

# Exploring World Geography Gazetteer



*Exploring World Geography Gazetteer*

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**Previous Page:** Detail from a 15th-century world map  
included in a Latin translation of Ptolemy's *Geography*.

**Front Cover:** Rose Gate at the Pritam Niwas Chowk of the Jaipur City Palace in  
Jaipur, Rajasthan, India by Mirko Kuzmanovic / Shutterstock.com

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# Table of Contents

<b>About This Resource.....</b>	<b>x</b>	Morocco .....	24
<b>The Middle East.....</b>	<b>1</b>	Sudan .....	25
Armenia.....	2	Tunisia.....	26
Azerbaijan.....	3	<b>West Africa.....</b>	<b>27</b>
Bahrain.....	4	Benin.....	28
Cyprus.....	5	Burkina Faso.....	29
Georgia.....	6	Cabo Verde.....	30
Iraq.....	7	Cote D'Ivoire.....	31
Israel.....	8	Equatorial Guinea.....	32
Jordan.....	9	The Gambia.....	33
Kuwait.....	10	Ghana.....	34
Lebanon.....	11	Guinea.....	35
Oman.....	12	Guinea-Bissau.....	36
Qatar.....	13	Liberia.....	37
Saudi Arabia.....	14	Mali.....	38
Syria.....	15	Mauritania.....	39
Turkey.....	16	Niger.....	40
United Arab Emirates.....	17	Nigeria.....	41
Yemen.....	18	Senegal.....	42
<b>Africa.....</b>	<b>19</b>	Sierra Leone.....	43
<b>North Africa.....</b>	<b>20</b>	Togo.....	44
Algeria.....	21	<b>Central Africa.....</b>	<b>46</b>
Egypt.....	22	Angola.....	47
Libya.....	23	Cameroon.....	48
		Central African Republic.....	49

Chad.....	50	Croatia.....	86
Congo (Democratic Republic of the) .....	51	Gibraltar .....	87
Congo (Republic of the) .....	52	Greece.....	88
Gabon.....	53	Italy .....	89
São Tomé and Príncipe .....	54	Kosovo.....	90
St. Helena Island, Ascension Island, and the archipelago of Tristan da Cunha.....	55	Malta .....	91
<b>East Africa.....</b>	<b>56</b>	Montenegro .....	92
Burundi .....	57	North Macedonia .....	93
Comoros.....	58	Portugal .....	94
Djibouti.....	59	San Marino .....	95
Eritrea.....	60	Serbia.....	96
Ethiopia .....	61	Slovenia .....	97
Kenya .....	62	Spain.....	98
Madagascar .....	63	Vatican City.....	99
Malawi.....	64	<b>Western Europe.....</b>	<b>100</b>
Mauritius .....	65	Austria .....	101
Mozambique.....	66	Belgium .....	102
Rwanda.....	67	Channel Islands .....	103
Seychelles.....	68	France.....	104
Somalia.....	69	Germany.....	105
South Sudan .....	70	Ireland .....	106
Tanzania .....	71	Isle of Man.....	107
Uganda .....	72	Liechtenstein.....	109
Zambia .....	73	Luxembourg .....	110
Zimbabwe.....	74	Monaco .....	111
<b>Southern Africa.....</b>	<b>75</b>	Netherlands .....	112
Botswana .....	76	Switzerland .....	113
Eswatini .....	77	United Kingdom.....	114
Lesotho.....	78	<b>Northern Europe.....</b>	<b>115</b>
Namibia.....	79	Denmark .....	117
South Africa.....	80	Estonia.....	118
<b>Europe .....</b>	<b>81</b>	Faroe Islands .....	119
<b>Southern Europe.....</b>	<b>82</b>	Finland .....	120
Albania .....	83	Iceland.....	121
Andorra .....	84	Latvia.....	122
Bosnia and Herzegovina.....	85	Lithuania .....	123
		Norway.....	124
		Sweden .....	125

**Eastern Europe..... 126**

Belarus.....	127
Bulgaria .....	128
Czechia (Czech Republic) .....	129
Hungary .....	130
Moldova .....	131
Poland .....	132
Romania, .....	133
Russian Federation (Russia) .....	134
Slovakia .....	135
Ukraine.....	136

**Arctic ..... 137****Antarctica ..... 138****Asia..... 139****South Asia..... 140**

Afghanistan.....	141
Bangladesh.....	142
Bhutan.....	143
India .....	144
Iran.....	145
Maldives .....	146
Nepal.....	147
Pakistan .....	148
Sri Lanka .....	149
British Indian Ocean Territory.....	150

**Central Asia ..... 151**

Kazakhstan .....	152
Kyrgyzstan .....	153
Tajikistan .....	154
Turkmenistan.....	155
Uzbekistan .....	156

**East Asia ..... 157**

China.....	158
Japan.....	159
North Korea .....	160
South Korea.....	161

Mongolia .....	162
----------------	-----

Paracel Islands.....	163
----------------------	-----

Taiwan .....	164
--------------	-----

**Southeast Asia..... 165**

Brunei Darussalam.....	166
Cambodia.....	167
Indonesia .....	168
Laos .....	169
Malaysia.....	170
Myanmar (Burma) .....	171
Philippines.....	172
Singapore.....	173
Thailand .....	175
Timor-Leste .....	176
Vietnam.....	177

**Oceania..... 178**

Australia.....	180
New Zealand .....	181
Papua New Guinea .....	182
American Samoa .....	183
Cook Islands.....	183
Easter Island (Chile) .....	184
Fiji .....	184
French Polynesia .....	185
Guam .....	185
Kiribati .....	188
Marshall Islands .....	188
Federated States of Micronesia .....	189
Nauru .....	189
New Caledonia .....	190
Niue .....	190
Northern Mariana Islands .....	191
Palau.....	191
Pitcairn Islands (U.K.) .....	192
Samoa.....	192
Solomon Islands.....	193
Tokelau.....	193
Tonga.....	194

Tuvalu.....	194	Haiti.....	218
Vanuatu .....	195	Jamaica .....	218
Wallis and Futuna.....	195	Montserrat.....	219
<b>North and Central America.....</b>	<b>196</b>	Puerto Rico (U.S.) .....	219
<b>North America .....</b>	<b>197</b>	Saint Barthelemy.....	220
Bermuda .....	198	Saint Kitts and Nevis .....	220
Canada .....	199	Saint Lucia.....	221
Greenland.....	200	Saint Martin .....	221
United States.....	201	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.....	222
<b>Mexico and Central America.....</b>	<b>202</b>	Sint Maarten.....	222
Belize .....	203	Trinidad and Tobago.....	223
Costa Rica .....	204	Turks and Caico Islands .....	223
El Salvador.....	205	U.S. Virgin Islands.....	224
Guatemala .....	206	<b>South America .....</b>	<b>225</b>
Honduras.....	207	<b>South America .....</b>	<b>226</b>
Mexico.....	208	Argentina.....	227
Nicaragua .....	209	Bolivia .....	228
Panama .....	210	Brazil .....	229
<b>Caribbean .....</b>	<b>211</b>	Chile.....	230
Anguilla .....	212	Colombia.....	231
Antigua and Barbuda .....	212	Ecuador .....	232
Aruba.....	213	Falkland Islands .....	233
Bahamas .....	213	French Guiana .....	234
Barbados.....	214	Guyana .....	235
British Virgin Islands .....	214	Paraguay .....	236
Cayman Islands.....	215	Peru .....	237
Cuba.....	215	South Georgia and the	
Curacao .....	216	South Sandwich Islands .....	238
Dominica.....	216	Suriname .....	239
Dominican Republic.....	217	Uruguay.....	240
Grenada .....	217	Venezuela.....	241

## Primary Sources and Photo Essays

Excerpts from <i>Geography</i> - Strabo.....	243
Historical Maps from Around the World .....	245
Captivating Cappadocia.....	249
“The Gods of the Copybook Headings” - Rudyard Kipling.....	252
The Sahara .....	254
Excerpts from <i>Travels in the Interior of Africa</i> - Mungo Park .....	258
Excerpt from <i>The Cruise of the Cachalot</i> - Frank T. Bullen.....	261
South Sudan Independence Day Speech - President Salva Kiir Mayadit .....	265
Inauguration Speech - Nelson Mandela.....	270
Excerpt from <i>A Little Pilgrimage in Italy</i> - Olave M. Potter.....	273
Excerpts from <i>A Guide Through the District of the Lakes</i> - William Wordsworth.....	275
61 Mountains—In One Year - Ray Notgrass.....	277
The Vltava (The Moldau) - Bedrich Smetana .....	279
“How Much Land Does a Man Need?” - Leo Tolstoy.....	281
Research Stations in Antarctica - National Science Foundation .....	292
The Faces of South Asia.....	295
Architecture in Kyrgyzstan .....	298
Perspectives on Korea - H. N. Allen, M.D. ....	302
Riding the First Wave of CDC’s COVID-19 Response at Ports of Entry.....	309
My Duty to Serve - David Tucker .....	311
Treaty of Waitangi.....	313
Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument .....	315
Excerpt from <i>Canada in the Seventeenth Century</i> - Pierre Boucher .....	318
“Song of the Chattahoochee” - Sidney Lanier .....	321
Going West by Going South .....	323
Excerpt from <i>To Cuba and Back</i> - Richard Henry Dana .....	325
Excerpts from <i>Through the Brazilian Wilderness</i> - Theodore Roosevelt.....	330
Think Like Jesus: Put Others First - Ray Notgrass .....	332
World Population Growth - Max Roser, Hannah Ritchie, and Esteban Ortiz-Ospina .....	339
Excerpts from <i>The Geographical Pivot of History</i> - Halford J. Mackinder .....	341
<b>Sources.....</b>	<b>345</b>
<b>Image Credits.....</b>	<b>347</b>
<b>Country Index .....</b>	<b>353</b>



*Baobab Trees, Madagascar*

## About This Resource

This gazetteer is part of the *Exploring World Geography* curriculum published by Notgrass History. When a lesson in the curriculum is about a particular country, the student will find it helpful to have the gazetteer open to that country's map while reading the lesson. Use the table of contents or the index to find the correct page number.

In the Assignments box following most of the lessons in the curriculum, the student is instructed to study the maps and read the information for certain countries. The assignment gives the page numbers that the student should read. In this way the student will learn about every region of the world and every country in the world.

