



TOPICAL TIDBITS

May/June 2012

Volume 1 Issue 3

One World, Many Stamps

Explore the world through stamps. Travel from continent to continent to learn about things that make the continents different from each other. Read about the Native Americans of North America. Discover the rainforests of South America. Be challenged by the Roman numeral system introduced on the European continent. Enjoy the tales of The Arabian Nights stories when you get to Asia. Take an animal safari in Africa. Learn the interesting story about a famous Australian bush song that has become that nation's "unofficial national anthem." Then brave the cold harsh environment of Antarctica with early explorers.

The issue includes activities to test your knowledge of the countries of the world as well as album pages for you to begin your own collection of worldwide stamps. Begin your journey of the world through stamps.



IT'S A SMALL WORLD

It's a world of laughter
A world of tears.
It's a world of hopes
And a world of fears.
There's so much that we share
That it's time we're aware
It's a small world after all.

There is just one moon
And one golden sun
And a smile means
Friendship to everyone.
Though the mountains divide
And the oceans are wide
It's a small world after all.

It's a small world after all
It's a small world after all
It's a small world after all
It's a small, small world.

It's a small world after all
It's a small world after all
It's a small world after all
It's a small, small world.

Written by Richard M. Sherman and Robert B. Sherman



HOW TO SAY "HELLO" IN DIFFERENT LANGUAGES



Japan:

こんにちは
"Kon'nichiwa"



México:
¡Hola!



Russia:
привет
"Privet"



India:

नमस्ते
"Namastē"

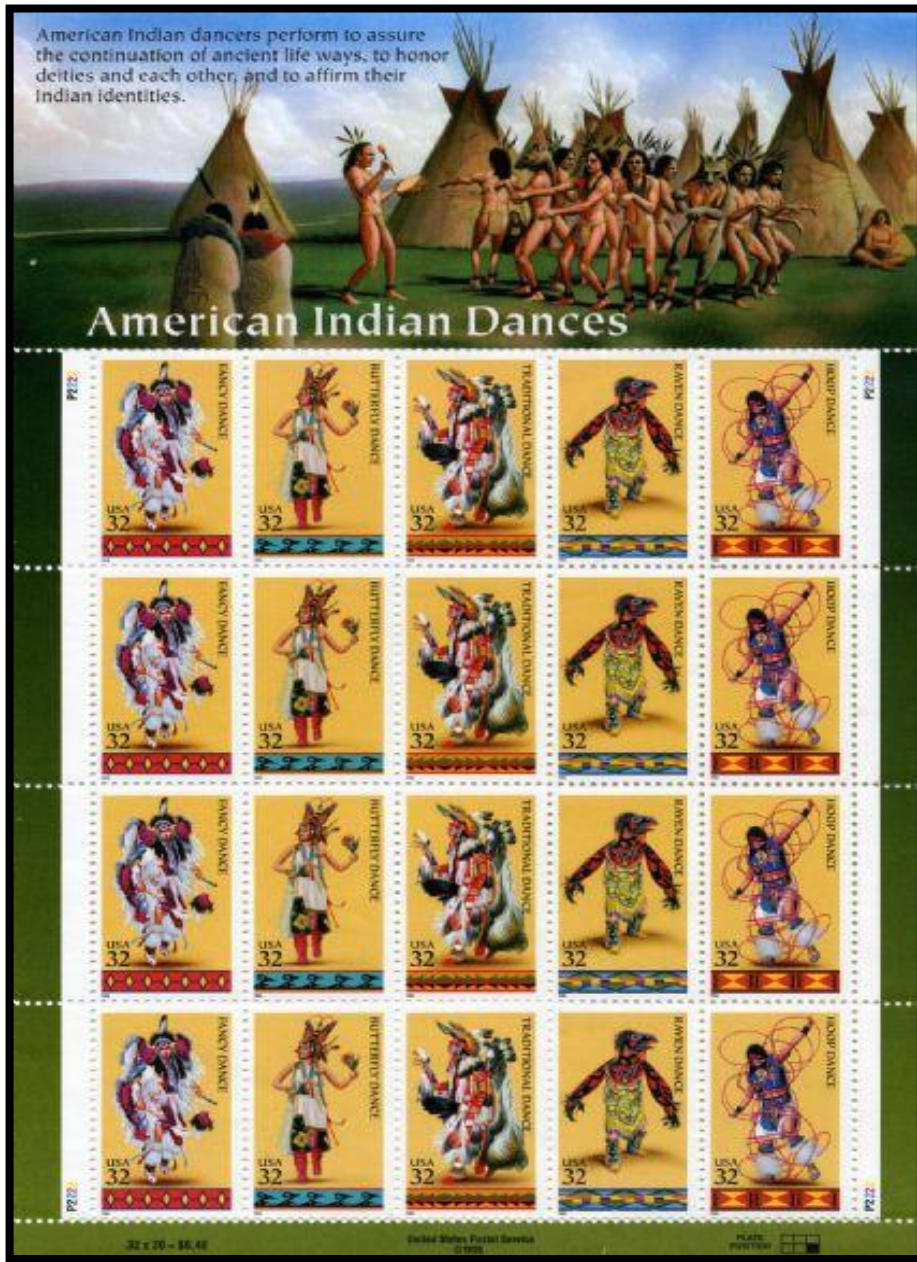


Arabic:
مرحبا
"Ahlan"



France:
Bonjour!

EXPLORE NORTH AMERICA



NORTH AMERICA

Countries: Canada, the United States, Mexico, and the countries of Central America and the West Indies

Products: cars, machinery, petroleum, natural gas, silver, wheat, corn, beef, and forest products

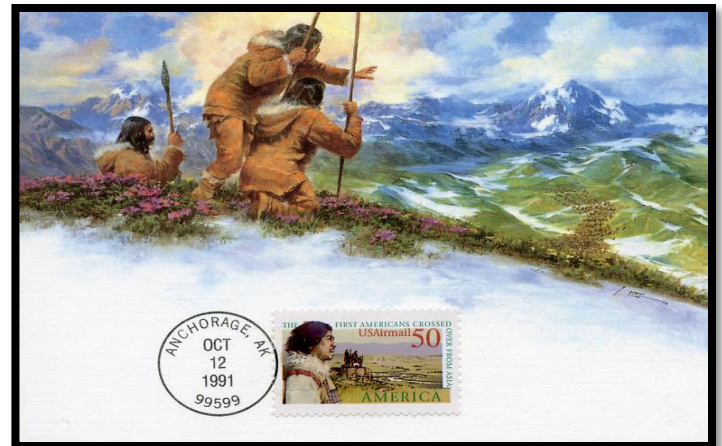


AMERICAN INDIANS

Long ago there were no people in the Americas. It is thought that the first humans probably crossed into North America from Asia by way of the Bering Land Bridge. These first Americans came in waves of small groups over thousands of years of time. They followed herds of animals which they depended upon for their food. By 20,000 BC, these bands of hunters had spread throughout North America.

These first Native Americans most likely lived in stone caves, used fire for cooking, hunted animals, gathered seeds and berries for eating, and clothed themselves in animal hides and fur. Their tools were made of stone and bone.

Today, when anthropologists talk about the tribes that occupied North America, they divide the continent into ten cultural areas based on the local environment (as shown on the map). Tribes in each of these groups shared a similar way of life, spoke a similar language and lived near each other. A short introduction to six of those areas will serve to point out the differences in the lifestyles of these groups.

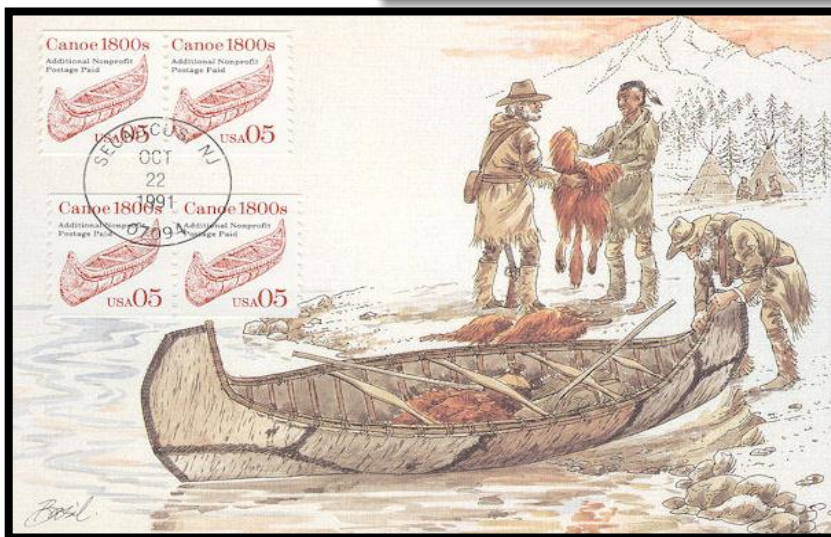
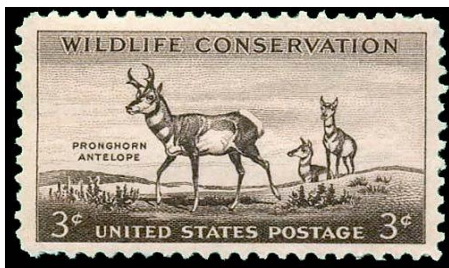


NORTHEAST WOODLAND INDIANS

The Northeast Woodland Indians hunted, fished, and grew a few crops such as corn and squash. Their homes were called wigwams and were built of poles that formed a dome shape. The women covered these poles with bark or mats, leaving a hole to let out smoke. The Indians made beads, called wampum, from clam shells which they sewed onto belts and their deerskin clothing. Wampum was sometimes used as money.

