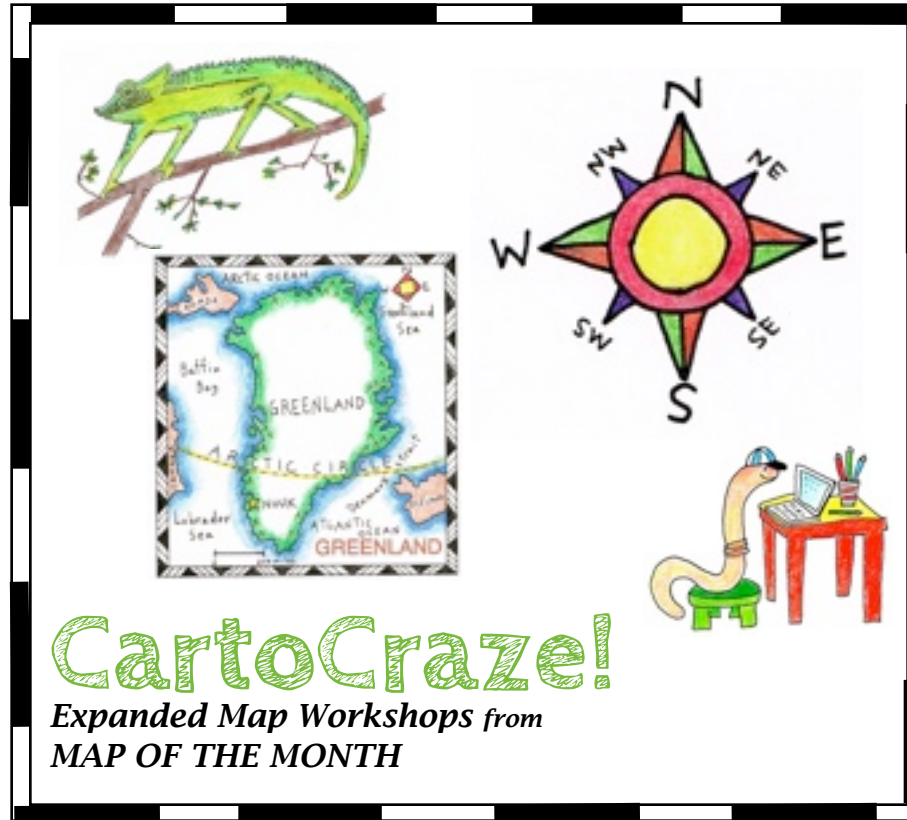


RUB AL-KHALI DESERT



CartoCraze!

*Expanded Map Workshops from
MAP OF THE MONTH*

CartoCraze!

Expanded Map Workshops

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DESERT

The surface of a desert can be formed of sand, ice, small stones or large rocks.

The definition of a desert is that it receives less than 10 inches of precipitation a year: that precipitation can be either rain or snow.

Deserts are the driest places on Earth. Even though we tend to think of deserts as torrid sand covered locations, these geographic areas can also be bitterly cold.

Humans have always found it challenging to live in desert environments, and have lived at the outer edges of many deserts where agriculture and raising of animals is possible. Often people who live in arid areas are forced to be nomads, moving from place to place to take advantage of seasonal weather. A surprising number of plants and animals have adapted to the harsh inhospitable conditions of both hot and cold deserts.

RIVER TERMS AND THEIR DEFINITIONS

These terms and their definitions will help you to understand some of the aspect of desert areas.

DESERT A region that receives very low amounts of precipitation.

HOT DESERT A region with very high temperatures, a great deal of evaporation of moisture, and often high winds, conditions that are inhospitable for life.

COLD DESERTS

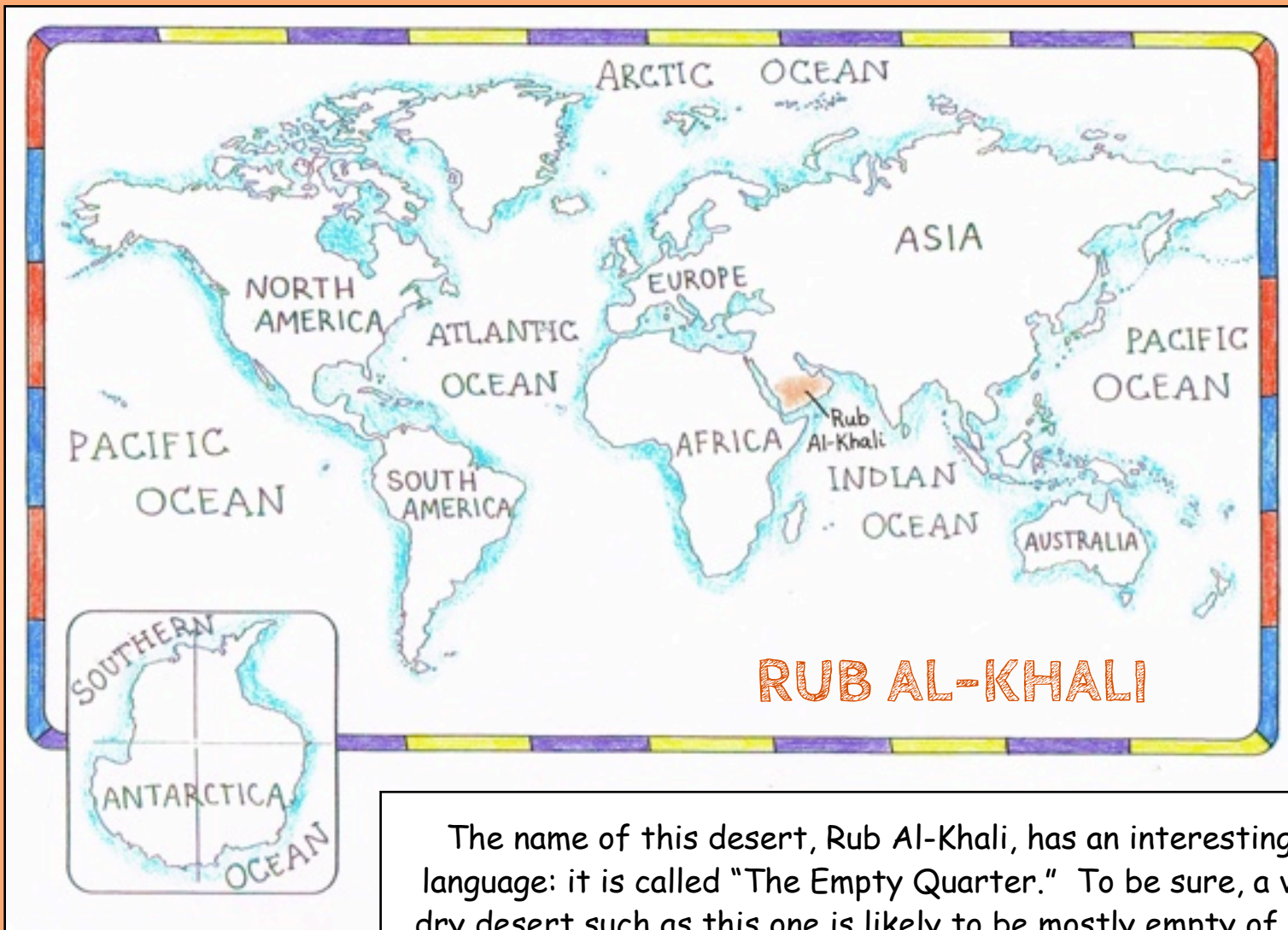
1. A **COLD DESERT** region is often separated from the ocean or body of water by a mountain range which blocks weather systems that produce moisture. The area beyond the mountain range remains very dry. Often this is called a "Rain Shadow" and can affect cold as well as hot deserts.
2. A **POLAR DESERT** has moisture carried away by high winds and there are snow dunes instead of sand dunes.

