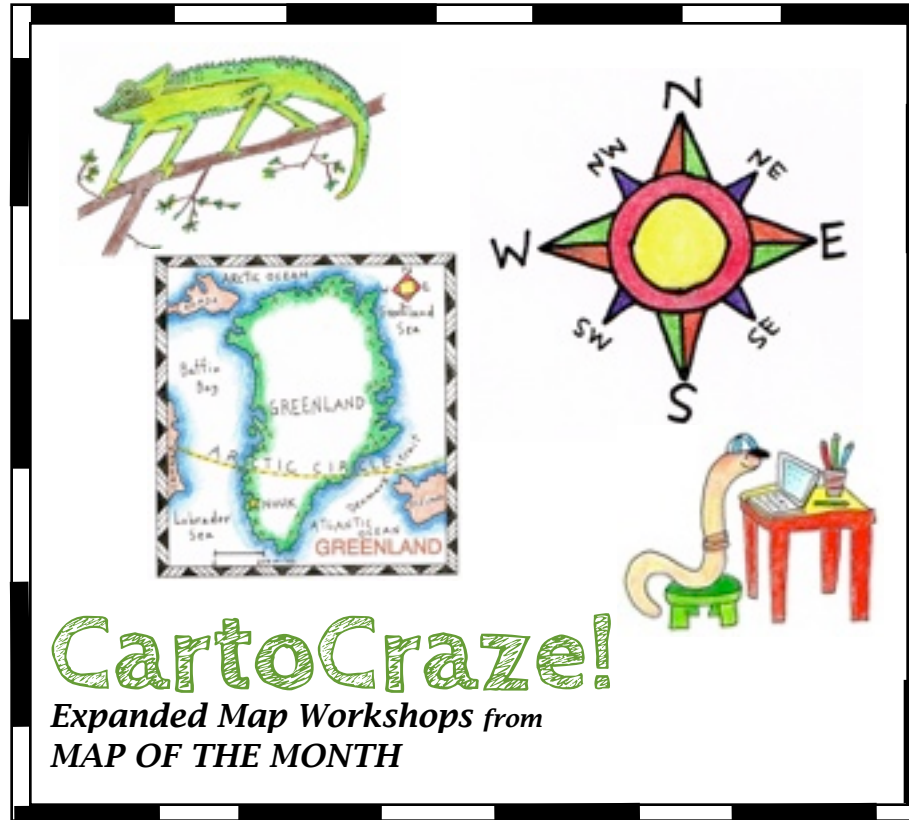


TIGRIS AND EUPHRATES RIVERS



CartoCraze!

Expanded Map Workshops

This PDF file of the TIGRIS AND EUPHRATES RIVERS is

© Copyright 2015, Map of the Month

P. O. Box 2484

Providence, RI 02906

888 876 6277

www.mapsfortheclassroom.com

RIVERS

Throughout human time, rivers have offered the essential water that man requires for life itself, as well as a source of food. Rivers have made transportation of humans and goods possible as well as provided a source of power. With their great natural beauty, rivers have inspired writers and artists throughout time. Average people have always found peace and recreation along the banks and in the water of rivers.

Since the earliest times, humans have lived by rivers and the great civilizations have grown up around river banks. The ancient people of Egypt owed their life to the Nile, as did the generations of people who lived in Mesopotamia in the Middle East.

Today the great cities of the world are also known by their neighboring rivers. For example, Manhattan, the great North American city is flanked by two rivers: the Hudson and the East River. Paris, a city in Europe which has seen much history, sits on either side of the Seine River. In South America, the vast area of the Amazon enhances settlements of all sizes in its huge watershed.



Photo: Ansel Adams. *The Tetons and the Snake River* (1942) Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming. National Archives and Records Administration, Records of the National Park Service. (79-AAG-1)

In the wilderness, rivers are no less important: they support and create ecosystems for all kinds of animals, insects and plant life.

Some rivers and the environments around them have suffered in the modern age, with industrial deposits of waste and other kinds of pollution. Sometimes the attempts to dam and redirect water has made surrounding wildlife suffer. Today environmentalists are working to restore affected rivers areas to a cleaner and more habitable state for both humans and wildlife.

RIVER TERMS AND THEIR DEFINITIONS

It is impossible to talk about rivers, or learn about them, without knowing some terms that relate to rivers.

Here are just a few terms! Can you come up with other terms?

RIVER A natural flowing stream, most often fresh water, that moves towards a sea, a lake, and ocean or another river.

SOURCE The furthest point of a river away from its mouth, at its origin or beginning. This is also sometimes called the "headwater".

MOUTH The part of a river that flows into another body of water.

WATERSHED or DRAINAGE BASIN An area of land where all the surface water drains into a larger body of water. Smaller streams join larger ones that eventually lead to a lake or ocean.

ESTUARY An area of water where a river joins the ocean. Here there is brackish water: a mix of freshwater and saline, or salty, seawater.

FLOODING This occurs when excess water causes a river to overflow its banks. Snow melt or extreme precipitation can cause flooding.

DELTA A landform that is caused by the gradual build up of sediment carried by a river where the river flows into another large body of water, like an estuary, the ocean, sea or reservoir.