We have included population figures for each country, including the relative percentages of young people (under 25) and older people (over 65). We have also described the government with a short phrase that does not capture all of the differences in political organization from country to country.

For major religions, we have listed organized groups that have members equaling about 5% or more of the local population. The number of active

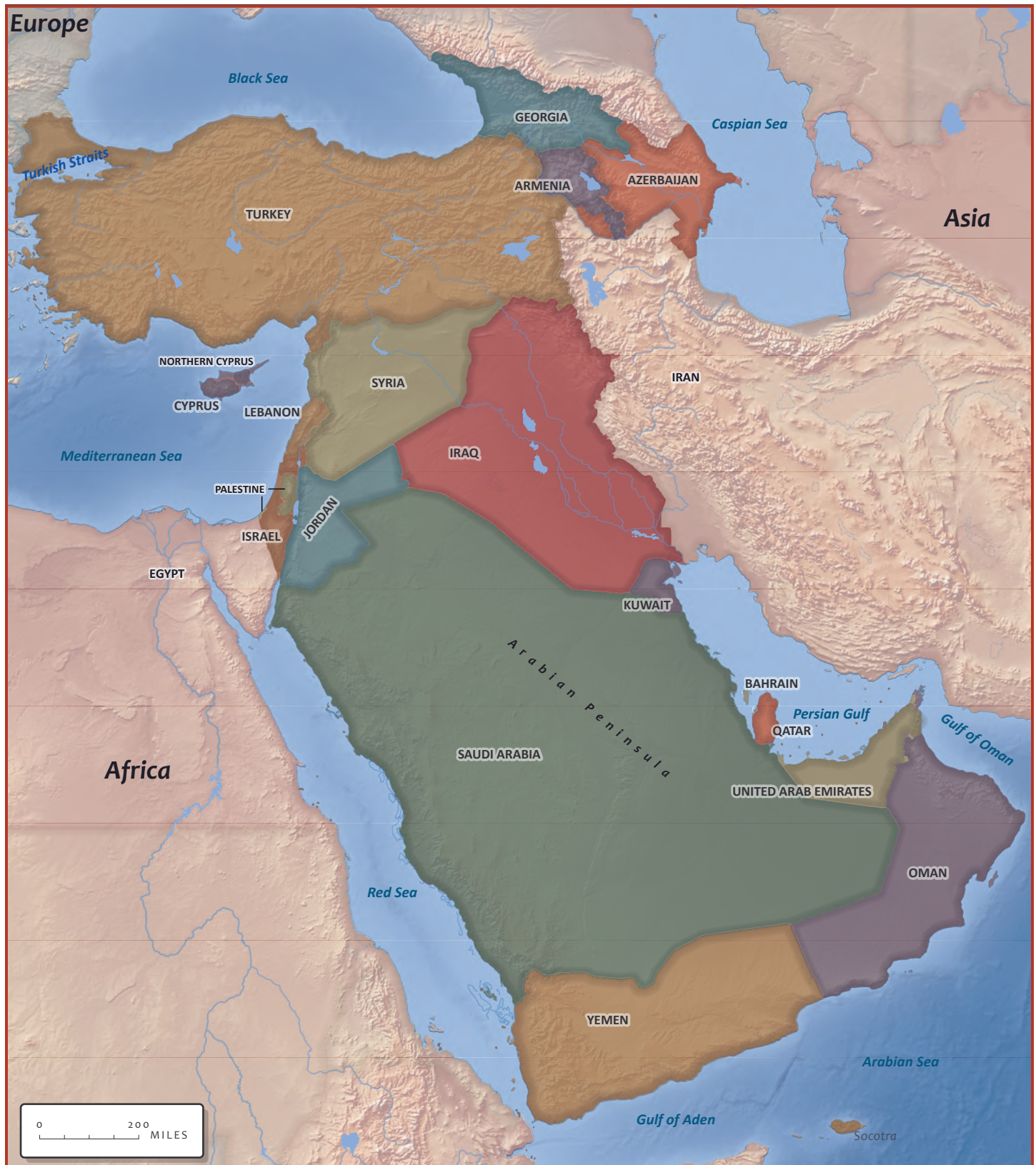
participants is often significantly lower than the number of members or adherents claimed by a certain group. Some countries have official state religions, which may or may not reflect the sentiments of the population.

The last section of the gazetteer is a collection of primary source documents and photo essays related to geography, literature, and worldview. One lesson in each unit in the curriculum assigns a selection for the student to read after finishing that lesson. The *Student Review Book* includes questions on many (but not all) of the documents, following the review questions for that lesson. The parent can assign these questions if he or she wishes to do so. Answers for these questions are in the *Guide for Parents and Answer Key*.

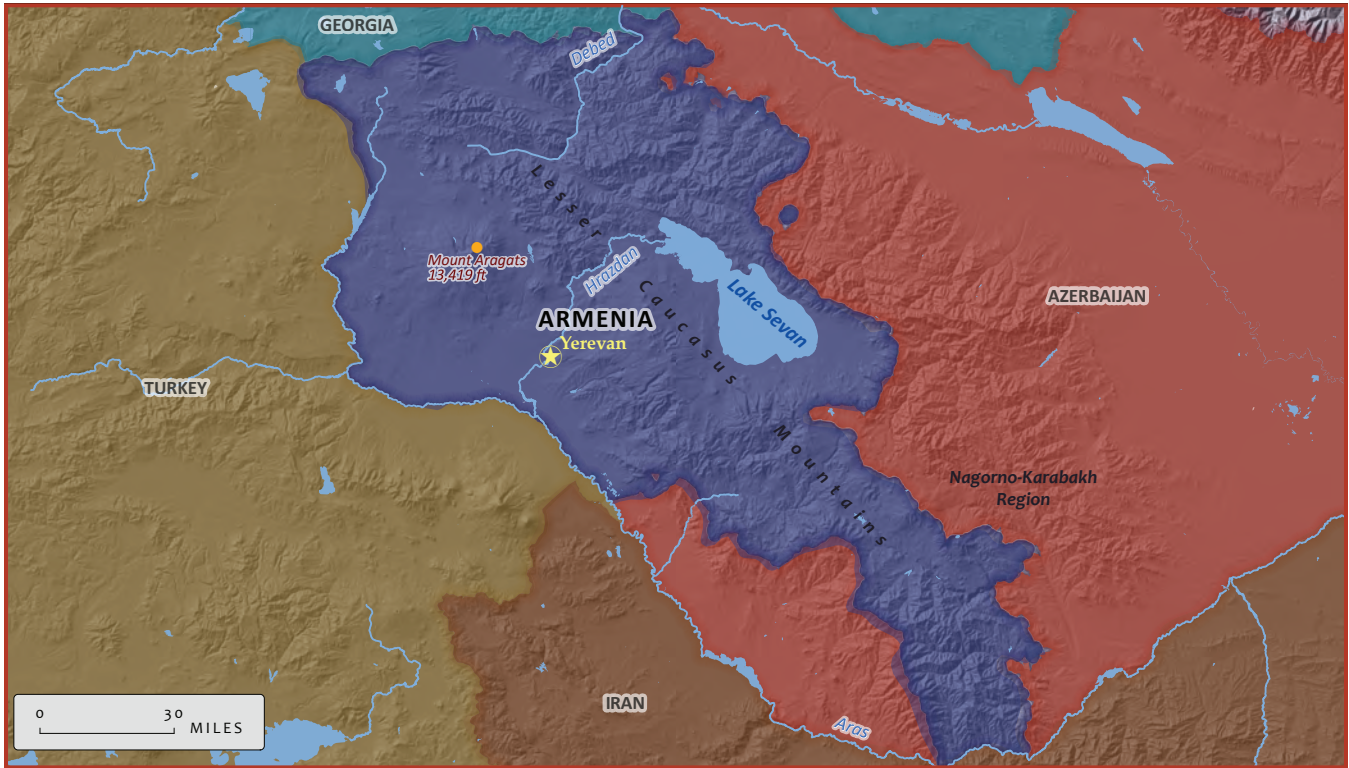
We hope that this gazetteer will be a resource that your family will find useful for years to come.

*Ray Notgrass  
Gainesboro, Tennessee  
December 2020  
ray@notgrass.com*

# THE MIDDLE EAST



# ARMENIA



## POPULATION

3 million (30% under 25, 13% over 65)

## GOVERNMENT

parliamentary democracy

## MAJOR RELIGIONS

Christianity (Armenian Apostolic)

## GEOGRAPHY HIGHLIGHT

Though Armenia is landlocked, the beaches of Lake Sevan are a popular tourist destination.

## FUN FACT

Chess is part of the Armenian school curriculum, and the country ranks high in the number of grandmasters per capita.



*Hayravank Monastery, Lake Sevan, Armenia*



# AZERBAIJAN



## POPULATION

10 million (36% under 25, 7% over 65)

## GOVERNMENT

presidential republic

## MAJOR RELIGIONS

Islam

## GEOGRAPHY HIGHLIGHT

At 90 feet below sea level, Baku is the lowest national capital in the world.

## FUN FACT

Neft Daşları is a town of about 2,000 people seventy-five miles offshore in the Caspian Sea. It is composed of oil platforms connected by metal bridges.



*Flame Towers, Baku, Azerbaijan*

# BAHRAIN



## POPULATION

1.5 million (34% under 25, 3% over 65)

## GOVERNMENT

constitutional monarchy

## MAJOR RELIGIONS

Islam, Christianity

## GEOGRAPHY HIGHLIGHT

Bahrain has natural springs of fresh water, but no permanent rivers or streams.

## FUN FACT

Bahrain is one of the world's top five countries in electricity consumption per capita.



*Manama, Bahrain*



## POPULATION

1.3 million (28% under 25, 13% over 65)

## GOVERNMENT

presidential republic

## MAJOR RELIGIONS

Christianity (Orthodox), Islam

## GEOGRAPHY HIGHLIGHT

Cyprus has two major mountain ranges, one in the north and one in the south, separated by a central plain.

