

ATLAS OF ADVENTURES



WIDE EYED EDITIONS

WORLD MAP

North America

Central America

South America

Africa

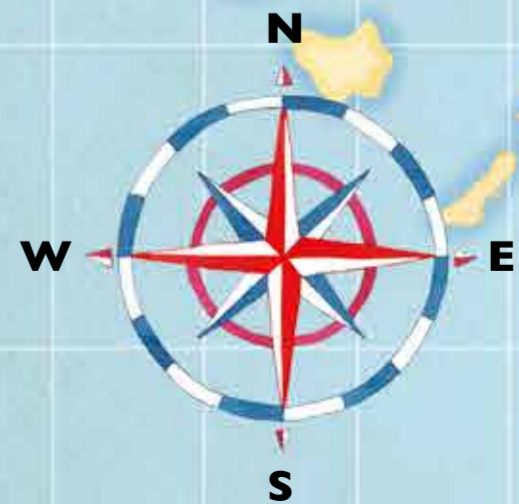
Europe

Middle East

Asia

Australasia & Oceania

Antarctica



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THE WORLD IS FULL

OF ADVENTURES...



Finland



England



Scotland



France



India

This book celebrates the great diversity of our planet: with every turn of the page, you'll come across different animals, peoples, and sights unique to each of the four corners of the globe.



Korea



Spain



Italy



Germany



Russia



Israel

Look out for our two adventurers in every scene as you travel through the book. What do they discover and who do they meet?



Egypt



Alaska, USA



Canada



New York, USA



The Grand Canyon, USA



Morocco

Follow their journey and be inspired to set out on your own adventures. The world is your oyster—what will you find today?



Senegal



The Mississippi, USA



Mexico



Brazil



The Amazon



The Zambezi



The Antarctic



Australia



Argentina



Japan



China



Thailand



New Zealand



Hawaii, USA

EUROPE

Packed with dramatic landscapes, culture-rich cities, and wonderful wildlife, there is something for everybody to explore in Europe.



Ride the TRANS-SIBERIAN RAILWAY (Russia)



Discover a masterpiece on the MOSCOW METRO (Russia)



BIRD-WATCH in the Volga Delta (Russia)

Russia

Go MOUNTAIN BIKING in the Carpathian Mountains (Ukraine)

HIKE in the Russian Caucasus Mountains and see Europe's highest peak, Mount Elbrus



Ukraine



RIVER-RAFT the Jägala River (Estonia)



Take a SNOWMOBILE SAFARI in Kizhi (Russia)

Finland



Go to sleep under the NORTHERN LIGHTS (Finland)

Sweden

CANOE through the Dalsland Lakes (Sweden)



Norway

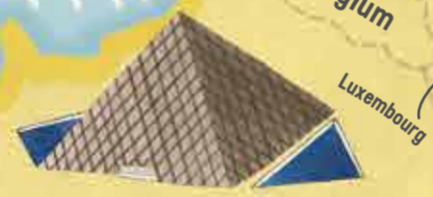


Sail a VIKING SHIP (Norway)

North Sea



See the sights from the LONDON EYE (England)



Look for treasure in Paris's pyramid, THE LOUVRE (France)

France



Go SKIING in the Bavarian Alps (Germany)

Poland



Join a BALLOON FESTIVAL in Chelmo (Poland)

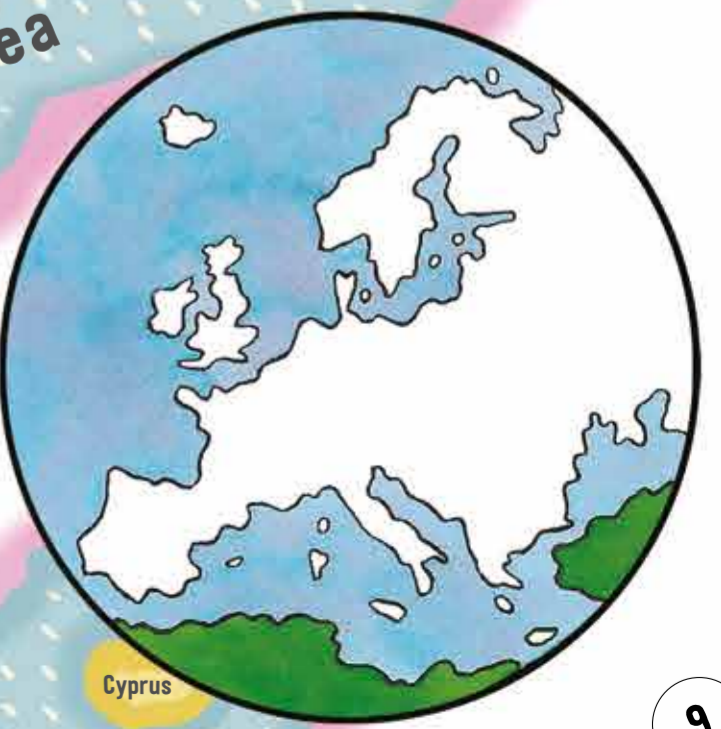


Visit DRACULA'S CASTLE in Bran (Romania)

Track BROWN BEARS in the Rhodope Mountains (Bulgaria)



Black Sea



Cyprus

Greece

Save SEA TURTLES in the Peloponnese (Greece)



Learn to steer a GONDOLA in Venice (Italy)

Italy

Visit the VOLCANO Mount Etna, in Sicily (Italy)



Sicily

Mediterranean Sea



Experience LA TOMATINA in Buñol (Spain)

Spain

Watch the HORSE PARADE at Feria del Caballo (Spain)



Portugal



Race a BLOKART in the Algarve (Portugal)

Atlantic Ocean



A WOLF'S howl can be heard up to 80 miles away!

The LIGHTS occur between 50 and 620 miles up in the sky!

The igloos are made from THERMAL GLASS, which keeps you toasty warm inside!

REINDEER have been herded for centuries by Laplanders for their milk, skins, and meat.

TAMASKAN DOGS come from Finland and can be trained to pull sleds.

The RED FOX has whiskers on its legs as well as its face to help it find its way through deep snow.

SNOWY OWLS have a thick coat of feathers, which even covers their feet!

Lapland is said to be the home of SANTA CLAUS!

The colors of the AURORA are created by different gases: oxygen produces green and yellow light; nitrogen appears red, blue, or violet.

The NORTHERN LIGHTS are most visible from late August to April, when the nights are longer and darker.

RED SQUIRELS are widespread in the forests of Lapland. They feed on the seeds inside pinecones.

SUNLIGHT HOURS are extremely short in winter in Lapland. In December, the sun barely rises above the horizon.

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING is very popular in Finland and was a useful way to get around many years ago.

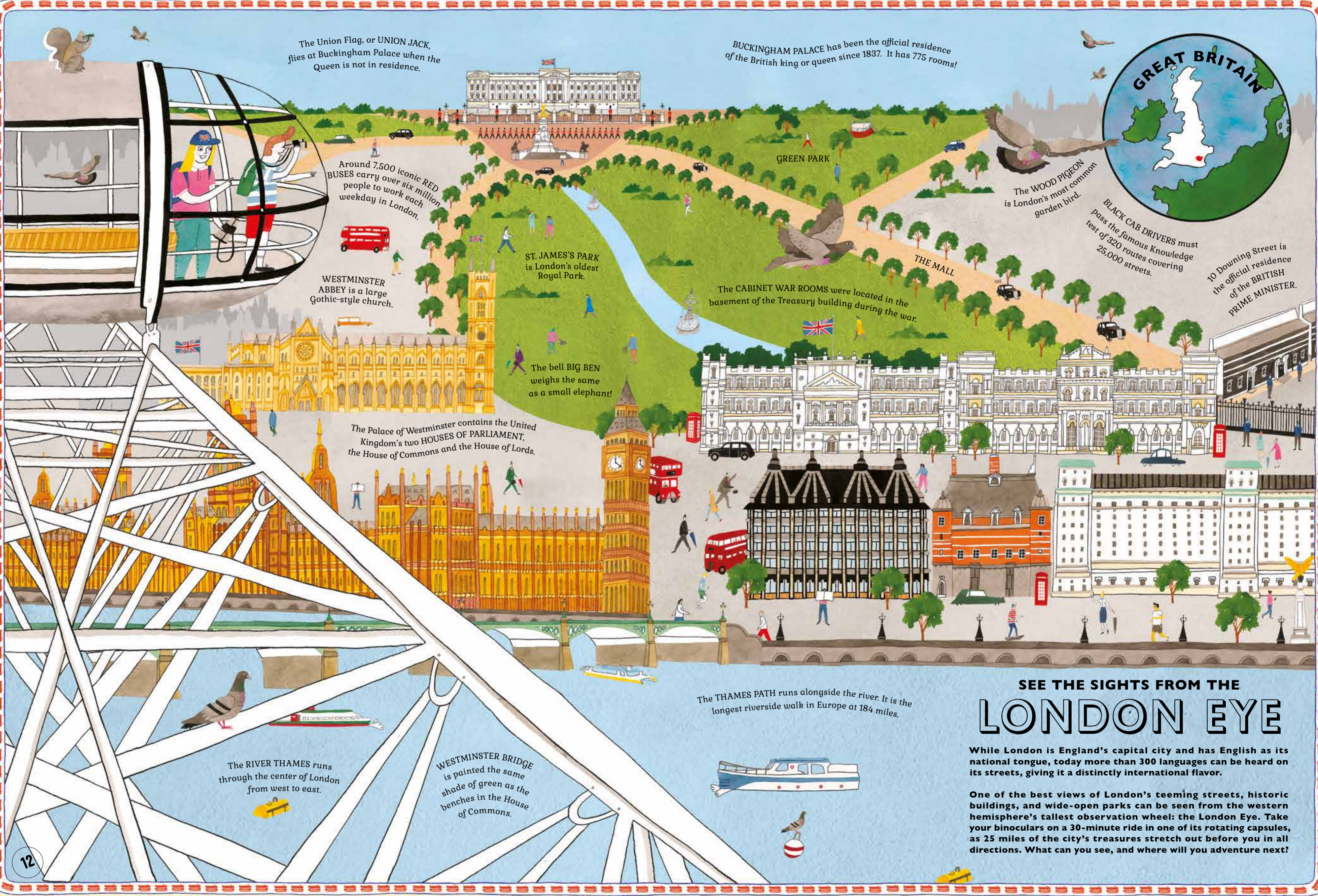
BROWN BEARS are common in Lapland but hibernate in winter.

GO TO SLEEP UNDER THE NORTHERN LIGHTS

In the northern tip of Finnish Lapland, a small village called Kakslauttanen houses some of the most interesting places to sleep: igloos with glass roofs. These are built for the simple pleasure of viewing nature's most spectacular light show.

The natural phenomenon of the Northern Lights—also known as the aurora borealis—is the collision between gaseous particles in the Earth's atmosphere and charged particles released from the sun. The result is spectacular: a sky painted with bright green, violet, pink, and blue brushstrokes, studded with stars and shooting rays. Marvel at the twinkling sky as you drift off to sleep, then wake up the next morning to a white wonderland where you can join a reindeer safari, ski cross-country, or go ice fishing.





The Union Flag, or UNION JACK, flies at Buckingham Palace when the Queen is not in residence.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE has been the official residence of the British king or queen since 1837. It has 775 rooms!



The WOOD PIGEON is London's most common garden bird.

Around 7,500 iconic RED BUSES carry over six million people to work each weekday in London.

BLACK CAB DRIVERS must pass the famous Knowledge test of 320 routes covering 25,000 streets.

10 Downing Street is the official residence of the BRITISH PRIME MINISTER.

GREEN PARK

THE MALL

WESTMINSTER ABBEY is a large Gothic-style church.

ST. JAMES'S PARK is London's oldest Royal Park.

The CABINET WAR ROOMS were located in the basement of the Treasury building during the war.

The bell BIG BEN weighs the same as a small elephant!

The Palace of Westminster contains the United Kingdom's two HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT, the House of Commons and the House of Lords.