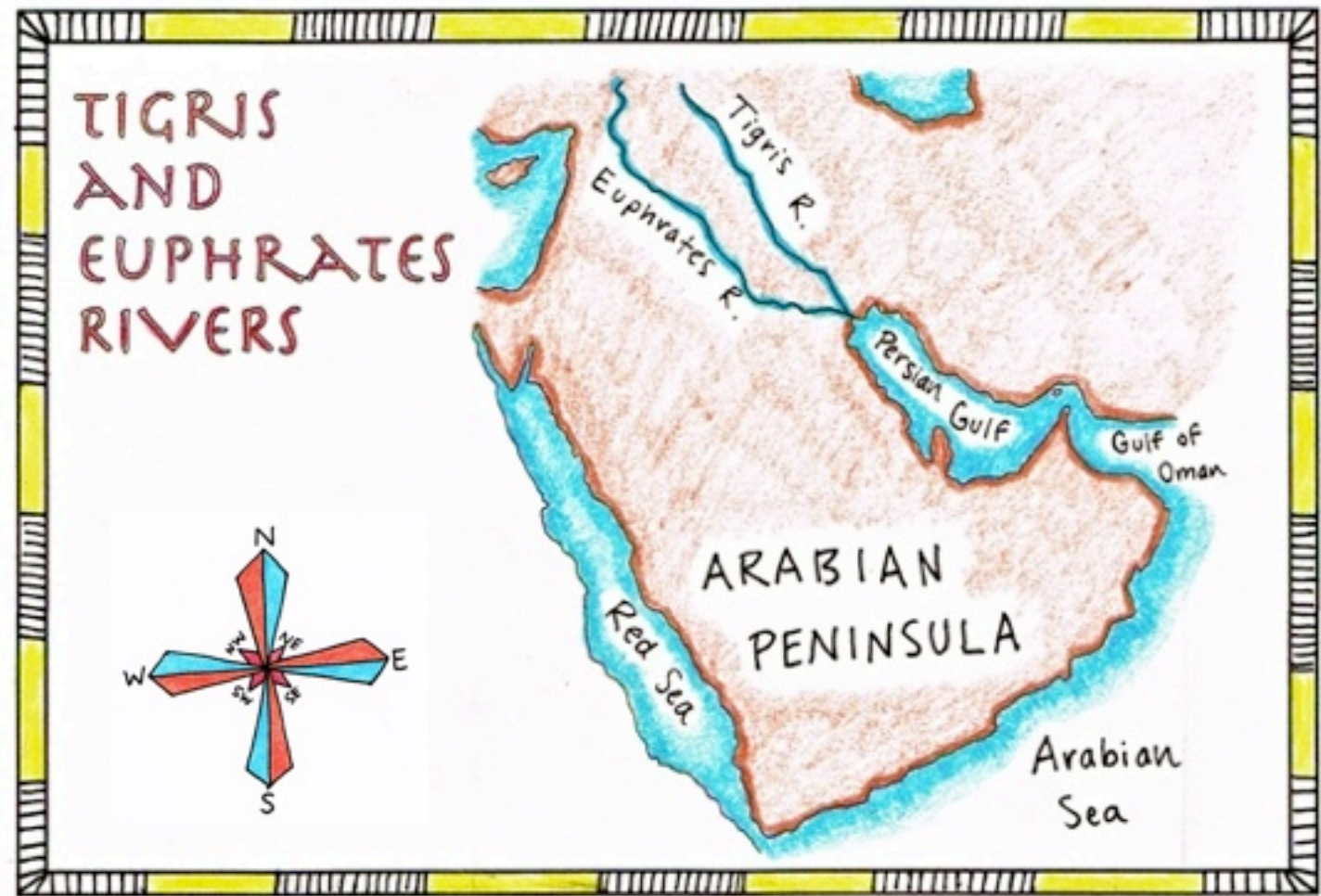
The following presentation is an introduction to the TIGRIS AND EUPHRATES RIVERS, two of Earth's great rivers, with some information about mapping, geography, people and animals of its surrounding area.



Make a compass rose for your map by following the directions [HERE!](#)



Professor Earthworm



TIGRIS AND EUPHRATES RIVERS

These two rivers in Southwestern Asia have been important since ancient times. Several of the earliest civilizations of man were located here. This ancient area was known as Mesopotamia, which in Greek means "between the rivers."

The source of both rivers is in the Taurus Mountains of the north. Here the climate is more temperate, and there are seasonal rains. Ancient settlers used timber from trees and stones from the mountains to build with. As the rivers move south, the surrounding land is drier with flatter plains. In this drier land, irrigation was necessary to divert water from the rivers to make the land suitable for growing crops in the ancient civilizations.

Today, these rivers are still important, and flow through the modern day countries of Turkey, Syria and Iraq to the Persian Gulf. The floodplains around the rivers create marshes, home to many subtropical animals and plants.



Below are the modern day countries in the area of the ancient civilizations of the Nile and Mesopotamia, the area of the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers.



