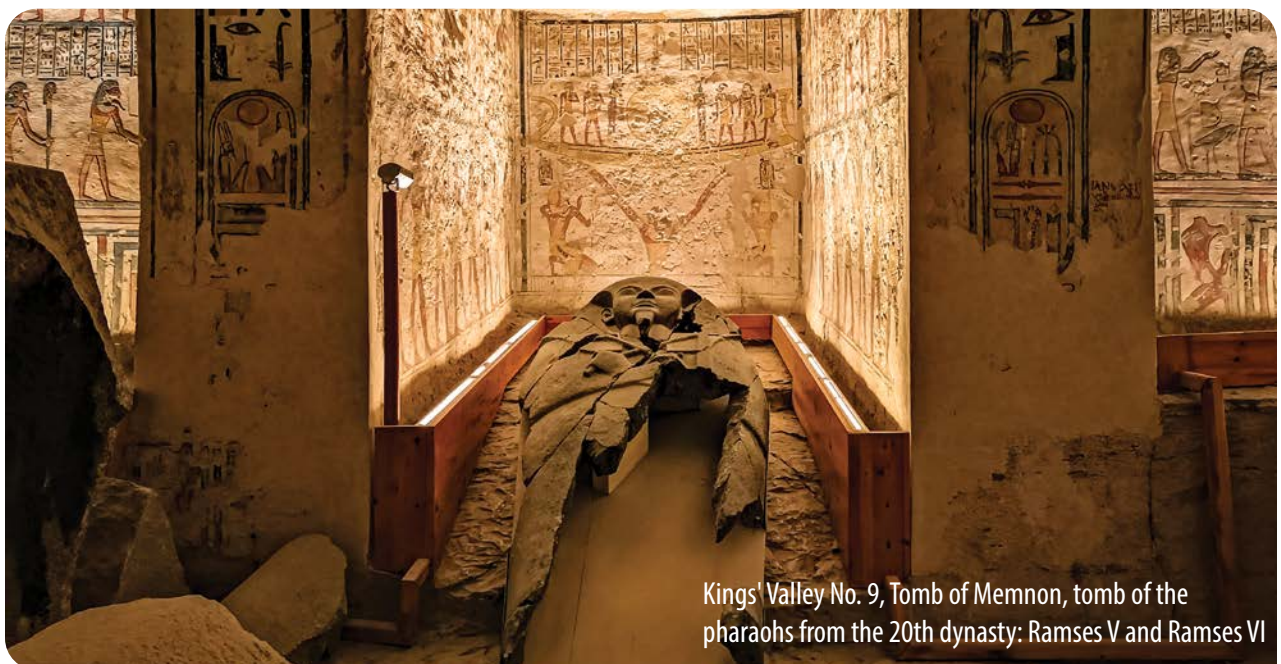
Weighing more than 15 billion pounds (nearly 7 billion kg), with each side of its base measuring the length of two and a half football fields, the Great Pyramid is where the royal mummy of Pharaoh Khufu [koo-foo] (Cheops [kee-ops]) once rested in death. Camel-mounted tourist police ensure no sightseers attempt to climb the gravestones of the pharaohs. You may, however, step down the steep, tunneling ramp into the bowels of the Great Pyramid, your hand touching the massive,



Pyramids of Giza



polished limestone sides. Did an Egyptian pharaoh, centuries ago, touch this same stone? Standing in the deathly still and bare King's Chamber where Khufu once lay, doesn't your mind return to Ecclesiastes 3:11 (NIV), which reads, "[God] has also set eternity in the human heart"? This mind-boggling monument, one of the most famous structures on the whole planet and the work of more than a hundred thousand ancient Egyptians, stands as a magnificent witness of how the hearts of all people beat with a God-given desire for eternal life, but the pharaohs of Egypt believed themselves to be gods. Sadly, the Egyptians worshipped the pharaohs and created other false gods and their own ideas of how to achieve eternal life. The grandest of pyramids and idols made of the most precious of metals cannot give us eternal life. Only the living God of the Bible can give us eternal life in heaven with Him. In the Bible, John 3:16 tells us "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."



Kings' Valley No. 9, Tomb of Memnon, tomb of the pharaohs from the 20th dynasty: Ramses V and Ramses VI



sphinx: a mythological Egyptian creature with the body of a lion and the head of a man, ram, or hawk

Have you ever buried your body in heavy sand with only your head and toes poking out? That is how the world's largest single-stone statue, the Great Sphinx, remained for thousands of years in front of Khufu's pyramid — the lion-like body of the Sphinx hidden under the sand with only its man-like face sticking up! The tons of sand that sweep across the Egyptian deserts have actually preserved the **Sphinx** through the centuries. Under its blanket, the soft limestone has been protected from erosion by a constant barrage of wind-blown grains of sand. The process of erosion constantly reshapes the landscape of our earth, carving soil with streaming water, sculpting shorelines with crashing waves, and sweeping sands across the desert — which bury and protect the Sphinx!

Looking up at the Sphinx's 13-foot (4-m) wide face, you immediately notice that it is missing something important — its nose! Did the Sphinx lose its nose because of erosion? Just like we don't know who the Sphinx's face is carved to look like, when it was built, or who built it, we also do not know for certain what happened to its nose. Few believe the legend that Napoleon's French soldiers blasted the nose off with a stray cannonball, but some suggest a devout Muslim cut the nose off when he discovered Egyptian peasants worshipping the Sphinx. We do know, however, that the statue is now eroding away right before our very eyes, chips of limestone falling off under the blazing heat of the Egyptian sun and the drifting smog of Cairo.

If you'll shift your gaze from the 2,500,000 limestone blocks of Pharaoh Khufu's (Cheops) tomb and from the 65-foot (20-m) high Sphinx, can you see the dwarfed houses of a Cairo suburb just several hundred meters away? The children playing soccer — Egypt's favorite sport — in the shadow of the pyramids live right over there in those houses. Cairo, Egypt's capital city, spills over nearly right to the feet of the Great Sphinx itself!

I'd like to read more about ordinary Egyptians... what do you think?

As modern-day tourists wander through the remnants of ancient Egypt, so do modern and ancient ways mingle in the city of Cairo. Here, in one of the most populated cities in the world and the second-largest city on the African continent, we spot camels and donkey carts sharing the clogged streets with careening cars driving “wherever they can find space.” We carefully weave our way through ten widths of cars just to make it to the other side of the street.

Look at all of the apartment buildings that line the streets! Swarming Cairo has more people seeking a place to live than it has living accommodations. More than 50,000 people live in every square mile (or 2.6 sq km) of Cairo, making it one of the most crowded cities in the world! Thus, valuable land is used to build apartment buildings for many families instead of a single house for only one family. With few yards to play in, children relax with their families out on balconies in the cool of the evening after dinner. And dinner is served late — at 10 p.m. or even later!

In this tangle of high rises and buses, we discover some of the most valued ancient Egyptian treasures. Do you recall how all the tombs we visited were empty? That is because all of the treasures are here in the Egyptian Museum of Cairo. Take a long look; no cameras are allowed in this sprawling museum of marvels. You have only your memory to focus on the hair of Ramses's mummy or the gold mask of King Tut.

In this city of opposites, mummified Egyptians lie in ancient storehouses of dazzling wealth, while across town from the museum, some Egyptians make their homes on trash heaps or amongst the grave markers of a cemetery.

Mokattam is Cairo's garbage dump where the **Zabbaleen** (garbage collectors) families sift through the 2,000 tons (1,814 metric tons) of garbage dumped here each day, digging for materials to recycle or sell. Carved out of a nearby mountainside is a church that seats 20,000 people, where city dwellers gather to praise the God who “*raiseth up the poor out of the dust*” (Psalm 113:7; KJV).