The Iroquois nation was made up of five tribes of the Eastern Great Lakes. These Woodland Indians lived in long houses made of poles and covered with bark. Many families lived in one house. The Iroquois grew corn and hunted game for its food and used the hides for clothing.

The Algonquian tribes lived along the lakes of the western Great Lakes. The lands here were not as good for farming so these tribes traveled from place to place hunting and fishing. In late summer they would gather wild rice that grew along the rivers and streams from their birch bark canoes.



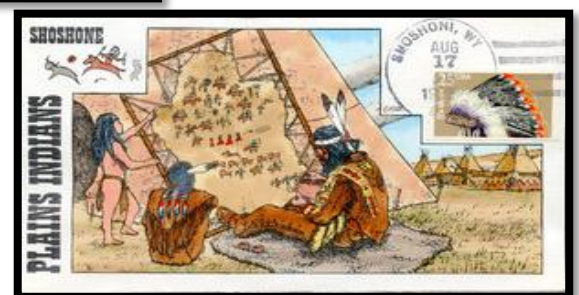
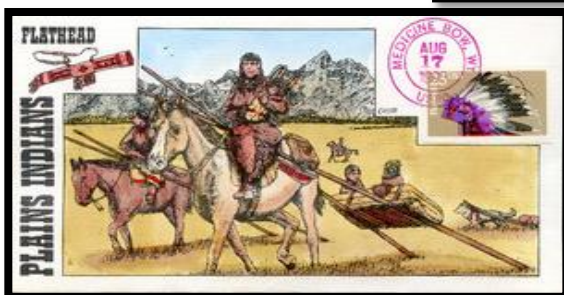
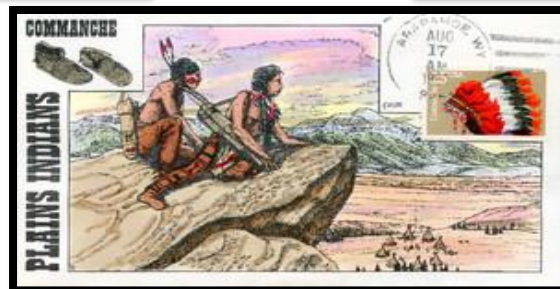
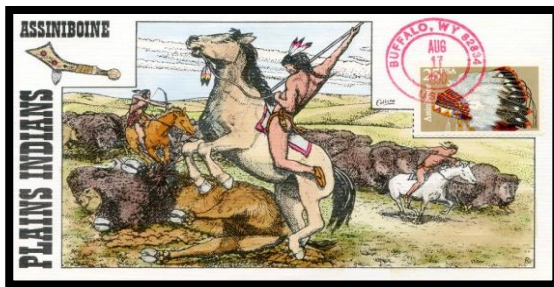
PLAINS INDIANS

The Plains Indians lived in an area roughly bounded by the Mississippi River and the Rocky Mountains. These Indians lived by hunting buffalo. The Indians of the northern plains built sleds which they used for work and play. The runners of these sleds were made from the ribs of buffalo. Dogs pulled the heavy sleds when they were loaded with buffalo. Dogs pulled the heavy sleds when they were loaded with buffalo.

One of the Plains Indian tribes were the Mandan. They were one of the first tribes to use horses. They lived in earth lodges that were made of log posts that were covered with thick layers of grass and dirt. The men of the tribe hunted buffalo and the women grew corn and beans.

Some Plains Indians such as the Sioux used the horse to follow herds of buffalo. They could even roll up their tepee homes and follow the herds wherever they went.

The buffalo was an important animal to the Plains Indians. Not only was it their main source of food but its hide was used to make clothing, moccasins, blankets, and tepees. The bones, horns, and hoofs were used for tools, weapons, cups, and rattles.

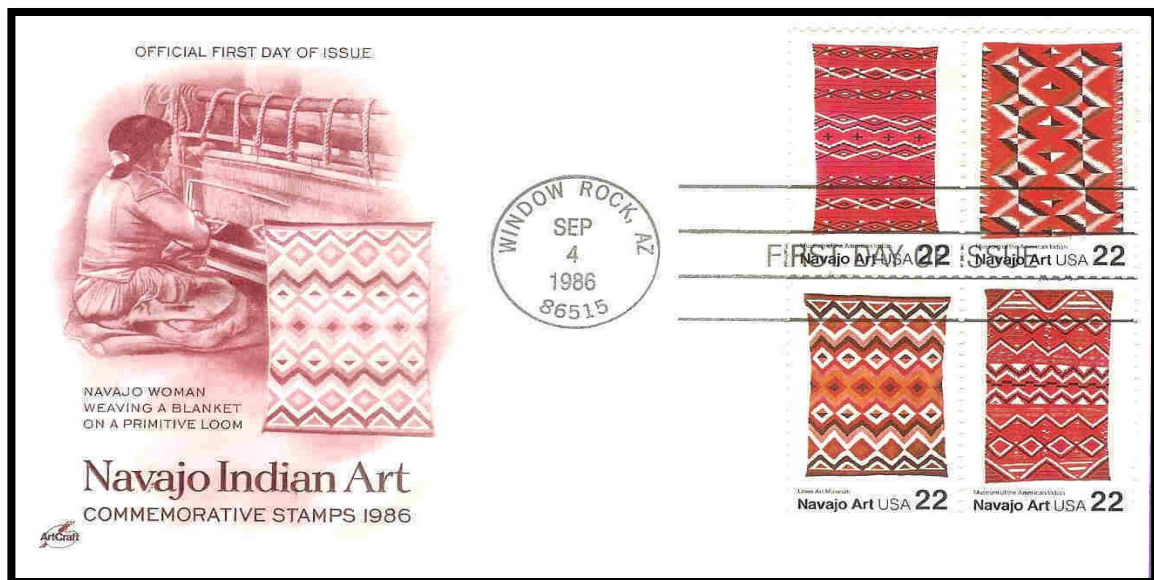


SOUTHWEST INDIANS

One of the Southwest Indian tribes was the Pueblo Indians. They lived in small homes built like apartment houses on the sides of cliffs. The homes had no doors or windows. You entered the home by climbing ladders to the roof and entered a hole there. The earliest Pueblos lived in adobe homes that were made of poles and stone plastered with a mixture of straw and clay.

Farming was not easy in the dry lands of the Southwest. Hopi Indians grew corn and cotton. The cotton was woven into cloth. The Hopi Indians made beautiful pottery and blankets.

The Navajo tribe settled in this area. They grew crops and raised sheep. From the wool of the sheep they made beautiful blankets. The Navajo house was called a hogan and it was made from poles covered with a thick layer of brush and earth packed firmly together.