## FUN FACT

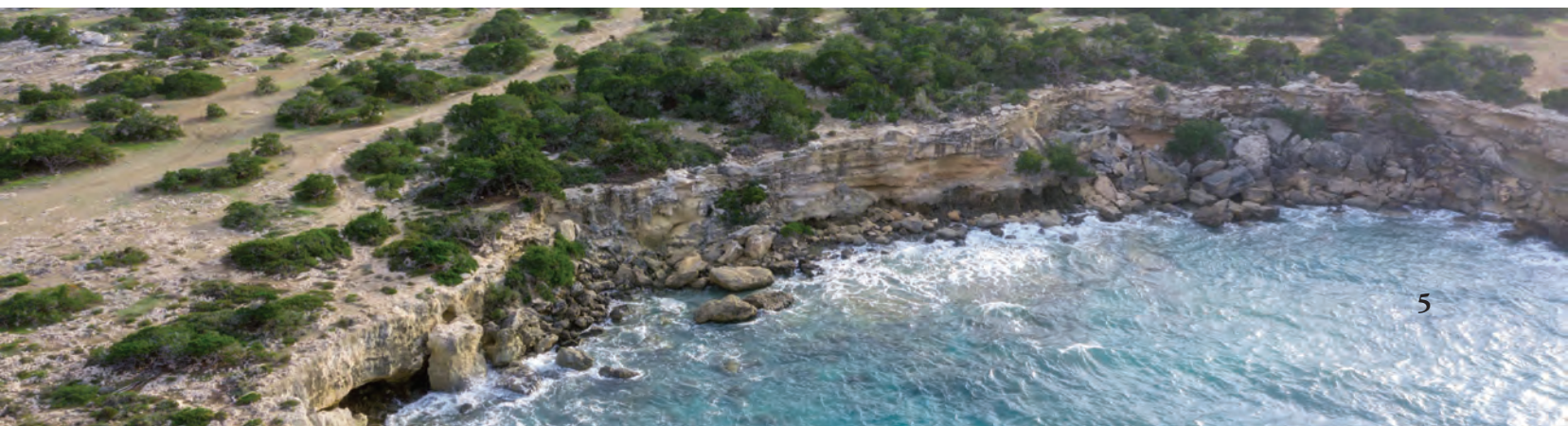
Roman mosaics at Paphos are beautifully well-preserved.

## NORTHERN CYPRUS

Turkey is the only country that recognizes the breakaway government on the northern part of the island. Both Cyprus and Northern Cyprus recognize Nicosia as their capital, with a wall dividing the city.



*Akamas Peninsula, Cyprus*



# GEORGIA

## POPULATION

4 million (29% under 25, 17% over 65)

## GOVERNMENT

semi-presidential republic

## MAJOR RELIGIONS

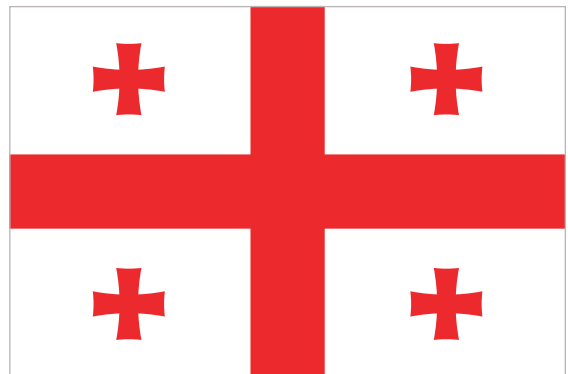
Christianity (Orthodox), Islam

## GEOGRAPHY HIGHLIGHT

The relatively small country has a wide variety of climate zones, from alpine to subtropical to semi-desert.

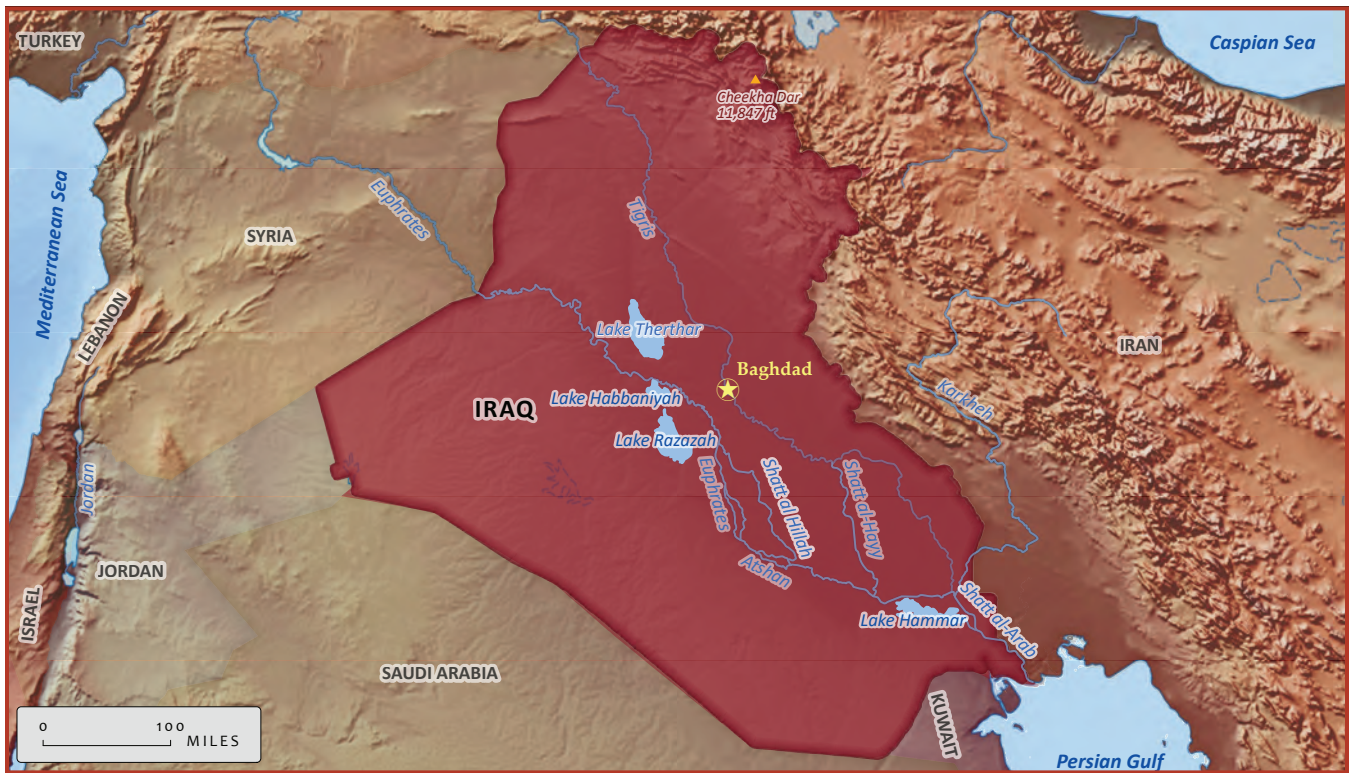
## FUN FACT

The Kartvelian language family used in Georgia is not known to be connected to other language families.



*Nakila Fortress, Tblisi, Georgia*





## POPULATION

39 million (57% under 25, 3% over 65)

## GOVERNMENT

federal parliamentary republic

## MAJOR RELIGIONS

Islam

## GEOGRAPHY HIGHLIGHT

In many parts of the alluvial plain in central Iraq, the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers are elevated above the plain.

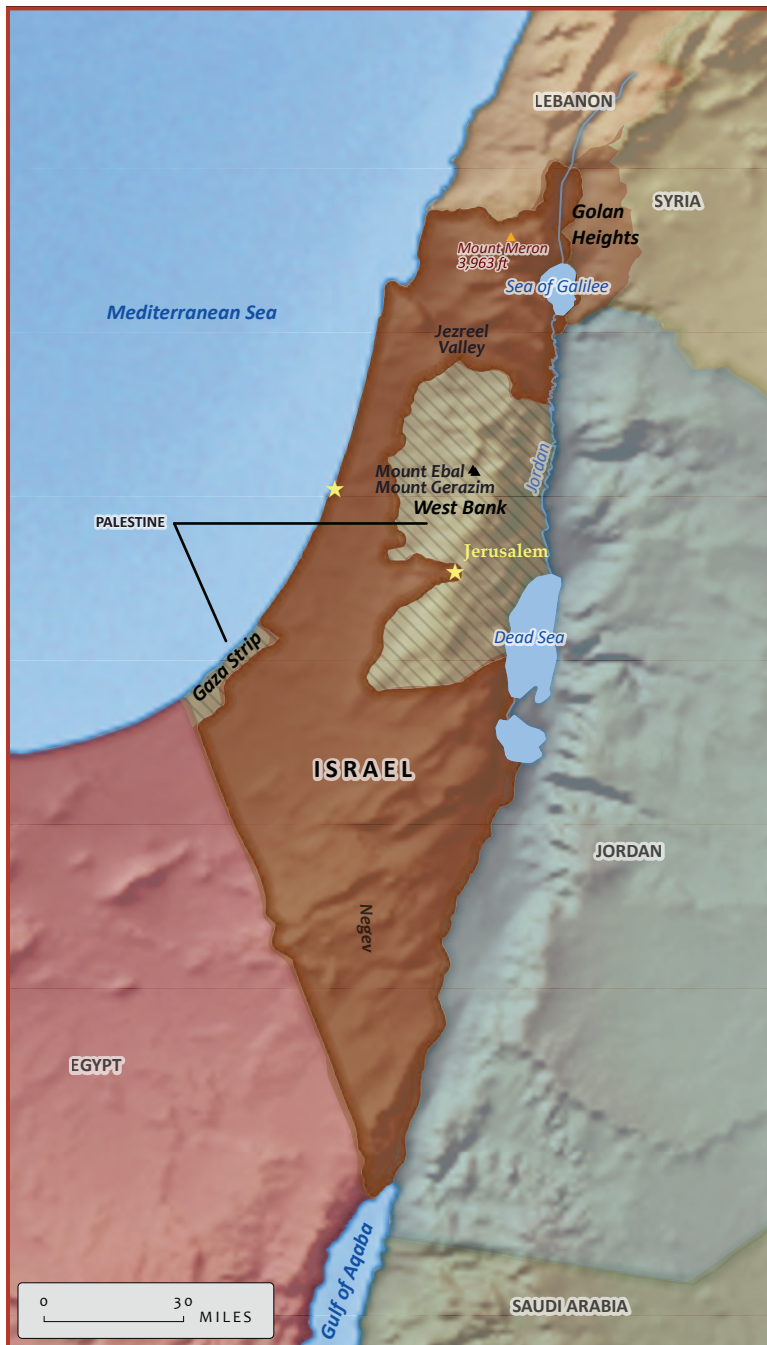
## FUN FACT

Sharks are sometimes found in the rivers of southern Iraq.