SAND Small dry particles of minerals and rock that are part of many hot deserts which form dunes.

DUNE Masses of sand or snow that are moved and shaped by weather, wind and gravity.

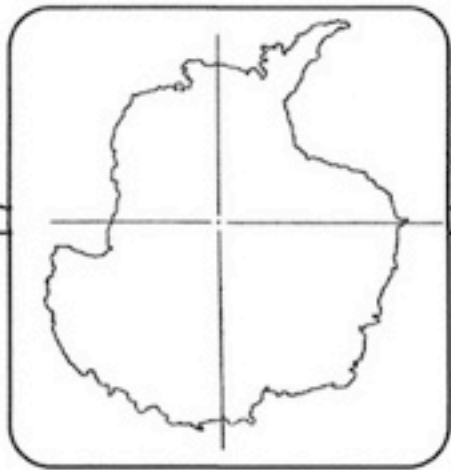
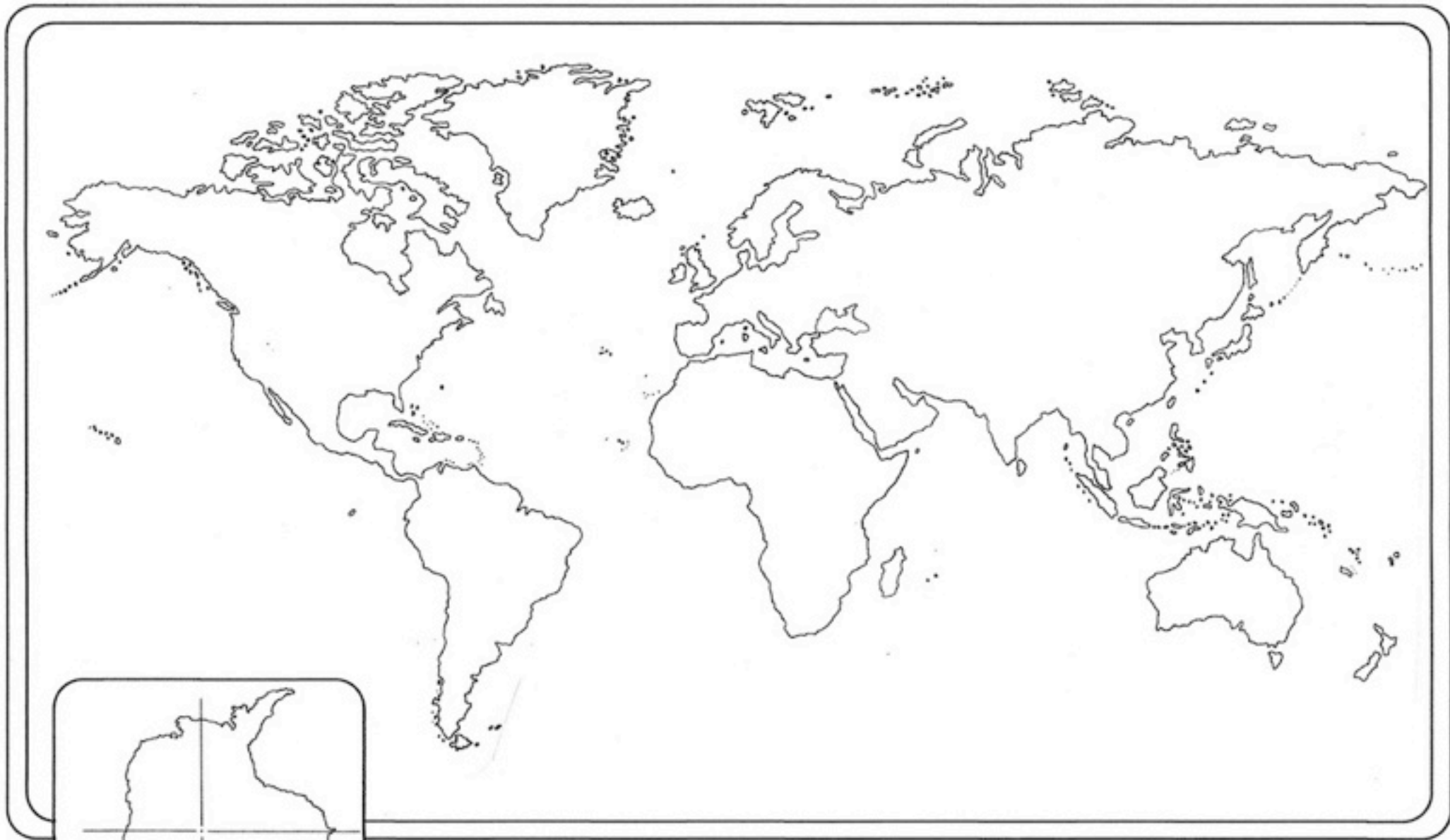
The following presentation is an introduction to the RUB AL-KHALI DESERT, one of Earth's great deserts, with some information about mapping, geography, people and animals of its surrounding area.