SEE THE SIGHTS FROM THE LONDON EYE

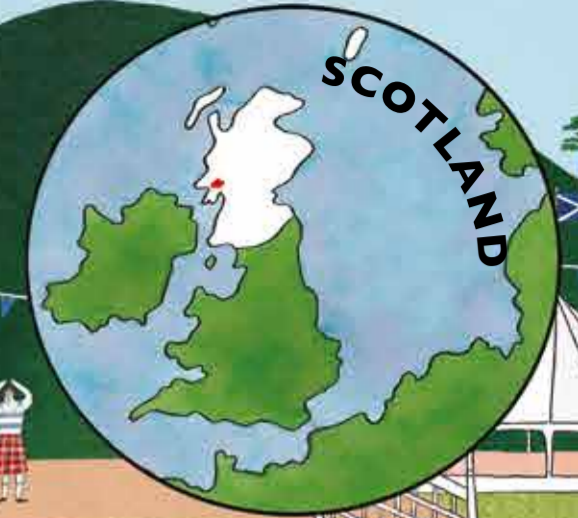
While London is England's capital city and has English as its national tongue, today more than 300 languages can be heard on its streets, giving it a distinctly international flavor.

One of the best views of London's teeming streets, historic buildings, and wide-open parks can be seen from the western hemisphere's tallest observation wheel: the London Eye. Take your binoculars on a 30-minute ride in one of its rotating capsules, as 25 miles of the city's treasures stretch out before you in all directions. What can you see, and where will you adventure next?

The RIVER THAMES runs through the center of London from west to east.

WESTMINSTER BRIDGE is painted the same shade of green as the benches in the House of Commons.

The THAMES PATH runs alongside the river. It is the longest riverside walk in Europe at 184 miles.



Between games, the LOGS are soaked in water to stop them losing weight.

Competitors in the CABER TOSS are judged on how straight they can throw a large log of pine.

The winner of the STONE PUT is the participant who throws a heavy stone (taken from a local lake) the farthest.

It's thought the games began when Scottish King Malcolm III held a competition to find the best ROYAL MESSENGER.

People travel from all over the world to SPECTATE at and COMPETE in the Scottish Highland Games.

Pipers wear traditional HIGHLAND DRESS: a kilt, laced shoes, or ghillies, a pouch called a sporran, and a knife, or sgian dubh, tucked into their sock.

The BAGPIPES are Scotland's national instrument.

Performers of the ancient SCOTTISH SWORD DANCE must dance between two crossed swords without touching them.

HAGGIS HURLING competitors try to throw a haggis as far as possible, landing it intact.

The Scottish Terrier, or SCOTTIE, is a breed of dog that dates back as far as the fifteenth century.

Scotsmen used to take their bagpipes into BATTLE, to intimidate their enemies.

To win the TUG O'WAR, one team must successfully pull until a mark on the rope crosses the central line.

The FLAG OF SCOTLAND, also known as the St. Andrew's Cross, is blue with a white cross.

HAGGIS is a traditional dish containing suet, oatmeal, and offal, stuffed into an animal's stomach.

BLOW THE BAGPIPES AT THE HIGHLAND GAMES

Don your kilt, lace your ghillies, and pick up your bagpipes: it's time to go to the Highland Games! This celebration of Celtic culture and heritage began as early as the eleventh century. The biggest of these, the Cowal Highland Gathering in Dunoon, Scotland, is held on the last weekend in August each year, and attracts more than 23,000 spectators and 3,500 competitors who participate in music, dance, and athletic events.

As "Scotland the Brave" fills the air with the massing of the bagpipes, you can witness the participants' strength and skill in diverse events that include the caber toss, the stone put, and the Scottish hammer throw. Look out for flying food: there's even a great haggis hurling event!

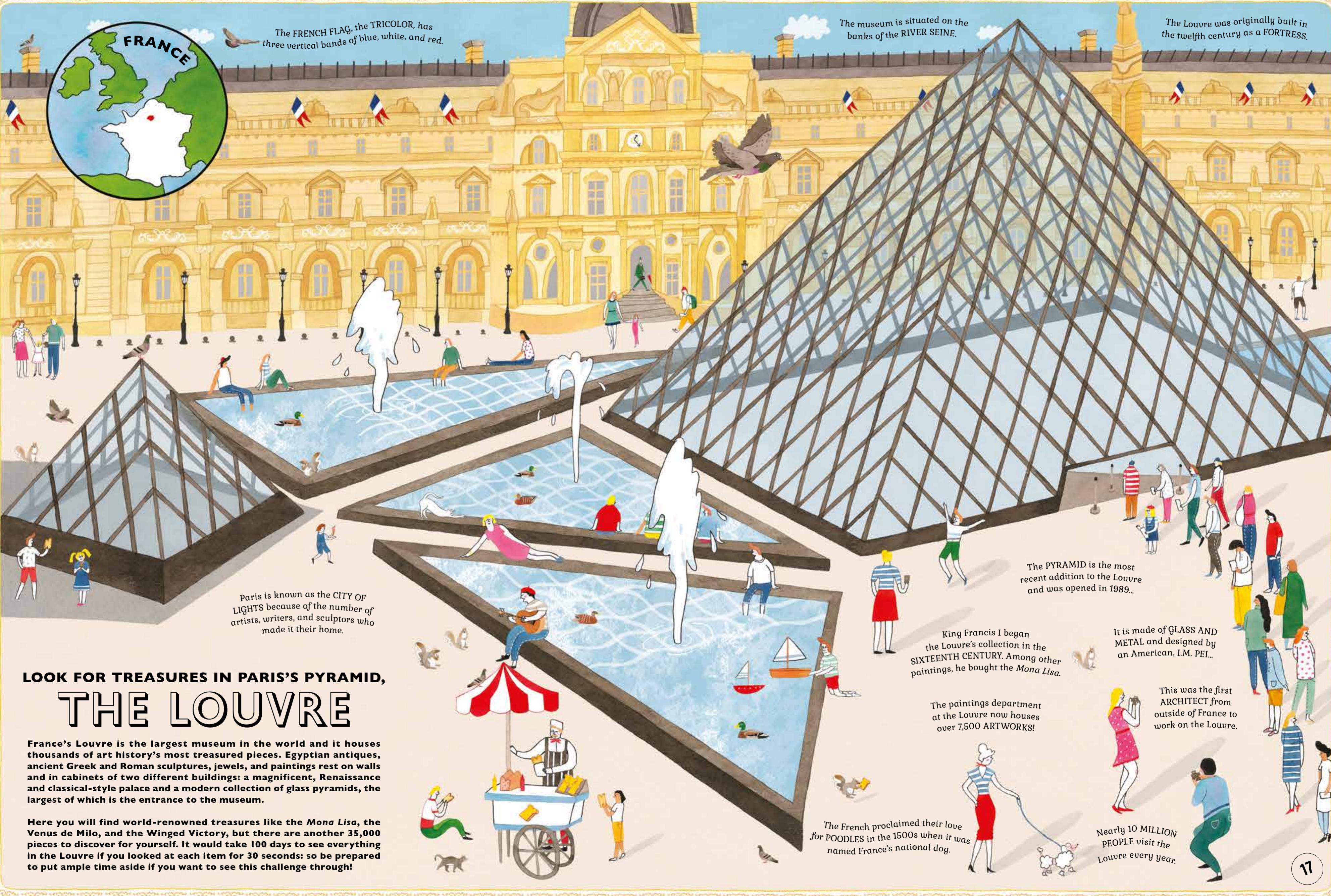




The **FRENCH FLAG**, the **TRICOLOR**, has three vertical bands of blue, white, and red.

The museum is situated on the banks of the **RIVER SEINE**.

The Louvre was originally built in the twelfth century as a **FORTRESS**.



Paris is known as the **CITY OF LIGHTS** because of the number of artists, writers, and sculptors who made it their home.

The **PYRAMID** is the most recent addition to the Louvre and was opened in 1989...

King Francis I began the Louvre's collection in the **SIXTEENTH CENTURY**. Among other paintings, he bought the *Mona Lisa*.

It is made of **GLASS AND METAL** and designed by an American, **I.M. PEI**...

The paintings department at the Louvre now houses over **7,500 ARTWORKS!**

This was the first **ARCHITECT** from outside of France to work on the Louvre.

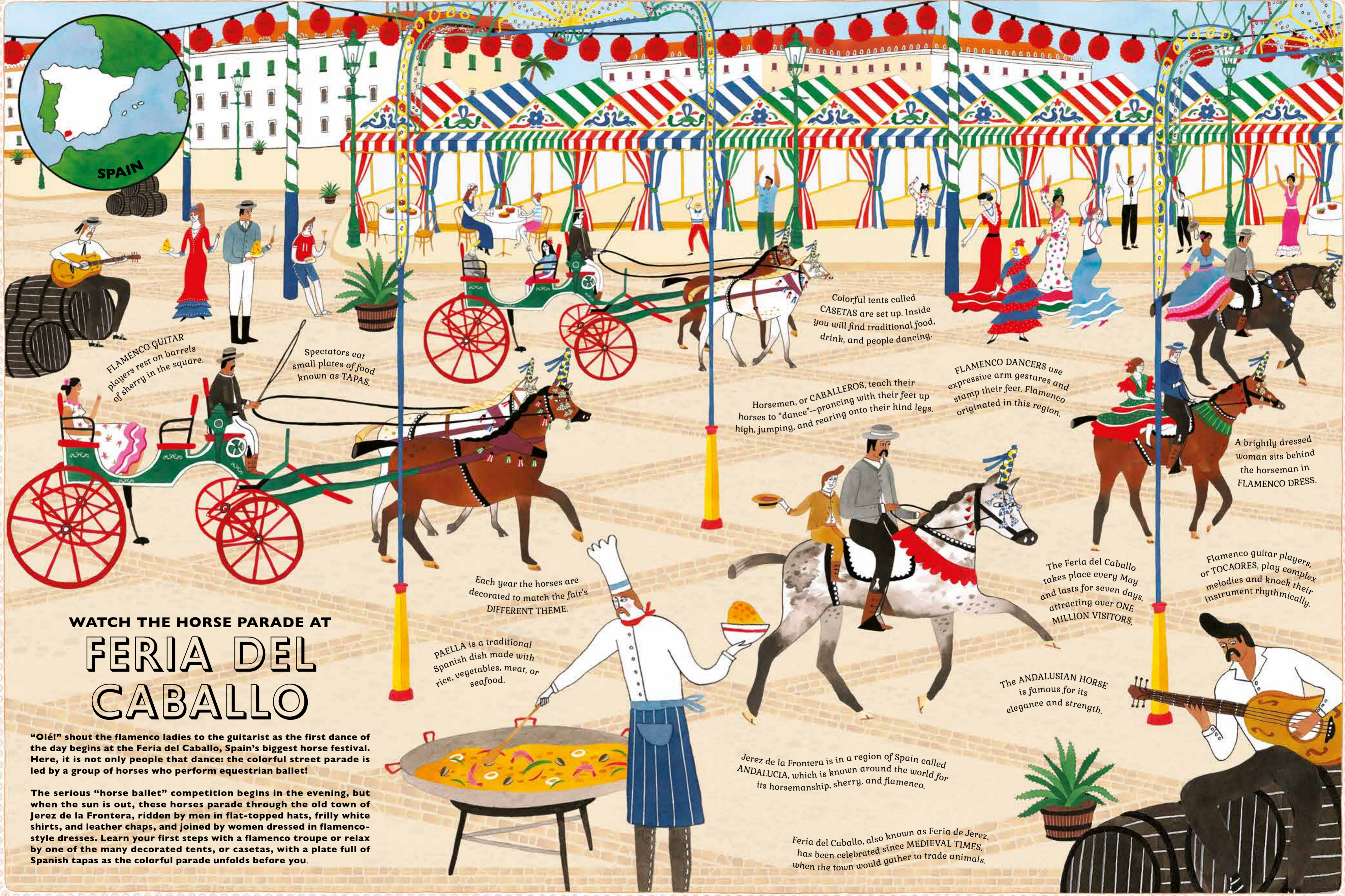
LOOK FOR TREASURES IN PARIS'S PYRAMID, THE LOUVRE

France's Louvre is the largest museum in the world and it houses thousands of art history's most treasured pieces. Egyptian antiques, ancient Greek and Roman sculptures, jewels, and paintings rest on walls and in cabinets of two different buildings: a magnificent, Renaissance and classical-style palace and a modern collection of glass pyramids, the largest of which is the entrance to the museum.