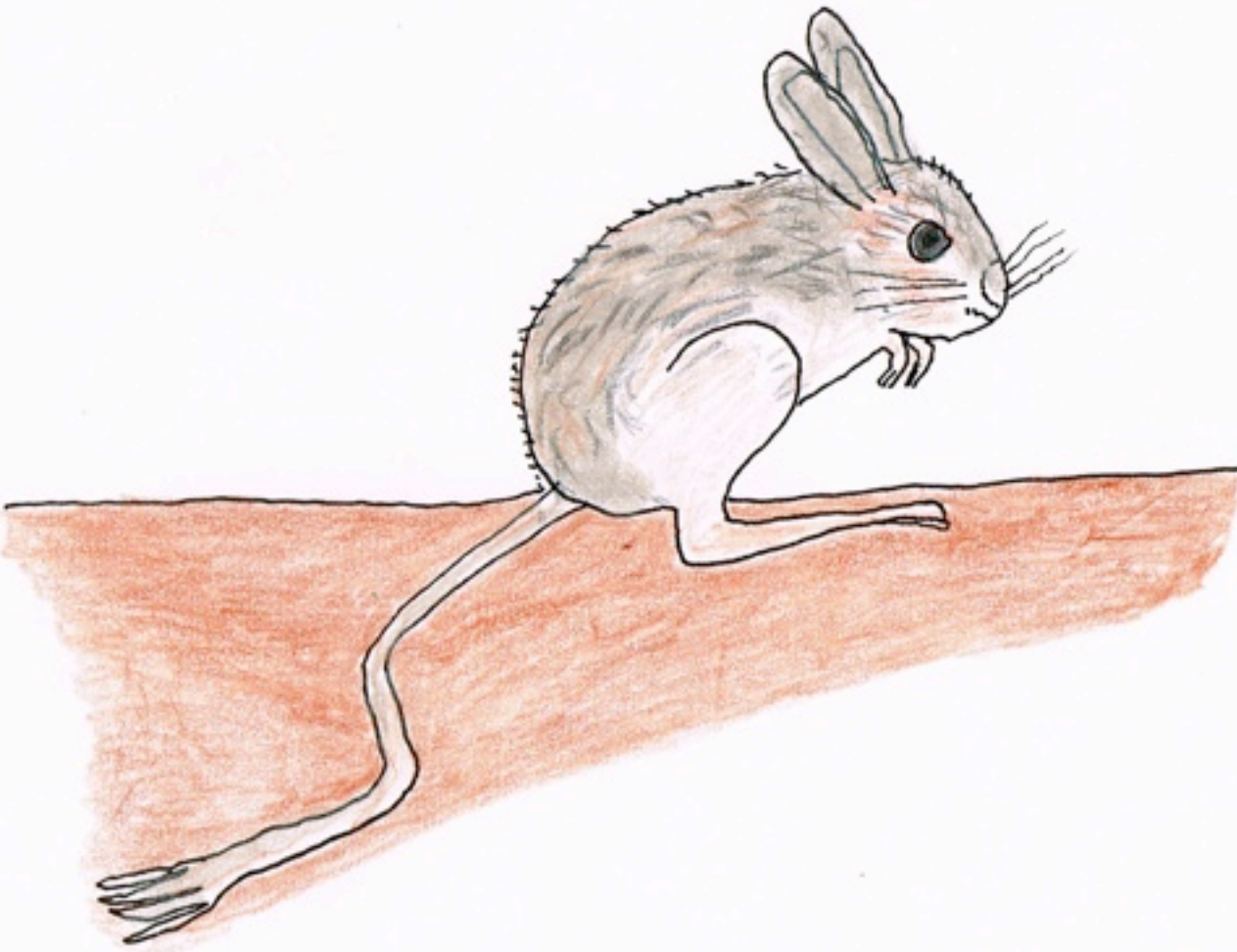
COMPARE AND CONTRAST!

EUPHRATES JERBOA

The Euphrates Jerboa is a rodent found in the Middle East, near the Euphrates and Tigris Rivers. These animals have large ears, big hind feet and a long tail. They walk bipedally, meaning they move on their hind feet only, giving them an upright appearance. When they are bound along, their tails help them balance. Their forelimbs are significantly smaller than their hind limbs and are used to dig burrows in the soil.

Jerboas are nocturnal, and so their eyesight and hearing are highly developed. Because of this, it is easy for them to escape from predators. They often dig burrows as shelters, or inhabit nests that are abandoned by other animals. They spend most of their day hiding in their burrows and then emerge at night to forage for food.

They eat primarily seeds, grains and plant roots. Even though they live near rivers, they get all the water they need from the food they eat. This eliminates the need for them to seek out a source of water.



A mouse-like kangaroo? No!



TIGRIS AND EUPHRATES RIVERS



VOCABULARY WORDS

Turn your map over and
define these words!

forage

agility

rodent

balance

nocturnal

hibernate

mammal

dipodid

TIGRIS AND EUPHRATES RIVERS

PRINT THIS PAGE:

COLOR AND LABEL THE MAP,
BOTH LANDFORMS AND WATER.