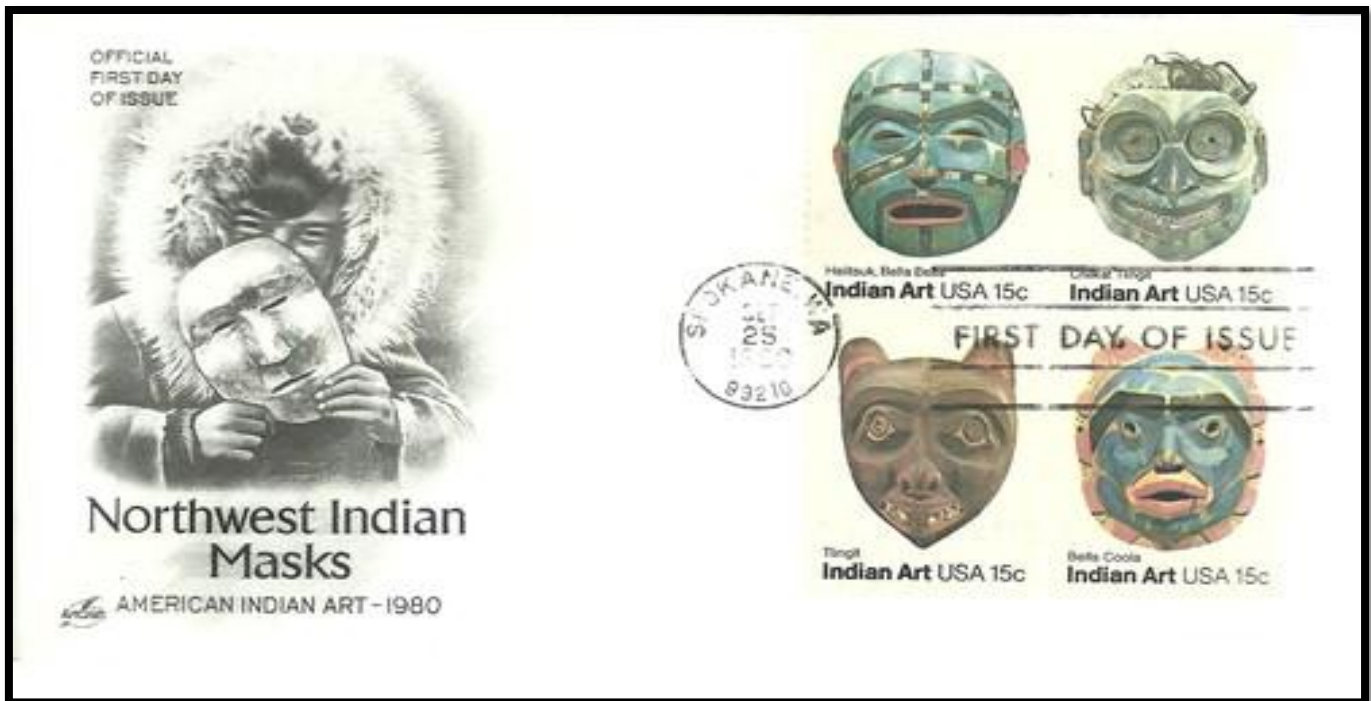


NORTHWEST COAST INDIANS

The Indians of the Northwest lived along the coast of the Pacific Ocean. Because of the great forests in this region, these Indians had an abundance of fish from the ocean as well as ample supplies of animals and wood from the forests. Their homes were large plank houses. From huge logs, they carved totem poles that retold the story of the history of their family.

The Nootka Indians built huge canoes from hollowed out logs. These boats were used for whaling. Inland, the many rivers and streams of the Northwest Coast were filled with salmon.

The Haida men fished, hunted, built houses, as well as carved and painted masks, canoes, and totem poles. The women gathered roots, berries, and seaweed for food, collected plant materials for weaving, and processed food items.



ARCTIC INDIANS

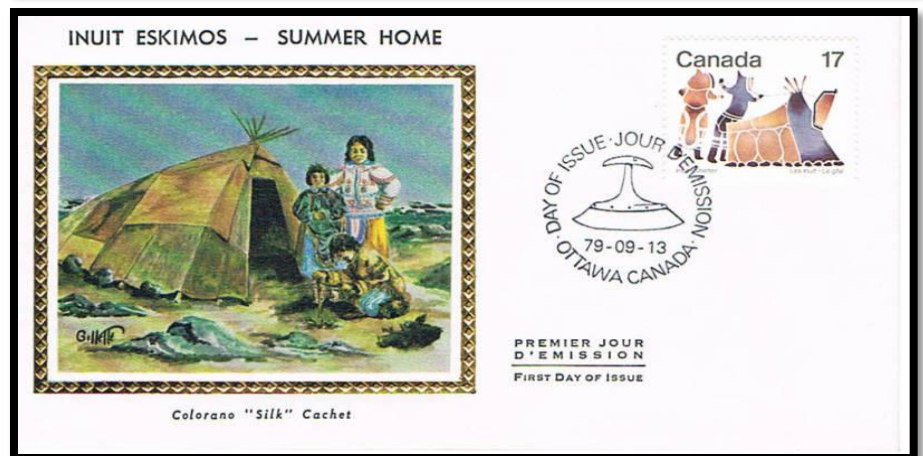
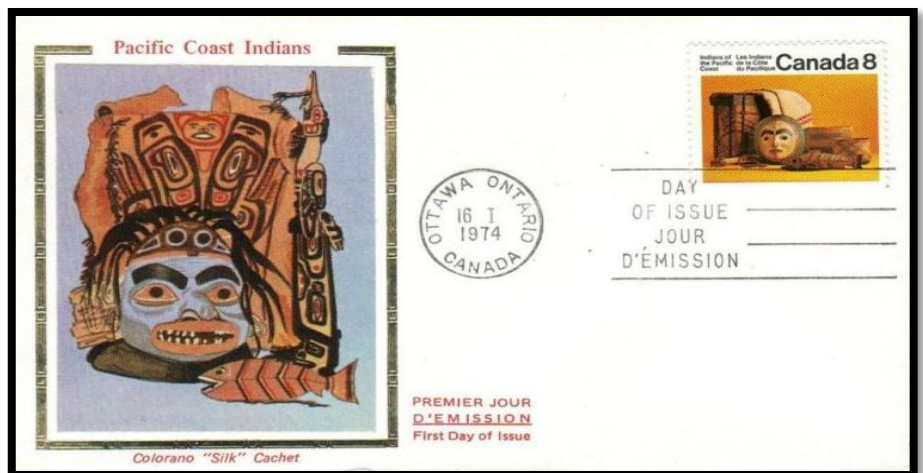
The Arctic is a vast area of cold, ice, and snow in the northern regions of our continent. Here the wintertime is long months of darkness. The summer is just the opposite with the sun shining 24 hours a day.

There are no trees in the region, only the vast areas of tundra. Very few people live here; but those who do, we call Eskimos. They called themselves the Inuit.

The Inuit lived in small self-sufficient groups. Everyone had to work in order to survive in their harsh environment. The food source depended upon where you lived in the Arctic. Hunting for whales, caribou, or birds, catching fish or seals, and picking berries were the main food sources. In the cold of the Arctic, dressing warmly was important and clothing was made from the skins of the animals that the men hunted.

The Inuit traveled by dog sleds across the frozen land. For water travel they used small boats called kayaks that were made from skin.

The Inuit had winter homes (igloos) made of snow. When the snow began to melt, the Inuit lived in tents made of animal skins. Inuit homes had very little room so everything in their homes had to have a purpose. They were wonderful carvers using bone, soapstone, ivory, and wood to carve everyday as well as decorative items.



AMERICAN INDIAN CHART

Use information from the previous pages to fill in the chart with pictures or words.

| Habitats: | Homes: | Dress: | Food: |
|---|---|---|---|
| <p>Northeast Woodland Indians</p> | | |  |
| <p>Plains Indians</p> | |  | |
| <p>Southwest Indians</p> | | | |
| <p>Northwest Coast Indians</p> | | | |
| <p>Arctic Indians</p> |  | | |

EXPLORE

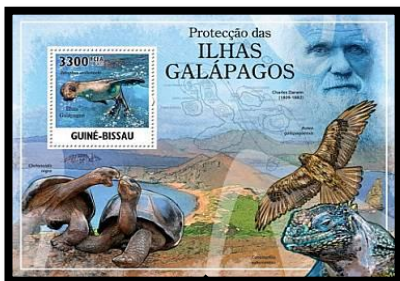
SOUTH AMERICA



SOUTH AMERICA

Countries: South America has 12 countries. French Guiana is not really a country because it belongs to France.

Products: Bananas, cattle, coffee, copper, emeralds, oranges, and sugar



The Galapagos Islands, off the coast of Ecuador



Angel Falls, Venezuela



Machu Picchu, Peru



Christ the Redeemer Statue, Brazil



The tango is a famous dance from Argentina and Uruguay.



The Amazon Rainforest is the largest and most species-rich tract of tropical rainforest in the world.

THE AMAZON RAINFOREST

The largest rainforest on Earth can be found in the Amazon River Basin in South America. It's roughly the size of the contiguous 48 United States and covers almost 40% of the continent.

The rainforest is divided into four layers. The **Forest Floor** is the ground layer. Almost no sunlight reaches the floor so it is very dark. The soil is extremely poor and very few plants are found growing in this area. Moss, ferns and some low growth plants can be



found. The **Understory Layer** is very dark and full of vines, shrubs, and broadleaf trees. Trees average 12 - 15 feet in height and have very large leaves to make up for the lack of sunlight. The **Canopy Layer** is next and consists of thick layers of limbs and vines. Many "air plants," like bromeliads and orchids, grow in this layer. Their roots don't reach the ground or live in soil. Instead they attach themselves to a host and absorb moisture and nutrients through their root system. The **Emergent Layer** has evergreen and other trees that reach a height of 180-200 feet.

Emergent

Canopy

Understory

Forest Floor

BROMELIADS

Some bromeliads are found in the canopy layer of the rainforest. Other Bromeliads, like pineapple, grow on the ground. It is the only Bromeliad that produces a fruit that can be eaten. Pineapples were first introduced to Spain by Christopher Columbus, who chose the name "piña" (the Spanish word for pine cone) because of the resemblance to the pine cone. While Columbus found the fruit in the Caribbean, the fruit traces its origins back to southern Brazil and Paraguay.