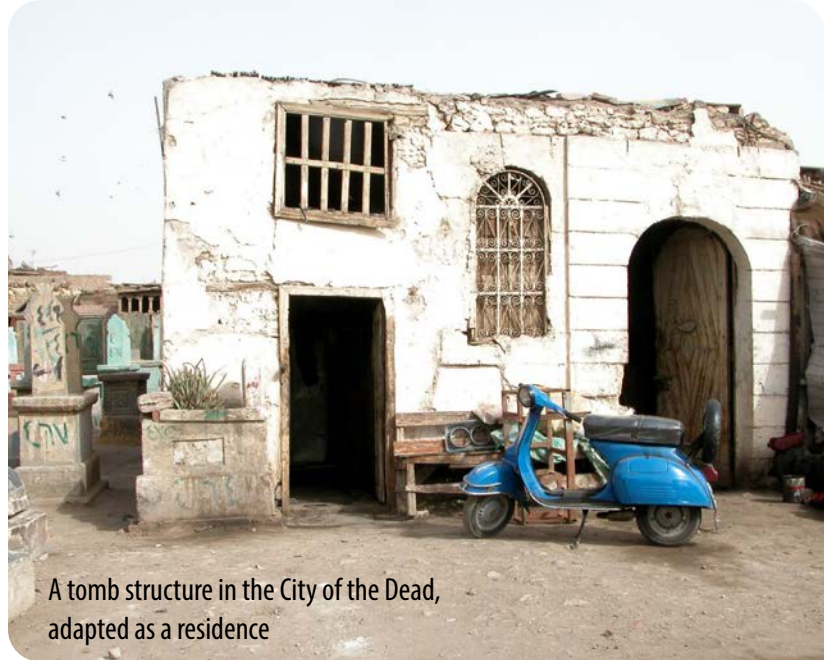


Mokattam



Not far from Garbage City is the City of the Dead — which is very much alive. Amongst the tombs of Egypt's past rulers, we see laundry strung up to dry and grave markers used as desks and shelves. Tens of thousands of Egyptians make their home in the quiet of these cemeteries since families can't find affordable places to live in crowded Cairo.

As you read these words, an Egyptian child may be playing in their backyard across from the pyramids, and a fellahin boy may be bringing the goats to drink at the Nile's edge while his sister cooks flatbread in the family's outdoor oven. While you sleep tonight, Nile waters will still roar through the Aswan High Dam on their course from Upper to Lower Egypt, just as it has for millennia, painting the Egyptian desert green with life. When you wake tomorrow morning, you may wash your face with a washcloth made in Egypt, and the date in your breakfast muffins may have grown in the sunshine beside the Nile. The land of ancient wonders, Egypt is a land very much alive today — this very day — pulsing with the current of the Nile.



A tomb structure in the City of the Dead, adapted as a residence

Memory Joggers

Now we have seen some of Egypt's most famous and ancient sights. Were you as amazed as I was?

- 1 What are the pyramids and who were they built for?
- 2 How big is the Great Pyramid?
- 3 What has been happening to the Sphinx over time?
- 4 What important feature is it missing?
- 5 Are the houses of Cairo far away from the ancient monuments?
- 6 What might we see in the Egyptian Museum?
- 7 What is Mokattam?
- 8 What do the Zabbaleen do there?
- 9 Can you describe the City of the Dead?
- 10 Why do people live in places like Mokattam or the City of the Dead?

Adventure Challenge 16

name _____

Find the Words!

Luxor
pyramids
Zabbaleen

tombs
pharaoh
City of the Dead

Nile River
Sphinx
fellahin

Napoleon
Mokattam
Lower Egypt

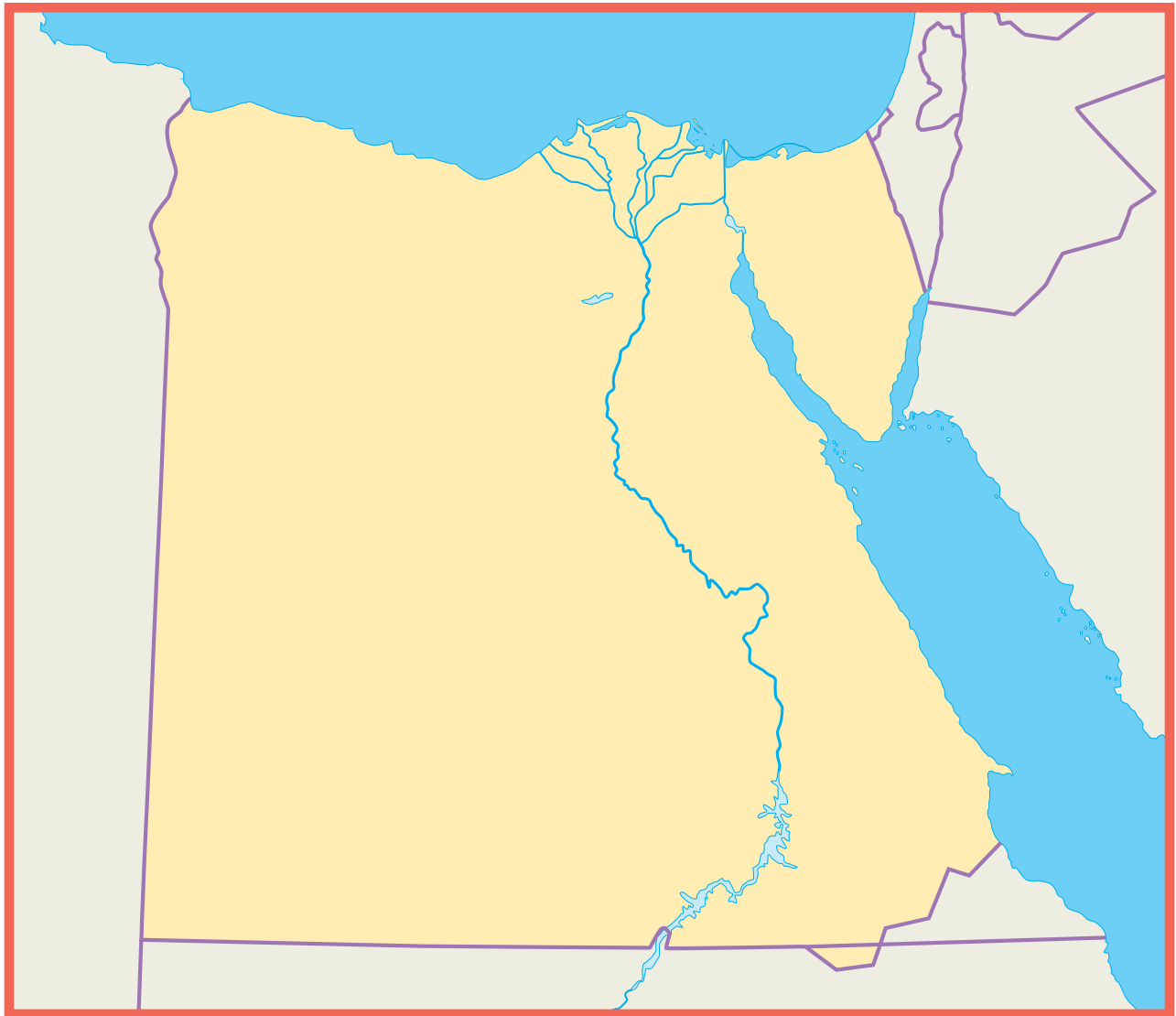
Cairo

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



name _____

Mapping It Out!