ADD A [COMPASS ROSE](#)
TO YOUR MAP! DO THE
ACTIVITIES AND COLOR
THE JERBOA

SPELLING WORDS

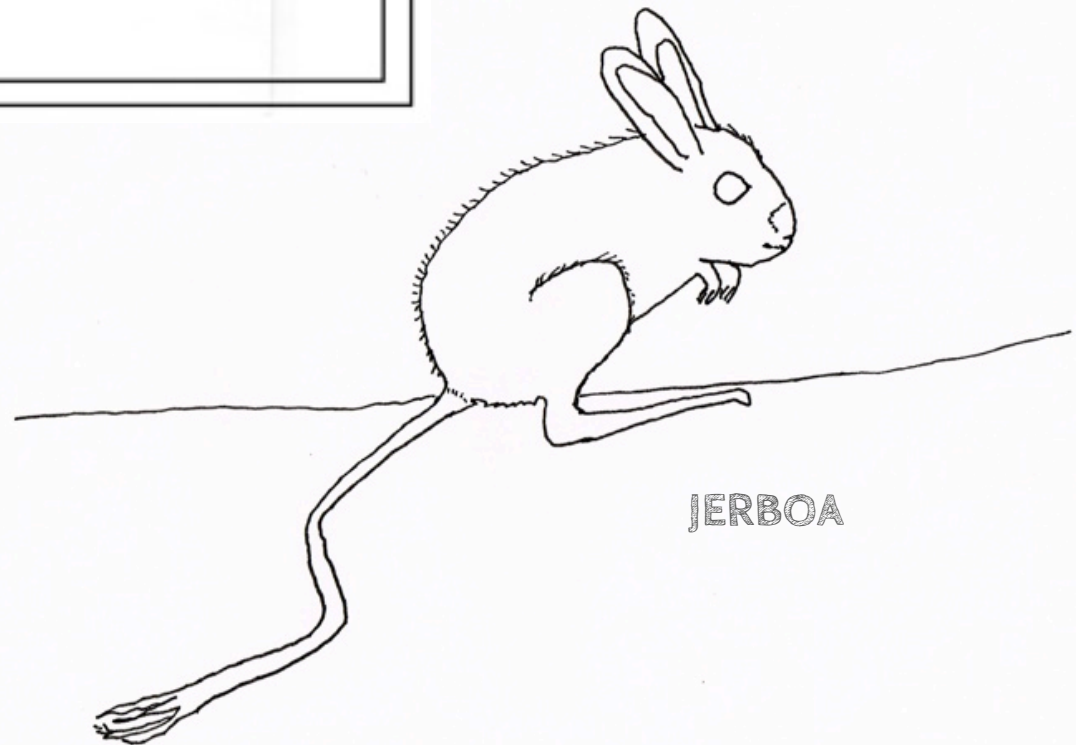
burrow

temperate

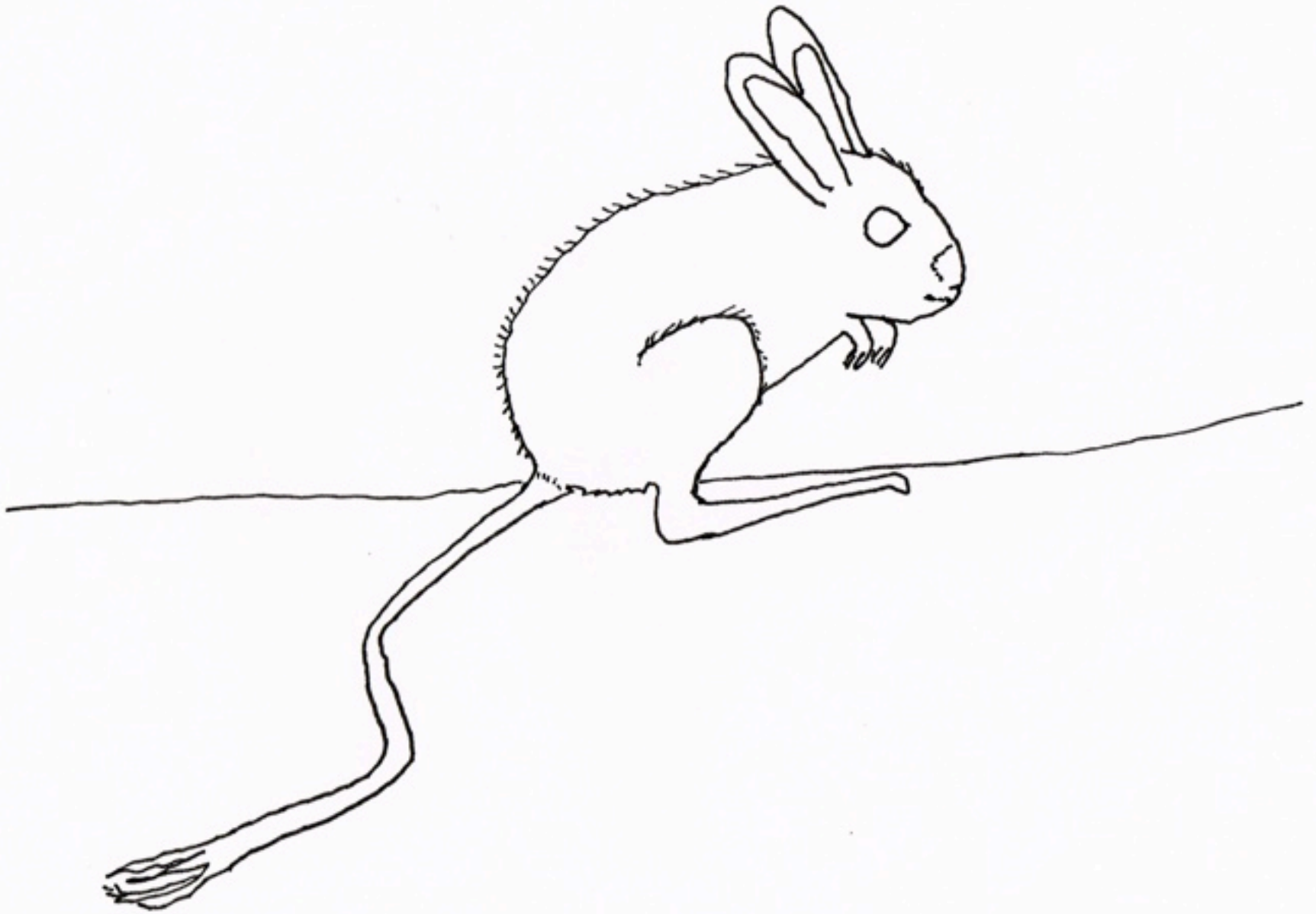
terrestrial

whiskers

forelimbs



JERBOA



EUPHRATES JERBOA

The type of boat used in these marshes is called a mashoof.

Photo James Gordon, [Creative Commons](#).



LIVING IN THE MARSHES

Since ancient times, as many as 5,000 years ago, people have lived in marshlands of the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers. Today these people are called Marsh Arabs, but they had many names throughout history and may have descended from the ancient Sumerian culture. Today these marshes are located to the east and south of the country of Iraq and along the border of Iran.

The marshes are located in the large floodplain area of the northern Persian Gulf. Many animals and aquatic creatures live in this rich fertile area.