Here you will find world-renowned treasures like the *Mona Lisa*, the *Venus de Milo*, and the *Winged Victory*, but there are another **35,000** pieces to discover for yourself. It would take **100 days** to see everything in the Louvre if you looked at each item for **30 seconds**: so be prepared to put ample time aside if you want to see this challenge through!

The French proclaimed their love for **POODLES** in the 1500s when it was named France's national dog.

Nearly **10 MILLION** PEOPLE visit the Louvre every year.



WATCH THE HORSE PARADE AT FERIA DEL CABALLO

“Olé!” shout the flamenco ladies to the guitarist as the first dance of the day begins at the Feria del Caballo, Spain’s biggest horse festival. Here, it is not only people that dance: the colorful street parade is led by a group of horses who perform equestrian ballet!

The serious “horse ballet” competition begins in the evening, but when the sun is out, these horses parade through the old town of Jerez de la Frontera, ridden by men in flat-topped hats, frilly white shirts, and leather chaps, and joined by women dressed in flamenco-style dresses. Learn your first steps with a flamenco troupe or relax by one of the many decorated tents, or casetas, with a plate full of Spanish tapas as the colorful parade unfolds before you.

FLAMENCO GUITAR players rest on barrels of sherry in the square.

Spectators eat small plates of food known as TAPAS.

Each year the horses are decorated to match the fair’s DIFFERENT THEME.

PAELLA is a traditional Spanish dish made with rice, vegetables, meat, or seafood.

Horsemen, or CABALLEROS, teach their horses to “dance”—prancing with their feet up high, jumping, and rearing onto their hind legs.

Colorful tents called CASETAS are set up. Inside you will find traditional food, drink, and people dancing.

FLAMENCO DANCERS use expressive arm gestures and stamp their feet. Flamenco originated in this region.

A brightly dressed woman sits behind the horseman in FLAMENCO DRESS.

The Feria del Caballo takes place every May and lasts for seven days, attracting over ONE MILLION VISITORS.

Flamenco guitar players, or TOCAORES, play complex melodies and knock their instrument rhythmically.

The ANDALUSIAN HORSE is famous for its elegance and strength.

Jerez de la Frontera is in a region of Spain called ANDALUCIA, which is known around the world for its horsemanship, sherry, and flamenco.

Feria del Caballo, also known as Feria de Jerez, has been celebrated since MEDIEVAL TIMES, when the town would gather to trade animals.

Venice is a city in northeastern Italy made up of 118 ISLANDS and connected by more than 150 CANALS and 400 BRIDGES.

More than 15 MILLION visitors come to Venice every year.

In MEDIEVAL TIMES, Venice was one of the world's most important cities and attracted rich and powerful merchants to its shores.

The entire city of Venice—known as the floating city—is gradually SINKING INTO THE SEA at a rate of 1–2 millimeters per year.

Venice suffers from frequent FLOODING, especially in the winter months when the tides are high.

The RIALTO BRIDGE was completed in 1591 and is one of four bridges that crosses the Grand Canal.

The first ever FEMALE GONDOLIER was appointed in 2010.

Gondolas are ASYMMETRICAL to make them more maneuverable.

Gondolas are an ANCIENT FORM OF TRANSPORT and have been seen in Venice since 1094.

A GONDOLIER'S UNIFORM consists of a white sailor's shirt or striped T-shirt with a matching straw boater and a navy wool jacket in winter.

A law was passed in 1562 that all gondolas should be PAINTED BLACK to stop nobles competing for the most colorful and decadent boat.

Gondoliers must PASS AN EXAM before they are licensed to carry passengers.

The GRAND CANAL, or Canalazzo, is the largest waterway in Venice and divides the city in two.

LEARN TO STEER A GONDOLA IN VENICE

The best way around Venice, Italy, is by gondola: so why not learn to steer one yourself? Gondolas are perfectly designed for negotiating the shallows and mudflats of Venice's canal system, and the art of steering one is centuries old. The trade began in medieval times and is practiced today in the age old tradition which has seen little change over the years.

Gondoliers stand at the back of the boat with their oar and propel the boat onward with a forward stroke, followed by a backward stroke. Delight in a scene of beautiful palaces, fine cathedrals, and marble bridges, such as the Rialto Bridge, as you glide down the Grand Canal.





RED DEER look for food and shelter in the forests surrounding the Bavarian Alps.

Snowboarders either ride **REGULAR**, leading with their left foot, or **GOOFY**, leading with their right foot.

Enjoy a **HOT CHOCOLATE...** and a piece of **BLACK FOREST GÂTEAU.**

BLACK FOREST HORSES were bred to help with heavy forestry work.

Skiing is an **ANCIENT SPORT**—the first known pictures of people skiing were found in Norway, and date back to 4000 BC!

Skiers choose a **ZIGZAG PATH** down the piste, which stops them from going too fast.

Ski runs made of compacted snow are known as **PISTES** and icy bumps are called **MOGULS**.

Almost **24 MILLION PEOPLE** visit Bavaria every year. Many of them come to enjoy winter sports!

GO SKIING IN THE BAVARIAN ALPS

Like stepping into a scene of a Grimms' fairy tale, the wooded mountain range of the Bavarian Alps in southern Germany is a world of cuckoo clocks, cherry gâteaux, and wooden chalets. This winter wonderland is one of the biggest skiing destinations in Germany, and Sudelfeld is a favorite for downhill skiers of all kinds.

Find your fastest route down hundreds of yards of snow and ride the lift back to the top—and then do it all over again! This is a place where anything goes—downhill, freestyle, and snowboarding—there's "snow style" like your own!

Bavaria is one of the **OLDEST STATES IN EUROPE**, dating back as far as the sixth century.

A small population of endangered **ROCK PARTRIDGES** can be found in this area.

FREESTYLE SKIING began in the 1930s. Skiers in Europe began adding flips, twists, and other acrobatic moves to their routines.

When your legs get tired from skiing, you can slide down the mountain on an **INFLATABLE RUBBER TUBE!**

One young adventurer performs a trick called a **GRAB!**

Much wildlife hides in the thick **FIR TREE** forests.



Thanks to their **ORNATE ARCHITECTURE**, 44 of the stations are considered cultural heritage sites.

The Aquarelle Train is named for its special cargo—the name translates into English as the **WATERCOLOR TRAIN**.

Many people stumble across the magnificent **AQUARELLE TRAIN** by accident when they travel on the Sokolnicheskaya—or “Red”—Line.

The Aquarelle Train was launched on **CHILDREN’S DAY** in 2007 to remind commuters to look up from their papers and enjoy their surroundings more often!

The subway is turned into a concert hall by skilled **MUSICIANS BUSKING** on the platform.

DISCOVER A MASTERPIECE ON THE MOSCOW METRO

You’d be right in thinking that much of the world’s underground train stations are filled with old bits of chewing gum and day-old newspapers—but not in Moscow, Russia. The Moscow Metro began operating in 1935 with a single 6.8-mile line connecting just 13 stations, each filled with ornaments and artworks. Young adventurers will feel like royalty as they train hop from one station to another, marveling at the colorful mosaics, marbled walls, frescoed ceilings, chandeliers, and gold fixtures found in many of Moscow’s underground trains.

Some lucky travelers may even spot the famous Aquarelle Train pulling into the station, adorned in flowers like a moving painting. The Aquarelle runs an irregular schedule but is designed as a moveable art museum, with framed paintings on every carriage wall. Catching the train has never been so grand!



The ornate benches and lamps are designed in an **ART NOUVEAU** style. They were inspired by Paris’s metro, in France.

The metro isn’t only used by people; some clever **DOGS** have been seen taking the train!

BAKED POTATOES are a popular kind of fast food in Moscow.

Although it is warmer underground, the people of Moscow aren’t without a thick coat and hat in **WINTER**, when it reaches temperatures of 15°F outside.

There are 194 stations on the Moscow Metro, and more than **NINE MILLION PEOPLE** use it every weekday.

There are three other special trains on the **RED LINE**: the Reading Train, the Poetry Train, and the Retro Train, which resembles the first train car to run on the Moscow Metro.

NORTH AMERICA

Whether it's rock formations, roller coasters, or redwood trees, you'll be hard-pressed to find adventures any **BIGGER** than those that await you in North America! So go ahead and seek out your own American Dream.



Atlantic Ocean



DOG-SLED WITH HUSKIES IN ALASKA

See the wilds of Denali National Park in Alaska, America, from a sled pulled by an excitable team of dogs! Alaskan huskies are bred for strength and endurance and are trained to cover vast distances carrying heavy loads—including young adventurers.

Race by nature's most majestic beasts—including moose and caribou—then retire at dusk to a wood cabin for a dinner of fresh salmon by the fire. Just don't forget to feed the dogs before bed!

MOUNTAIN GOATS are found in the rocky, mountainous regions of Alaska.



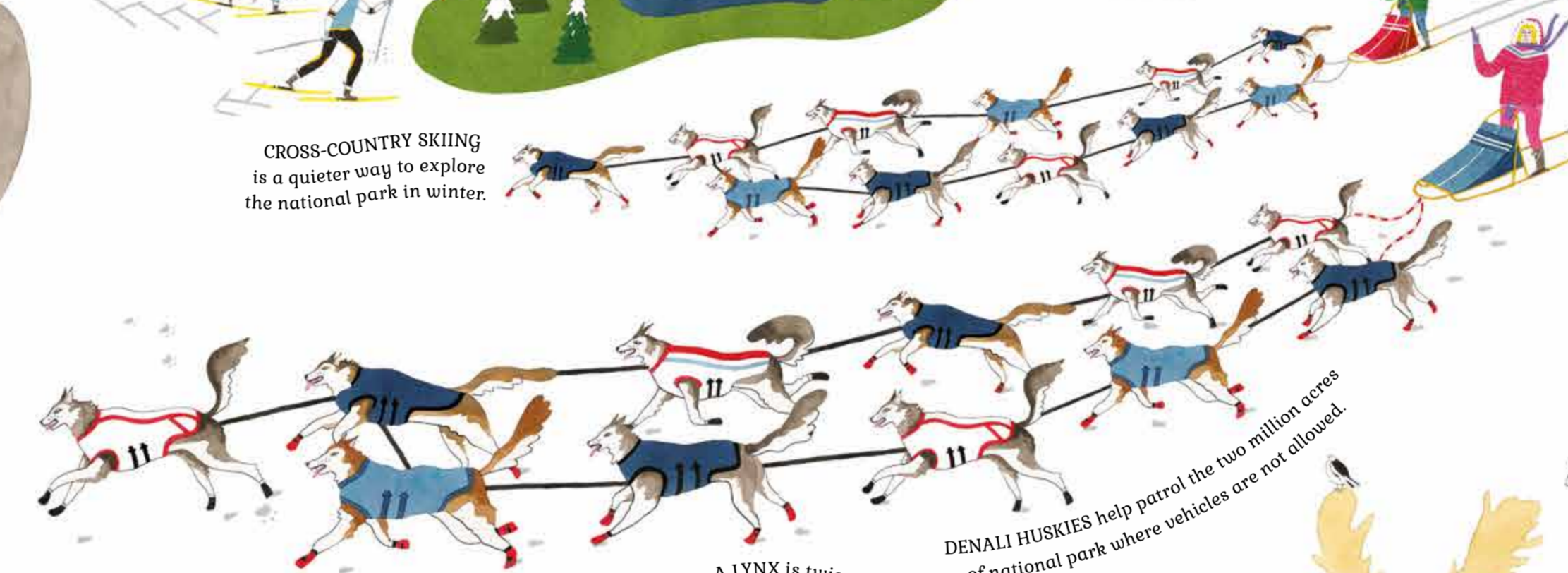
At 20,320 feet above sea level, MOUNT MCKINLEY is the highest mountain peak in North America.