Label the following places on your map:

Nile River

Aswan

Lake Nasser

Luxor

Cairo

If you'd like, draw pictures or symbols on your map representing:



A felucca on the Nile



Aswan High Dam



Mokattam



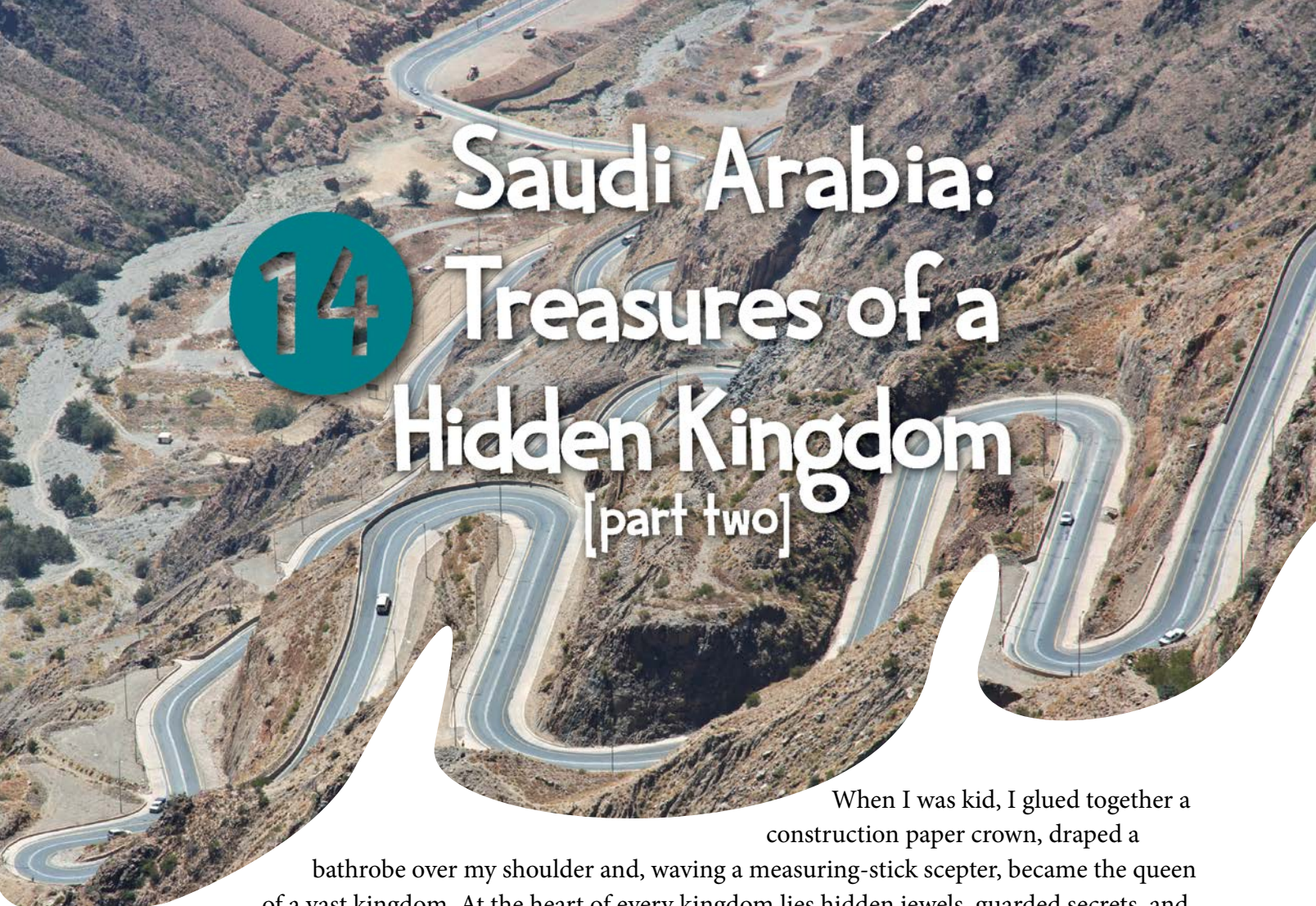
The Pyramids of Giza



Groups of tourists in Luxor

Challenge mapping:

Can you point out the following on your map? Upper Egypt and Lower Egypt



Saudi Arabia: 14 Treasures of a Hidden Kingdom [part two]

When I was kid, I glued together a construction paper crown, draped a bathrobe over my shoulder and, waving a measuring-stick scepter, became the queen of a vast kingdom. At the heart of every kingdom lies hidden jewels, guarded secrets, and wonders untold. You may envision Saudi Arabia as a kingdom of wiry camels roaming across wind-blown sands and, in the distance, a mirage of gurgling water, but don't open your eyes quite yet. Envision troops of baboons, wildflowers carpeting valley floors, apricot orchards sweet with blossoms, and a very surprising ancient palace. Could this be the desert Kingdom of Saudi Arabia? Now open your eyes and come discover the treasures of the hidden kingdom!

Saleh, robed and bearded with his *gutra* flapping in the wind, guides us south from Mecca where a gap in the mountains marks the end of the Hijaz region and the beginning of the steep, rugged geographical region known as the Asir. Looking at these jagged mountains, Saleh tells us of an Asir farming community called the Hanging Village of Habalah, connected to the outside world for centuries only by a single rope. Meaning “rope ladder” in Arabic, Habalah was a tiny stone village clinging to the side of a sheer cliff that was home to more than sixty families. The only way for families to travel the impossibly steep slopes of the Asir Mountains was to be lowered on ropes attached to iron posts that had been driven into the edge of the cliff. Saleh explains that since the government couldn't offer schools and medical care for the families at the bottom of the 600-foot (183-m) gorge, the Saudi Arabian king built the residents a new village. This is the first of the desert kingdom's treasures: inaccessible, hanging Habalah.

Traveling southward along the steep **precipices** that rise out of the narrow plain, we find the cooler air a reprieve from Saudi Arabia's desert temperatures.

precipice: an extremely steep rock, such as a cliff face

Saleh notes that the Asir highlands are not only a popular vacation retreat for heat-weary Saudis but are also one of the most populated regions of the kingdom. Gazing out our window, the reason is apparent — we have a beautiful view of mountain **pinnacles**, with valleys grayish-blue in the distance, and sharp-eyed **kestrels** hovering in the cool, clear air. This fertile, mountainous region of Saudi Arabia begs the question, “*Who covereth the heaven with clouds, who prepareth rain for the earth, who maketh grass to grow on the mountains*” (Psalm 147:8)? Why, our glorious Creator God, of course!



How has God created such a lush green region in a desert country? By sending rains to fall generously on this southwest corner of Saudi Arabia. Whereas the Hijaz region of the west coast is dry, the Asir highlands lie just within the range of the southwest monsoon rains from the Arabian Sea and India. A **monsoon** is a very heavy yet nourishing rain that sweeps in from the south. Twelve to twenty inches (30–50 cm) of rain falls in the Asir during the summer, more than anywhere else in the kingdom, and any winter snows that descend melt immediately. Standing on this mountain ridge with a handful of flowers, we can't help but think that these breathtaking mountain peak views; a surprising selection of plants; and the roaming of animals like baboons, hyraxes, and the rare leopard make the Asir region an unexpected jewel in Saudi Arabia's crown.

Back in our vehicle, we watch as farmhouses cluster on **terraces**, which are giant fields like steps up the mountainsides. Amazed to see these farms stepping up the mountain slopes, especially in a land known for its deserts,

pinnacle: the highest point

kestrel: a small falcon





Arabian leopard



Baboon



The old walled city of Sanaa, Suq al-Milh

Saleh informs us that the farmers of the Asir grow crops as varied as wheat, apricots, pears, tangerines, grapes, and pomegranates. From these terraces fashioned from soil and rock, Asir farmers have been growing and exporting coffee for more than 300 years!

The thick walls of the farmhouses are made of stone and mud, dotted with small window openings, and painted a pristine white. The rooftops, doors, and windows are painted with vibrant colors and patterns. Traditionally, Saudi women made paints naturally, boiling indigo plants for dark blues and squeezing the juice of pomegranates for flaming reds. Everywhere we travel, we see firsthand how geography influences homes and how the resources God has given in that place sustain and enrich people's lives.

Before departing this region of the kingdom, Saleh says we must experience the famous *souqs* of Asir. Open in a different town each day of the week and named accordingly, we visit Abha's Suq al-Thaluth, or "Tuesday Market." Amongst the vendors selling brightly painted clay **incense** burners; silver Bedouin jewelry; and perfumes like frankincense, jasmine, and musk, we find — in contrast to Saleh's plain *throbe* — the Najran Saudis wearing brightly colored *izars* (a garment tied to the waist and covering the lower half of the body) topped with black embroidered jackets. The

incense:

an aromatic substance that is burned to produce a pleasant scent

Najran is a region that is a three hours' drive southeast of Abha. The Najranis live south of Abha in mud towers up to 11 stories tall with tiny windows high on the **ramparts**. With a forest of **turrets**, their fort-like homes are like an impenetrable hidden kingdom in the far southwest corner of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia! Do you remember how God uses geography to create groups of people with different and interesting homes, clothes, and foods?