*Kurdistan Province, Iraq*



# ISRAEL



## POPULATION

9 million (42% under 25, 12% over 65)

## GOVERNMENT

parliamentary democracy

## MAJOR RELIGIONS

Judaism, Islam

## GEOGRAPHY HIGHLIGHT

A makhtesh is one of several geological features in the Negev that resembles a crater but is formed by erosion.

## FUN FACT

Israel has more museums per capita than any other country, including one that is underwater.

## PALESTINE

A majority of United Nations members have extended diplomatic recognition to Palestine, but the UN has only granted it the status of a non-member observer state.



*Makhtesh Ramon, Israel*



# JORDAN

## POPULATION

11 million (53% under 25, 4% over 65)

## GOVERNMENT

parliamentary constitutional monarchy

## MAJOR RELIGIONS

Islam

## GEOGRAPHY HIGHLIGHT

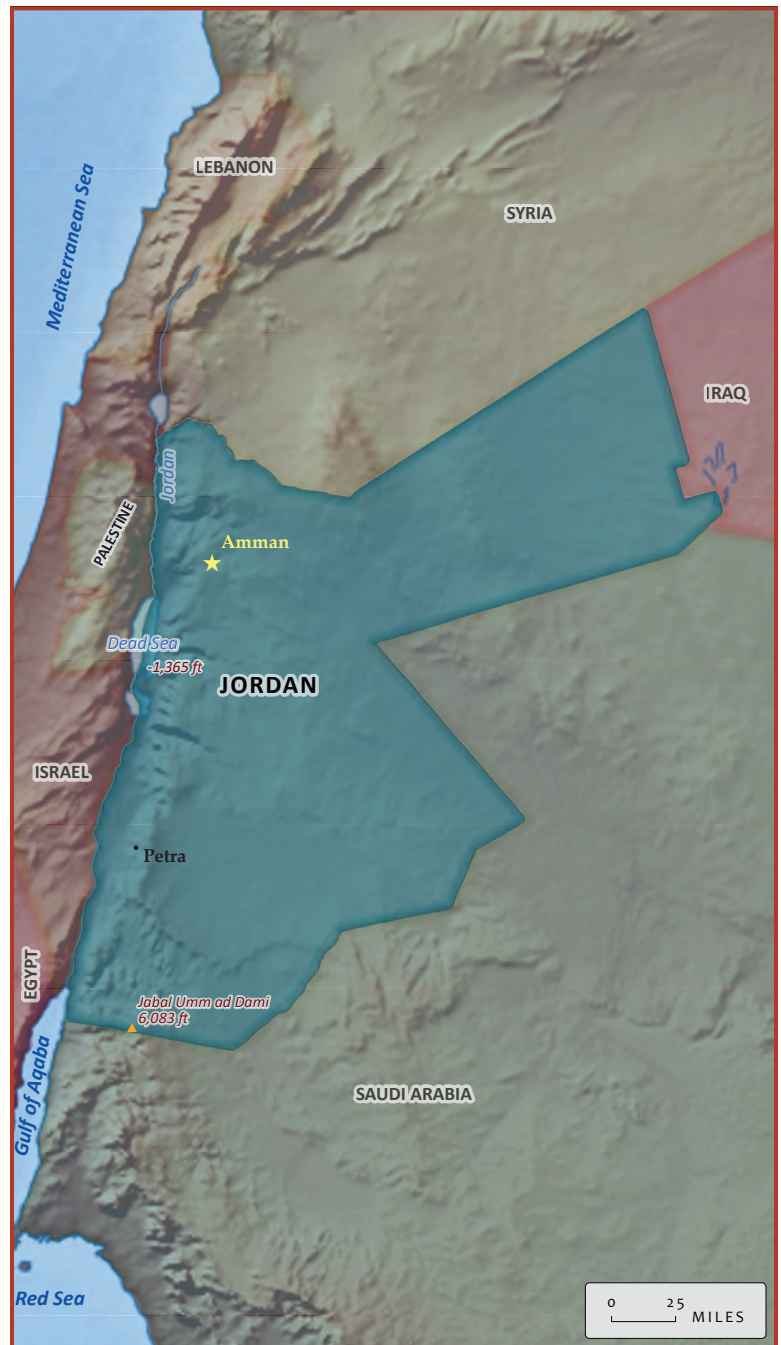
Jordan's borders were drawn in the 1920s largely based on international agreement rather than historic or natural features.

## FUN FACT

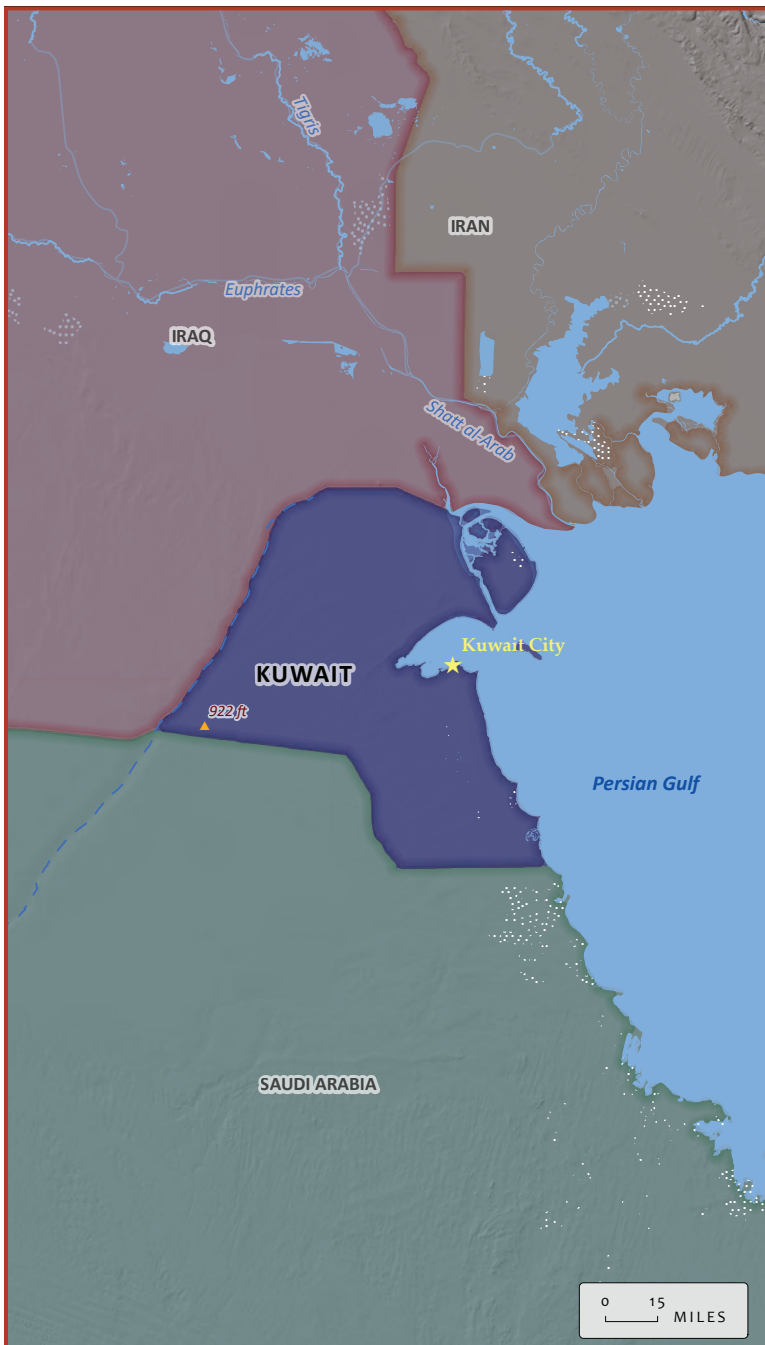
Jordan is a popular location for movie production because it is a safe place that can stand in for other Middle Eastern countries—or other planets, like Mars.



*Wadi Rum Desert, Jordan*



# KUWAIT



## POPULATION

4.5 million (39% under 25, 3% over 65)

## GOVERNMENT

constitutional monarchy (emirate)

## MAJOR RELIGIONS

Islam, Christianity

## GEOGRAPHY HIGHLIGHT

Kuwait is over 90% desert.

## FUN FACT

About two-thirds of the people living in Kuwait are immigrants.



*Kuwait City, Kuwait*



# LEBANON

## POPULATION

5.5 million (36% under 25, 8% over 65)

## GOVERNMENT

parliamentary republic

## MAJOR RELIGIONS

Islam, Christianity (Maronite Catholics),  
Druze

## GEOGRAPHY HIGHLIGHT

Lebanon has ski resorts in the mountains within an hour's drive from Mediterranean beaches.