The name of this desert, Rub Al-Khali, has an interesting meaning in the Arabic language: it is called "The Empty Quarter." To be sure, a very hot, subtropical and dry desert such as this one is likely to be mostly empty of humans. It receives only a little over 1" of rain a year! Regardless, this large desert is still home to many kinds of scorpions and rodents, and related creatures. There are no trees but occasional small scrubby plants: under 40 varieties.

Rub Al-Khali is part of the larger Arabian Desert on the Arabian Peninsula. Rub Al-Khali is known for its vast sand dunes, which can be as high as 800 feet. Its grains of sand can be colored shades of orange, red and purple. It is also a rich area for natural resources: it is one of the largest sources for oil on earth, and has the largest oil field in the world.



DESERTS



ON
THE
MAP!

This map, made from an aerial photo, shows general area of the Rub Al-Khali Desert within the Arabian Desert, on the Arabian Peninsula.



The Rub Al-Kahali touches several countries! Describe how the desert touches each country using directional terms, such as south, or northeast. For example, Yemen is to the _____ of the desert.... Do the same with the neighboring bodies of water!

DUNES!

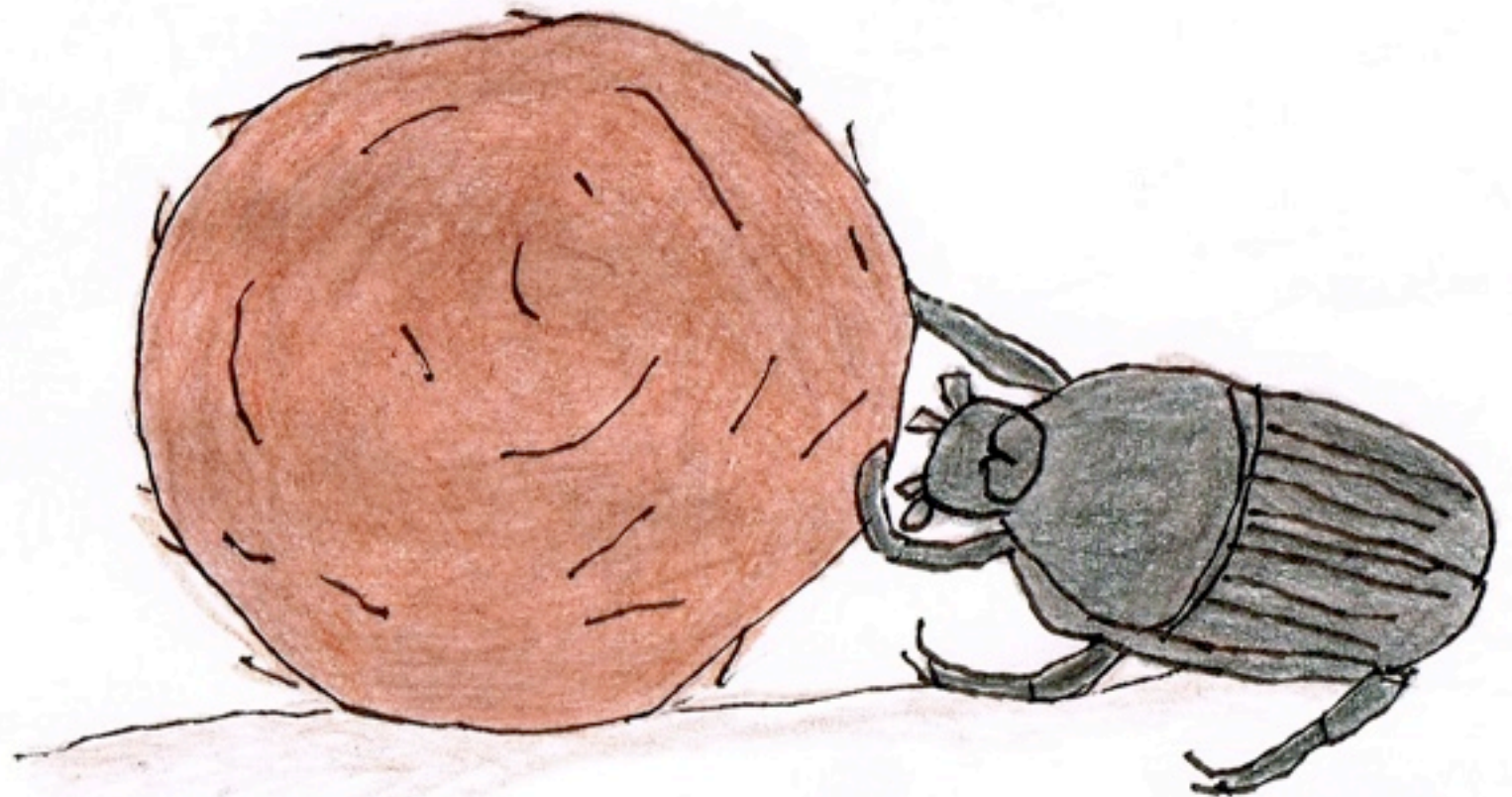
Sand dunes are hills of sand that are moved by wind or water.

These are dunes in the Rub Al-Khali desert. Dunes can be formed in coastal areas as well as inland areas of the world. Dunes can even be found under the ocean.