Driving northwest now, we see that the mountains of the Asir and Hijaz taper off in the east to a vast irregular plateau. Does this harsh landscape look like the home of a king? Across the central heartland of Saudi Arabia, we travel endlessly over barren sands, passing clusters of mountains, and yet see no towns or villages. "Of course," says Saleh, "for only a hardy few could live in this sand-swept region of Saudi Arabia." Yet the tribe of the first king of modern Saudi Arabia, the House of Saud, called this Najd region home. *Najd* means "highland" in Arabic, which perfectly describes this rocky desert sloping away from the coastal mountains. (This region can also be described as an elevated plateau.) Saleh tells us that a number of wadis cross the Najd from west to east.

Dir'iyah, the hometown of Saudi Arabia's king, was built on an **escarpment** overlooking a wadi. Looking like the sandcastles I used to build at the beach, Dir'iyah is a maze of towers, walls, mosques, and palaces made of mud and straw. Who ever heard of a king living in a palace of mud? Saleh tells us that the columns around the king's courtyard were actually trunks of palm trees and that the roofs of the palace were of mud spread on palm branches. These old Dir'iyah palaces we've discovered are another guarded jewel in Saudi's kingdom!

ramparts: a means of protection or defense using an embankment

turret: a small tower on a building

escarpment: a steep slope

Dhee Ayn Marble Village in Bahah



Dir'iyah is the ancient hometown of the House of Saud, the family of Saudi Arabia's king.



Masmak Castle



Traditional house in Najran



Saleh next points out Masmak Castle in Riyadh, the ancient mud-brick fort where the king's family lived long ago. Beyond the fort is a spacious tiled area called as-Sa'ah Square, where locals gather in the evening to talk and drink tea.

We haven't seen any churches in our exploration of Saudi Arabia, have we? That is because one of the king's

spokesmen declared that "there are no churches [in Saudi Arabia], not in the past, the present, or future." Saleh tells us that in Saudi Arabia, passing out Bibles is a crime punishable by death.

We call the king of Saudi Arabia "king," but Saudis call him "The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques." As the caretaker of Islam's holiest sites, Saudi's king believes he is keeping his country pure by prohibiting all other religions from worshiping in public in the kingdom. Sadly, this means that many people in this country will not be able to hear the truth of the Creator God of the Bible and His Son, Jesus Christ, who died on the Cross to save us from sin. This situation is one that truly calls for the prayers of Christians around the globe for those believers within Saudi Arabia who have the courage to privately share their faith with others under these dangerous conditions.

You may be wondering where Saudi Arabia's king lives now. We'll find the king in the capital city of Riyadh. Meaning "a place of gardens and trees" in Arabic (*rawdah*), Riyadh is an oasis city and was founded at the meeting of many wadis. As we look out at these bustling streets and the Kingdom



Centre Tower, a graceful skyscraper and the second-tallest building in Saudi Arabia, it's hard to believe Riyadh, one of the fastest-growing cities in the world, started out as a tiny mud village not so very long ago.

There is a strange mix of past, present, and future in Saudi Arabia, isn't there? There are camel markets in the same city as skyscrapers; mud-houses alongside shopping malls; and long-robed kings and princes living among fast cars, neon signs, and young Saudis talking on cell phones. Before leaving Riyadh, Saleh asks some of us if we'd like to go visit Saudi Arabia's king. Any man can! The king holds a regular *majlis*, or court, where any male in the entire kingdom may come before the king with a personal appeal or request. If you could go before Saudi Arabia's king, would you be nervous? Probably...but earthly kings and their kingdoms cannot compare to the King of kings or the King of Heaven as revealed to us in God's Word. It might help you to remember our Heavenly King and know "there is none like unto thee, O LORD; thou art great, and thy name is great in might. Who would not fear thee, O King of nations?" (Jeremiah 10:6–7).

Memory Joggers

Isn't Saudi Arabia an amazing, diverse land? I love to learn about her people. ① What do you remember about Habalah in the Asir region? ② What are the Asir highlands like? ③ What is a monsoon? ④ What are terraces? ⑤ What kinds of produce are grown in the Asir region? ⑥ What kinds of flowers will we find? ⑦ What animals might we see? ⑧ How are the houses decorated? ⑨ Are souqs open in the same place every day? ⑩ What kinds of things are sold there? ⑪ How do we describe the geography of the Najd region? ⑫ Can you describe the palace at Dir'iyah? ⑬ What is as-Sa'ah Square?

Adventure Challenge 27

name _____

Fill In the Missing Letters!

1. The village of ____ ____ba ____ ____h is called a “hanging village.”
2. This village was also part of the A ____ ____ r Mountains.
3. The highlands of these mountains are within the range of the ____ ____ ____ t ____ west monsoon rains.
4. It was a tradition for Saudi women in this region to create paint from ____ ____ di ____ ____ .
5. The ____ aj ____ ____ ____ Saudis wear bright *izars*.

What Does the Word Mean?

1. This place means “a place of gardens and trees” in Arabic.

2. The King of Saudi Arabia holds court, which is also called this word.

3. This word means “highlands” in Arabic.

Bonus! Can you name three animals mentioned during this part of the chapter?
Or list three crops mentioned in this part of Saudi Arabia?

1.

2.

3.

Word Search

precipices pinnacles monsoon terraces ramparts
turrets escarpment Riyadh Masmak Castle

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

The Custodian of the Mosques - Short Essay

Why does the king of Saudi Arabia not allow other religions to be worshipped publicly? Why should this be something Christians should pray about?

→ Have you ever gone a whole day with nothing to drink? Doesn't just thinking about it make your tongue stick to the roof of your mouth and your throat feel parched? It feels good to get a cold glass of God's life-giving water! Enjoy a sip or two before we move into the next part of our journey. Saleh has deep, dry, dangerous places to take us to next. Whatever you do, don't forget your water bottle. Your life will depend upon it!

Leaving Riyadh, we drive northeast across the desert toward Dammam. "Is that a train of camels we see trekking across the desert off in the distance?" we ask. "No," says Saleh, "that is actually a train of iron!"

"In the desert?" we exclaim.

"Yes," says Saleh. "Presently, Saudi Arabia's only railway tracks across the sands between Riyadh and the Gulf Port city of Dammam. The king and his government have recently planned the railway to snake farther west across Saudi Arabia's dry dunes, through a gap between the Hijaz and Asir mountains to Jeddah on the opposite side of the country. Instead of cargo ships rocking the waves of the seas for five to seven days around the Arabian Peninsula, freight trains will carry the goods from the Red Sea to the Persian Gulf in 18 hours, less than one full day. Who needs a water-conserving camel when one can take the train that requires no water at all?" Saleh laughs.