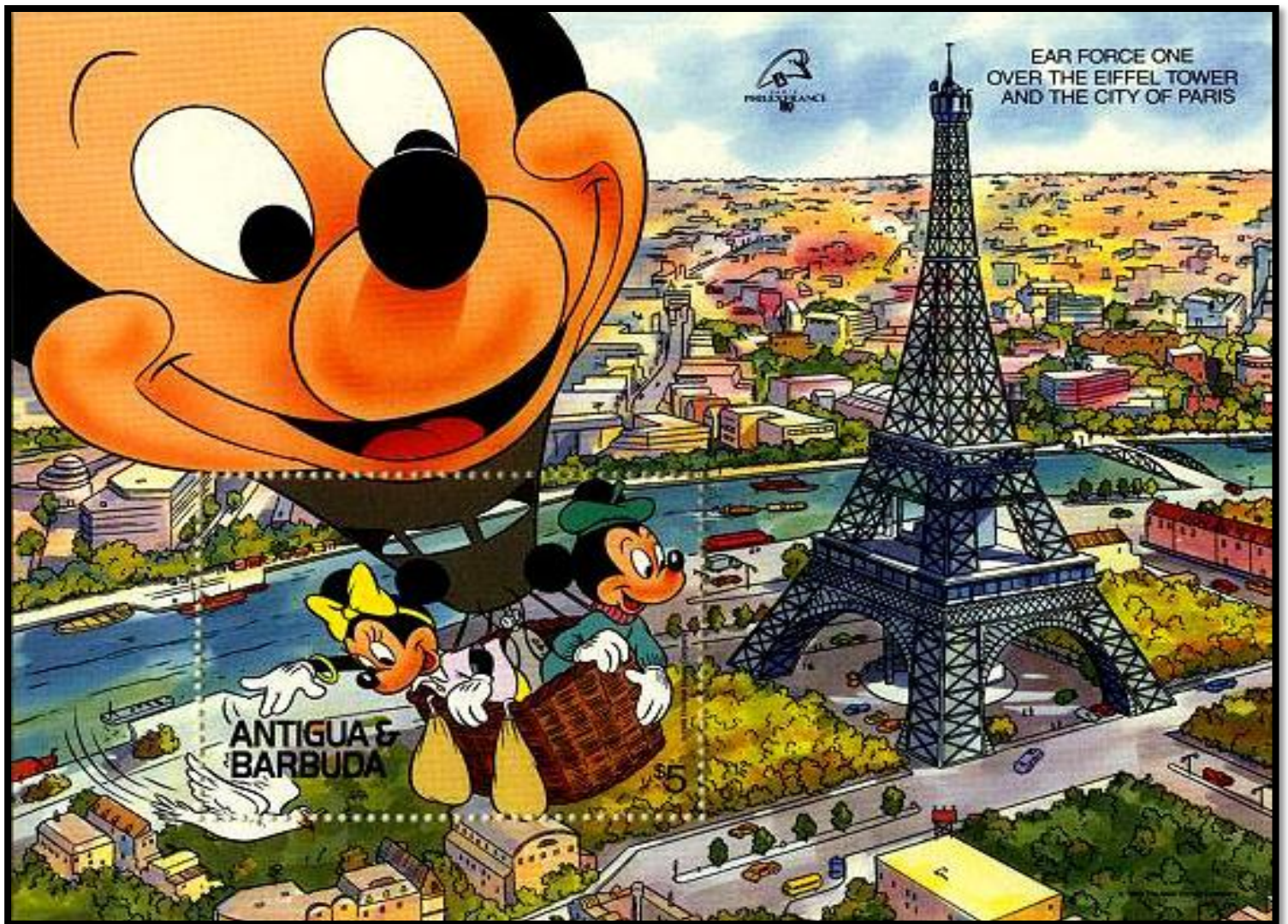
According to the Dole Fruit website, you can grow a pineapple, if you have lots of time and patience. First, twist the leafy crown from the fruit. Place it in a dry, dark place for a full week to allow the end to harden. Layer an 8-inch clay pot with an inch of coarse gravel, then fill with a good, light garden soil. Be sure the pot has good drainage. Later, when the fruit grows, you'll want to transplant to a 12-inch pot - again, with gravel and good drainage. Water the soil once a week and fertilize with a household plant food fertilizer about every 3 months. If you live in a year-round warm climate, the potted plant should do well outdoors. But if your climate turns cold, keep the plant indoors during frost or freezing temperatures.

When the plant is about 18 months old it will sprout a bright red cone. If this hasn't happened by 20 months, "coax" the cone out by putting the entire pot in a plastic (garbage) bag. Place a ripe apple in the bag and tie it closed, move to a shady spot and leave for 3 days. Remove the bag and return the plant to its usual sunny location. The bright red cone should appear after about 2 months. The next stage brings row upon row of beautiful, bright blue flowers which open over 2 weeks. When the petals of the last flower have dried, the fruit begins to develop. When your fruit is 6 months old, it becomes sweeter, turning from green to rich gold on the inside and outside. Time to pluck and enjoy it!

(Information from www.Dole.com)



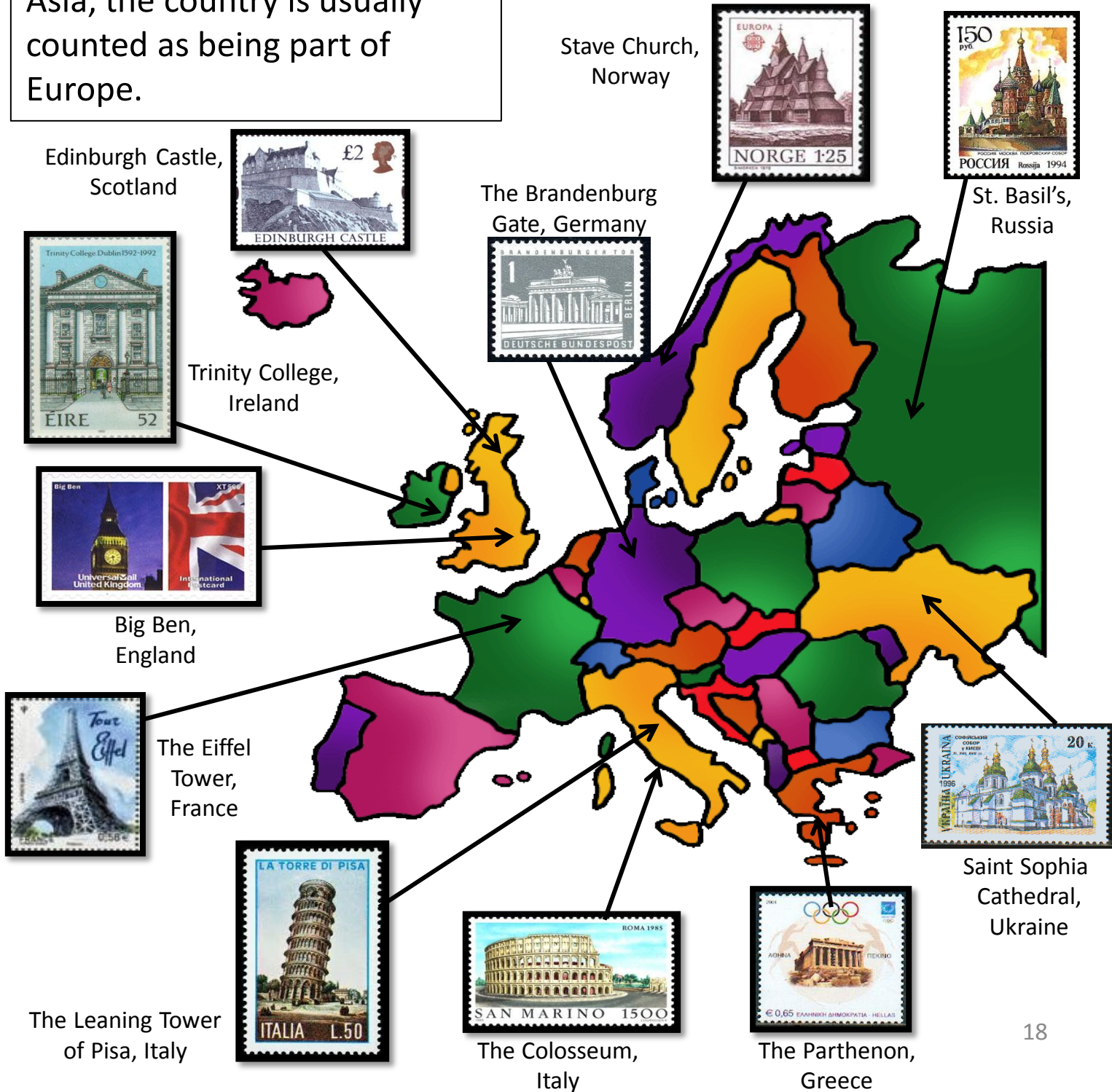
EXPLORE EUROPE



EUROPE

Countries: There are 46 countries in Europe. Even though most of Russia is in Asia, the country is usually counted as being part of Europe.