## FUN FACT

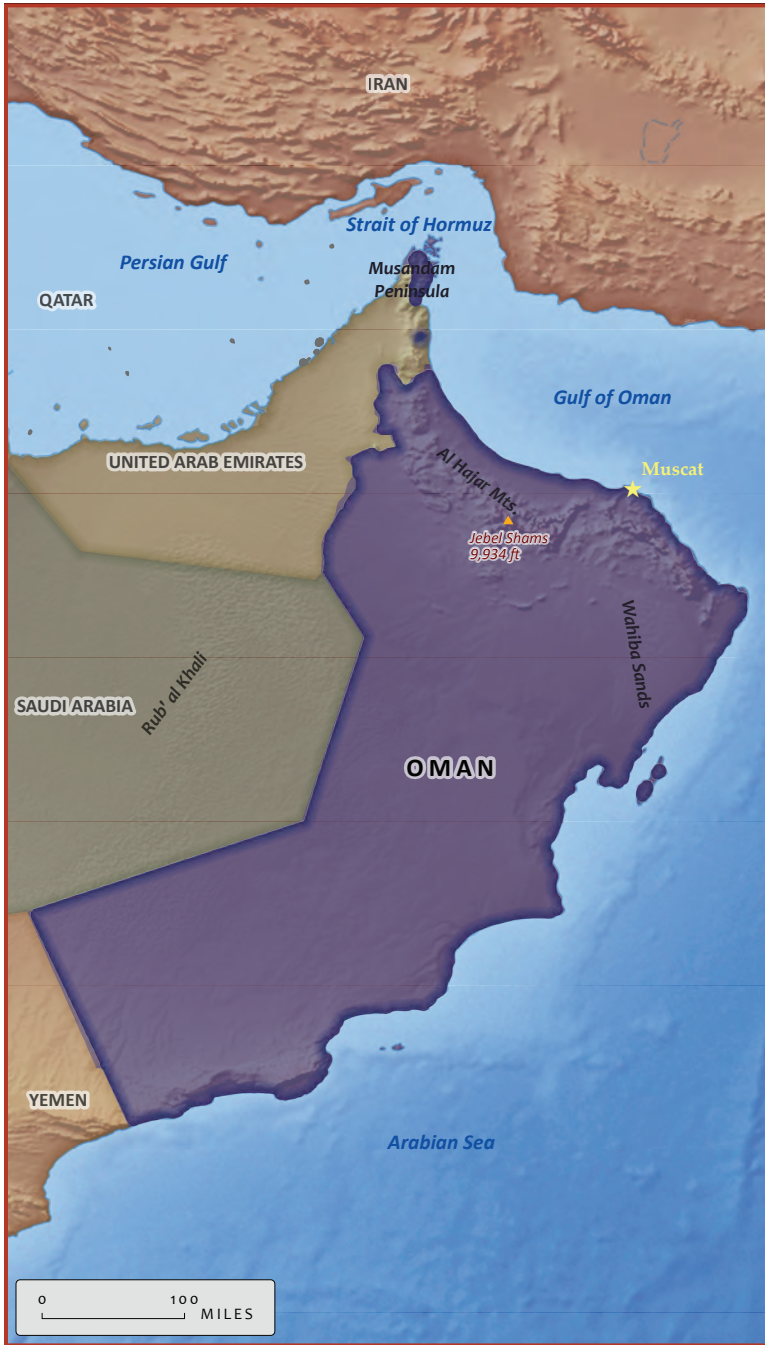
Two-thirds of Lebanese students attend private schools.



*City of Jezzine, Lebanon*



# OMAN



## POPULATION

4.7 million (48% under 25, 4% over 65)

## GOVERNMENT

absolute monarchy

## MAJOR RELIGIONS

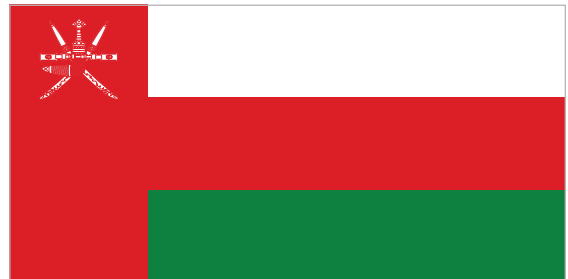
Islam, Christianity, Hinduism

## GEOGRAPHY HIGHLIGHT

Oman has an exclave on the tip of the Musandam Peninsula. Oman thus shares control of the Strait of Hormuz with Iran.

## FUN FACT

Oman is the oldest independent Arab country, ruled by the Al Said family since 1744.



*Sadah Beach, Oman*



# QATAR

## POPULATION

2.5 million (25% under 25, 1% over 65)

## GOVERNMENT

absolute monarchy

## MAJOR RELIGIONS

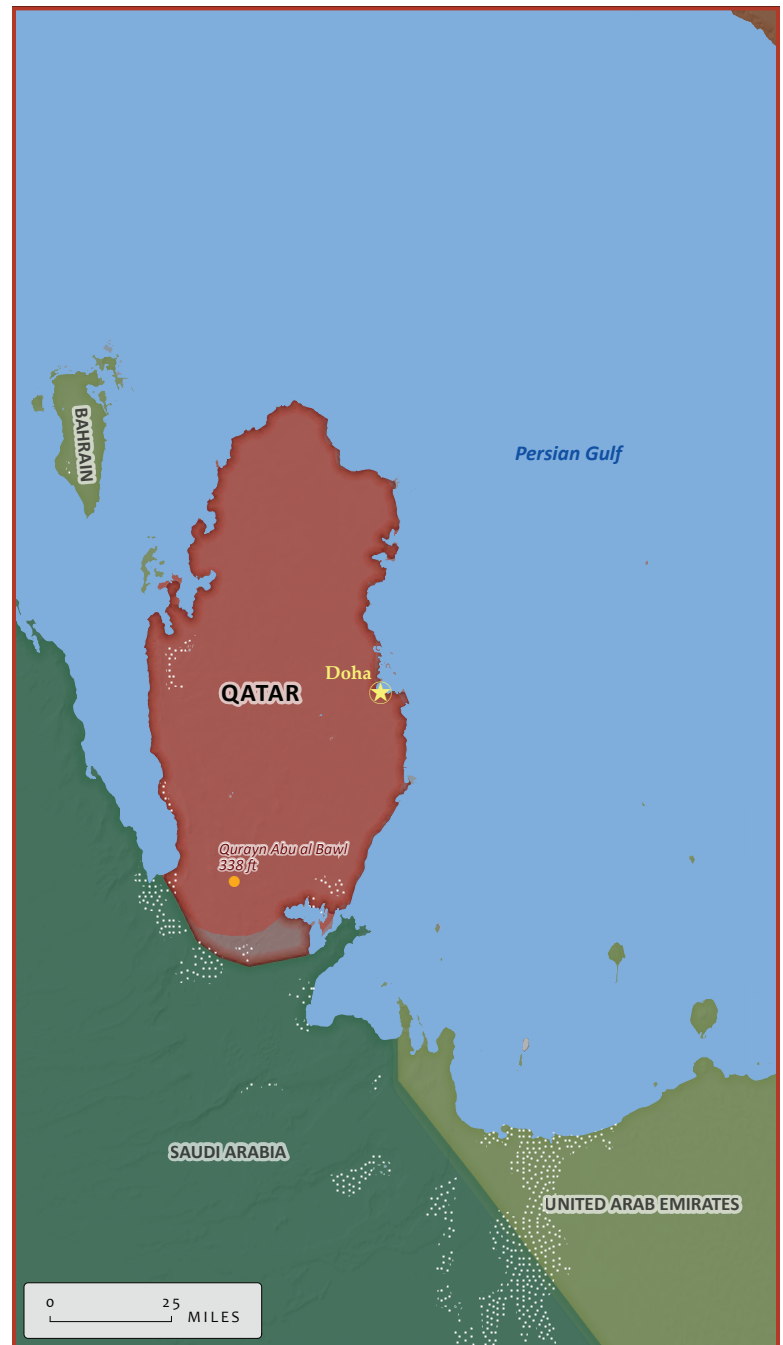
Islam, Christianity, Hinduism

## GEOGRAPHY HIGHLIGHT

The highest point in Qatar is Qurayn Abu al Bawl at 338 feet.

## FUN FACT

Camel racing is a popular sport, with remote-controlled robot jockeys guiding the camels.



*Museum of Islamic Art, Doha, Qatar*



# SAUDI ARABIA



## POPULATION

34 million (40% under 25, 4% over 65)

## GOVERNMENT

absolute monarchy

## MAJOR RELIGIONS

Islam

## GEOGRAPHY HIGHLIGHT

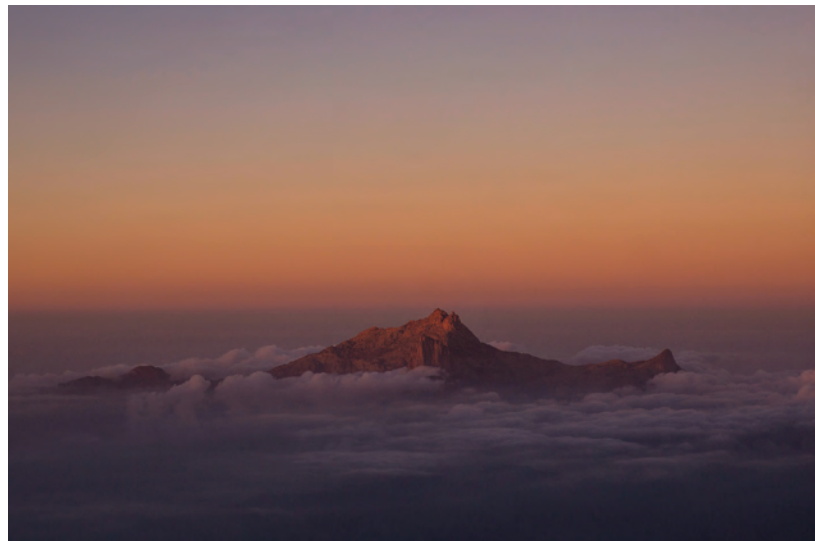
The An Nafud desert contains sand dunes as tall as 100 feet.

## FUN FACT

The petroleum industry accounts for almost half of Saudi Arabia's gross domestic product.



*Shada Mountain, Saudi Arabia*





## POPULATION

20 million (53% under 25, 5% over 65)

## GOVERNMENT

presidential republic

## MAJOR RELIGIONS

Islam, Christianity (Orthodox and other branches)

## GEOGRAPHY HIGHLIGHT

Mount Hermon, the highest point in Syria on its border with Lebanon, is the source of the Jordan River.

## FUN FACT

The city of Damascus is mentioned in a 15th-century BC Egyptian tablet.

*Norias ("Wheels of Pots") of Hama, Syria*



# TURKEY



## POPULATION

82 million (39% under 25, 8% over 65)

## GOVERNMENT

presidential republic

## MAJOR RELIGIONS

Islam

## GEOGRAPHY HIGHLIGHT

Turkey is larger than any European country, except Russia.