Saudi Arabia may have scant water resources, but it produces rivers of fuel! Saleh points to the tower stretching like a crane out of the sands near Dammam. Is it a windmill pumping water? No, it's an **oil rig** drilling streams of black oil from underneath Saudi Arabia's sands. God tucked more than one quarter of the world's known supply of oil under the Saudi Arabian desert. This oil is a product of the processes that occurred during and after the Great Flood in the Book of Genesis. Pumping out more than 12 million barrels of oil per day, the Saudis then heat the oil so that nearly half of it becomes refined and changes into gasoline. Saudi Arabia sells its oil, or "black gold," to other countries all over the world, and with that tremendous wealth, Saudis have built a flourishing economy.



oil rig: a structure, usually a tower, used for drilling oil or gas out of the ground



Saleh waves us toward the eastern coastal plain to find the most flourishing, verdant greens, an island of growth in the sea of desert sands. There, ahead of us — have you ever seen so many date palm trees in your life? This is the Al-Hasa Oasis, home to more than half a million people. It's not only the largest oasis in Saudi Arabia but one of the largest in the world. (If you find the city of Al-Hufuf on your atlas, you've found the principal city of the Al-Hasa Oasis.) Actually, the eastern coastal plain, the fourth region of Saudi Arabia (do you remember the other three, Hijaz, Asir, and Najd?), is sometimes called the Al-Hasa after the great oasis. While some of the world's largest oil fields can be found in the sands around the oasis, the Al-Hasa produces a different kind of desert wealth: food! Over three million palm trees find water for their roots from the sixty springs of water that bubble up here. Everywhere we look in Al-Hasa, a name meaning “drinking” in Arabic, we see water courses carrying water to farms of rice, corn, and citrus fruits. Did you know that more than 100 million eggs a year are produced on poultry farms here in the oasis? In a country of sand with an average rainfall of only 4–5 inches (10–12 cm) per year, lush Al-Hasa produces food eaten by Saudis all over the country.

When I was a little child, I once went exploring in a cave. Inky black, pierced only by a shaft of sunlight, the cave was full of unknown mysteries. My father laughed that bears lurked ahead, my brother suggested snakes, and I wondered if it wasn't time to go home! Do you think it's time to explore some more of Saudi Arabia's mysterious treasures? Nodding, Saleh smiles and drives us southwest.

Driving to Al-Kharj, south of Riyadh (check your map!), we watch as circles of green dot the rocky desert. Saleh reports that large irrigation systems, much like your lawn sprinkler, rotate to water huge circular fields of alfalfa. Why all that alfalfa in the desert?



Dairy cows in the desert

Saleh laughs and says we are driving on what locals call Milk Road. Do you see all the cows under special awnings, shaded from the intense desert sun? Saleh tells us that a dairy farm near Al-Kharj holds the title of the world's largest integrated dairy, milking more than 30,000 cows and producing enough milk to give a city of 100,000 people more than a gallon (3.78 liter) jug of milk every day! Yes, as difficult as it is to imagine, the world's largest dairy farm is in the middle of the Saudi Arabian desert! "But where does the water necessary for the crops and cooling the cows come from?" we ask.

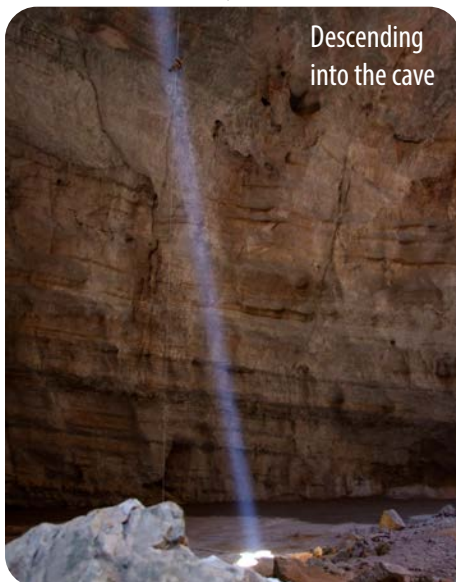
"That is part of the mystery," says Saleh.

Underneath the Saudi sands, God created aquifers of water. Farmers near Al-Kharj have dug thousands of wells, some as deep as a mile (1.6 km) into the earth, to pump out water so hot it is close to the boiling point! The water is cooled in ponds before being sprinkled on cows or crops.

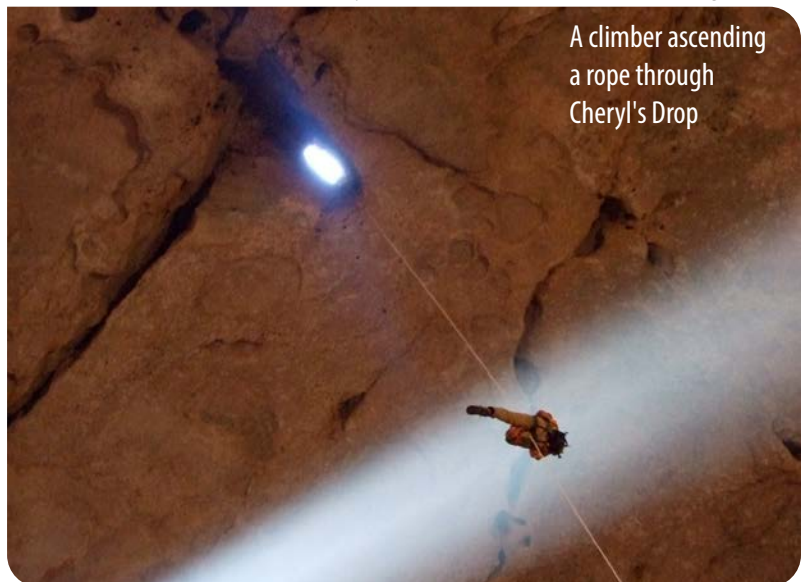
Saleh asks if we would like to go diving in the desert to explore these aquifers of water. "Diving into underground water in the desert?" we say incredulously.

"Yes," says Saleh, "come!"

Ahead of us a massive rocky cliff rises out of the desert, a huge black slit at its base beckoning us to come explore below. This is a *dahl*, which is the Arabic word for "cave," a sinkhole in the sand. Named Ain Hit, *ain* meaning "spring," this is one of the most famous *dahls* in the kingdom. Watch the sharp limestone boulders that cover the cave's floor. Notice that the walls of the cave's entrance are a grey-blue rock called **anhydrite**. Carefully scramble down the crumbly slope through a small opening — such blackness! Turn on your flashlight — ah, there is the water. Isn't it the clearest, stillest water you have ever seen? The bottom of the underground lake shimmers light green around a black hole, the entrance to an underwater cave. Saleh tells us that in earlier times, the clear waters of Ain Hit were just below the surface, making it a watering hole for thirsty camel caravans. The irrigation of farms like those on Milk Road has caused the water table to dramatically decline, with Ain Hit's water level now dropping far into the darkest reaches of the cave. We have no scuba diving equipment with oxygen tanks, so instead of diving, we settle for simply dipping our feet in the cool water. On our way out of the *dahl*, we wave hello to a Saudi family with three children coming to



Descending
into the cave



A climber ascending
a rope through
Cheryl's Drop

explore the underground waters of the sinkhole. Their father beckons them to come farther down into the cave. But they only cling tighter to their veiled mother's black *abaya*. Children in Saudi Arabia feel just like I did about caves as a child!

Driving east, we watch the landscape grow increasingly barren and the sand dunes grow higher, like towering mountains! Saleh informs us that sand dunes in this region of Saudi Arabia may peak as high as 1,083 feet (330 meters). That is about 30 times taller than your house! Doesn't this fifth region of Saudi Arabia look different than the regions we've visited before? This is the Rub Al-Khali, literally meaning "the quarter of emptiness," one of earth's harshest regions. Saleh says Saudis simply refer to this area as the Sands, the largest expanse of sand in the whole world! The countries of Spain, Belgium, and the Netherlands would fit into this Empty Quarter, and there still would be room to spare. Almost entirely uninhabited, even the Bedouins only skirt the edges of this forbidding territory because its summer heat is too extreme.

The smothering heat of the Empty Quarter makes it hard to breathe. There is no way to escape the scorching heat; there is no shade to find cool relief. Quench your dry throat with a long drink from your water bottle. "Too bad we aren't *dhabs*," Saleh mutters. A *dhab* is a bulky lizard up to 25.5 inches (65 cm) long. The *dhabs* of the Saudi Arabian Peninsula live their entire lives without drinking even a single drop of water! All the water they require is supplied by the dry, salty plants they eat on the edges of the deserts. Saleh suggests that perhaps we should be like a *dhab* and dig ourselves a tunnel 7 feet (2.2 m) down into the sand to escape the relentless rays of the sun! Actually, God designed *dhabs* to become the same temperature as their environment, with their skin color acting a bit like a thermometer: dark grey at night, beige as the day warms, and bright yellow when it is so hot that only a *dhab* would trot across the sands. Saleh tells us that the nomadic Bedouins of Saudi Arabia eat the *dhab* as a desert delicacy, which tastes much like chicken!