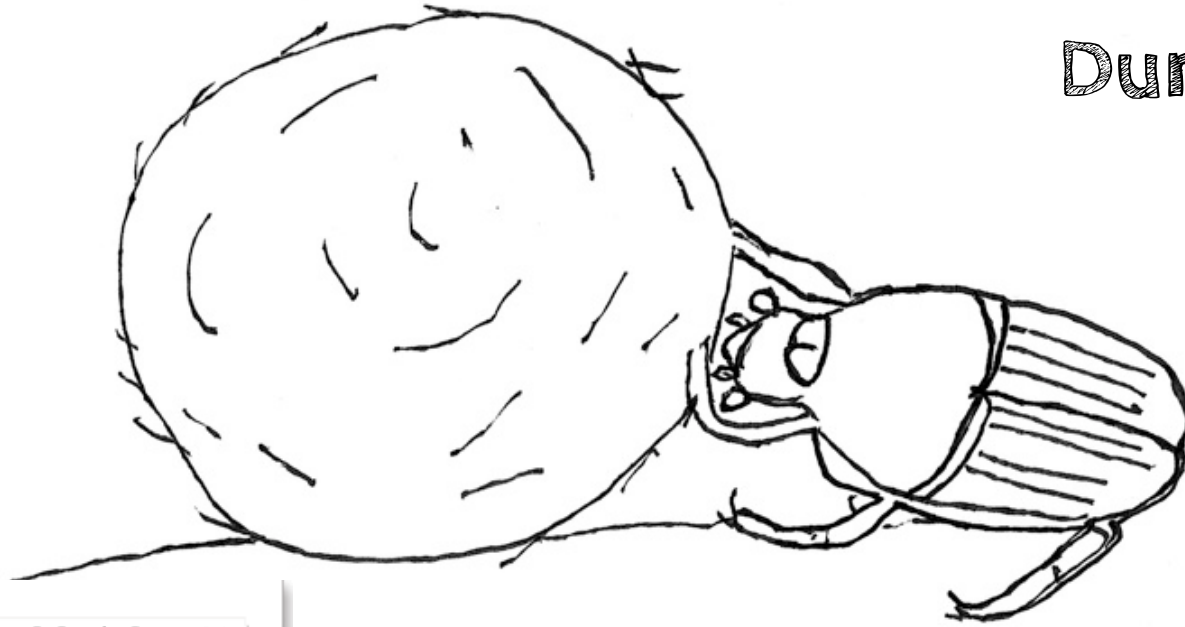


Dung Beetle

The Dung Beetle is an insect found on all continents except Antarctica, including the Rub-Al-Khali desert in Asia. The dung beetle feeds exclusively on dung produced by other animals. These beetles congregate around piles of animal feces and roll large balls that they push away with them for individual purposes. They are really strong - these balls can weigh up to 10 times their weight. These dung balls can be used for food and egg laying purposes. The dung balls are so valuable to the beetles that they will fight over already rolled balls. The beetles are the only animals besides humans able to navigate themselves using the Milky Way. This is similar to the way explorers and sailors used to use the stars to orient themselves. These beetles are extremely beneficial to the environment because they prevent excess build up of dung, which helps keep harmful parasites and flies away.