## FUN FACT

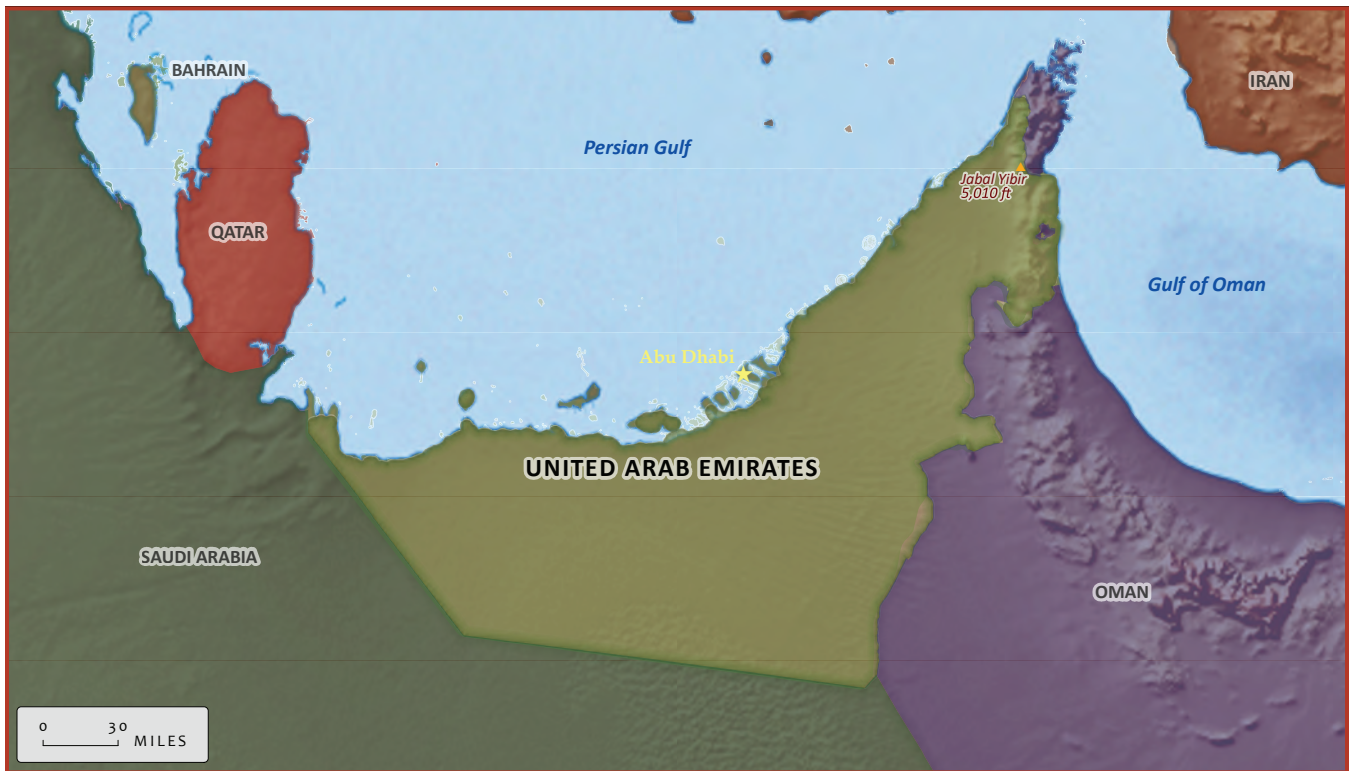
Lokum is a popular dessert. These sugary cubes of jelly are also known as Turkish delight.



*Roman Aqueduct, Side, Turkey*



# UNITED ARAB EMIRATES



## POPULATION

10 million (22% under 25, 2% over 65)

## GOVERNMENT

federation of monarchies

## MAJOR RELIGIONS

Islam, Christianity, Hinduism, Buddhism

## GEOGRAPHY HIGHLIGHT

The UAE has more date palm trees than any other country.

## FUN FACT

Based on the average height of its tallest buildings, Dubai has the tallest skyline in the world.



*Al-Hajar Mountains, United Arab Emirates*

# YEMEN



## POPULATION

30 million (60% under 25, 3% over 65)

## GOVERNMENT

republic undergoing transition

## MAJOR RELIGIONS

Islam

## GEOGRAPHY HIGHLIGHT

Jabal An-Nabi Shu'ayb is the highest point on the Arabian Peninsula at 12,028 feet.

## FUN FACT

Socotra Island is home to many endemic species of animals and plants, including the dragon's blood tree.



*City of Seiyun, Yemen*



# Excerpts from *Geography*

## Strabo (c. 20 AD)

*Strabo was born in 64 BC in northeastern Asia Minor. He was well educated and widely traveled. Near the end of his life he compiled information from his travels and the notes of others into a seventeen-volume work entitled Geography. The following are excerpts from the beginning of that work.*



15th-Century Illustration of Strabo

If the scientific investigation of any subject be the proper avocation of the philosopher, Geography, the science of which we propose to treat, is certainly entitled to a high place; and this is evident from many considerations. They who first ventured to handle the matter were distinguished men, Homer, Anaximander the Milesian, and Hecataeus, (his fellow-citizen according to Eratosthenes), Democritus, Eudoxus, Dicæarchus, Ephorus, with many others, and after these Eratosthenes, Polybius, and Posidonius, all of them philosophers.

Nor is the great learning, through which alone this subject can be approached, possessed by any but a person acquainted with both human and divine things and these attainments constitute what is called philosophy. In addition to its vast importance in regard to social life, and the art of government, Geography unfolds to us the celestial phenomena, acquaints us with the occupants of the land and ocean, and the vegetation, fruits, and peculiarities of the various quarters of the earth, a knowledge of which marks him who cultivates it as a man earnest in the great problem of life and happiness.

Admitting this, let us examine more in detail the points we have advanced.

And first, that both we and our predecessors, amongst whom is Hipparchus, do justly regard Homer as the founder of geographical science, for he not only excelled all, ancient as well as modern, in the sublimity of his poetry, but also in his experience of social life. Thus it was that he not only exerted himself to become familiar with as many historic facts as possible, and transmit them to posterity, but also with the various regions of the inhabited land and sea, some intimately, others in a more general manner. For otherwise he would not have reached the utmost limits of the earth, traversing it in his imagination.

First, he stated that the earth was entirely encompassed by the ocean, as in truth it is; afterwards he described the countries, specifying some by name, others more generally by various indications, explicitly defining Libya, Ethiopia, the Sidonians, and the Erembi (by which latter are probably intended the Troglodyte Arabians); and alluding to those farther east and west as the lands washed by the ocean, for in ocean he believed both the sun and constellations to rise and set. . . .

By the Bear, then, which [Homer] elsewhere calls the Wain, and describes as pursuing Orion, Homer means us to understand the Arctic Circle; and by the ocean, that horizon into which, and out of which, the stars rise and set. When he says that the Bear turns round and is deprived of the ocean, he was aware that the

Arctic Circle [always] extended to the sign opposite the most northern point of the horizon. Adapting the words of the poet to this view, by that part of the earth nearest to the ocean we must understand the horizon, and by the Arctic Circle that which extends to the signs which seem to our senses to touch in succession the most northern point of the horizon. Thus, according to him, this portion of the earth is washed by the ocean. With the nations of the North he was well acquainted, although he does not mention them by name, and indeed at the present day there is no regular title by which they are all distinguished. . . .

The [motions] of the sun and stars, and the centripetal force meet us on the very threshold of such subjects, and compel us to the study of astronomy, and the observation of such phenomena as each of us may notice; in which too, very considerable differences appear, according to the various points of observation. How could any one undertake to write accurately and with propriety on the differences of the various parts of the earth, who was ignorant of these matters? and although, if the undertaking were of a popular character, it might not be advisable to enter thoroughly into detail, still we should endeavour to include every thing which could be comprehended by the general reader.

He who has thus elevated his mind, will he be satisfied with anything less than the whole world? If in his anxiety accurately to portray the inhabited earth, he has dared to survey heaven, and make use thereof for purposes of instruction, would it not seem childish were he to refrain from examining the whole earth, of which the inhabited is but a part, its size, its features, and its position in the universe; whether other portions are inhabited besides those on which we dwell, and if so, their amount? What is the extent of the regions not peopled? what their peculiarities, and the cause of their remaining as they are? Thus it appears that the knowledge of geography is connected with meteorology and geometry, that it unites the things of earth to the things of heaven, as though they were nearly allied, and not separated.