Products: Iron, coal, petroleum, cars, machinery, wheat, fruit, and olives



ROMAN NUMERALS

The number symbols we use every day, like 1, 2, and 3, come from Arabia and are called Arabic numerals. In ancient Rome, a different system was used. Today, these are called Roman numerals. You have probably seen these numbers on clocks. To the right is a chart that shows the numbers.

| Roman Numerals | |
|----------------|----------|
| 1 = I | 6 = VI |
| 2 = II | 7 = VII |
| 3 = III | 8 = VIII |
| 4 = IV | 9 = IX |
| 5 = V | 10 = X |



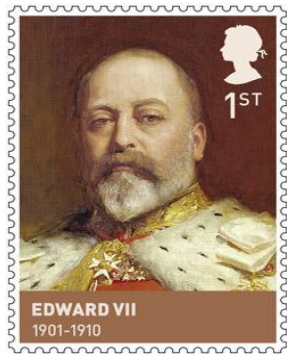
Rules For Writing Roman Numerals:

1. Putting a numeral of lesser value **BEFORE** a numeral of greater value **DECREASES** the second number by the amount of the first.
Example: IV = 4 because V (5) is decreased by I (1)
2. Putting a numeral of lesser value **AFTER** a numeral of greater value **INCREASES** the first numeral by the amount of the second.
Example: VI = 6 because V (5) is increased by I (1)



THE KINGS OF ENGLAND

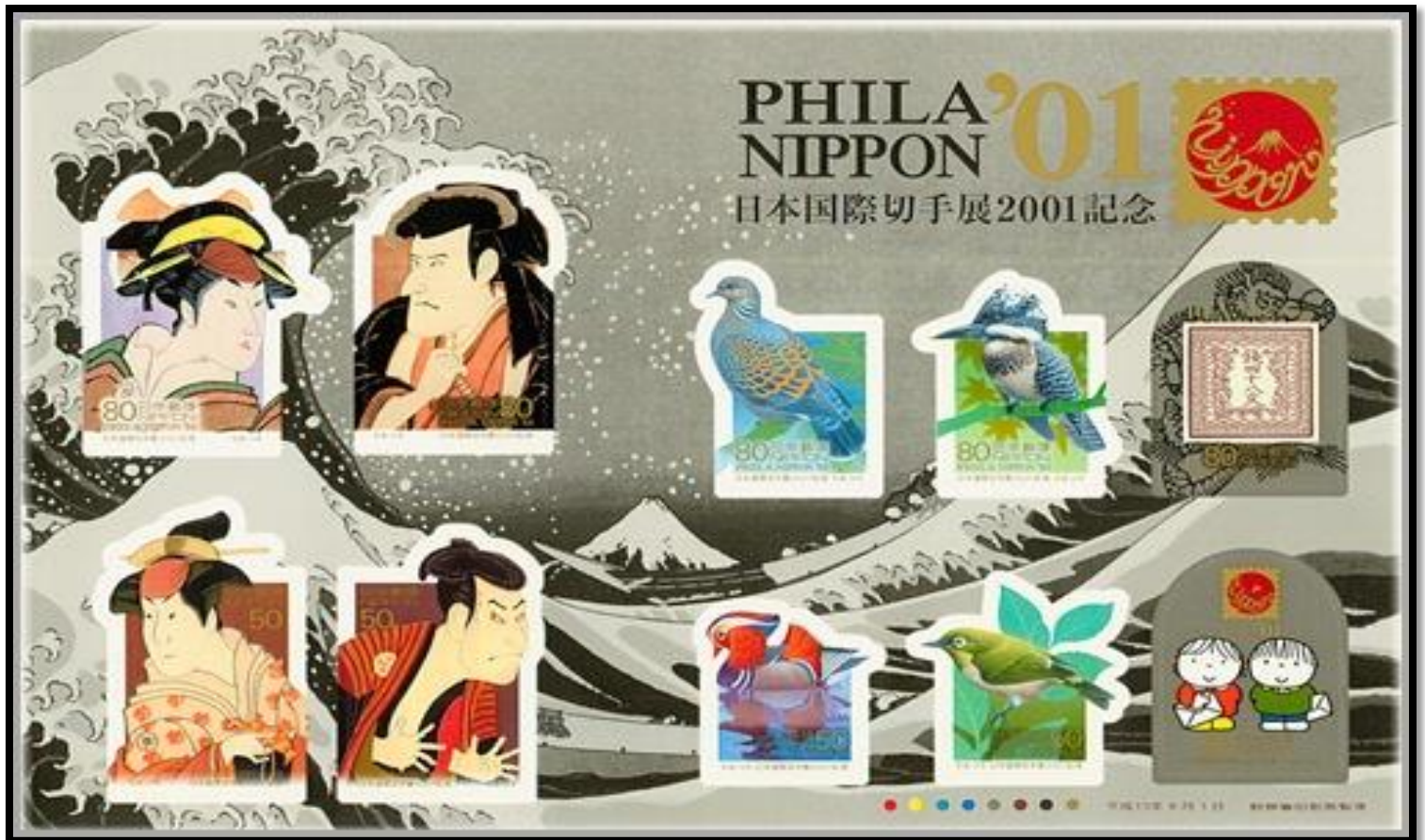
Using the information you learned on the previous page about Roman numerals, see if you can put these kings in order. *Hint: They don't all start with Roman numeral I.* The first one has been started for you.



1



EXPLORE ASIA



ASIA

Countries: There are 46 countries in Asia. China is the largest. Russia takes up the most area, but is counted as part of Europe.

Products: Rice, wheat, petroleum, cotton, rubber, tea, motor vehicles, and computers



Hagia Sophia,
Turkey



Mount Fuji,
Japan



The Great Wall,
China



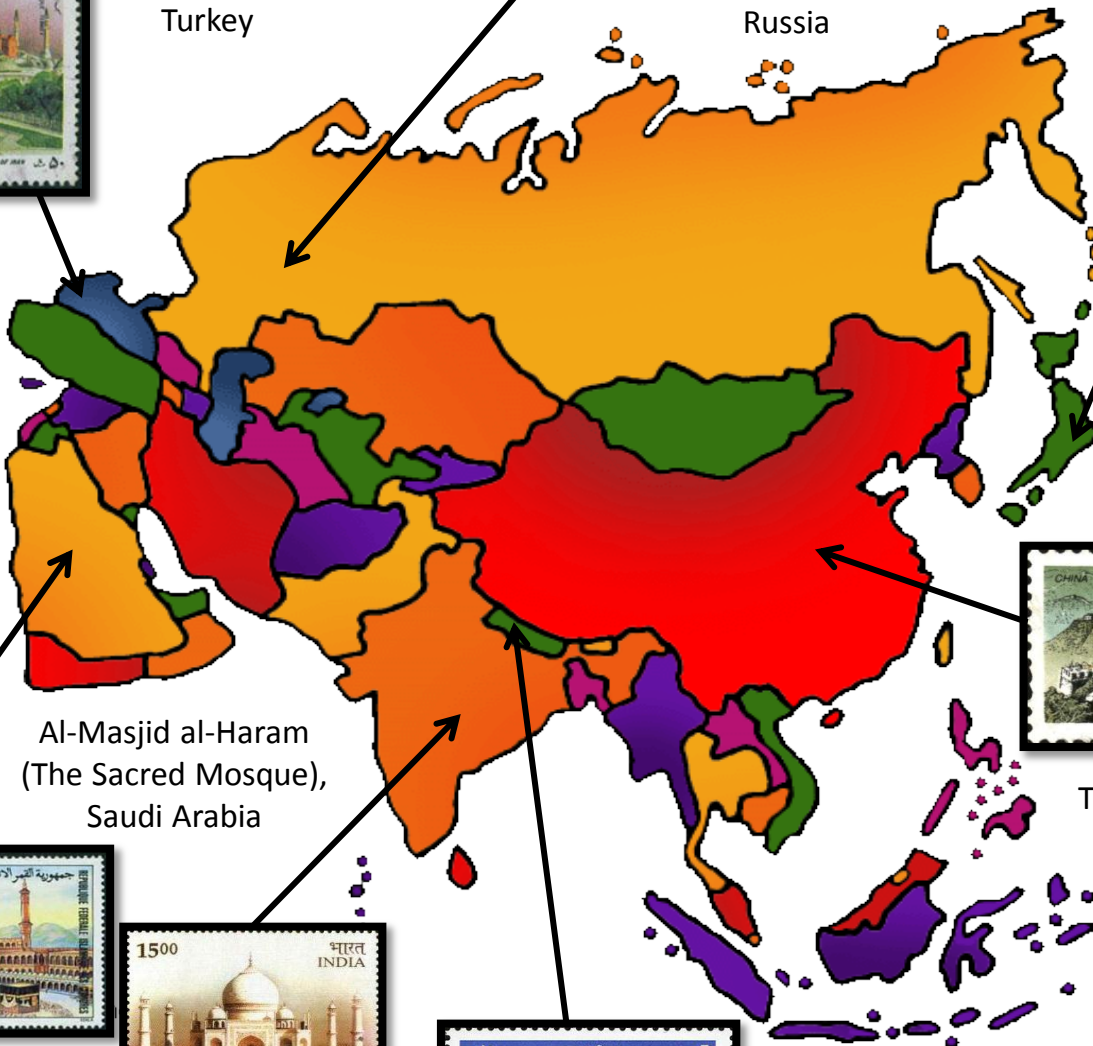
Al-Masjid al-Haram
(The Sacred Mosque),
Saudi Arabia