Sadly, political differences have caused many marsh areas to be drained. People have been displaced and forced to move, ending an ancient way of life in many areas.

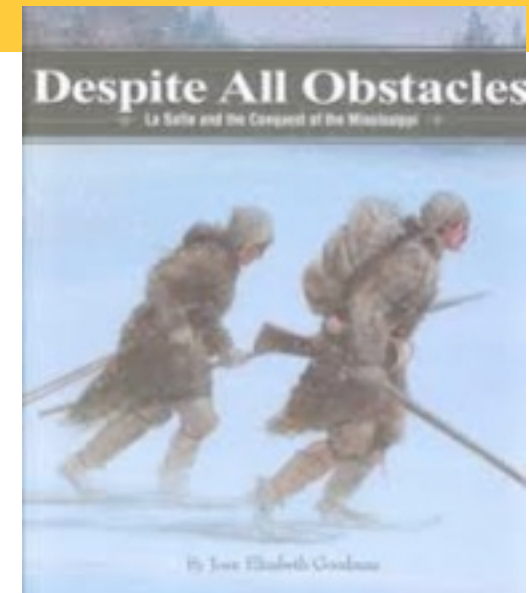


RIVER READING!

BOOKS ABOUT RIVER EXPEDITIONS ARE INSPIRING!

DESPITE ALL OBSTACLES: LASALLE AND THE CONQUEST OF THE MISSISSIPPI by Joan Elizabeth Goodman

La Salle made his way from Eastern Canada to the Great Lakes traveling by canoe down the Mississippi to the Gulf of Mexico. This vast unexplored wilderness was controlled by the fierce Iroquois. Through one setback after another, La Salle kept on going. Part adventure, part biography, this book is the fascinating story of this stubborn and courageous man !

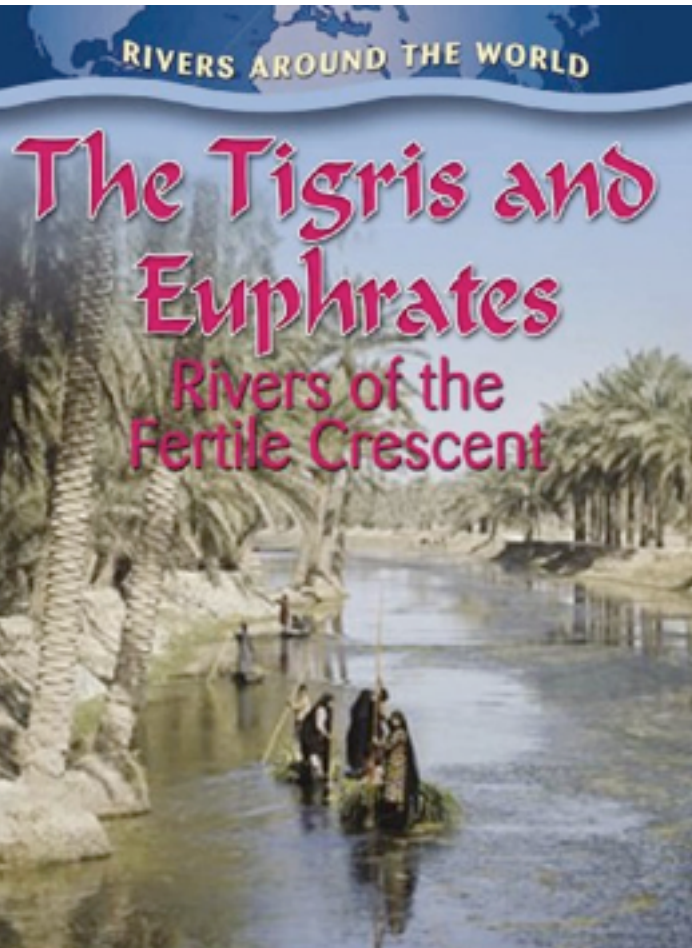
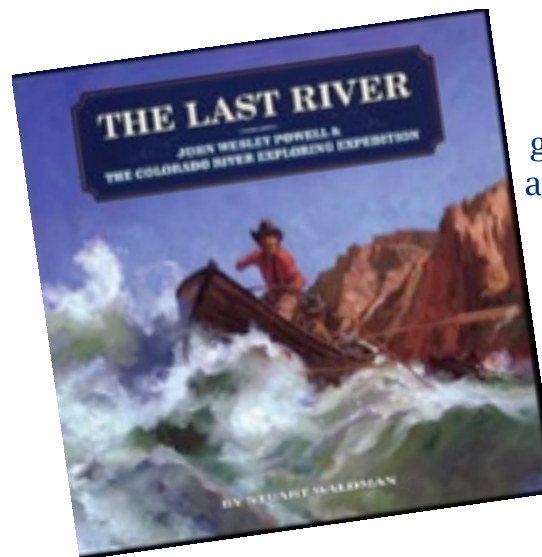