Dung Beetle



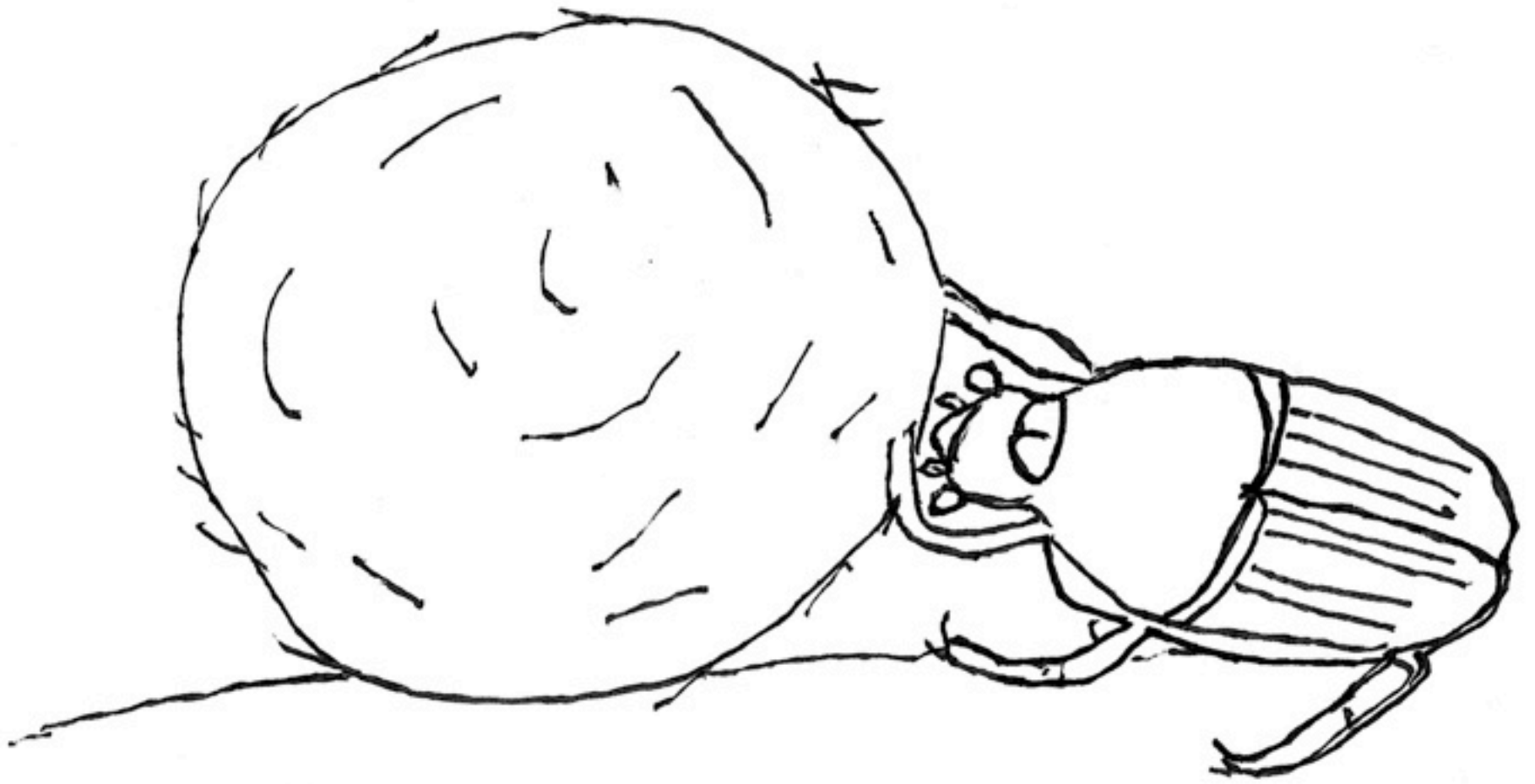
DUNG BEETLE VOCABULARY

rolling
strong
pushing
recyclers
tunneling
(many) species
bury
piles
larvae
wings
digging
cocoon
earth-boring
metamorphosis
beneficial

DUNG BEETLE SPELLING

worshipped
helpful
rolling
recycling
helpful
feces
scarab
nutrients
sensitive (smell)
robbers
strong





Dung Beetle

DESERT DWELLERS

Bedouins, whose name can be translated as “desert dweller” have lived on the edges of the deserts in the Arabian peninsula for centuries. They have been a nomadic people but today many have settled in cities and towns. Still they continue to practice the crafts and traditions of an older way of life. Modern Bedouins today still relax by camping in desert areas and riding camels.



Research to find out more about the traditions of the Bedouin people.

How did living in the desert affect their way of life?



When Bedouin people lived in the desert, they moved constantly to have access to water and food. They were herders of animals and moved in large caravans of people, living in tents. They even wove the cloth for their tents.

These photos of a Saudi Bedouin woman and man show their traditional clothing. These heavy garments protect them from the blowing sand and scorching sun of the desert.

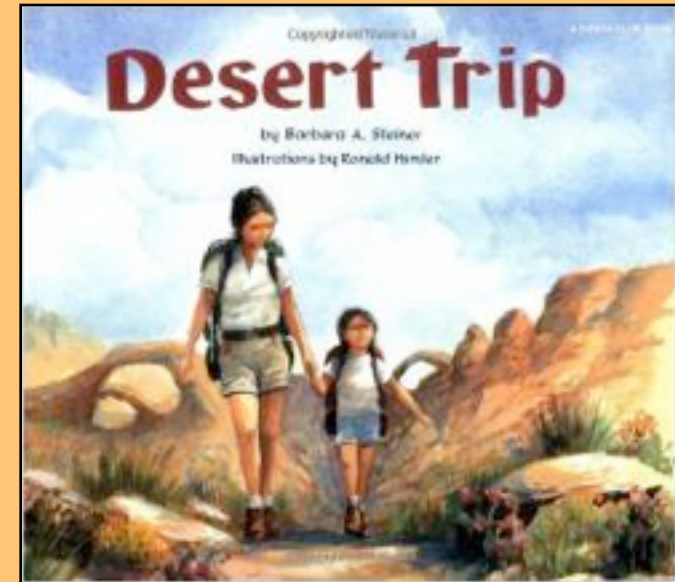


SAND STORMS are common in desert regions that are made up of sand. Sand storms do not occur in desert areas formed primarily of dirt, rock or ice.

Heavy winds can carry the finest pieces of sand also cause fine particles to break off from larger grains of sand. These are taken up by the wind and can cause major problems with visibility. When the winds settle this wind blown sand can mound in very high dunes. In the deserts of the Sahara and the Arabian peninsula, the wind that carries sand is called the **SIMOOM**.



DESERT READING!



A girl and her mother plan a walking trip through the southwestern desert of the United States.

Lloyd Alexander

The Golden Dream of Carlo Chuchio

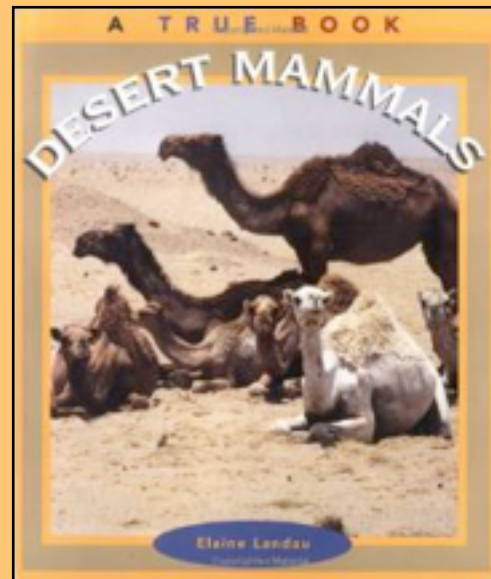
BY THE AUTHOR OF THE CHRONICLES OF PRYDAIN

The Golden Dream of Carlo Chuchio

by Lloyd Alexander

The young adventurer Carlo Chuchio encounters many curious people while seeking hidden treasure on the Road of Golden Dreams in the desert.

With Baksheesh, the world's worst camel-puller, Carlo leads a caravan through the realm of Keshavar and risks his life for a prize that may not even exist.