The Taj Mahal,
India



Mount Everest,
Nepal



The Thousand and One Nights



The Arabian Nights stories are some of the world's greatest treasures. They have existed for thousands of years and consist of tales told in Persia, Arabia, India and Asia. The book begins with Scheherazade, the wife of Sultan Shahriar. She starts telling him stories in order to save her life. She tells him one each night, just before dawn, hoping he will become so interested in the story, he'll forget to cut off her head. So begins the tale of *The Thousand and One Nights*. Here are some of Scheherazade's stories depicted on stamps.



Aladdin and the Lamp

This is the story of a genie who grants wishes for whoever owns an old lamp. Aladdin finds the lamp and becomes rich. He marries the sultan's daughter and gets a magnificent house from the genie. But then the lamp, the house and Aladdin's wife are transported to another country by an evil magician. It takes Aladdin a long time to find the house, but with the help of his wife, the magician is killed, the lamp is recovered and Aladdin, his wife and the house are transported back to his own country.



Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves

This is the famous story of a poor man, Ali Baba, who finds a store of gold hidden by thieves in a secret cave. The story leads on to *The End of the Forty Thieves*, in which thieves come looking for their gold but are outwitted by Marjana, a servant girl. She discovers them hiding in oil jars and kills them with burning oil.



Sinbad's Second Voyage

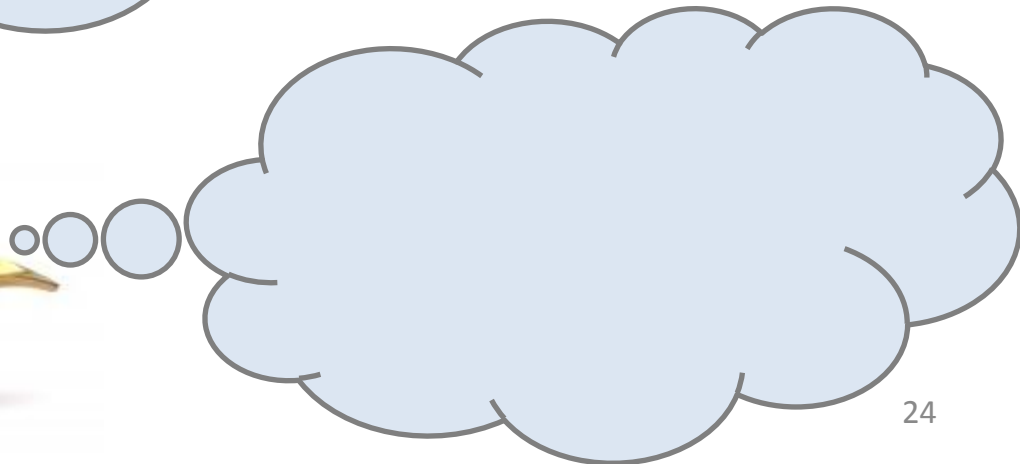
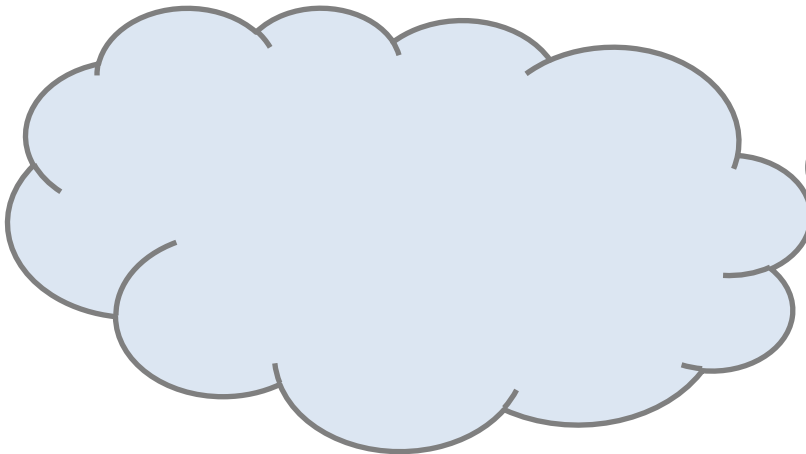
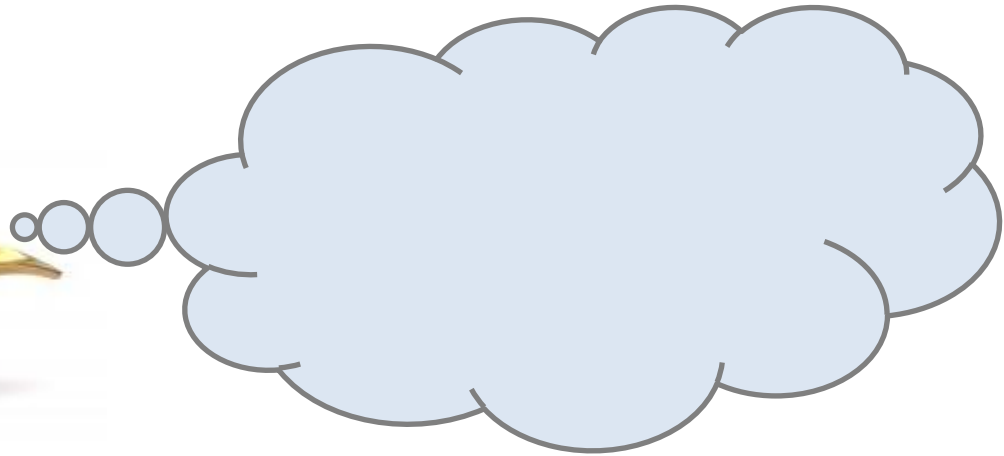
Sinbad finds himself stranded on an island which contains giant birds. After attaching himself to one of these birds, he is transported to a valley which is carpeted with diamonds. To get these diamonds, large chunks of meat are thrown into the valley and become embedded with the diamonds. Sinbad straps a piece of that meat to his back and when the giant birds pick up the piece of meat, Sinbad is transported back to the nest. He is rescued from the nest by some merchants and returns to Baghdad with a fortune in jewels. 23



Three Wishes



Pretend you find a magic lamp like Aladdin. If you could make three wishes to better the world we live in, what would they be?



EXPLORE AFRICA



AFRICA

Countries: There are 53 countries in Africa. Sudan has the most land. Nigeria has the most people.

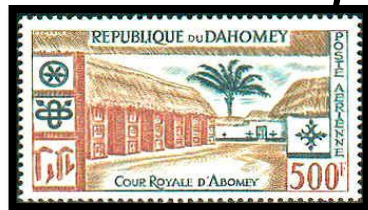
Products: Cocoa beans, gold, diamonds, and petroleum



Djinguereber Mosque,
Timbuktu, Mali



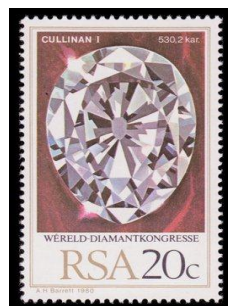
The Sphinx and Great
Pyramid of Giza,
Egypt



Royal Palace of Abomey,
Benin



Mount Kilimanjaro,
Tanzania



Many diamond
mines are in
South Africa



Victoria Falls,
Zimbabwe

LET'S GO ON A SAFARI

“Safari” comes from the Swahili word for journey. It has now come to be the accepted term to describe wildlife viewing or game drives in the national parks and reserves of Africa. See how many animals you can find in the word search below.



Lion



Rhinoceros



Buffalo



Leopard



Zebra



Giraffe

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



Elephant



Gorilla



Antelope



Ostrich



Aardvark



Hippopotamus



Warthog



Hyena



Baboon

SAFARI JOKES



Q: Why do elephants have trunks?

A: Because they would look silly carrying suitcases.



Q: What do you call a flying monkey?

A: A hot air baboon.



Q: What happened to the leopard that took a bath three times a day?

A: After a week he was spotless.



Q: What did the girl lion say to the boy lion?

A: You're my mane man.



Q: Why do rhinos have horns?