THE LAST RIVER: JOHN WESLEY POWELL & THE COLORADO RIVER EXPLORING EXPEDITION

by Stuart Waldman

This book is an inspiring adventure that brings history to life. Major John Wesley Powell was a small, bookish, one-armed geology professor. Powell's twin passions -- adventure and scientific exploration -- drew him to the Colorado River.

Excerpts from journals of crew members personalize the gripping text. Original paintings and a fold-out map allows the reader to simultaneously follow the expedition's route and its adventures.



The Tigris and Euphrates: Rivers of the Fertile Crescent

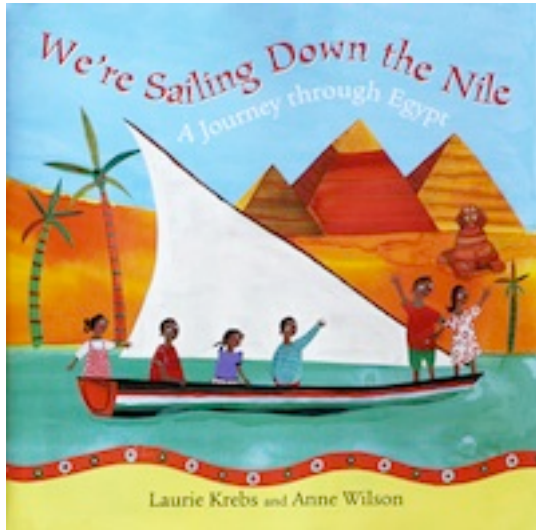
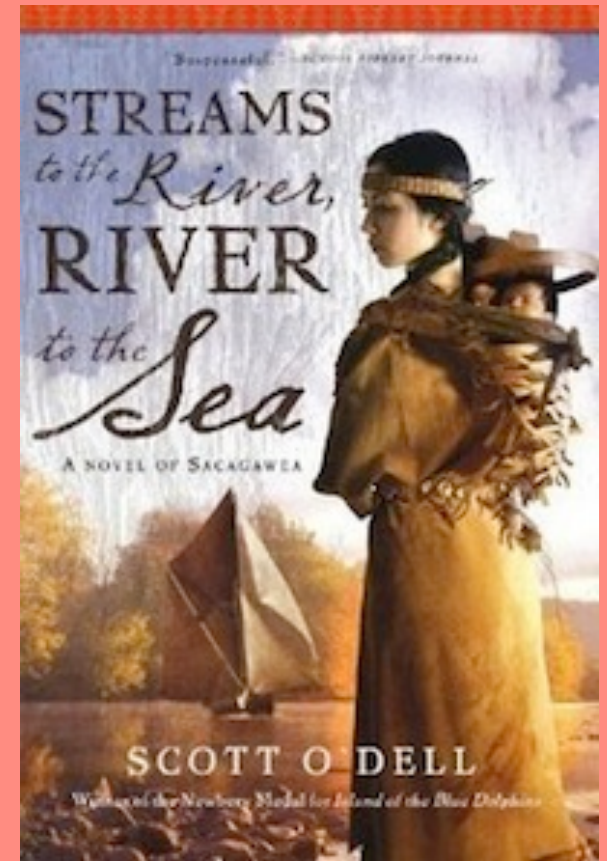
by Gary G. Miller

Learn about life on these ancient rivers!

**Streams to the River, River
to the sea: a novel of
Sacagawea**

by Scott O'Dell

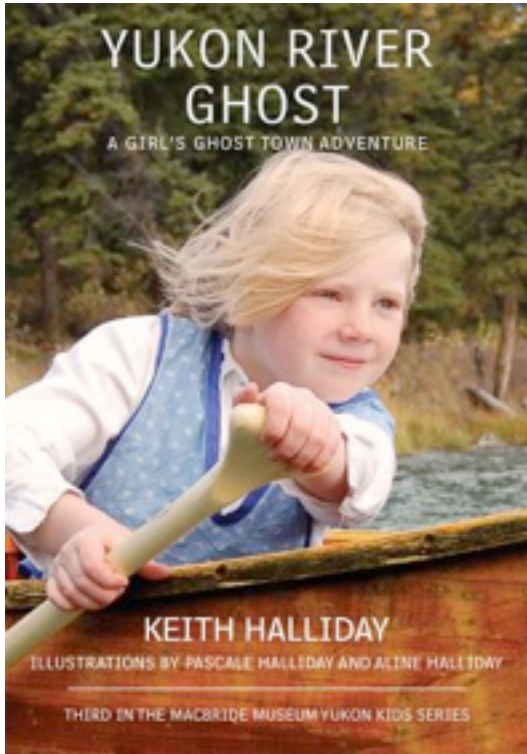
A young Indian woman,
accompanied by her
infant and cruel
husband,
experiences joy and
heartbreak when she
joins the Lewis and
Clark Expedition
seeking a way to the
Pacific