Saleh squints about. It is so easy to lose direction in the Empty Quarter with nothing to serve as landmarks. But we can't afford to get lost with such a scant water supply. Wait! What is that over there on the horizon? A tribe of Bedouin nomads are riding a long string of camels off in the distance, and due to the extreme heat, they look as if they are walking on air. Saleh is certain that the Bedouins will be able to direct us — Bedouins can even tell by their footprint in the sand whether a traveler was male or female! As we approach, we see that the Bedouins are setting up camp for a meal. With large smiles, they wave us into their tent and out of the sun's 131°F (55°C) noonday temperatures. A circle of tribal women, entirely cloaked in black and faces hidden behind veils, sit on pillows and rugs off to the side, away from the men. An elderly Bedouin presents us with a big, white bowl filled with frothy warm milk — camel's milk! Doesn't it taste rich, creamy, and slightly sweet?

As we travel eastward into the late afternoon, the wind — *hawa* — sweeps in. Over the howl of the gusting wind, Saleh tells us that yes, uninhabited Empty Quarter sands lie before us, but what lies



below is the largest oil field on the entire planet: Ghawar. Ghawar stretches nearly 175 miles (280 km) long and 25 miles (40 km) wide across desolate desert. Thousands of meters below these dunes lies more than 70 billion barrels of oil patiently waiting to be pumped out of the more than 3,000 wells punched down into it. Saudi geologists came in search of oil here because of that anhydrite rock discovered at Ain Hit and indeed found, far below the barren landscape, an excellent anhydrite seal over immense lakes of thick, rich oil. The Empty Quarter is not empty at all!

As the sun sets, Saleh smiles that brilliant smile of his. He's given us the grand tour of Saudi Arabia. From Jeddah as the gateway city to the Hijaz's Mecca; up through the cooling heights of the terraced Asir mountains; across the rocky, gravelly central plain of Najd; along the eastern region of the Al-Hasa with its lush oasis; and down into the Empty Quarter. What jewels we've discovered in this kingdom and such fascinating people we've met! What has been your favorite gem? Oh, look up! Do you see the twinkling diamonds God has sprinkled across the Saudi Arabian skies? Maybe these starry heavens on a hushed night in the Empty Quarter are the most memorable sight of all.

“Praise ye him, sun and moon: praise him, all ye stars of light...Kings of the earth, and all people; princes, and all judges of the earth: Both young men, and maidens; old men, and children: Let them praise the name of the LORD” (Psalm 148:3, 11–13).

Memory Joggers

It's hard to imagine a more different world than our own, isn't it? Let's talk about all you've seen today. ① How does the government hope the railroad at Damman will help goods reach Saudi Arabia? ② What liquid will we find in abundance under Damman? ③ What is it used for? ④ Where is Al-Hasa? ⑤ What trees grow here? ⑥ What bubbles up from the ground? ⑦ What is Milk Road? ⑧ What familiar animals live in this area of Al-Kharj? ⑨ What do you remember about the water these animals drink? ⑩ What is a dahl? ⑪ How do we find the water at Ain Hit? ⑫ What color are the cave's walls? ⑬ What is a dhab? ⑭ What lies below the expanse of sand in Ghawar?

Ghawar



Adventure Challenge 28

name _____

Short Answer

1. What type of transportation is used to move oil from Riyadh to the Gulf Port City of Damman?

2. Saudis heat and refine some of the oil so it becomes what?

3. What percentage of the world's known supply of oil is found in Saudi Arabia?

4. Which oasis on the coastal plan of this region is home to half a million people?

5. What are the five regions of Saudi Arabia?

Language Learning

Match the definition or description with the word in Arabic.

_____ 1. Cave	a. <i>dhab</i>	_____
_____ 2. Spring	b. <i>hawa</i>	_____
_____ 3. Empty Quarter	c. Rub Al-Khali	_____
_____ 4. Bulky Lizard	d. <i>dahl</i>	_____
_____ 5. Wind	e. <i>ain</i>	_____

A Picture Is Worth a Lot of Words!

You have read about how the three million palm trees in Al-Hasa find water. Can you draw a helpful diagram to illustrate this? Be sure to write in the number of palm trees and the number of the springs of water.



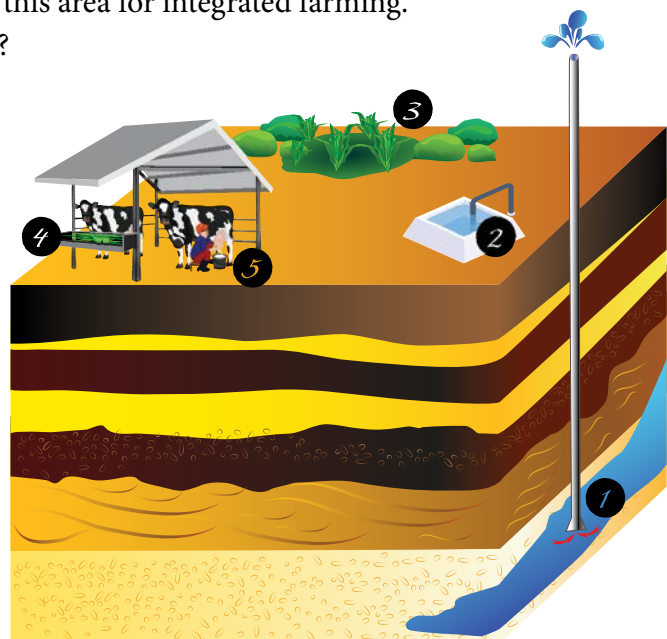
Along the Water - Based Farms on the Milk Road!

This graphic illustrates the importance of water in this area for integrated farming.

Can you figure out what is happening in each step?

Give an explanation of each step of the process.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____



Go into all the World

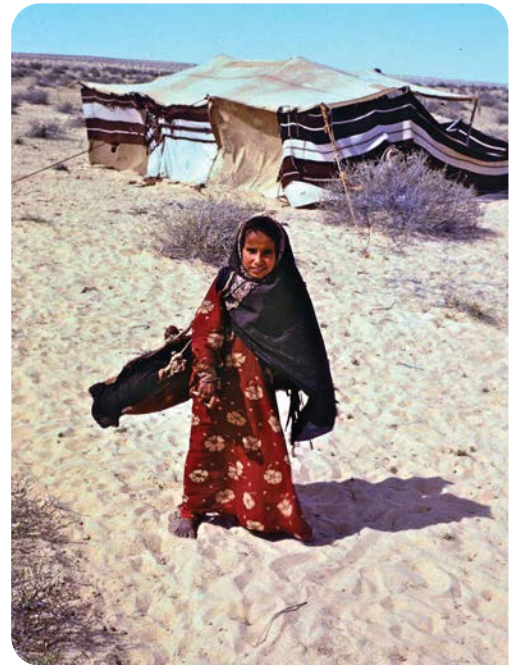


A walk of prayer: *We were astounded when we took a peek inside Saudi Arabia. We not only found a land full of ancient wonders, we found that Saudi Arabia is full of boys and girls who are much like us. They were created by God who loves them dearly — just as He loves you. Yet, many do not yet know the truth about the true God and the salvation that is to be found in Christ Jesus. Let's remember to keep the brave missionaries in our prayers as they share these truths to a fallen world.*

Will you and your family join me in praying for the Saudi people?

Lord, give us Your love for the peoples of the world and help our family to live in a way that shows our love for them.