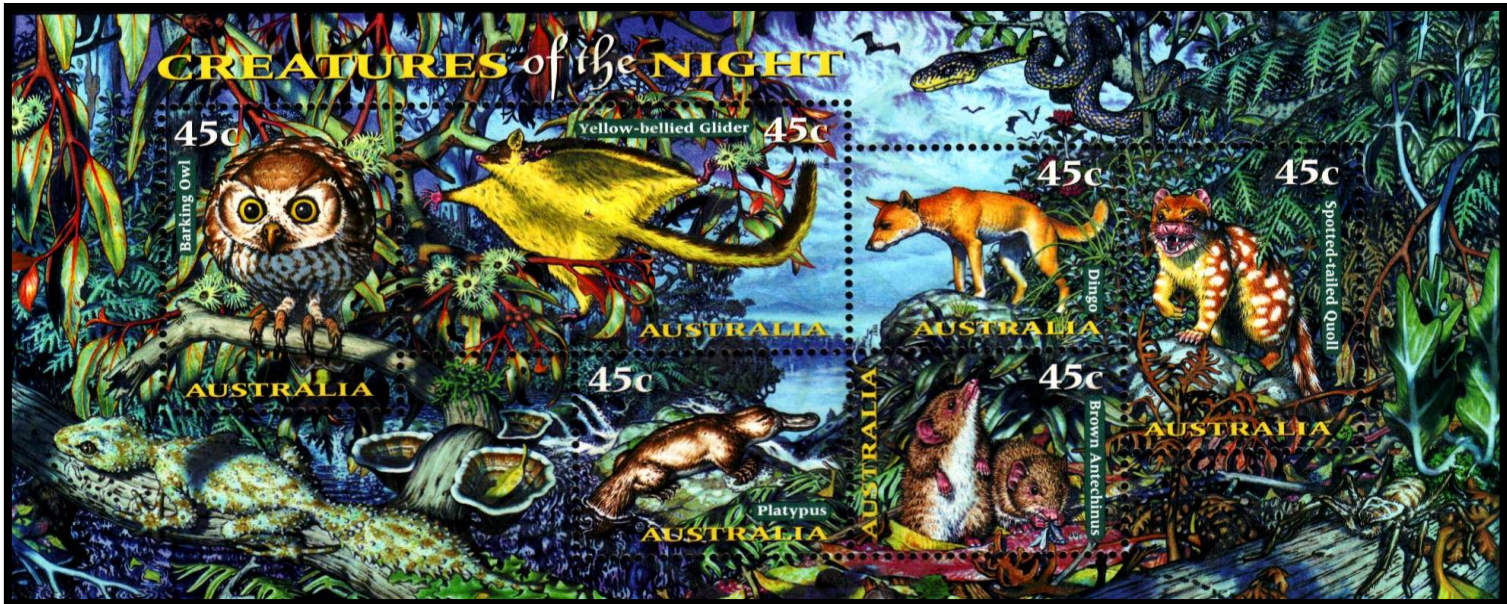
A: To tell the other animals to get out of the way.

Jokes are from:

[Safari Jokes](#) – Compiled by Viki Woodworth

[Laughing Matters, Safari Jokes](#) – Compiled by Pam Rosenberg

EXPLORE AUSTRALIA



AUSTRALIA

Countries: Australia is the only continent that is also a country.

Products: Wool, beef, wheat, fruits, bauxite, coal, uranium, and diamonds



Kookaburras are native to Australia. Their call sounds like human laughter.

The Great Barrier Reef is the world's largest coral reef system.



Kangaroos are found all over Australia.



The Sydney Opera House



Koalas are found in the eastern and southern regions.



The Tasmanian devil can be found on Tasmania.

THE HISTORY OF WALTZING MATILDA

The words to “Waltzing Matilda” were written in 1895 by the Australian poet Banjo Paterson. The song tells the story of an itinerant worker making a cup of tea at a bush camp and capturing a sheep to eat. When the sheep's owner arrives with three policemen to arrest the worker, he drowns himself in a small lake and goes on to haunt the site. The lyrics contain many Australian English words, some now rarely used outside this song. It has become Australia’s most widely known bush ballad and is known as the “unofficial national anthem of Australia.”

Here are the meanings of the words:

Waltzing: to travel while working

Matilda: a romantic term for a swagman's bundle

Swagman: a man who travelled the country looking for work

Billabong: a cut-off river bend found alongside a meandering river

Coolibah tree: a kind of eucalyptus tree which grows near billabongs

Jumbuck: a sheep

Billy: a can for boiling water in

Tucker bag: a bag for carrying food

Troopers: policemen



A First Day Cover



A Swagman

WALTZING MATILDA

Waltzing Matilda, Waltzing Matilda

“You'll come a-Waltzing Matilda, with me”

And he sang as he watched and waited till his billy boiled,

“You'll come a-Waltzing Matilda, with me.”

Once a jolly swagman camped by a billabong

Under the shade of a coolibah tree,

And he sang as he watched and waited till his billy boiled

“You'll come a-Waltzing Matilda, with me.”

Refrain

Down came a jumbuck to drink at that billabong,

Up jumped the swagman and grabbed him with glee,

And he sang as he shoved that jumbuck in his tucker bag,

“You'll come a-Waltzing Matilda, with me.”

Refrain

Up rode the squatter, mounted on his thoroughbred,

Down came the troopers, one, two, three,

“Where's that jolly jumbuck you've got in your tucker bag?”

“You'll come a-Waltzing Matilda, with me.”

Refrain

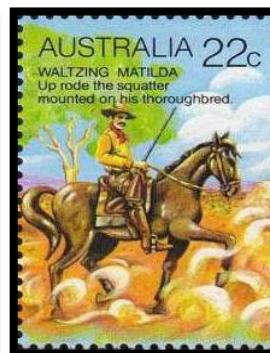
Up jumped the swagman and sprang into the billabong,

“You'll never take me alive,” said he,

And his ghost may be heard as you pass by that billabong,

“You'll come a-Waltzing Matilda, with me.”

Refrain



EXPLORE ANTARCTICA



ANTARCTICA

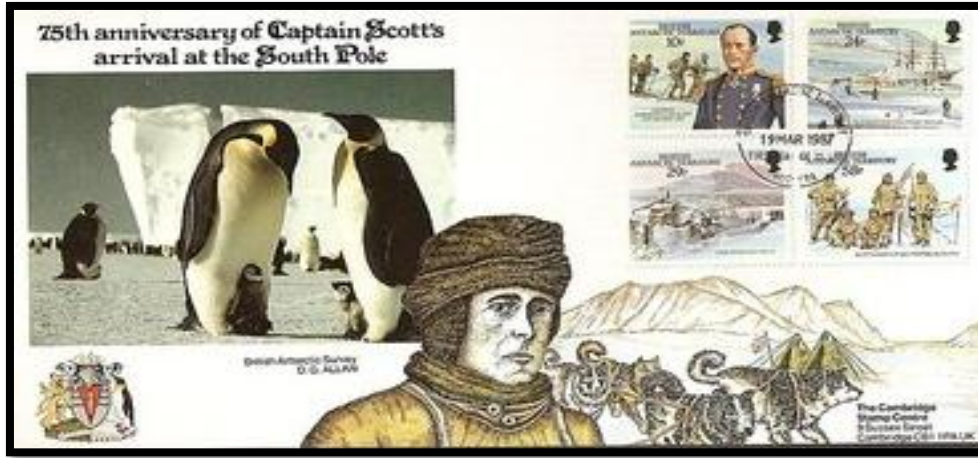
Antarctica is the coldest continent. Temperatures rarely get above freezing. It is also the only continent that has no countries – no one “owns” it. People come only for visits, not to live. Many of these visitors are scientists who come from around the world to do research.



Walruses, penguins, whales, and dolphins can be found in and around Antarctica.

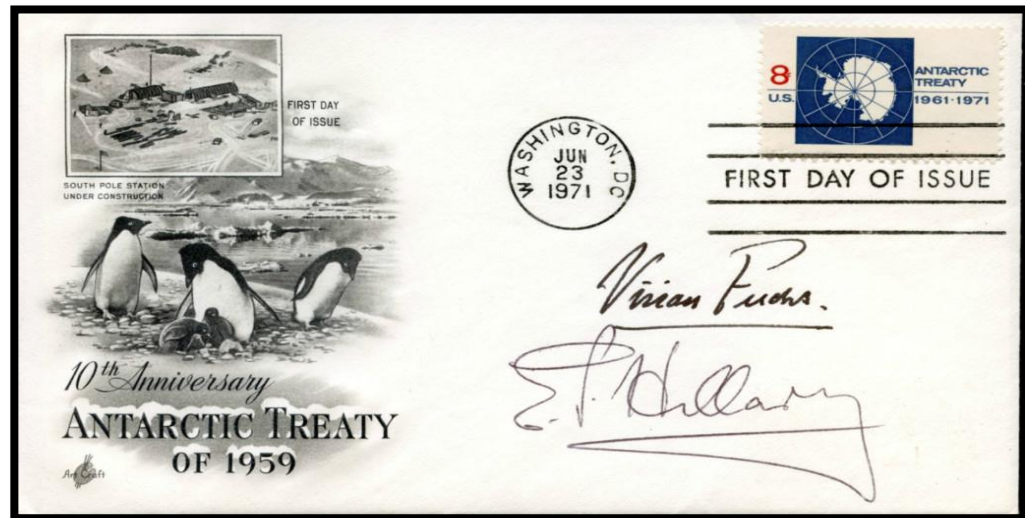


ANTARCTIC EXPLORERS



Captain Robert Scott thought he was the first person to reach the South Pole in 1910, only to find that a Norwegian party led by Roald Amundsen, had beaten him there.