The North American BALD EAGLE isn't actually bald; bald used to mean "white headed."



CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING is a quieter way to explore the national park in winter.

The DENALI CARIBOU HERD



DENALI HUSKIES help patrol the two million acres of national park where vehicles are not allowed.

A LYNX is twice the size of a domestic cat and feeds on snowshoe hares.

The dogs wear PROTECTIVE BOOTIES made of polar fleece to keep their paws warm while sledding.



The ALASKAN MOOSE is the largest in the world: males weigh up to 1,600 pounds.



DALL SHEEP can detect small objects from over a mile away—without binoculars!



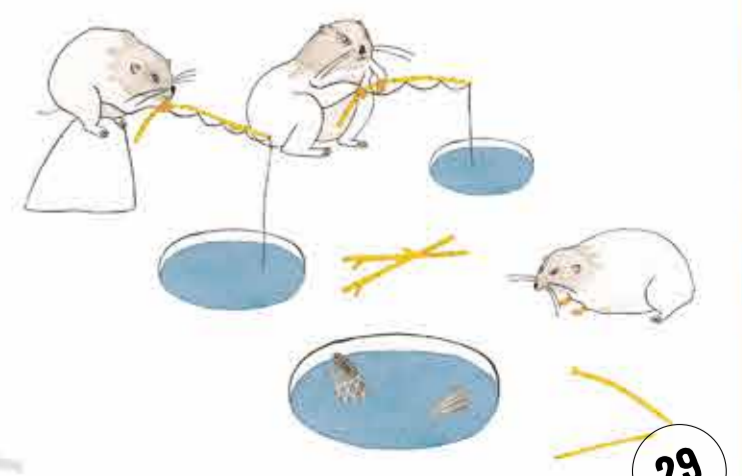
The ROCK PTARMIGAN has three seasonal plumages: it is brown in summer, gray in autumn, and white in winter.



GRIZZLY BEARS love to eat salmon, which has a high fat content. This allows some Alaskan grizzlies to weigh more than 1,300 pounds.



LEMMINGS can travel far and wide in search of food, but seldom fish; they are herbivores!



Alaskan huskies have a DOUBLE COAT with a thick, water-resistant undercoat and coarse outer coat.



LIFT OFF IN A HOT AIR BALLOON

Wake up to a sky filled with... balloons! Long before there were toy balloons, hot air balloons lifted people in the air, and the first of these was designed by Etienne and Joseph Montgolfier in 1783. Today you can take part in a dawn flight at the international balloon festival of Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, one of the world's biggest hot air balloon gatherings.

The Canadian balloon festival began in 1984 and soon became a popular ballooning event where professionals compete in races and visitors take scenic rides at dawn and dusk each day. A photo from your wicker basket, or "gondola," may be the most colorful picture you ever take, as more than 100 balloons of every shape, color, and size take to the skies.

A burner controlled by the pilot fills the balloon with **HOT GAS**, which is lighter than air and causes the balloon to rise.

Unmanned hot air balloons called **KONGMING LANTERNS** were found in China as early as the third century.



A **MAPLE LEAF** with eleven points appears on the Canadian flag.



Gondolas are often made of **WOVEN WICKER**, a material which is both light and strong.



Nearly **HALF A MILLION VISITORS** converge on this festival every year to see the colorful balloons take flight.



All the balloons travel in the same direction, as they are **BLOWN BY THE WIND**.

The French **MONTGOLFIER BROTHERS** designed the first manned hot air balloon in 1783, but chose others people to fly in it!

In 1999, Bertrand Piccard and Brian Jones were the first people to fly a hot air balloon all the way **AROUND THE WORLD**.

The basket that carries you into the air is known as a **GONDOLA**.

There's fun to be had on the ground, too, at the world's **LARGEST INFLATABLE THEME PARK**, Balloon Planet.

A **FERRIS WHEEL** offers rides to visitors not partaking in a hot air balloon flight.

The city of Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu has a **TRANSPORTATION HERITAGE**, with important train and canal links to wider North America.

A ground crew help to hold the balloons down before they are **READY FOR LIFTOFF**.

It only takes around fifteen minutes to **FILL THE BALLOON WITH AIR**.

BIRD-WATCHING first attracted a regular set of enthusiasts at the Park in the 1890s.

HIT A HOME RUN IN CENTRAL PARK

At the heart of New York City, USA, lies one of the world's most famous urban gardens, Central Park. Here there are several fields where games are played throughout the spring and summer, including baseball.

After the game, explore the rest of the park: photograph some of the 800 species that live here, take a paddle boat around the lake, visit the park's zoo, or stop for a hot dog or pretzel.

Many years ago, there were thousands of horses in New York. Now there are far fewer, but you can still find them in Central Park offering CARRIAGE RIDES.

The DOWNY WOODPECKER eats food that larger woodpeckers cannot reach, such as insects living in the hollows of trees.

The MALLARD is the most common duck in the United States.

A red-tail hawk named PALE MALE became a permanent resident in 1992. The park rangers have named all of his mates, including his latest, dubbed Octavia, because she is his eighth.

Central Park is home to over 28,000 TREES and nearly 9,000 PARK BENCHES.

Central Park is often closed to traffic, making it popular with JOGGERS and ROLLER SKATERS.

While some of the park's areas are now "quiet zones," there are still plenty of spaces to hear BUSKERS, which have been a tradition of the park since it first opened.

Watch out for resident RACCOONS with a taste for hot dogs!

The player who throws the ball at the batter is known as the PITCHER.

MERLINS are small falcons with a powerful build. They patrol open areas looking for their prey.

New York's HULA-HOOPING community often get together for hoop jams in the park's open spaces.

Central Park boasts 26 BALL FIELDS, as well as 30 tennis courts, 21 playgrounds, one carousel, and two ice-skating rinks!



RIVER-RAFT DOWN THE GRAND CANYON

For more than six million years, the Colorado River has been carving out one of America's biggest icons: the Grand Canyon. Here, you'll feel like a tiny ant in the time of dinosaurs as you take a scenic float down the river surrounded by walls of ancient rock.

Strap in tightly as you and your guide paddle your way down the rapids. Then head ashore and set off on a hike. The Grand Canyon National Park is home to some of North America's most diverse wildlife: 355 bird species, 89 mammalian species, and 56 reptile and amphibian species.

MALE ELKS have large antlers made of bone, which are shed each year and grow afresh.

A BLACK RAVEN perches at the rim of the canyon, looking for its next meal.

The GOLDEN EAGLE can fly at speeds reaching 150 miles per hour.

A TURKEY VULTURE'S wingspan can reach six feet.

COUGARS are the largest wild cat in North America.

The Grand Canyon is home to one of the largest groups of PEREGRINE FALCONS in the world.

COYOTES are excellent swimmers and will often escape predators by jumping into the river.

There are nearly 40 DIFFERENT ROCK LAYERS that form the walls of the Grand Canyon.

Research suggests that the GRAND CANYON took around three to six million years to form.

Only the female BLACK WIDOW SPIDER is poisonous, and she can be recognized by the bright red markings on her abdomen.

Watching from a distance is the best way to protect animals and helps keep wildlife WILD.

COLLARED LIZARDS have long sticky tongues to capture their prey.

The tassel-eared squirrel, or ABERT'S SQUIRREL, is recognizable by its long ears with fluffy tufts.

Adult WILD TURKEYS have around 5,000 feathers.

The canyon is home to the GRAND CANYON RATTLESNAKE...

Around FIVE MILLION PEOPLE visit the Grand Canyon each year.

A SCORPION'S TAIL contains a stinger with deadly venom glands.

Check your boots before you put them on!

Though they can't see very well, SCORPIONS have up to ten eyes!



Steamboats were a popular form of transport before railroads were built. In the early nineteenth century, there were more than 1,200 cruising up and down the Mississippi.



The GREAT EGRET has long legs for wading and a sharp bill for spearing fish in the water.

The WETLANDS around the Mississippi river are rich with diverse wildlife.

Dixieland music inspired a craze for LINDY HOP DANCING that swept North America in the 1920s and 30s.

DIXIELAND MUSIC is a style of jazz that originated in New Orleans.

Some of North America's largest CATFISH can be found in the Mississippi.

MARK TWAIN famously set many of his books on the Mississippi.

Louisiana is famous for its food, such as oysters, crayfish, and GUMBO, a Cajun stew.

The MISSISSIPPI RIVER is about 2,320 miles long, and crosses 10 states in the USA.

There are around over 1.5 million AMERICAN ALLIGATORS in Louisiana State.

The paddle at the stern propels the boat forward and is POWERED BY STEAM.

DANCE ON THE DECK OF A STEAMBOAT

Take a trip back in time on an original steamboat as you cruise down the Mississippi to the sound of jazz! The Mississippi is one of the world's great rivers, and many famous musicians such as Louis Armstrong and Bix Beiderbecke have graced steamboat decks with soulful music as travelers soaked up the scenes of New Orleans.

Today, original steamboats have been restored to their former glory and traveling on one is like going to your favorite museum, where everything from the engine room to the deck is just as it was 200 years ago. Capture the Mississippi wilds on your camera as the jazz band liven up dinnertime on the deck!

MEET MILLIONS OF MONARCH BUTTERFLIES

One of the world's most amazing natural events occurs every year in central Mexico, involving a particularly colorful creature: the monarch butterfly. As summer ends in North America, 35 million monarchs travel almost 2,800 miles to their winter home in the boreal forests of Mexico's volcanic mountains.

Wake up early and follow your small group of travelers on horseback deep into the forests where, as the sun rises, the monarchs fill the sky with their gold-and-orange wings.

Large areas of forest in Michoacan are protected in order to preserve the monarch butterflies' HABITAT.

The butterflies return to the SAME TREE each winter.

Monarch butterflies perform the LONGEST MIGRATION of any insect.

Monarch butterflies go through FOUR STAGES of development in their lifetime, from egg, to caterpillar, to chrysalis, to butterfly.

In the spring, the monarch butterflies return to their NORTHERLY BREEDING GROUNDS.

The male butterflies attract females by releasing chemicals from SCENT GLANDS on their hind wings.

Not all monarch butterflies migrate. Three generations are born and die within six weeks, but the FOURTH GENERATION lives for up to eight months...

The fourth generation's LONGER LIFE SPAN allows it to migrate over the winter and return north to breed in spring, starting the cycle again.

Monarch butterflies are POISONOUS to predators such as lizards, birds, and mice—but are only harmful if you eat them!

Scientists aren't sure how the butterflies find their way to Mexico, but they think they NAVIGATE BY THE SUN.



CENTRAL & SOUTH AMERICA

Central and South America stretches from the equator down toward the icy Antarctic and packs a punch with its diverse and abundant wildlife, which can be found from its huge tropical rain forests to its freezing glaciers.

Atlantic Ocean



Pacific Ocean



An art deco statue called CHRIST THE REDEEMER overlooks Rio from the Corcovado mountain. It is 98 feet tall and 92 feet wide.

The samba dance originated in the BAHIA REGION of Brazil around 1920.

Each samba school chooses a THEME for their costumes. This school have chosen the theme of birds.

Schools are often led by a SINGER, who leads his or her performers in their unique school song.

At every Carnival, one woman will be named the QUEEN OF THE DRUMS.

DANCE THE SAMBA AT THE RIO CARNIVAL

About TWO MILLION PEOPLE are expected to take to the streets of Rio each day during Carnival.

Brazilians know how to throw a party better than anyone in the world! The most famous Brazilian festival, Carnival, is held just before Lent each year in many cities around Brazil, including Rio, and attracts more than two million visitors.

The best way to enjoy the festivities is to learn the steps to Brazil's traditional dance, the samba, and join one of the teams competing at the annual parade. Each of Brazil's samba schools have their own colorful costumes, and compete every night down the main streets of Rio. As you dance, you'll be joined by drummers and singers, twirling dancers, and performers on moving floats.

The large bass drum used during the samba parade is called a SURDO.

The CAVAQUINHO is a small guitar similar to a ukulele, and is an essential instrument in samba parades.

The 200 samba schools are JUDGED on the originality of their elaborate floats, costumes, dancing, and musical performances.