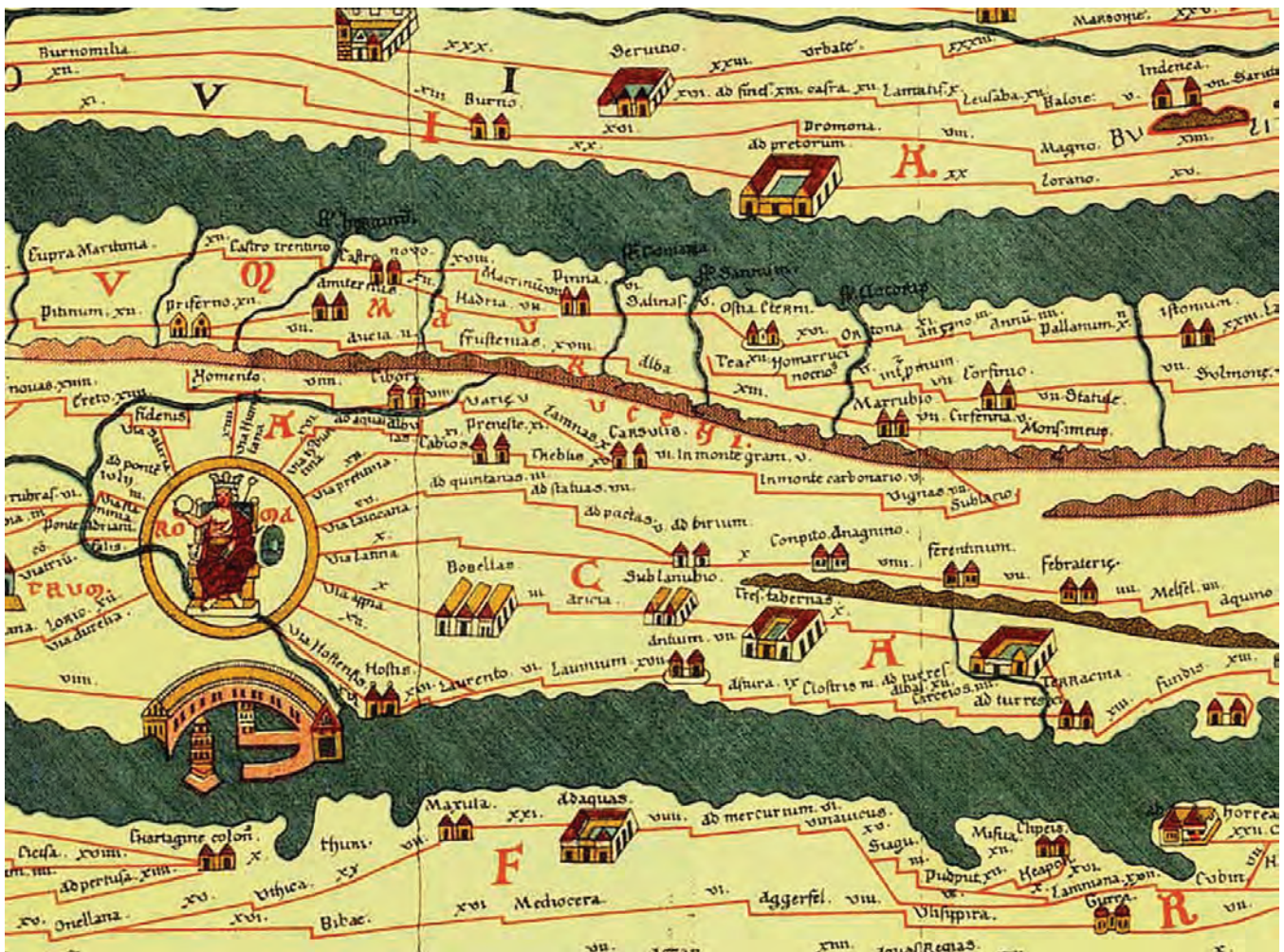


*Title Page from a 17th-Century Latin Edition of Strabo's Work*

# Historic Maps from Around the World

*Different people groups have created maps to meet their own internal needs, to communicate information to other people groups, and to identify their place in the world.*

*A 13th-century monk created a map of the Roman world. Known as the Tabula Peutingeriana, the complete scroll is just over one foot tall and twenty-two feet long. It shows cities and roads from England to India. Details on the scroll suggest that it is based on multiple older maps going back to the first century AD. The original is faded and worn. Here is a small section showing Rome from a 19th-century reproduction of the map. Because of the elongated perspective of the map, this section also shows parts of Southeastern Europe at the top and parts of North Africa at the bottom.*



*The Chinese were producing high quality maps before the time of Christ. Their creation of a portable compass enabled them to engage in long-range travel by ship and to create even more accurate maps during the Medieval period. This map showing China is from a 16th-century Atlas of the Ming Empire. For some unknown reason, the island of Taiwan is not depicted.*



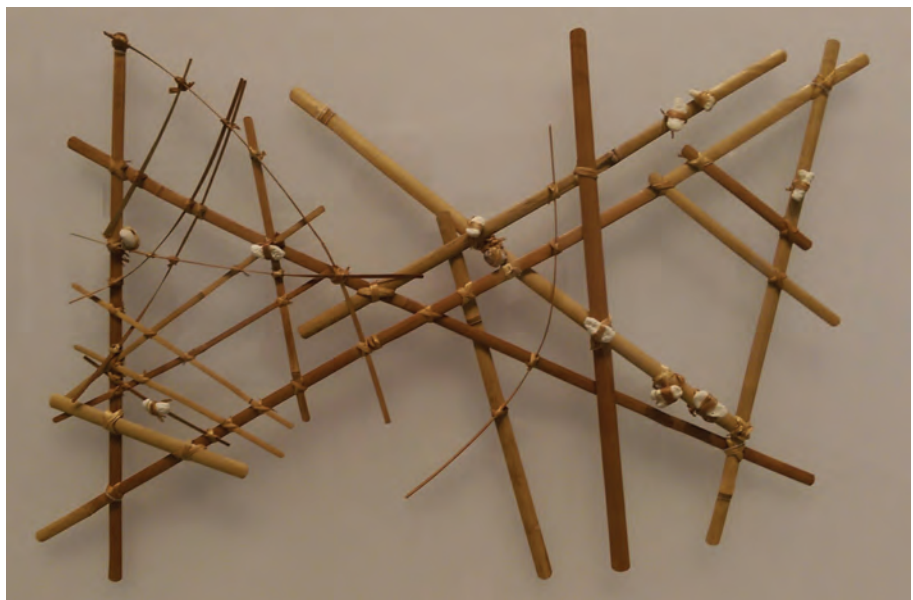
*The Codex Quetzalecatzin dates from the late 1500s. It highlights the conflict and collaboration between the native Nahuatl (or Aztec) people and the Spanish colonists. The map includes the genealogy of a Nahuatl family who trace their lineage back to local leader Lord-11 Quetzalecatzin in 1480. Like other indigenous maps from this time period, it seems to be an attempt by local families to demonstrate their claims to land. Nahuatl symbols and writing on the map contrast with Spanish names and two churches that provide geographic reference points in Mexico.*



*Members of a native nation, likely the Catawba people, created a map on deerskin and presented it to the colonial governor of South Carolina around 1721. Though the original has been lost, the British made two copies of the map. The map depicts the British settlements on the coast of South Carolina on the left. The circles represent native communities spread across the Carolinas. Instead of being a precise geographic map, this map emphasizes the communication and trade networks between the British and the various native nations.*



*Rebbelib (also called stick charts) were used by people in the Marshall Islands. Shells represent islands. The coconut fibers or bamboo sticks connecting the shells indicate ocean currents and ocean swells, caused by wind patterns. Because of their fragility, these maps would most likely not have been carried on a journey. The navigator would have to memorize the information before departure.*



# Captivating Cappadocia

*Cappadocia is an historic region located on the rugged plateau of Central Turkey north of the Taurus Mountains. Lake Tuz to the west is a hypersaline body of water (like the Dead Sea).*

*Volcanic activity in the past spread ash around the area. The compacted ash solidified into tuff, a soft rock. Erosion has left rock columns called hoodoos up to 130 feet high (see below). These unusual formations are also known as rock spires or fairy chimneys. Natural caves and other geologic features fill the landscape.*

*People have lived in the caves of Cappadocia since the time of the Hittites centuries before Christ. Over the centuries, the area has been a battleground as various empires swept through. In such times, residents often hid in the caves.*



*Cappadocia had a role in the life of the early church. Residents of Cappadocia (no doubt Jews) were present on the Day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples gathered in Jerusalem (Acts 2:9). Peter addressed his first letter to believers scattered throughout Cappadocia and nearby areas (1 Peter 1:1). During the time of Roman persecution in the early centuries of the church, Christians lived, gathered, and hid in Cappadocia.*

*People have carved dwellings, places of worship, and public buildings out of the tuff. El Nazar Church was carved into a hoodoo in the 10th century. See frescoes from it at right.*

*Some of these manmade complexes have eight stories underground. The underground city of Derinkuyu could house up to 20,000 people. Get a glimpse of Derinkuyu below.*



*Today Cappadocia is a popular tourist site. Some modern hotels are built into the tuff and utilize existing caves. Balloon rides over the landscape are a popular activity.*



# The Gods of the Copybook Headings

## Rudyard Kipling (1919)

*Rudyard Kipling (1865-1936) was a British novelist, poet, short story writer, and journalist. British schoolchildren used copybooks to practice their handwriting. At the top of a page was usually a popular saying or a statement of conventional wisdom, such as “A stitch in time saves nine” or “Haste makes waste.” As the student worked on his handwriting he imbibed the lessons of these sayings.*

*The tendency in each new generation is to want to push aside the old way of thinking and adopt a new “enlightened” worldview. In this poem Kipling satirizes the appeal of fads and promises of modern ideologies that appear from time to time, and how they always disappoint. We might try to reject the tried and true wisdom of the ages, but in the end it alone will stand. His point is that we shouldn’t be swayed by popular ideas but instead should live by the truths that have stood for ages and will still be standing at the end of time.*

*Although Kipling was the grandson of Methodist ministers on both sides, his life did not demonstrate personal devotion to Christ. This poem has allusions to evolutionary theory, but it also has several references to passages from the Bible. Even though Kipling himself drifted away from traditional faith, he could not completely escape the influence of Biblical values and teaching.*



As I pass through my incarnations in every age and race,  
I make my proper prostrations to the gods of the Market Place.  
Peering through reverent fingers I watch them flourish and fall,  
And the gods of the copybook headings, I notice, outlast them all.

We were living in trees when they met us. They showed us each in turn  
That Water would certainly wet us, as Fire would certainly burn:  
But we found them lacking in Uplift, Vision and Breadth of Mind,  
So we left them to teach the Gorillas while we followed the March of Mankind.

We moved as the spirit listed. They never altered their pace,  
Being neither cloud nor wind-borne like the gods of the Market Place,  
But they always caught up with our progress, and presently word would come  
That a tribe had been wiped off its icefield, or the lights had gone out in Rome.

With the Hopes that our World is built on they were utterly out of touch,  
They denied that the Moon was Stilton; they denied she was even Dutch;

They denied that Wishes were Horses; they denied that a Pig had Wings;  
So we worshipped the gods of the Market who promised these beautiful things.

When the Cambrian measures were forming, They promised perpetual peace.  
They swore, if we gave them our weapons, that the wars of the tribes would cease.  
But when we disarmed They sold us and delivered us bound to our foe,  
And the gods of the copybook headings said: "Stick to the devil you know."

On the first Feminian Sandstones we were promised the Fuller Life  
(Which started by loving our neighbour and ended by loving his wife)  
Till our women had no more children and the men lost reason and faith,  
And the gods of the copybook headings said: "The wages of sin is death."

In the Carboniferous Epoch we were promised abundance for all,  
By robbing selected Peter to pay for collective Paul;  
But, though we had plenty of money, there was nothing our money could buy,  
And the gods of the copybook headings said: "If you don't work you die."

Then the Gods of the Market tumbled, and their smooth-tongued wizards withdrew  
And the hearts of the meanest were humbled and began to believe it was true  
That all is not gold that glitters, and two and two make four  
And the gods of the copybook headings limped up to explain it once more.

As it will be in the future, it was at the birth of Man  
There are only four things certain since Social Progress began.  
That the dog returns to his vomit and the sow returns to her mire,  
And the burnt fool's bandaged finger goes wabbling back to the fire;

And that after this is accomplished, and the brave new world begins  
When all men are paid for existing and no man must pay for his sins,  
As surely as water will wet us, as surely as fire will burn,  
The gods of the copybook headings with terror and slaughter return!