DESERT MAMMALS

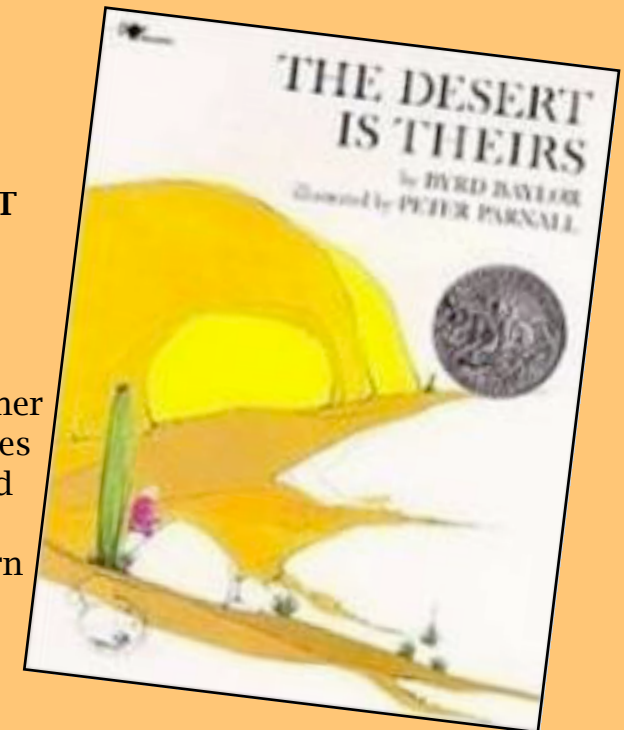
by Elaine Landau

Students can learn more about all the animals that thrive in desert environments.

THE DESERT IS THEIRS

by Byrd Baylor

A prize-winner that describes the flora and fauna of the southwestern American desert.



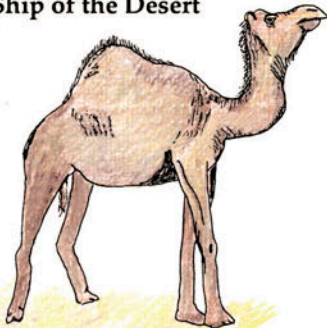
Map Exercises

A great way to learn about a place is to draw a map of it. You not only learn about what the land is like, but you can also see how the land affects the way the people live. This simple outline map shows borderlines, country and city names, and bodies of water. Let's learn some more about this region by highlighting what is already on the map and then by adding some things to it. You will need to look at a good atlas to complete some of this work.

1. Start by shading in the water. This includes the Red Sea, the Arabian Sea, etc. Use a blue colored pencil.
2. With a yellow pencil, highlight all the country names, and with orange, shade over the capitals. A capital is shown by this symbol: ●
3. There are three famous rivers that we can add to this map. They are the Nile, Tigris and Euphrates. With a blue pencil, sketch in the general location of these rivers.
4. There are many deserts in this region. Using a dot pattern, along with a light brown or tan pencil, shade and label some of the deserts.
5. Using a simple pattern for mountains (▲▲▲), draw and label some of the mountainous areas of this region. One large mountain chain you should include is the Zagros Mountains in Iran.

Now that you have added some of the physical features of this region to the map, think about the effect they have on the people's lifestyles in this region of the world.

Ship of the Desert



It has been said that the only way to live in the desert is with the help of the camel. They provide transportation and can carry more than 500 pounds on their back! Along with transportation, camels also provide meat and milk, and hair which is woven into clothing, tents and carpets.

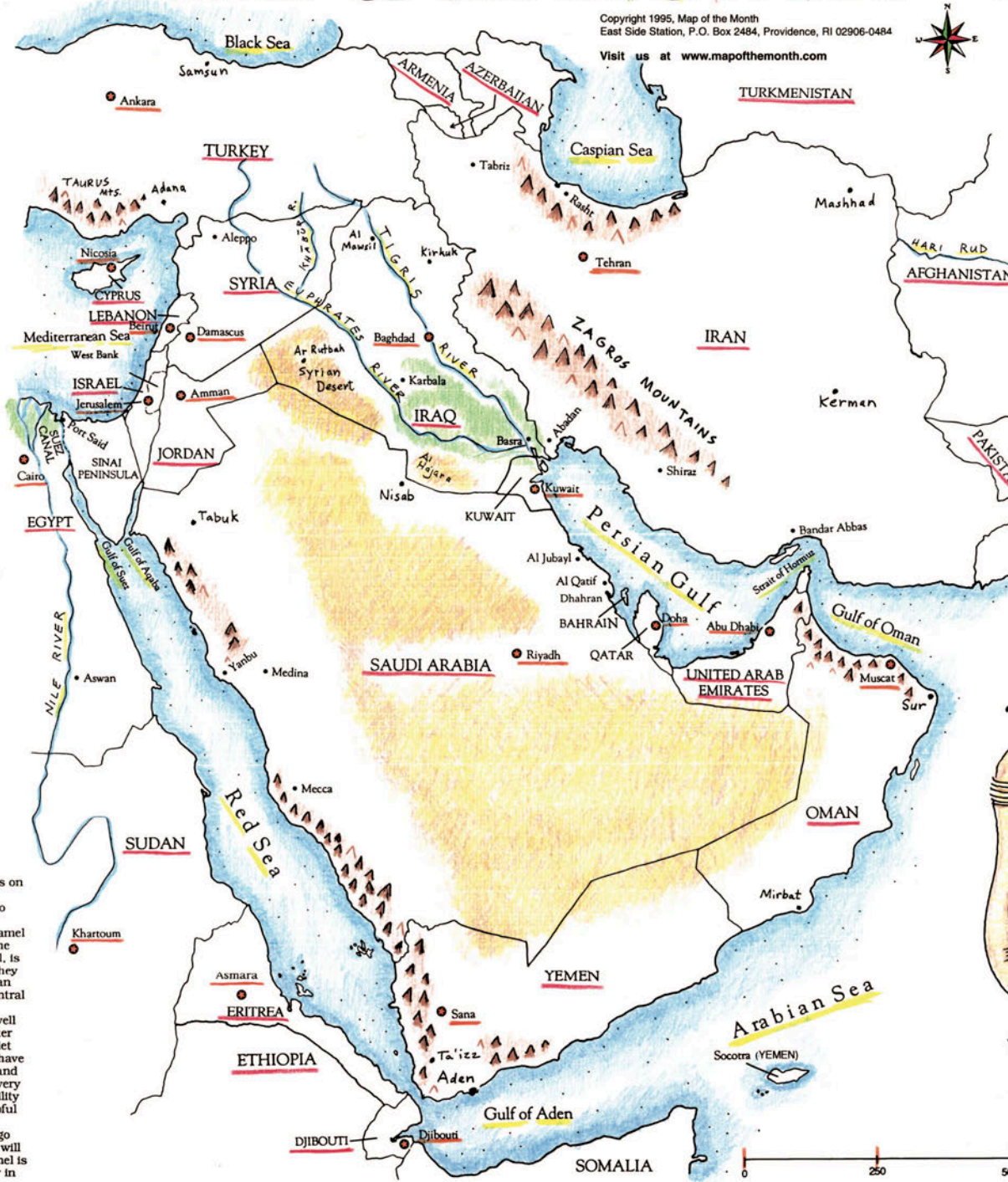
There are two types of camels, the Dromedary camel (one hump) and the Bactrian camel (two humps). The Dromedary camel, also known as the Arabian camel, is native to the Middle East, North Africa and India. They are very well suited to dry, hot climates. The Bactrian camel can be found throughout the highlands of central Asia and are more suited to colder regions.