EXPLORE THE TREETOPS OF THE AMAZON RAIN FOREST

The Amazon rain forest is under threat from DEFORESTATION.

It's thought that 2.5 MILLION SPECIES OF INSECT could live in the Amazon rain forest; 100,000 species have been discovered so far.

The Amazon rain forest is made up of 390 BILLION TREES, with more than 16,000 different species to be found here.

One of the most frequently seen animals in this rain forest is the COMMON SQUIRREL MONKEY.

The THREE-TOED SLOTH spends up to 20 hours asleep every day.

The TOUCAN uses its large colorful bill to pluck fruit from trees.

The AMAZON RAIN FOREST is the largest one in the world.

The honey bear, or KINKAJOU, is not a monkey but more closely related to the raccoon.

SPIDER MONKEYS spend most of their lives in the treetops, eating and sleeping there.

Put on your rucksack and pick up your mosquito repellent—it's time to go on a jungle adventure! Most travelers have fantasized about a trip to the Amazon, which holds over half of the world's remaining rain forest, but not everyone has the opportunity to see it from the unique position of the treetops.

In recent years, giant walkways have been built between the canopies, and allow adventurers young and old to spot hundreds of exotic creatures—from above. Brazil is considered to have the greatest biodiversity of any country on the planet, with 55,000 plant species, 3,000 freshwater fish species, 689 different types of mammals and 1,800 bird species. How many of these can you find here?

The CANOPY WALKWAY is suspended 115 feet in the air, giving you a fantastic view.

The RED-SPECTACLED AMAZON is a parrot named for the distinctive red markings on its head.

The HARPY EAGLE snatches its prey with powerful claws, which are as big as a bear's!

MACAWS are sociable birds that often form noisy flocks of up to 30 parrots.

LEAFCUTTER ANTS slice up vegetation by vibrating their powerful jaws a thousand times a second!

LEAFCUTTER ANTS

POISON DART FROGS



The ANDES stretch 4,300 miles through South America, making it the world's longest mountain chain.

The ANDEAN CONDOR has a huge wingspan of up to 10 feet.



FLY-FISHING is a popular sport practiced in the Andean lakes.

PAMPAS DEER

GAUCHOS have lived a nomadic life herding cattle on the pampas for centuries.

MAIZE, or corn, is often grown on the estancias, or ranches, on the pampas.

The LASSO is a rope noose used for catching cattle.

The GREATER RHEA is a bird which cannot fly. Instead, it runs using its long, powerful legs.

RIDE WITH COWBOYS IN NORTHERN PATAGONIA

"Yee-haw!" might be the only thing to shout as you set off to explore the foothills of the Andes Mountains in northern Patagonia—one of the best places to spend a day in the life of an authentic cowboy. Argentina contains lowlands called "pampas"—huge areas of farmland—which are often run by cowboys or "gauchos," as they are known in South America.

Take a ride through the rolling hills and along the gorges of the Andean water as the mighty Andes mountain range rises up behind you, or enjoy a more leisurely ride in a traditional horse and carriage. These are some of the best ways to explore this vast area and spot the creatures that inhabit it—which ones can you find here?

The PAMPAS were named after a native South American word, "pampa," which means "plain."

The PAMPAS FOX tends to live on its own, hunting birds and rodents that live on the plains.

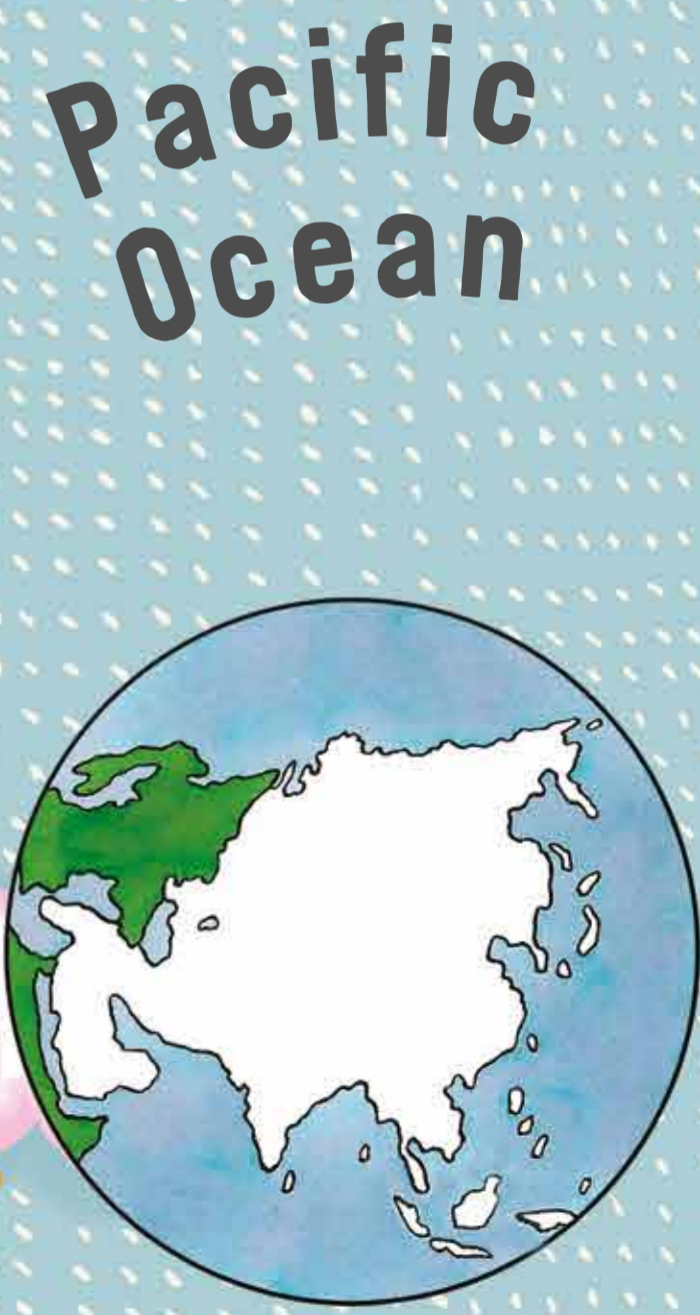
Every gaucho wears a PONCHO, a wool blanket which can be worn, used as a saddle blanket by day or as a blanket at night.

An ASADO BARBECUE is cooked by the gauchos. Argentina is famous for its delicious steaks.

The BIG HAIRY ARMADILLO is covered in protective bony plates. It uses its powerful claws for digging.

ASIA & THE MIDDLE EAST

Asia is not only the world's biggest continent, it is the most populated, too. It is a land of contradictions: it offers adventures both ancient and modern and from the intrepid to the spiritual... Take your pick—you're sure to have fun!



Hot springs, or onsens, have been enjoyed by the Japanese for THOUSANDS OF YEARS, and are an important part of Japanese culture.

There are more than 3,000 ONSENS, or hot springs, across Japan. Traditionally, the bathers wear no clothing at all.

The water of the hot springs is RICH IN MINERALS and many people bathe in them to treat aches, pains, and other medical conditions.

The macaques enjoy the hot springs by day and retreat to the safety of the PINE FORESTS at night.

Macaques are the most NORTHERLY LIVING PRIMATE in the world (other than humans). They spend many months of the year in the snow.

The hot springs, or onsens, can be found in areas where there is VOLCANIC ACTIVITY.

Macaques can often be seen GROOMING one another as a way of bonding, helping each other to stay healthy.

Japanese macaques live in groups with a STRONG SOCIAL BOND, especially between females.

Young macaques have been observed entertaining themselves by MAKING SNOWBALLS.

MACAQUES gather around the hot springs to bathe, play, and meet possible mates.

MONKEY AROUND IN NAGANO'S HOT SPRINGS

In the valley of the Yokoyu River lies the Jigokudani Monkey Park, a mountainous area well known for the steaming mists and bubbling waters that erupt out of the frozen ground. Because of the high altitude, the area is covered in thick snow for four months of the year, but, nevertheless, it is a popular destination for tourists who seek out the hot springs and pools of naturally hot water to bathe in.

The hot springs aren't only popular with human visitors; a large population of Japanese macaques can be found there year-round, escaping the cold by taking a dip in the hot water. Young adventurers may even be lucky enough to witness another thing we have in common with macaques: a snowball fight!

The macaque's DIET includes seeds, buds, leaves, bark, fruit, and berries, as well as insects.

Macaques are one of only two known animals to WASH THEIR FOOD before eating it.



SET THE WORLD AGLOW AT HONG KONG'S LANTERN FESTIVAL

The Lantern Festival coincides with the FIRST FULL MOON of the Chinese New Year.

The COLOR RED can be seen everywhere at this festival, because in Chinese culture, it is thought to bring good fortune and joy.

The LANTERN FESTIVAL has ancient origins and has been celebrated for more than 2,000 years.

Chinese New Year is one of the only festivals celebrated all around the world—in any city where you can find a Chinatown, you are likely to find traditional Chinese street party celebrations. It is the most important holiday for the Chinese, and during the two weeks in which it runs, Hong Kong is one of the most spectacular places to celebrate it.

On its first day, the streets of Hong Kong's Tsim Sha Tsui come alive with dancers, fire-breathing dragons, and neon-lit floats. This is followed by an explosive fireworks display over Hong Kong's Victoria Harbour, which is known as one of the most impressive light displays anywhere in the world. The event to end the festival is also one that marks the beginning of spring: the Lantern Festival. On this day, lanterns are hung all over the city—in parks, restaurants, and markets—and adventurers of all ages can join in by lighting one at night.

In ancient times, the LANTERNS were made of red paper or silk, but today they can be found in all shapes, sizes, and colors!

In the streets, the DRAGON DANCE is performed to scare away evil spirits and bad luck for the year ahead.

The Lantern Festival is a time when relations reunite and remember the IMPORTANCE OF FAMILY relationships.

Sweet rice balls called YUAN XIAO are traditionally eaten, to symbolize reunion and happiness.

Many lanterns have RIDDLES on them to be solved by the children in the crowd.



SHOWER WITH AN ELEPHANT IN CHIANG MAI

Every day at around 9:45 a.m., a mix of laughter, splashing water, and trumpeting can be heard in the forests of Chiang Mai: it's bath time for the elephants! This is a daily ritual at the Thai Elephant Conservation Center—a sanctuary and rescue center for distressed elephants from all over Thailand—and here, young adventurers can ride elephants into the shallows of the forest's river for their daily wash.

Elephants love water and bathe at least once a day—and sometimes twice in the hot season. There is no way to stay dry at this bath party: as the elephants wade in, they shoot jets of water into the air from their trunks and wallow on their sides as adventurers clean them of layers of mud. Others like to dump unsuspecting riders scrubbing the mud from their backs directly into the river!

ASIAN ELEPHANTS are slightly shorter and lighter than their African cousins, but the easiest way to tell them apart is by their much smaller ears.

Around five million people visit CHIANG MAI every year, drawn by its lush forests and wildlife.

Humans and elephants share a long history, and are depicted in friezes at Angkor Wat (in neighboring Cambodia), which date back to the TWELFTH CENTURY.

Historically, elephants were used in wars for transportation, and later in the logging industry. Today these practices are banned and elephants are employed mostly in TOURISM.

Elephants need a lot of care—and a LOT OF FEEDING! They consume 330 pounds of food and 50 gallons of water every day!

Elephants are becoming less common in the wild, largely due to the destruction of their NATURAL HABITAT.

There are around 5,000 ELEPHANTS in Thailand today, a much lower figure than 100 years ago, when there were more than 100,000.

An ELEPHANT'S TRUNK is fantastically strong and is able to lift heavy objects such as logs, but is dextrous enough to pick up an object as small as a coin.

The Thai Elephant Conservation Center has the prestigious job of caring for the ROYAL ELEPHANT STABLE of six male and four female white elephants.

A domestic elephant is usually gentle and careful around people and very loyal to its MAHOUT—the person that cares for it.