# The Sahara

*The Sahara is the largest hot desert in the world. (Much of Antarctica is considered a desert, too, since precipitation there is so low, but that is obviously a cold desert!)*

*The Sahara is larger than the lower 48 United States. It takes up nearly one third of the land area of Africa.*

*The landscape of the Sahara is a bit more complicated than sand. Regs are sand and gravel plains that cover about 70 percent of the Sahara. See the example below from Morocco.*



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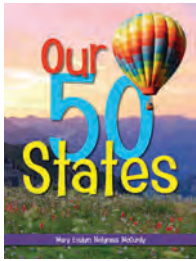
- Afghanistan, 140, 141, 295  
Albania, 82, 83  
Algeria, 20, 21, 255  
American Samoa, 179, 183  
Andorra, 82, 84  
Angola, 46, 47  
Anguilla, 211, 212  
Antarctica, 138, 292-294  
Antigua and Barbuda, 211, 212  
Arctic, 137  
Argentina, 225, 226  
Armenia, 1, 2  
Aruba, 211, 213  
Ascension Island, 55  
Australia, 178, 180  
Austria, 100, 101  
Azerbaijan, 1, 3  
Bahamas, 211, 213  
Bahrain, 1, 4  
Bangladesh, 140, 142, 295  
Barbados, 211, 214  
Belarus, 126, 127  
Belgium, 100, 102  
Belize, 202, 203  
Benin, 27, 28  
Bermuda, 197, 198  
Bhutan, 140, 143, 295  
Bolivia, 225, 227  
Bosnia and Herzegovina, 82, 85  
Botswana, 75, 76  
Brazil, 225, 228, 330-331  
British Indian Ocean Territory, 140, 150  
British Virgin Islands, 211, 214  
Brunei Darussalam, 165, 166  
Bulgaria, 126, 128  
Burkina Faso, 27, 29  
Burma (Myanmar), 165, 171  
Burundi, 56, 57  
Cabo Verde, 27, 30  
Cambodia, 165, 167  
Cameroon, 46, 48  
Canada, 197, 199, 318-320  
Cayman Islands, 211, 215  
Central African Republic, 46, 49  
Chad, 46, 50, 257  
Channel Islands, 100, 103  
Chile, 225, 229  
China, 157, 158, 246  
Colombia, 225, 230  
Comoros, 56, 58  
Congo (Democratic Republic of the), 46, 51  
Congo (Republic of the), 46, 52  
Cook Islands, 179, 183  
Costa Rica, 202, 204  
Cote D'Ivoire, 27, 31  
Croatia, 82, 86  
Cuba, 211, 215, 325-329  
Curacao, 211, 216  
Cyprus, 1, 5  
Czechia (Czech Republic), 126, 129, 279-280  
Democratic Republic of the Congo, 46, 51  
Denmark, 115-117  
Djibouti, 56, 59  
Dominica, 211, 216  
Dominican Republic, 211, 217  
Easter Island, 179, 184  
Ecuador, 225, 232  
Egypt, 20, 22, 256  
El Salvador, 202, 205  
Equatorial Guinea, 27, 32  
Eritrea, 56, 60  
Estonia, 115, 118  
Eswatini, 75, 77  
Ethiopia, 56, 51  
Falkland Islands, 225, 233  
Faroe Islands, 115, 119  
Federated States of Micronesia, 178, 189  
Fiji, 179, 184  
Finland, 115, 120  
France, 100, 104  
French Guiana, 225, 234  
French Polynesia, 179, 185  
Gabon, 46, 53  
Gambia, The, 27, 33, 258-260

Georgia, 1, 6  
 Germany, 100, 105  
 Ghana, 27, 34  
 Gibraltar, 82, 87  
 Greece, 82, 88, 333  
 Greenland, 197, 200  
 Grenada, 211, 217  
 Guam, 178, 185  
 Guatemala, 202, 206  
 Guinea, 27, 35  
 Guinea-Bissau, 27, 36  
 Guyana, 225, 235  
 Haiti, 211, 218  
 Honduras, 202, 207  
 Hungary, 126, 130  
 Iceland, 115, 121  
 India, 140, 144, 296  
 Indonesia, 165, 168  
 Iran, 140, 145, 296  
 Iraq, 1, 7  
 Ireland, 100, 106  
 Isle of Man, 100, 107  
 Israel, 1, 8  
 Italy, 82, 89, 245  
 Jamaica, 211, 218  
 Japan, 157, 159  
 Jersey Island, 100, 108  
 Jordan, 1, 9  
 Kazakhstan, 151, 152, 343  
 Kenya, 56, 62  
 Kiribati, 178-179, 188  
 Korea, North, 157, 160, 302-308  
 Korea, South, 157, 161, 302-308  
 Kosovo, 82, 90  
 Kuwait, 1, 10  
 Kyrgyzstan, 151, 153, 298-301  
 Laos, 165, 169  
 Latvia, 115, 122  
 Lebanon, 1, 11  
 Lesotho, 75, 78  
 Liberia, 27, 37  
 Libya, 20, 23, 255  
 Liechtenstein, 100, 109  
 Lithuania, 115, 123  
 Luxembourg, 100, 110  
 Madagascar, viii, 56, 63  
 Malawi, 56, 64  
 Malaysia, 165, 170  
 Maldives, 140, 146, 296  
 Mali, 27, 38  
 Malta, 82, 91  
 Marshall Islands, 178, 188, 248  
 Mauritania, 27, 39, 256  
 Mauritius, 56, 65  
 Mexico, 202, 208, 247  
 Moldova, 126, 131  
 Monaco, 100, 111  
 Mongolia, 157, 162  
 Montenegro, 82, 92  
 Montserrat, 211, 219  
 Morocco, 20, 24, 254  
 Mozambique, 56, 66  
 Myanmar (Burma), 165, 171  
 Namibia, 75, 79  
 Nauru, 178, 189  
 Nepal, 140, 147, 297  
 Netherlands, 100, 112  
 New Caledonia, 178, 190  
 New Zealand, 178-179, 181, 313-314  
 Nicaragua, 202, 209, 323-324  
 Niger, 27, 40  
 Nigeria, 27, 41  
 Niue, 179, 190  
 North Korea, 157, 160, 302-308  
 North Macedonia, 82, 93  
 Northern Cyprus, 1, 5  
 Northern Mariana Islands, 178, 191  
 Norway, 115, 124  
 Oman, 1, 12  
 Pakistan, 140, 148, 297  
 Palau, 178, 191  
 Palestine, 1, 8  
 Palestine, 1, 8  
 Panama, 202, 210  
 Papua New Guinea, 178, 182  
 Paracel Islands, 157, 163  
 Paraguay, 225, 236  
 Peru, 225, 237  
 Philippines, 165, 172  
 Pitcairn Islands, 179, 192

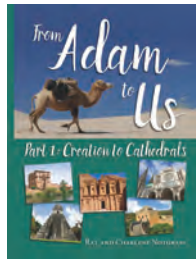
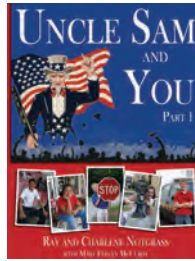
Poland, 126, 132  
 Portugal, 82, 94  
 Puerto Rico, 211, 219  
 Qatar, 1, 13  
 Republic of the Congo, 46, 52  
 Romania, 126, 133  
 Russian Federation, 126, 134, 281-291  
 Rwanda, 56, 67  
 Saint Barthelemy, 211, 220  
 Saint Kitts and Nevis, 211, 220  
 Saint Lucia, 211, 221  
 Saint Martin, 211, 221  
 Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, 211, 222  
 Samoa, 179, 192  
 San Marino, 82, 95, 273-274  
 São Tomé and Príncipe, 46, 54  
 Saudi Arabia, 1, 14  
 Senegal, 27, 42, 258-260  
 Serbia, 82, 96  
 Seychelles, 56, 68  
 Sierra Leone, 27, 43  
 Singapore, 165, 173  
 Sint Maarten, 211, 222  
 Slovakia, 126, 135  
 Slovenia, 82, 97  
 Solomon Islands, 178, 193  
 Somalia, 56, 69  
 Somaliland, 69  
 South Africa, 75, 80, 270-272  
 South Georgia, 238  
 South Korea, 157, 161, 302-308  
 South Sandwich Islands, 225, 238  
 South Sudan, 56, 70, 265-269  
 Spain, 82, 98  
 Sri Lanka, 140, 149, 297  
 St. Helena Island, 55  
 Sudan, 20, 25, 257  
 Sudan, South, 56, 70, 265-269  
 Suriname, 225, 239  
 Sweden, 115, 125, 277-278  
 Switzerland, 100, 113, 277  
 Syria, 1, 15  
 Taiwan, 157, 164  
 Tajikistan, 151, 154  
 Tanzania, 56, 71  
 Thailand, 165, 175  
 Timor-Leste, 165, 176  
 Togo, 27, 44-45  
 Tokelau, 179, 193  
 Tonga, 179, 194  
 Trinidad and Tobago, 211, 223  
 Tristan da Cunha, 55, 261-264  
 Tunisia, 20, 26  
 Turkey, 1, 16, 243-244, 249-251  
 Turkmenistan, 151, 155  
 Turks and Caico Islands, 211, 223  
 Tuvalu, 179, 194  
 U.S. Virgin Islands, 211, 224  
 Uganda, 56, 72  
 Ukraine, 126, 136  
 United Arab Emirates, 1, 17  
 United Kingdom, 100, 114, 275-276  
 United States, 197, 201, 248, 309-312, 315-317, 321-322  
 Uruguay, 225, 240  
 Uzbekistan, 151, 156  
 Vanuatu, 178, 195  
 Vatican City, 82, 99  
 Venezuela, 225, 241  
 Vietnam, 165, 177, 311-312  
 Virgin Islands (British), 211, 214  
 Virgin Islands (U.S.), 211, 224  
 Wallis and Futuna, 179, 196  
 Western Sahara, 20, 24  
 Yemen, 1, 18  
 Zambia, 56, 73  
 Zimbabwe, 56, 74

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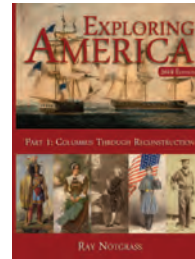
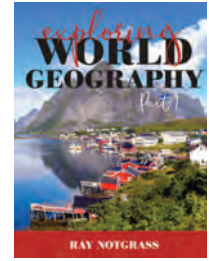
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