- 🌍 Father, Saudi Arabia is a land that is completely foreign to most of us, but You understand and know her very well. May Your will be done in Saudi Arabia.
- 🌍 We pray for the pilgrims who come from every corner of the globe to worship at the various Islamic sites in Saudi Arabia. May Your light shine on them and may their hearts be open to hear Your voice of truth with the essential salvation message of the gospel and the need for Jesus Christ as their personal Savior.
- 🌍 In a country of vast oil wealth, we remember those who do not benefit from the natural resources You supplied this nation. While there are many rich in Saudi Arabia, there are also many poor. We remember those who have less. Please be their provision.
- 🌍 We pray for Christians living in Saudi Arabia. Lord, it is a crime to worship You publicly in that nation. May Your people have boldness to serve You and courage to walk the way of Christ. May they be protected and sheltered under Your wings. Please keep them from harm and help them to honor Your name.
- 🌍 We ask for strength for those who are persecuted in Saudi Arabia. May they not grow weary but have joy and peace even in the midst of suffering. We ask that You would move on the hearts of the government and religious leaders to allow freedom of religion in Saudi Arabia.
- 🌍 We pray that the peoples of Saudi Arabia may taste Your goodness and grace, Father. Kindle a passion for You in their hearts. Rain down Your love, mercy, and hope on that land.
- 🌍 We love you, Lord, and the people who are living in Saudi Arabia today. May the light of our Savior dawn over all nations today. Draw us all closer to You, Father. In Jesus's Name, amen.





A Tasty Tour

[optional]

Arabic Coffee

I hope you like coffee! Saudis consider the ritual of preparing and serving coffee the first rule of hospitality. In the past, each time coffee was served, men would roast the beans over a fire on a long-handled spoon and then grind them with a mortar and pestle. Once prepared, the coffee is poured in small cups without handles and filled halfway. To be polite to our hosts, we must restrict ourselves to three servings and shake the cup with a quick movement of our wrists to let them know when we are finished. (In case you don't like coffee, we've included a recipe for mint tea also!)

Ingredients:

2 cups cold water

6 tsp ground coffee

6 cardamom seeds (crushed) or $\frac{1}{4}$ – $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp ground cardamom

Cloves (2 to 4, based on your preference)

A few strands of saffron

Directions:

Put the coffee, cardamom seeds, cloves, and saffron into saucepan with the water; bring to a boil; and allow to simmer for about 30 minutes. Allow coffee to settle for a minute or two and then pour a small amount into coffee cups.

Note: Saffron can be expensive and hard to find in some places. A saffron substitute is $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon turmeric then add $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon paprika for a little flavor.



Mint Tea

Ingredients:

1–2 tea bags (or loose leaf tea if you have it)

2 tbsp fresh mint leaves

4 cups boiling water

Sugar cubes (per your preference)

Directions:

Place the teabags (or loose tea) and mint into the bottom of a saucepan, crushing the mint against the bottom. Fill the pan with boiling water and allow to stand for a few minutes. This tea is usually drunk very sweet, so add plenty of sugar cubes!

name _____

Mapping It Out!

Let's have more map fun!



Let's record the locations of:

Abha

Tabuk

Riyadh

Dammam

Al-Kharj

Kaf

If you'd like, draw pictures or symbols on your map representing:



A camel in the desert



Cows at Al-Kharj



Monsoons (rain)



A market at Abha



Skyscrapers in Riyadh



A train winding through the desert

Chapter Review Time

Chapter reviews can be used as graded quizzes or just for additional reinforcement of concepts.



Chapter One Review

name _____

Short Answer

1. Do we know where the Garden of Eden is today? _____
2. What is the name of the most famous city in the world that is known for being built on two continents? _____
3. What is the ancient name of the city from question 2? _____
4. A river flowed out of the Garden of Eden and became four rivers, as recorded in Genesis 2:10–14. Two of them were named the Pishon and the Gihon. What were the names of the other two rivers?

5. What is Mesopotamia sometimes referred to as?

Fill-in-the Blank

1. The Bosphorus _____ is the connecting waterway for ships from the Black Sea to sail out to the Sea of Marmara, then to the Aegean Sea, on to the Mediterranean Sea, and out into the Atlantic Ocean.
2. The Black Sea coast of Turkey has a _____ climate.
3. The Euphrates and Tigris Rivers both begin high up in a rugged region of Turkey called _____.
4. Since the creation of the world, _____ has been necessary for living.
5. More than 20 dams are built over the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers to generate _____ for the Turkish people and to irrigate Turkey's land.

Chapter Eight Review

name _____

Short Answer

1. Why is the southern region of Egypt called Upper Egypt?

2. What massive structure has changed the flow of the Nile and the face of Egypt?

3. What has the construction of the structure from the question 2 increased the population of?

4. What is one of Egypt's main industries today? _____
5. What is the name of Cairo's garbage dump? _____

Matching

Match each word or phrase to the correct description.

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| 1. _____ Ancient tombs of Egypt's long-dead pharaohs near Luxor | a. The Nile River |
| 2. _____ Has been the essence of existence for Egypt for thousands of years | b. Aswan High Dam |
| 3. _____ Burial site near the city of Cairo with the world's most enormous and renowned grave markers | c. Egyptian Museum of Cairo |
| 4. _____ Formed a reservoir called Lake Nasser | d. Pyramids of Giza |
| 5. _____ Houses some of the most valued ancient Egyptian treasures | e. Valley of the Kings |

Chapter Fourteen Review

name _____

Matching

Match each word or phrase to the correct description.

- | | |
|--|-------------------------|
| 1. _____ Lie just within the range of the southwest monsoon rains from the Arabian Sea and India | a. Asir highlands |
| 2. _____ Live in mud towers up to 11 stories tall | b. Habalah |
| 3. _____ The largest expanse of sand in the whole world | c. Al-Hasa |
| 4. _____ A maze of towers, walls, mosques, and palaces made of mud and straw | d. Najranis |
| 5. _____ The second-tallest building in Saudi Arabia | e. Empty Quarter |
| 6. _____ The largest oil field on the entire planet | f. Dir'iyah |
| 7. _____ A tiny stone village clinging to the side of a sheer cliff | g. Riyadh |
| 8. _____ Track across the sands between Riyadh and the Gulf Port city of Dammam | h. Ghawar |
| 9. _____ The capital city of Saudi Arabia | i. Kingdom Centre Tower |
| 10. _____ The largest oasis in Saudi Arabia | j. Freight trains |

Final Exam

name _____

Short Answer (5 points each)

1. What is the name of the most famous city in the world that is known for being built on two continents?

2. What mountain range does the Bible record as the resting place of Noah's Ark after the global Flood?

3. What is the name of the city where Ruth lived, where King David was born, and where God became flesh?

4. What city is home to more Christians than any other city in Iraq?

5. What mountains act as a jagged barrier between the great northern central plateau of Saudi Arabia and the Red Sea coast?

True or False

Circle T for true and F for false. If a statement is false, rewrite the underlined part to make it true.

1. The city of Tarsus in Turkey was the birthplace of the Apostle Peter. T F _____

2. Israel is a sought-after land for which the peoples and powers of the world continue to wrestle. T F _____

3. For a long time, the Jewish people did not govern their own country and it went by the name Palestine. T F _____

4. The Marshlands of Iraq are created by the distributaries of the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers. T F _____

5. Jordan is one of the most water-deprived countries in the world. T F _____

Fill-in-the Blank

1. The Bosphorus _____ is the connecting waterway for ships from the Black Sea to sail out to the Sea of Marmara, then to the Aegean Sea, on to the Mediterranean Sea, and out into the Atlantic Ocean.
2. The Church of the Holy Wisdom, or the _____, is sometimes referred to as the Eighth Wonder of the World.
3. Lake Kinneret in Israel is the Bible's Sea of _____. Galilee
4. The _____ is the world's longest lockless canal of water, and it cuts across the Isthmus of Suez.
5. One of the oldest communication routes in the world is the _____, which is even mentioned in the Bible.

Matching

Match each word or phrase to the correct description.

- | | |
|---|------------------------|
| 1. _____ Burial site near the city of Cairo with the world's most enormous and renowned grave markers | a. Valley of the Kings |
| 2. _____ Where Jesus was baptized | b. Jordan River |
| 3. _____ Ancient tombs of Egypt's long-dead pharaohs near Luxor | c. Pyramids of Giza |
| 4. _____ Lie just within the range of the southwest monsoon rains from the Arabian Sea and India | d. Asir highlands |
| 5. _____ The largest oil field on the entire planet | e. Ghawar |

Multiple Choice

Circle the correct answer.