Life in a hot desert is not easy, but camels are well adapted. They store fat in their humps and lose water from their body at a very slow rate. At times their diet includes only dry grass and thorny plants. Camels have wide, two-toed hoofs that enable them to walk on sand or snow. They have a very keen sense of smell and very good eyesight. A double set of eyelashes and the ability to close their nostrils are features that are very helpful during intense sandstorms.

These long legged animals have been known to go without water for as long as a month at a time, but will normally drink about six gallons a day. When a camel is very thirsty though, it can drink 25 gallons of water in ten minutes.

MAP of the MONTH

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The Persian Gulf Region

Welcome to the Persian Gulf Region! This region is in the center of the Middle East. It is part of southwest Asia and northeast Africa. Much of the region is desert, with many surrounding bodies of water.

The Persian Gulf area plays a very important role in the world's economy. Nearly one third of the world's oil passes through this body of water on its way to other parts of the world. If events disrupt the flow of ships carrying oil, then the whole world can be affected. There can be shortages, or the price of oil can rise.

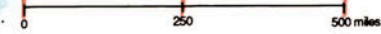
Three major religions had their beginnings in this region: Islam, Judaism, and Christianity. Today, Islam is the predominant religion and culture. The followers are called Moslems, or Muslims. Since 1948, when Israel was created from the land formerly called Palestine, hundreds of thousands of Jews have flocked to this country from all over the world. There are Christian populations, the largest in Lebanon. The city of Jerusalem in Israel is a holy city for all three religions.

There is much tension between countries in the Persian Gulf region. The conflicts are complex, related to money, land, politics and religion. Today, everyone is hopeful that negotiations will help find a way to create peace in this area.

EARTH WORM ASKS: ?

WHAT IS THE OIL THAT COMES FROM THE PERSIAN GULF REGION? OIL IS A GREASY LIQUID THAT IS MADE FROM PETROLEUM, TAKEN FROM THE EARTH'S CRUST. IT IS USED TO FUEL VEHICLES, LUBRICATE MACHINERY MOVING PARTS, MAKE PLASTICS AND HEAT BUILDINGS AND HOMES.

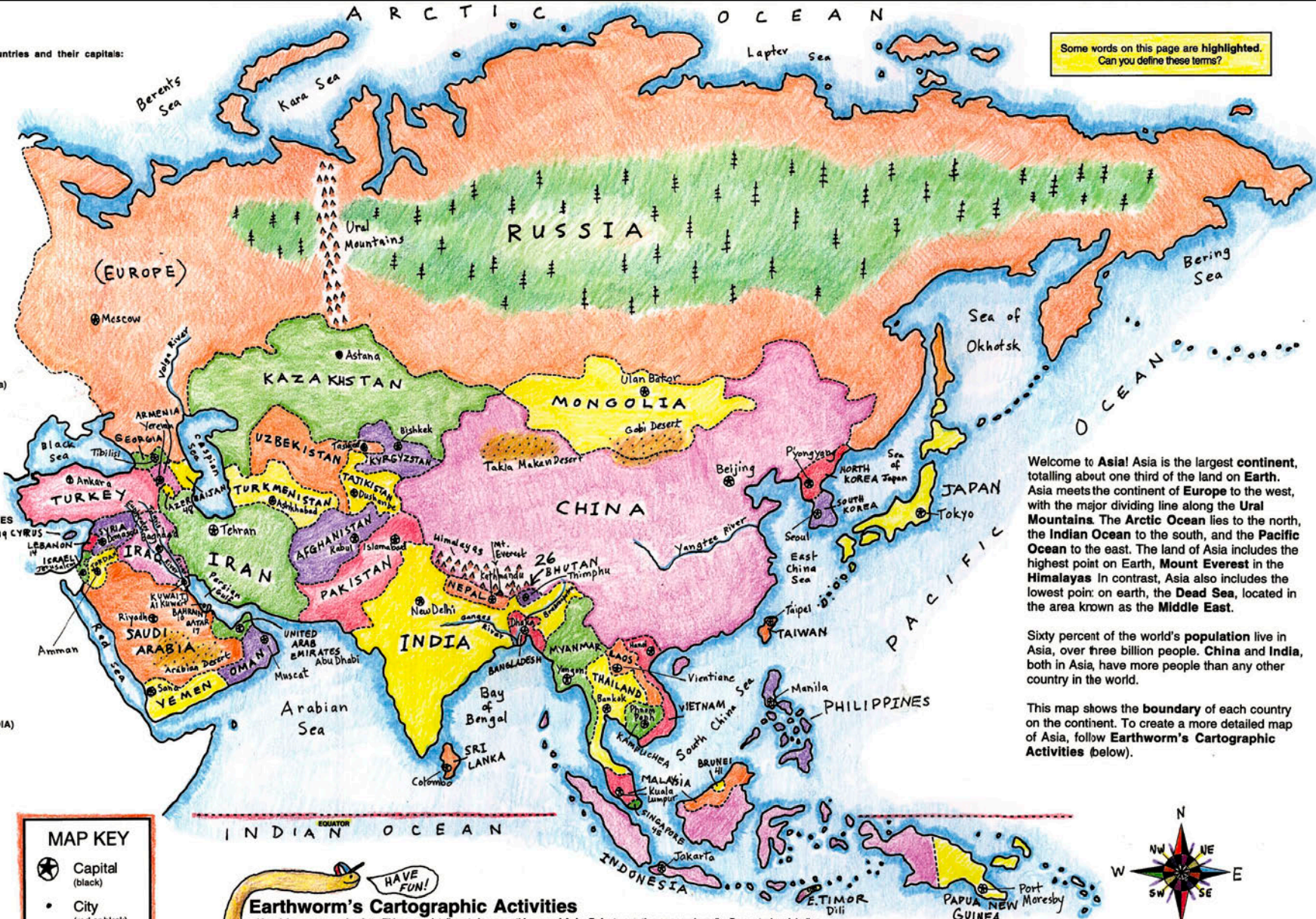
1 barrel of oil = 42 U.S. gallons



Here is a list of Asian countries and their capitals:

- 1 RUSSIA
Moscow
- 2 KAZAKHSTAN
Astana
- 3 UZBEKISTAN
Tashkent
- 4 TURKMENISTAN
Ashkhabad
- 5 KYRGYZSTAN
Bishkek
- 6 TAJIKISTAN
Dushanbe
- 7 IRAN
Tehran
- 8 JORDAN
Amman
- 9 KUWAIT
Al Kuwait
- 10 SAUDI ARABIA
Riyadh
- 11 OMAN
Muscat
- 12 SAUDI ARABIA
Riyadh
- 13 TURKEY
Ankara
- 14 LEBANON
Beirut
- 15 EGYPT (Sinal Peninsula)
Cairo
- 16 ISRAEL
Jerusalem
- 17 QATAR
Doha
- 18 IRAQ
Bagdad
- 19 CYPRUS
Nicosia
- 20 SYRIA
Damascus
- 21 UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
Abu Dhabi
- 22 YEMEN
San'a'
- 23 PAKISTAN
Islamabad
- 24 NEPAL
Kathmandu
- 25 INDIA
New Delhi
- 26 BHUTAN
Thimphu
- 27 BANGLADESH
Dhaka
- 28 AFGHANISTAN
Kabul
- 29 SRI LANKA
Colombo
- 30 KAMPUCHEA (CAMBODIA)
Phnom Penh
- 31 MYANMAR
Yangon
- 32 LAOS
Vientiane
- 33 THAILAND
Bangkok
- 34 VIETNAM
Hanoi
- 35 CHINA
Beijing
- 36 MONGOLIA
Ulan Bator
- 37 NORTH KOREA
Pyongyang
- 38 SOUTH KOREA
Seoul
- 39 JAPAN
Tokyo
- 40 TAIWAN
Taipei
- 41 BRUNEI
Bandar Seri Begawan
- 42 INDONESIA
Jakarta
- 43 MALAYSIA
Kuala Lumpur
- 44 PHILIPPINES
Manila
- 45 SINGAPORE
Singapore City
- 46 PAPUA NEW GUINEA
Port Moresby
- 47 ARMENIA
Yerevan
- 48 AZERBAIJAN
Baku
- 49 GEORGIA
Tbilisi
- 50 EAST TIMOR
Dili

Some words on this page are highlighted. Can you define these terms?



Welcome to Asia! Asia is the largest continent, totalling about one third of the land on Earth. Asia meets the continent of Europe to the west, with the major dividing line along the Ural Mountains. The Arctic Ocean lies to the north, the Indian Ocean to the south, and the Pacific Ocean to the east. The land of Asia includes the highest point on Earth, Mount Everest in the Himalayas. In contrast, Asia also includes the lowest point on earth, the Dead Sea, located in the area known as the Middle East.

Sixty percent of the world's population live in Asia, over three billion people. China and India, both in Asia, have more people than any other country in the world.

This map shows the boundary of each country on the continent. To create a more detailed map of Asia, follow Earthworm's Cartographic Activities (below).

MAP KEY

- Capital (black)
- City (red or black)
- ▲▲▲ Mountains (brown or green)
- ☀ Desert (light brown)
- 🌲 Forest (green)
- River (blue)

Earthworm's Cartographic Activities

Your job as cartographer is to fill in some details not shown on this map of Asia. Refer to an atlas or encyclopedia. Be neat when labeling—use a sharp pencil. Write small, always print. Refer to the Map Key for symbols and suggested colors. Colored pencils work best when drawing in details like mountains or rivers. When filling in areas with color, shade very lightly so you don't obscure other features.

Countries Locate and label countries, referring to the list at left. If the space is too small to fill in the name, use the number assigned to the country. For example, BHUTAN has been labeled 26.

Capitals and Cities Locate and label each capital on the map, if space allows. Also, if possible, locate and label other cities in each country.

Oceans and Seas With blue, shade along the coastline of the oceans and seas. Label:
Arctic Ocean
Pacific Ocean
Indian Ocean
With smaller letters, label:
Black Sea
Caspian Sea
Red Sea
Persian Gulf
Arabian Sea
Bay of Bengal
South China Sea
East China Sea
Sea of Japan
Sea of Okhotsk
Bering Sea

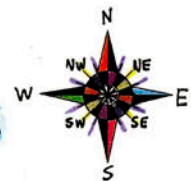
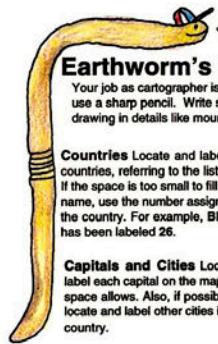
Major Rivers Draw in and label the following major rivers:
Volga River
Ganges River
Tigris River
Euphrates River
Brahmaputra River
Yangtze River

Mountains Draw in and label these ranges:
Himalayas
Ural Mountains
Locate Mount Everest ▲
Add other smaller ranges too.

Forest Draw in and label the vast forest of Siberia.

Desert With a light brown pencil, shade desert regions on the map:
Gobi Desert
Arabian Desert

Decoration To add a decorative touch to your map, color the following:
ASIA title
Earthworm (our mascot!)
Compass Rose.



ASIA

Places and Geographic Features

Map of the Month

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