PAINT YOURSELF IN A RAINBOW AT HOLI FESTIVAL

Spring is a time of new life all around the world—but nowhere is as colorful as India when it begins. The Holi Festival, also known as the “Festival of Colors” is celebrated across the country every year, and with music, dance, and song it says good-bye to winter and welcomes spring with a rainbow of colors.

Adventurers young and old can take to the streets for an all-out rainbow party! Sacks of colorful powder, flower petals, and balloons filled with colored water are given to festival attendees, whose job is to throw them at as many people as possible! Once the great clouds of rainbow colors have subsided, young adventurers can enjoy the traditional foods like gujiya while the singing continues well into the night.

Holi is celebrated the day after the first FULL MOON in the Hindu month of Phalgun (between February and March).



Holi is named for the Hindu demoness, HOLIKA, who was burned to death with the god Vishnu's help. A commemorative bonfire on the eve of Holi is one of the festival's highlights.

Don't expect special treatment if you are a visitor; anyone—FRIEND OR STRANGER—is considered fair game during Holi!

Whilst Holi celebrates the arrival of spring and can be enjoyed by anyone, no matter their religion, it has its roots in HINDU LEGEND and mythology.

Water pistols and balloons are used in the free-for-all on the streets and DRIED PAINT is applied to people's faces.

Different areas of India have UNIQUE TRADITIONS during Holi... in JAIPUR, an elephant festival is held...

and in UTTAR PRADESH, the women pretend to beat up men who try to steal sweets from them!

Women sing FOLK SONGS and perform TRADITIONAL DANCES during Holi, accompanied by men playing a drum called a dholak.

This festival is also seen as a time to FORGIVE AND FORGET past quarrels and rebuild relationships within the community.

SOCIAL BARRIERS and restrictions come down during Holi, creating a sense of togetherness between rich and poor, young and old.



BE SHOWERED IN CHERRY BLOSSOMS

There is one thing that signals the beginning of spring more than anything else in South Korea: the cherry blossom tree. For just a short time at the beginning of spring, cherry trees all over the country uncover their pink and white petals, and the place with the biggest concentration of these is the coastal area of Jinhae-gu.

Drawing more than two million visitors each year, young adventurers will be greeted by showers of flower petals as they walk along the Yeojwacheon boardwalk. Young and old can enjoy a pot of tea under the cherry canopy or the tastes of traditional Korean street food as the trees blossom and bloom all around!

Every spring, a TEN-DAY cherry blossom festival is held across the city, which draws people onto its streets.

It's not just the blossoms that smell delicious; street food CAFÉS offer everything from "bibimbap" (rice and vegetables) to the more unusual "beondaegi" (boiled silkworm larvae).

You're sure to enjoy a good brew here; TEA has long been an important aspect of Korean culture.

Traditional dress in Korea is known as HANBOK.

A traditional sword dance known as "GEOMMU" has been performed in South Korea since the twelfth century.

ORNAMENTAL CHERRY TREES have been revered in East Asia for hundreds of years, and have been celebrated in the region's art, poetry, and song.

Cherry trees are a member of the ROSE FAMILY, along with many other fruit trees.

There are over 1,000 kinds of cherry tree, but only a handful produce edible FRUITS.

Cherry trees need a COLD WINTER in order to thrive and produce their bewitching blossoms the following spring.

The MILE-LONG BOARDWALK is a favorite destination among couples looking for a romantic spot.



The Dead Sea is actually a **SALT LAKE** at the heart of the Middle East and is around 1,300 feet below sea level, which is Earth's lowest elevation on land.

The Dead Sea is situated between Jordan, Israel, and Palestine in a **DESERT**, where there is very little rainfall.

The Dead Sea is fed by the River Jordan but it **NEVER OVERFLOWS** because the hot sun evaporates the water year-round.

PUT YOUR FEET UP IN THE DEAD SEA

The Dead Sea may be the best place to read the newspaper and put your feet up—in water! At the lowest point on Earth, the Dead Sea is so full of salt that bathers just bob about on the surface: it is impossible to sink. This is because the quantity of water that evaporates from it is greater than that which flows into it, so even Olympic swimmers won't have an advantage here.

Young adventurers can spend the days floating the hours away, and later cover themselves in mud that collects in pools on the beach. Letting the mud dry in the sun before washing it off again in the sea is an essential experience in this part of the world: so don't be shy, and enjoy the mass mud bath!

Thanks to its low elevation, you are **LESS LIKELY TO BE SUNBURNED** in this area, as the air has high levels of bromine and other metals, which filter the sun's rays.

The rocks are covered in **SALT DEPOSITS**, which are left when the saline water evaporates away.

Dead Sea mud is **RICH IN MINERALS**, which are absorbed into the body when you rub it on.

The water in the Dead Sea is almost **TEN TIMES SALTIER** than the world's other oceans.

The sea is so-named because its high levels of salt make it **DIFFICULT FOR ANIMALS TO SURVIVE**.

The water **DOESN'T TASTE SALTY**, but bitter instead, because it contains so many minerals.

The Dead Sea was one of the world's first **HEALTH RESORTS** and is especially well-known for helping people with bad skin.

Famous historical figures to have visited the Dead Sea include Herod the Great and **CLEOPATRA!**

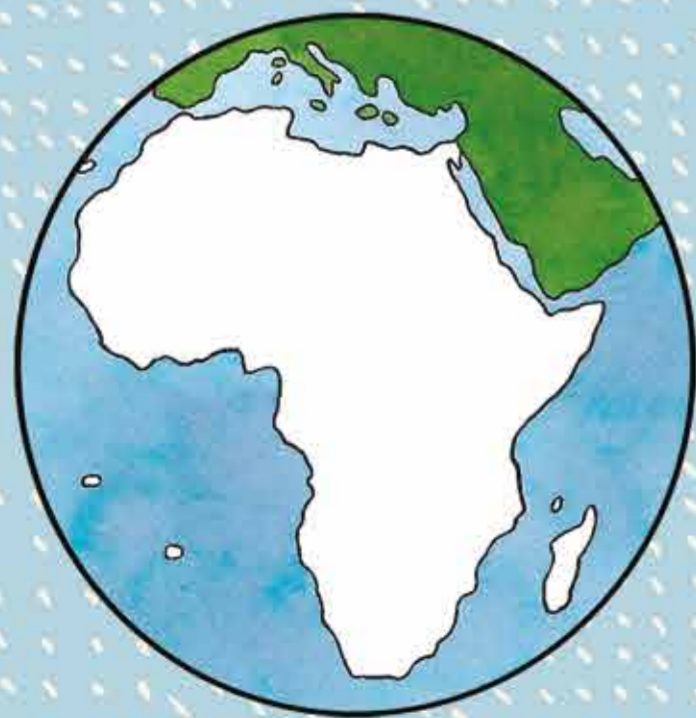
The ancient Egyptians would transport asphalt back from the Dead Sea to create balms used during the **MUMMIFICATION PROCESS**.



AFRICA

Africa is home to nature's biggest and best-loved creatures... Trying to keep count here might prove tricky! But animals aren't the end of the story—look out and you'll discover a colorful tapestry of cultures and creativity.

North Atlantic Ocean



The FACE OF THE SPHINX is thought to be modeled on Pharaoh Khafra, who was ruling at the time of its construction.

The sphinx is named after a Greek mythological beast, which had a woman's face, an eagle's wings, and a lion's body. Its Arabic name translates as THE TERRIFYING ONE.

Pyramids were built as TOMBS for pharaohs and their families. The two smaller pyramids alongside Khufu are thought to have been built for his wives.

Alongside the bodies, the Egyptians would bury things that they thought would be useful to their dead in the AFTERLIFE.

The Great Pyramid of Khufu is the oldest of the ANCIENT WONDERS OF THE WORLD.

It took approximately 2.3 MILLION BLOCKS OF STONE to build the Great Pyramid of Khufu, which has three burial chambers inside.

EXPLORE GIZA'S ANCIENT PYRAMIDS

The simplest way to journey back in time a few thousand years is to take a trip to Egypt and spend a day at the pyramids of Giza. Here, you will find the "Great Pyramid": the oldest and largest of the three pyramids in the Giza Necropolis and the only remaining structure known as one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World.

Getting into the Great Pyramid of Khufu is an experience never to forget, but you may need to enter on your knees to get through the tiny doorways! Here young adventurers will find great chambers that housed the chambers of King Khufu made from just some of the estimated 2.3 million limestone blocks. Next, hop on a camel and visit the two smaller pyramids of Giza: Khafre and Menkaure. Finish your tour beneath the Great Sphinx, one of the most famous structures of the ancient world: a sculpture with a head of a man and the body of a lion!

Rich men would pay to have their bodies preserved for the afterlife once they had died. This process was called MUMMIFICATION and took about 70 days.

Egyptologists think that the sphinx once had a pharaonic BEARD and that the section of its missing NOSE was deliberately chiseled off by vandals.

It took roughly 20,000 PEOPLE to build the pyramids. These were once thought to have been slaves, but people now think that skilled craftsmen and paid laborers were used.

ARTWORK has been found inside the tombs, which has helped us to understand how the Egyptians lived.

The unusual positioning of the pyramids has confused people for a long time. One theory is that they are placed directly beneath three of the stars in ORION'S BELT.

The sphinx is thought to have been built between 2558–2532 BC.



The Sahara is the **WORLD'S HOTTEST DESERT** and is 3.6 million square miles in size.



Many cave paintings show that the **DRAA VALLEY** was lush and fertile thousands of years ago, with many farming communities living there.



Camels are hardy animals and can survive up to six months without food and more than a **WEEK WITHOUT WATER.**



In the mountains, you may come across a **BERBER VILLAGE**. Berbers are an ancient people who have lived in this region for more than 4,000 years.

Camel caravans have crossed these sands since the twelfth century, when **SALT** was discovered in the desert and transported out to be traded.

Less than **FOUR INCHES OF RAIN** falls in the Sahara desert each year, making it difficult for animals and plants to survive.

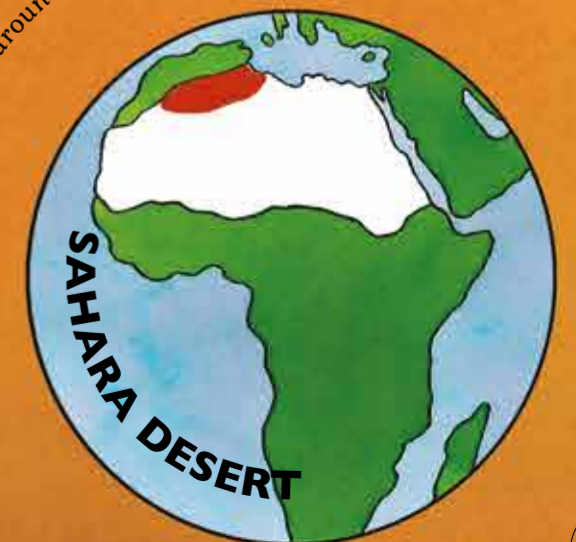
CAMELS are well-prepared for the harsh conditions of the desert. They can shut their nostrils and have a third eyelid to keep out sand.

Camels store fat in their **HUMPS**, which they convert into energy when food and water is in short supply.

Although it is known for its hot, arid conditions, at night the temperature in the desert can plunge **BELOW FREEZING.**

Mankind has relied on camels for more than **3,000 YEARS** for transportation, meat, fur, leather, and milk.