1. Which of the following is Turkey's most famous ghost town?
 - a. Selcuk
 - b. Izmir
 - c. Ephesus
 - d. Istanbul
2. One of the names of Israel's abundance of hills is:
 - a. The Hills of Shalom
 - b. The Samaritan Hills
 - c. The Jewish Hills
 - d. None of the above
3. The Judean Hills are home to _____, Israel's capital city.
 - a. Jerusalem
 - b. Jaffa
 - c. Tel Aviv
 - d. Haifa
4. The Western Wall in Israel is sometimes referred to as:
 - a. The Wailing Wall
 - b. The Temple Wall
 - c. The Last Wall
 - d. Herod's Wall
5. What was the name of the wall that protected Nebuchadnezzar's 700-room palace?
 - a. Daniel's Gate
 - b. Nebuchadnezzar's Gate
 - c. The Ishtar Gate
 - d. The Babylon Gate

Bonus

Why is the southern region of Egypt called Upper Egypt?

Memory Joggers

Note: These are general answers and provide context to the narration questions. The answers do not have to exactly match the wording in the book or answer key. As long as the student is able to demonstrate an understanding of the concept and articulate the correct answer or write it coherently, the answer should be acceptable.

Chapter One

Week 1, Day 2, Page 20

1. The Garden of Eden
2. Observing eyes, strong memories, and healthy faith
3. Answers may vary, including a strange creature with the Sea of Marmara as its eye.
4. The Mediterranean Sea, the Aegean Sea, the Sea of Marmara, and the Black Sea Asia and Europe.
5. Wording of the answer may vary; includes “is a stretching expanse of salty water that is usually a reaching arm of the ocean, butting into a continent of land.”
6. Wording of the answer may vary; ex. “is a narrow channel of water that God put in place between two landmasses.” What are the bodies of water the Bosphorus Strait connects? Sea of Marmara and the Black Sea
7. A suspension bridge

Week 2, Day 3, Page 28

1. Temperate; the answer could also include descriptions: area with weather that is not too cold and not too hot; just right; changes between seasons are not extreme; subtle, with moderately warm days giving way to moderately cool days
2. Cherries, hazelnuts, and expansive tea and tobacco; could also include herds of livestock
3. Tigris: “the river that goes;” Euphrates: “to gush forth.”
4. Anatolia
5. Answers may vary; after the Flood, people may have named them after the long-ago rivers they remembered flowing out of the Garden of Eden
6. Answers may vary, should include answers like providing drinking water for livestock and people, irrigation for crops, a means to transport goods, travel waterways, and a source of food; or even as a resource to generate electricity
7. “The land between two rivers”

8. “Cradle of Civilization”
9. Answers may vary. Could include the Hittites of the Bible, Persians, Romans, Byzantines, and those living in Turkey today
10. It’s like a mountain without a peak; a flat-topped mountain or an oversized table of land rising out of the landscape
11. Anatolian Plateau

Chapter Two

Week 3, Day 3, Page 38

1. No
2. It is very salty, keeps getting saltier because it has no outlet, and is fed by sulfur springs. Answers may also include: the lake doesn’t freeze in the winter.
3. Answers may vary but should be based on logic and what is known from the reading about the lake. People do not live near it because it cannot be used as a normal water supply – for drinking water, crops, livestock, etc.
4. No. Why not? It does not freeze in the winter.
5. Students should provide details in their answers. These could include: a white- and red-haired cat swimming; is known as the Swimming Cat, or named a Van Kedi in Turk; one of the rarest breeds of cats in the world; God specially created the Van cat with only one type of hair, which feels like soft cashmere or rabbit fur that dries quickly when wet; in winter they grow a thick coat to withstand the harsh weather, and these cats have one amber eye and one blue eye!
6. Like beehives with conical roofs
7. There are no trees to build with, so they use dirt.
8. Answers may vary. The student could give an example as the answer or something more explanatory. Where you live determines the natural resources you may have and the climate or weather. For instance, because there are no trees here, people use dirt. Because of the climate, they designed their dirt houses to be cool in summer and warm in winter.
9. Abraham and his descendants

Week 4, Day 1, Page 46

10. A broad, flat expanse of land that lies relatively low
11. Paul
12. With sand and water and the process of silting, the city, which was once an important seaport, is now 12 miles from the Mediterranean Sea.
13. The deposits spewed forth from volcanoes
14. Anatolian Plateau
15. Persecuted Christians sought hiding places from the Roman Empire.

- Pink
- Answers may vary, including salty, hard salt crystals, pink haze, white lakebed, very shallow.
- They work in the mines to process the salt.

Chapter Three

Week 5, Day 2, Page 54

- Along the Aegean Coast of Turkey
- Ephesus
- Manufacture of clothing and cars, as well as vineyards and olives
- In the Bible; it is the Book of Ephesus
- Answers may vary. It can include a ghost town; no one lives or works in the city; many tourists visit it; at one time, nearly half a million people lived and worked here.
- It was three stories tall, with thousands of scrolls and a reading room facing the east.
- Sixty years of digging to create the 25,000 stone slab seats to sit on.

Week 6, Day 1, Page 62

- Anatolian Plain; could also answer city of Selcuk
- He allows children to govern the country for the day!
- A holiday off school, candies, and treats, and week-long festivities! Children, dressed in brilliant costumes, perform their traditional dances and parades in huge stadiums for the whole country to observe!
- Ankara in the region of Anatolia
- Istanbul
- Long white robes with tall brown hats perched on their heads, bell-like skirts, and black shoes
- They carefully practice the work of keeping their right foot planted on the floor as their left foot pumps them counterclockwise.
- Istanbul
- Answers will vary; could mention it is a large domed building, the dome appears to be floating, the dome is flat, 30 million tiny gold tiles decorating its interior, forty windows that circle the dome's base, four slender minarets at the building's corners.
- Christian Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire and the one who ordered the Hagia Sophia to be built.

Chapter Four

Week 7, Day 2, Page 74

- God led Joshua and the 12 tribes of Israel into what was known as Canaan, the Promised Land, as was described to Abraham in Ezekiel 20:6.

- Over 3,000 years ago, the Israelites were given the land by God for their home. They lived there for a thousand years before being scattered around the world by the Roman Empire, who burned the Temple at Jerusalem. In 1948, God made way for the Jewish people to return to their promised land.

- Islam, Judaism, and Christianity
- Asia, Africa, and Europe
- Answers may vary but is described in the text as a tilted triangle.
- Our Savior, Jesus Christ
- Fruit in orchards and vineyards
- Gorges or a dry, rocky bed for a river
- The foolish man built his house on sand, and the wise man built his house high on a rock.
- They are a mountain range.
- Mount Carmel
- Jerusalem
- Wildflowers and red poppies

Week 8, Day 1, Page 82

- A low, flat expanse of land
- The western coastal plains, or as the parts of it are named: Plain of Zebulun, Plain of Sharon, and Plain of Judea
- It's a Mediterranean climate; summers are dry, winters are wet, and the temperature stays mild and moderate; cooler in summer and warmer in winter.
- Answers can vary – should include some from this list: oranges, lemons, wheat, mangos, strawberries, flowers, and grapefruit.
- Kind of straight, with few curves and indentations.
- Silt fills in the indentations, which helps the coastline look this way.
- A harbor is a place with land cupping around on three sides to allow ships to anchor and shelter from the weather.
- Haifa
- Joppa or Jaffa
- Answers will vary; it could be described as modern or include details such as tall skyscrapers, white sands, warm seas, and cloudless blue skies, the country's most exciting city in Israel with many restaurants, dozens of museums, and a world-class symphony.
- It was founded by exiled Jews returning home to Israel and the name Tel Aviv, mean "hill of spring, and found its name from Tel-Abib in the verse Ezekiel 3:15.
- An area on the water's edge built up with docks and cranes for receiving ships and transferring cargo to and from them.