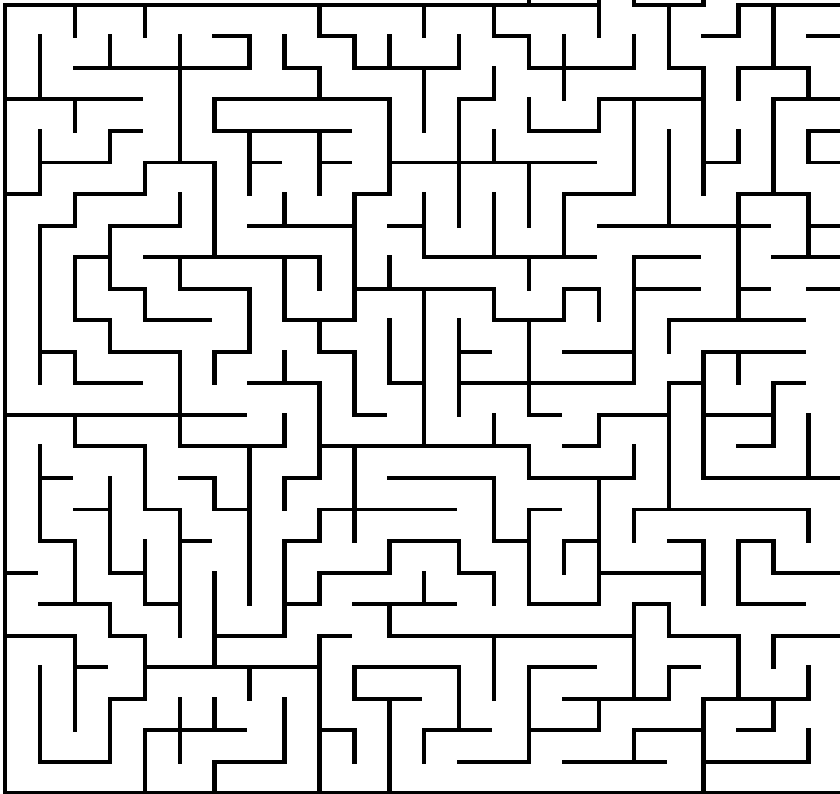
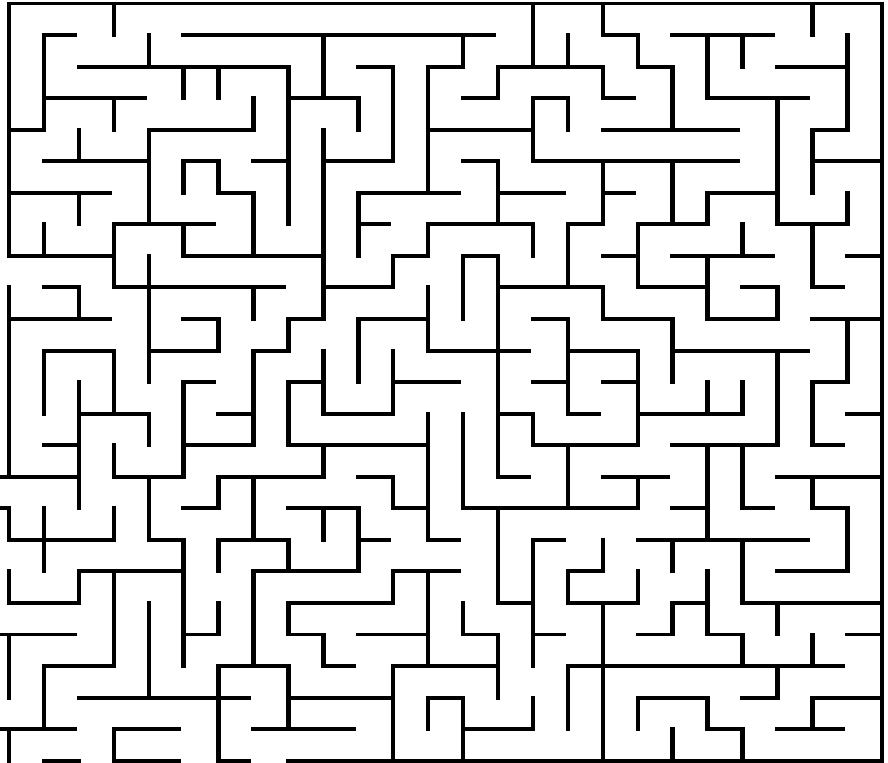
While best known for being the first man to the summit of Mount Everest, Sir Edmund Hillary also made a number of expeditions to Antarctica. To the right is a cover with his signature.



Admiral Richard Evelyn Byrd's expedition was the first to reach the South Pole by air.

ANTARCTIC MAZE

Can you help the scientist get back to the research station?



NAME THAT COUNTRY

Many countries have nicknames. See if you can match the nickname in the middle with the correct flag stamp around the edges. The answers are on page 46.



The Emerald Isle



The Pearl of the Orient Seas



Land of Smiles



Land of Fire And Ice



The Holy Land



The Gift of The Nile



Land of the Rising Sun



Land of the Long White Cloud



Land of the Blue Sky



The Boot

WHAT'S MY COUNTRY?

Imagine you are looking at a large stack of mail from overseas. Can you tell what country the different letters came from by reading the words and abbreviations that appear on the stamps? Select your answer from the four choices that appear next to each stamp. Answers are on page 46.



ESPANA:

- a. Switzerland
- b. Sweden
- c. Suriname
- d. Spain



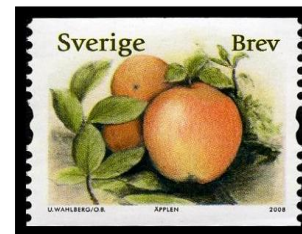
ITALIA:

- a. Iceland
- b. Ireland
- c. Italy
- d. India



NIPPON:

- a. Norway
- b. New Zealand
- c. Japan
- d. Jamaica



SVERIGE:

- a. Switzerland
- b. Sweden
- c. Suriname
- d. Sri Lanka



POLSKA:

- a. Portugal
- b. Poland
- c. Panama
- d. Paraguay



CCCP:

- a. Czechoslovakia
- b. China
- c. Russia
- d. Romania



Magyar:

- a. Mozambique
- b. Malagasy
- c. Haiti
- d. Hungary



EIRE:

- a. England
- b. Ireland
- c. Iceland
- d. Ethiopia



ISLAND:

- a. Iceland
- b. Ireland
- c. Italy
- d. India



PILIPINAS:

- a. Philippines
- b. Panama
- c. Peru
- d. Paraguay

Totally Topical

1979 was proclaimed by UNESCO as the International Year of the Child. Countries from all over the world designed stamps in honor of this. This beautifully engraved stamp from France shows a young child surrounded by images that represent important things in his life. This stamp would fit under a variety of topics – children, butterflies, birds, flowers, architecture, toys, and books. What other topics can you think of?



Cachet Creator

Make your own design, or cachet, for this 1979 International Year of the Child cover from Hungary.



NORTH AMERICA



SOUTH AMERICA



EUROPE



ASIA



AFRICA



AUSTRALIA



ANSWER KEY

THE KINGS OF ENGLAND Page 20:

Row One- 4, 1, 3, 2

Row Two- 4, 5, 1, 2, 3

Row Three- 2, 4, 6, 3, 1, 5

Row Four- 5, 2, 6, 4, 1, 3

NAME THAT COUNTRY Page 37:

Ireland- The Emerald Isle

Philippines- The Pearl of the Orient Seas

Thailand- Land of Smiles

Iceland- Land of Fire and Ice

Israel- The Holy Land

Egypt- The Gift of the Nile

Japan- Land of the Rising Sun

New Zealand- Land of the Long White Cloud

Mongolia- Land of the Blue Sky

Italy- The Boot

WHAT'S MY COUNTRY Page 38:

1. Espana- D

6. Italia- C

2. Nippon- C

7. Sverige- B

3. Polska- B

8. CCCP- C

4. Magyar- D

9. Eire- B

5. Island- A

10. Pilipinas- A

Please note:

- *The countries of Turkey, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, and Russia are in both the continents of Europe and Asia.*
- *All locations on maps are approximate.*