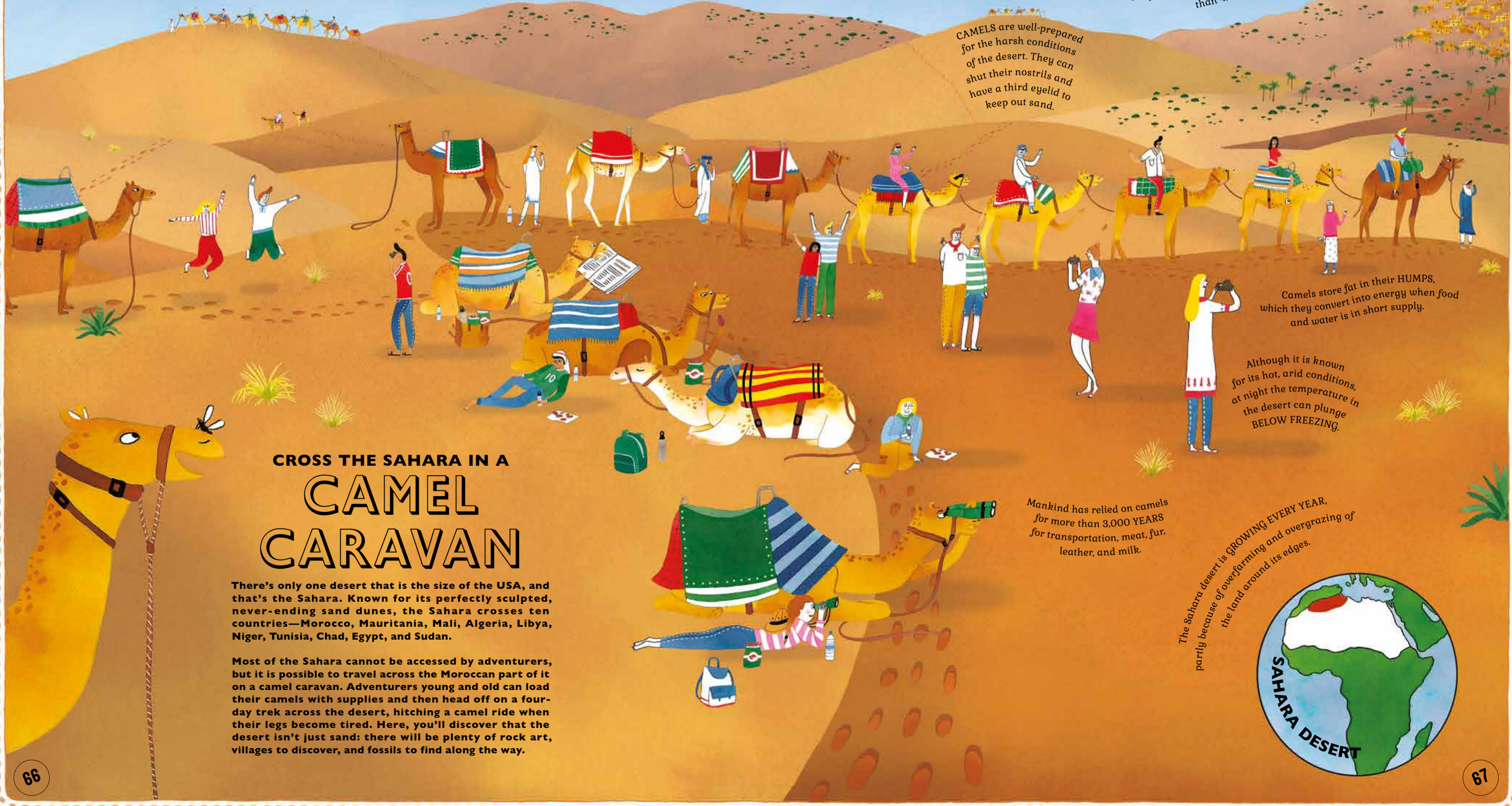
The Sahara desert is **GROWING EVERY YEAR**, partly because of overfarming and overgrazing of the land around its edges.



CROSS THE SAHARA IN A CAMEL CARAVAN

There's only one desert that is the size of the USA, and that's the Sahara. Known for its perfectly sculpted, never-ending sand dunes, the Sahara crosses ten countries—Morocco, Mauritania, Mali, Algeria, Libya, Niger, Tunisia, Chad, Egypt, and Sudan.

Most of the Sahara cannot be accessed by adventurers, but it is possible to travel across the Moroccan part of it on a camel caravan. Adventurers young and old can load their camels with supplies and then head off on a four-day trek across the desert, hitching a camel ride when their legs become tired. Here, you'll discover that the desert isn't just sand: there will be plenty of rock art, villages to discover, and fossils to find along the way.



While the cities of Senegal are modern and filled with high-rise buildings, out in the countryside, traditional MUD HUT VILLAGES can still be found.

Soccer was introduced to Africa around 100 years ago by colonialists but was first invented over 3,000 years ago in ANCIENT CHINA.



The national Senegalese soccer team have been nicknamed the LIONS OF TERANGA.

SENEGALIAN KRAFTANS—pullover robes made of light fabric—are a stylish way to stay cool.

SCORE A GOAL IN SENEGAL

Soccer may be the sport of choice for many nations, but there are few places where the people love it more than in Senegal. The national team of Senegal made its name when it defeated the reigning champions France in the first game of the World Cup in 2002, and since then, you are likely to find games being played on every street corner that has a free patch of grass.

The atmosphere at national games often reaches fever pitch, and games in more informal settings can be just as lively! The cries of the spectators are often drowned out by the sound of horns, beating of drums, and blares of the vuvuzela. Young adventurers should be prepared for some slinky footwork and expect a lot of celebration if they score the first goal!

SOCCKER is the most played—and most watched—game in the world.

Soccer is a great way of keeping fit—players can run up to SEVEN MILES in a game!

Senegal is well known for its percussive music; often multiple DRUMMERS will play together to create complex rhythms.

Although the VUVUZELA is linked with soccer spectators in Africa, the plastic horn originally comes from Mexico.

GO ON A CANOE SAFARI DOWN THE ZAMBEZI RIVER

If paddling down an open stretch of Africa's Zambezi River in a canoe doesn't sound like enough of an adventure—just look at the scenery! On the banks of the lower Zambezi, you will see elephants, giraffes, lions, and buffalo and many species of bird in their natural habitat, roaming freely as you float by.

The river flows through six countries—Angola, Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, and Zambia—and is home to hundreds of species of birds and animals, which depend on the river for water and food. Listen to stories and facts about the river as your guide steers you away from oncoming traffic... such as a hippopotamus! Adventurers of all ages agree that this is one of the best ways to see Africa's wildlife in all its untamed glory.

HERONS are excellent fliers. Many are migratory, spending their summer in Europe and their winter in Africa.

If you're lucky, you might spot a LION in a tree, spending the day dozing, out of danger.

Lions are NOCTURNAL and head out in groups to hunt under the cover of darkness.

PELICANS are easily identified by their large stretchy bills. They are unusual because they incubate their eggs with their feet.

GIRAFFES are the tallest mammals on Earth. Look at their spots if you're wondering about their age: the darker the spots, the older they are.

ELEPHANTS are the world's largest land mammal. They use their large ears to radiate heat and keep cool on hot days.

ZEBRAS have distinctive stripes, which help to confuse the eyes of any predators.

The BUFFALO is an herbivore and spends its days grazing. Its large horns help protect it from predators.

If you see a HIPPOPOTAMUS, keep your distance! More people are killed by hippopotamuses every year in Africa than by any other animal.

HIPPOTAMUSES keep cool in the African heat by wallowing in the water all day. They secrete a red substance from their skin which protects them from sunburn.



AUSTRALASIA & OCEANIA

The world's smallest continent, Australia and Oceania, consists of around 25,000 islands, with climates that range from desert to tropical. With many uninhabited regions, expect an adventure wilder than anywhere else!

Pacific Ocean

Indonesia

Indian Ocean



Join the MASK FESTIVAL (Papua New Guinea)



Papua New Guinea

Federated States of Micronesia

Take a SUBMARINE tour of Saipan's lagoon (Northern Mariana Islands)



Solomon Islands

See the TOMOKO WAR CANOES sail (Solomon Islands)



Go on a SURFING SAFARI (Hawaii)



Hawaiian Islands

Catch a RED SNAPPER (Marshall Islands)



Marshall Islands



Discover 99 ways to use a COCONUT in (Tuvalu)

Tuvalu

Solomon Islands

Vanuatu

New Caledonia



Speed down a WATERFALL SLIDE (Vanuatu)



Watch a FIRE DANCE (Fiji)

Fiji

Samoa



Explore some exotic WATER GARDENS (Vaipahi)

French Polynesia

Visit the CHIEF'S WHISTLE—the Mapu'a a Vaea blowholes (Tonga)



Tonga

Kermadec Islands

Hit a HOLE IN ONE (Norfolk Island)



Norfolk Island

Walk the white sands of the WHITSUNDAYS (Australia)



Sail into SYDNEY HARBOUR (Australia)



Have a BARBIE ON THE BEACH on St. Kilda Beach in Melbourne (Australia)



Tasmania

Flinders Island



Wave at a WOMBAT in Adelaide (Australia)



Watch a PLATYPUS play (Tasmania)

Tasman Sea

See a KIWI in Whangarei (New Zealand)



New Zealand

Do the HAKA during Waitangi (New Zealand)



GO SNORKELING IN THE GREAT BARRIER REEF

Diving the Great Barrier Reef might be the most colorful snorkeling experience in the world. Stretching over 1,250 miles along the eastern coast of Australia, this kaleidoscopic underwater world is one of the richest ecosystems on Earth.

Pull on your flippers and fasten your goggles before you lower yourself into crystal clear water and swim your way over a floor of fish and coral treasures. How many different types of fish can you spot here?

The Great Barrier Reef is made up of at least 900 SEPARATE ISLANDS and 2,900 INDIVIDUAL REEFS.

There are many other ways to see the reef: scuba diving, riding a SEMI-SUBMERSIBLE, or seeing it from above in a low-flying plane are popular alternatives.

The Great Barrier Reef is so big that it can be seen from OUTER SPACE.

GREEN ISLAND is a 6,000-year-old coral cay located in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

PORPOISES are similar to dolphins but smaller and rounder in shape.

POTATO COD can grow up to seven feet in length.

PINK ANEMONEFISH, also known as pink skunk clownfish, are able to change sex!

MASKED BUTTERFLYFISH can dart about the coral and hover on the spot thanks to their dorsal fins.

MAORI WRASSE are one of the largest coral reef fish.

CLOWN ANEMONEFISH live in anemones and are immune to their sting.

CORAL TROUT

HAWKSBILL TURTLES are named for their beak-like snouts.

SCUBA DIVERS

The GREEN TURTLE is the only herbivore of all the turtle species.

Once the GIANT CLAM fastens itself to a spot on the reef, it stays there for life.

A DUGONG, or "sea cow," has a flat tail and flippers like a whale but is more closely related to the elephant.



AUSTRALIA



This sculpture is a replica of a traditional Maori canoe, or WAKA, which was used for fishing and river travel, as well as warfare.

The Maori flag, the TINO RANGATIRATANGA FLAG, is raised alongside the New Zealand flag on Waitangi Day as a symbol of unity.

A HONGI is a traditional Maori greeting in New Zealand. It is done by pressing your nose and forehead to another person, who returns the gesture.

WAITANGI DAY commemorates the signing of a pact in 1840 between the British Empire and the Maori, which secured their rights as a people.

Traditional costumes of beaded waistbands called TATUA, straw skirts called PIUPIU, and feathered head ornaments are worn on Waitangi Day.

A HANGI is an "earth oven." Baskets of meat and vegetables are cooked in a pit on hot stones for several hours before they are devoured.

MAORI are the indigenous people of New Zealand. They migrated here over 1,000 years ago.

Traditional Maori arts are still practiced today in New Zealand, such as weaving, live dance and performances, and MOKO—tattooing.

WAR HAKAS were performed before a battle. It was thought to be bad luck if the performers weren't perfectly in time with each other.

Traditional Maori clothing uses the fibers of native FLAX plants, which are woven into geometric patterns.

Food, known as KAI in Maori, is served in flax baskets called KONO. People eat sea eggs and REWENA, traditional Maori bread made with potatoes.

DO THE HAKA DURING WAITANGI IN NEW ZEALAND

"Ringa pakia! Uma Tiraha! Turi whatia!" These are the sounds of the traditional Maori dance, the haka, that you might hear on the beach at New Zealand's national holiday, Waitangi. Most people think the haka is a war dance—because the performers look so strong and fierce when doing it—but it is actually a dance that was simply made to show the fitness and power of each Maori tribe's warriors.