We're Sailing Down the Nile

We're Roaming in the Rainforest: An Amazon Adventure

both by Laurie Krebs



Yukon River Ghost: A Girl's Ghost Town Adventure

by Keith Halliday

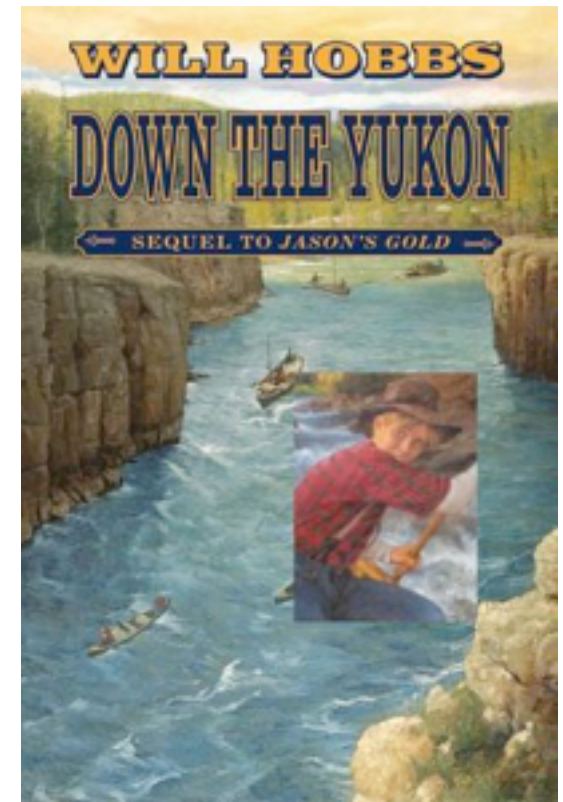
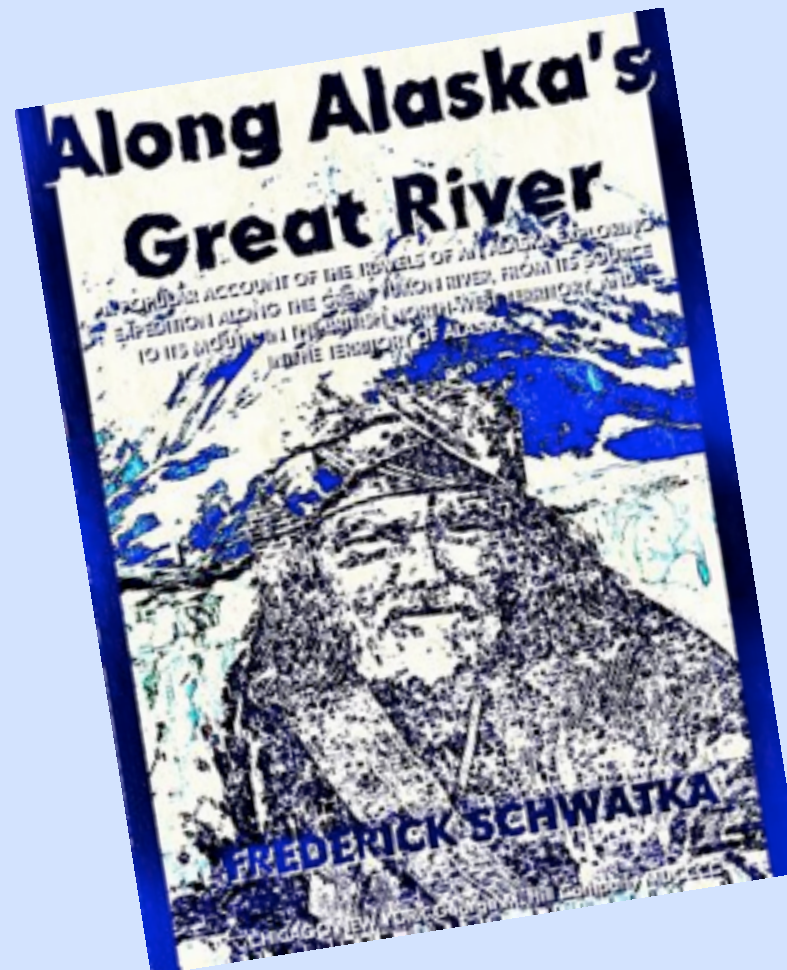
An idyllic Yukon River trip turns into a mysterious adventure as the kids discover a gold rush ghost town that seems to have a ghost!

Along Alaska's Great River

by

Frederick Scwhatka

A great river expedition.....



DOWN THE YUKON

by Will Hobbs

The great race across Alaska! As Dawson City goes up in flames, Jason Hawthorn itches to join the new rush for gold in Nome, 1,700 miles away.