Today, many people recognize it from the pregame performance of the All Blacks at rugby matches, as players wag their tongues and slap their chests to their native dance. Young adventurers might be lucky enough to learn one of the many hakas during the Waitangi holiday, when traditional Maori food, music, and customs celebrate New Zealand's rich indigenous culture.

GO ON A SURFING SAFARI IN HAWAII, USA

Many countries are famous for having great surf beaches in the world, but the beaches of Maui are some of the best places to learn how to surf. Young adventurers will enjoy getting up, wobbling, falling off, diving under waves, and then trying it all again.

There are water sports for everyone in this area of the world: bodyboarding, windsurfing, and snorkeling, and plenty of golden sand to relax on afterward. Some might be lucky enough to glimpse the sea turtles that come up to feed on the seaweed before dusk. Others might be looking out to sea at exactly the right time, when whales are known to traverse the area—can you see them on the horizon in this picture?

MAUI is one of the eight large, populated islands that make up the state of Hawaii. Hawaii became the fiftieth US State in 1959.

Hawaii is the MOST ISOLATED place on Earth—it's 2,390 miles from its neighbor, California!

UNDERSEA VOLCANOES that erupted thousands of years ago formed the islands of Hawaii.



GREEN TURTLES feed mostly on algae that grows on coral reefs and rocks close to shore.

There are two versions of surfing: SHORT BOARDING and LONG BOARDING.

The warm waters of Maui are favored by HUMPBACK WHALES, who breed, calve, and nurse their young here.

SURFING originated in Hawaii and is an important part of the state's culture.

WINDSURFING combines the art of surfing with sailing.

All sorts of tropical fish, shrimps, crabs, and urchins live within the SHALLOWS of the Maui peninsula.

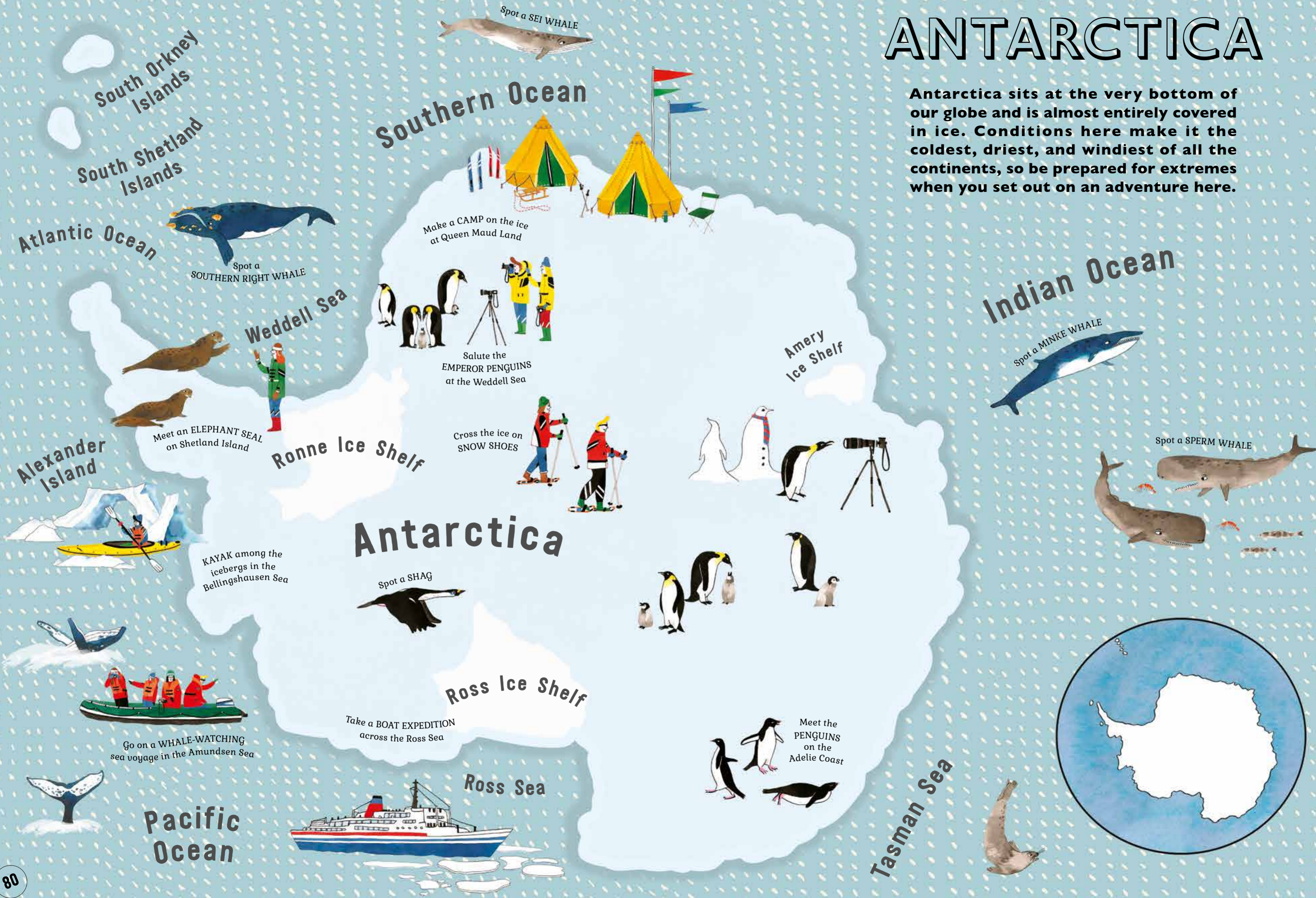
The GREEN TURTLE is the most common turtle on the island of Maui.

More than one-third of the world's commercial supply of PINEAPPLES comes from Hawaii.



ANTARCTICA

Antarctica sits at the very bottom of our globe and is almost entirely covered in ice. Conditions here make it the coldest, driest, and windiest of all the continents, so be prepared for extremes when you set out on an adventure here.



Spot a SEI WHALE

Make a CAMP on the ice at Queen Maud Land

Salute the EMPEROR PENGUINS at the Weddell Sea

Cross the ice on SNOW SHOES

Spot a SOUTHERN RIGHT WHALE

Spot a MINKE WHALE

Spot a SPERM WHALE

Meet an ELEPHANT SEAL on Shetland Island

KAYAK among the icebergs in the Bellingshausen Sea

Spot a SHAG

Take a BOAT EXPEDITION across the Ross Sea

Meet the PENGUINS on the Adelie Coast

Go on a WHALE-WATCHING sea voyage in the Amundsen Sea

VISIT THE PENGUINS IN THE ANTARCTIC

The Antarctic is a place of extremes, with the coldest and driest conditions on Earth. Mostly untouched by humans, it is an ultimate destination for any adventurer, and one of the only ways to get there is through the waters of the Antarctic Sound via boat and into the Weddell Sea.

Float by giant icebergs and travel through icicle tunnels as you make your way to Snow Hill Island and the best-loved creature of the region: the emperor penguin. These waddling wonders are the largest of all seventeen species of penguin, and the only species that inhabits the open ice of Antarctica during the winter. Adventurers are advised to visit during the summer, however, when the temperatures are less harsh and the whole array of Antarctic creatures come out to play!

The WEDDELL SEA is home to hundreds of fish and marine mammals. Scientists say its waters are cleaner than any other sea on earth.

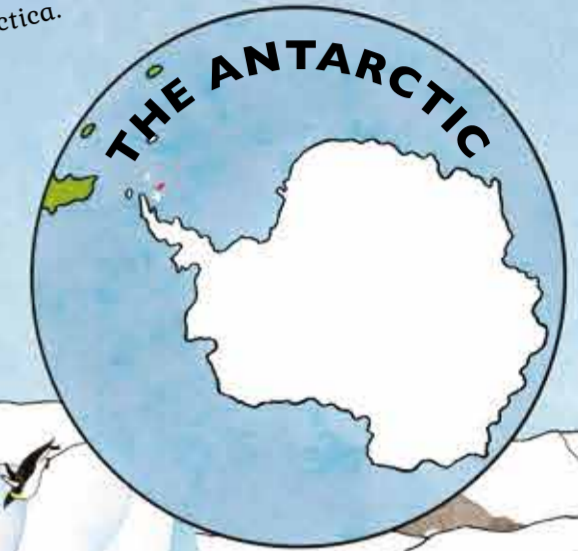
The ALBATROSS has the widest wingspan of any bird, and puts it to good use, traveling up to 600 miles a day.

ICEBERGS are created when a large chunk of ice breaks away from a glacier or ice sheet.

Ninety percent of all the world's ICE and seventy percent of the world's FRESH WATER is in Antarctica.

The ANTARCTIC PETREL dives from the air into the icy waters to catch squid, krill, and fish.

You can tell the age of ICE by its color. Old ice looks blue, because it has had any air bubbles squeezed out and is incredibly dense. Young ice, filled with bubbles, appears white.



Male penguins incubate their mate's EGG while the female goes out to feed.

To keep WARM, penguins' bodies are insulated with a thick layer of blubber and covered in waterproof feathers.

The emperor penguin's tuxedo-like coat is a form of CAMOUFLAGE that helps keep them safe in water.

EMPEROR PENGUINS huddle around their chicks to protect them from the icy winds of the Antarctic.

FEMALE EMPEROR PENGUINS hunt for meals of fish, squid, and krill.

HUMPBACK WHALES' flippers are a third of their total body length and are used for communication and feeding.



CAN YOU FIND?



Dall sheep,
Alaska, USA



Great Pyramid
of Khufu, Egypt



Dragon dance,
Hong Kong, China



Bhangra dancers,
India



Snowman eating
gateaux, Germany



Cheeky camel,
Morocco



Gondolier setting off,
Italy



Giant clams,
Australia



Ski jump,
Germany



Black widow spider,
The Grand Canyon, USA



Bathing an elephant,
Thailand



Women wearing
hanboks, South Korea



Boy doing the haka,
New Zealand



Giraffes,
Zambia



Curious penguin,
The Antarctic



Haggis hurling,
Scotland



Hungry squirrel
Russia



Coyote,
The Grand Canyon, USA



Trinket sellers,
Egypt



Waitangi boat
sculpture, New Zealand



Starfish,
Australia



Umbrella sailor,
Israel



Goat goalie,
Senegal



Buckingham Palace,
England



Butterflies eating
milkweed, Mexico



Lynx chasing
hare, Alaska, USA



Throwing dried
paint, India



Herd of reindeer,
Finland



Funny hot air
balloons, Canada



Buffalo and
egrets, Zambia



Collared lizards,
The Grand Canyon, USA



Windsurfers,
Hawaii, USA



Dancing horse,
Spain



Snow monkeys
grooming, Japan



Christ the
Redeemer, Brazil



School of damsel
fish, Australia



Scottie dog,
Scotland



Hanging New Year
lanterns, China



Snowy owl,
Finland



Drummers,
Brazil



Jazzy egret,
The Mississippi



Armadillos,
Argentina



Jugglers,
Brazil



Skiing squirrel,
Finland



Porpoise,
Australia



Juggling cowboy,
Argentina



Acrobat penguins,
The Antarctic



Hungry camel,
Morocco



Sea turtles,
Hawaii, USA



Croque monsieur,
France



Bodyboarder,
Hawaii, USA



Cheerleaders,
Senegal



Thieving spider
monkey, Brazil



Raccoon,
New York, USA



Sneaky rattlesnake,
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Jazz band,
The Mississippi, USA



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South Korea



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For adventurers who want to go even farther...

The Not for Parents Travel Book (Lonely Planet, 2011)

Inspired by Lonely Planet's best-selling The Travel Book, this guide features cool facts from around the world including which country banned chewing gum and where the stinkiest fruit comes from.

100 Family Adventures (Frances Lincoln, 2014)

Created by one of the world's most adventurous families, the Meeks, this book features ideas for all sorts of outdoor family activities including making a rope swing, camping on an island and going on a charity bike ride.

National Geographic for Kids

A monthly magazine packed with hundreds of things to learn about the history, culture and people found in countries all around the world.

How to be an Explorer of the World by Keri Smith (Perigee Books, 2008)

A guide to help you explore the art and science of everyday life, ideal for documenting both close-to-home and far-flung adventures.



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