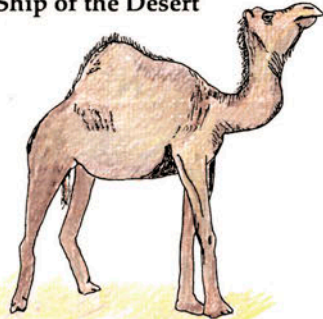
Map Exercises

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

Copyright 1995, Map of the Month
East Side Station, P.O. Box 2484, Providence, RI 02906-0484
Visit us at www.mapofthemonth.com



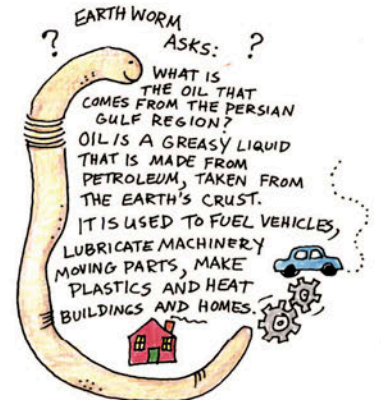
The Persian Gulf Region

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.

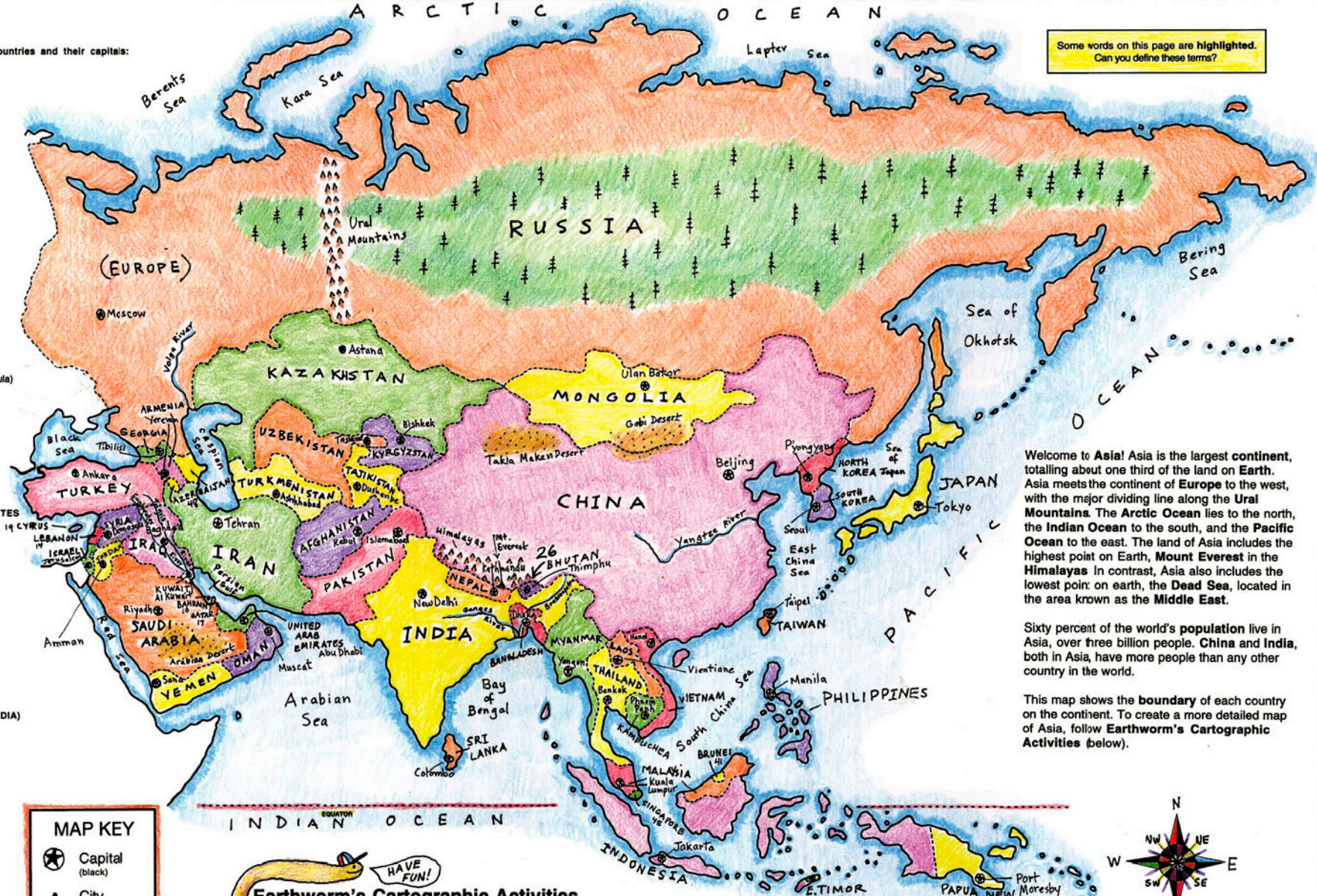


1 barrel of oil = 42 U.S. gallons

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
Dusharbo
- 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
Bankok
- 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
Tibilisi
- 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 each country, 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

Decorations 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
© copyright 2005, Map of the Month
East Side Station, P.O. Box 2484
Providence, RI 02906-0484
www.mapofthemonth.com