

## My First Library of Knowledge

# Ancient Worlds



 Orpheus

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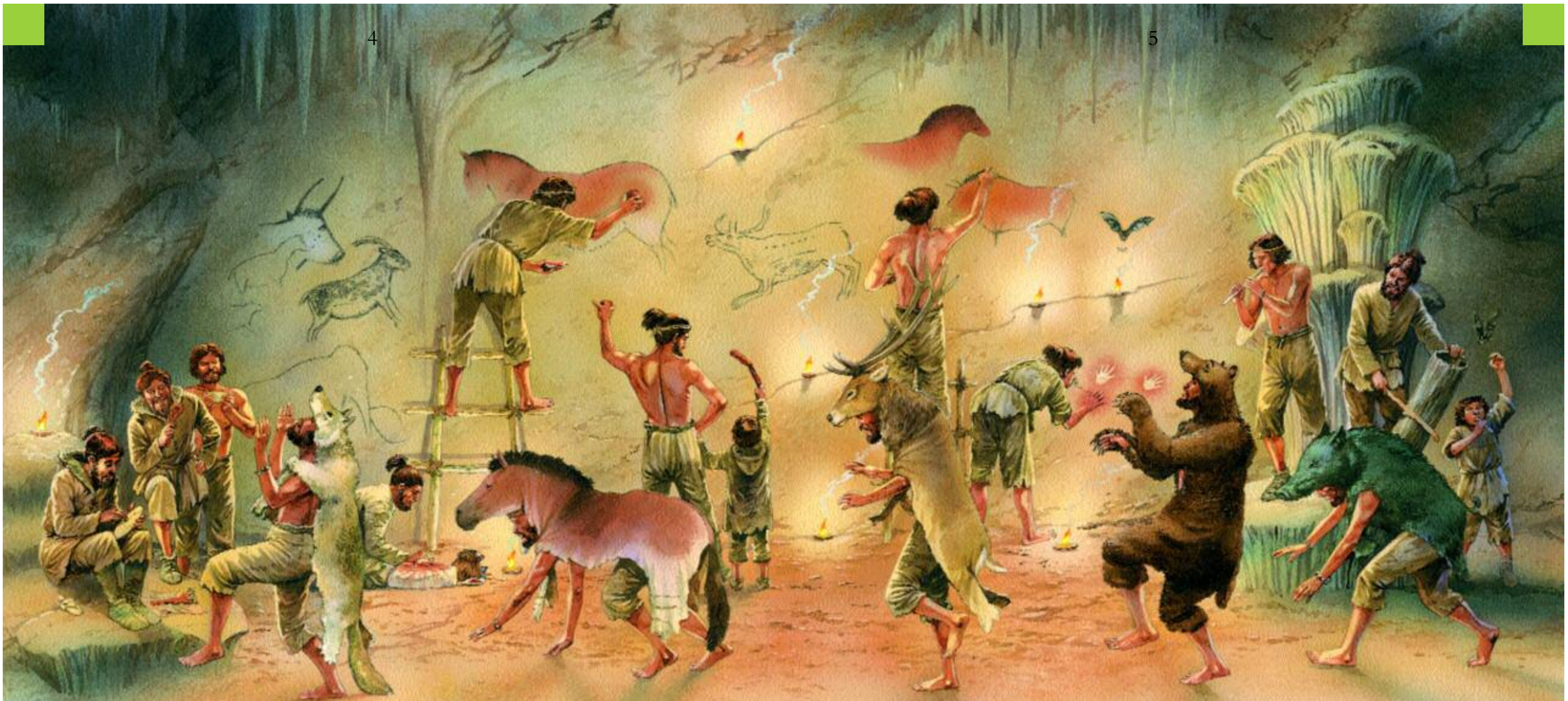
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# INTRODUCTION

**E**XPLORE the world  
as it was thousands  
of years ago. Meet the  
builders of the Great Wall  
of China and learn how  
to mummify a pharaoh.  
March with the Roman  
army and wander  
through the Hanging  
Gardens of Babylon. Or  
travel even further back  
and see the first cave  
paintings being made.  
This book takes you on  
an unforgettable journey  
to the ancient world.





## CAVE DWELLERS

Around 30,000 years ago, humans in Europe began to paint on the walls of their cave dwellings. They

drew mainly animals and hunting scenes. They also scratched images into the rock using sharp stones.

## INSIDE THE CAVE

On the walls, artists painted pictures of animals: bison, deer, horses and goats. They used charcoal and ground-up clay, called ochre. They made hand-prints by blowing paint from

their mouths over their outspread hands. During ceremonies held in the cave, people might have acted out hunts. Here they are dressed up in the skins of animals, such as wild boars, bears and wolves, performing a dance.

## THE FIRST FARMERS

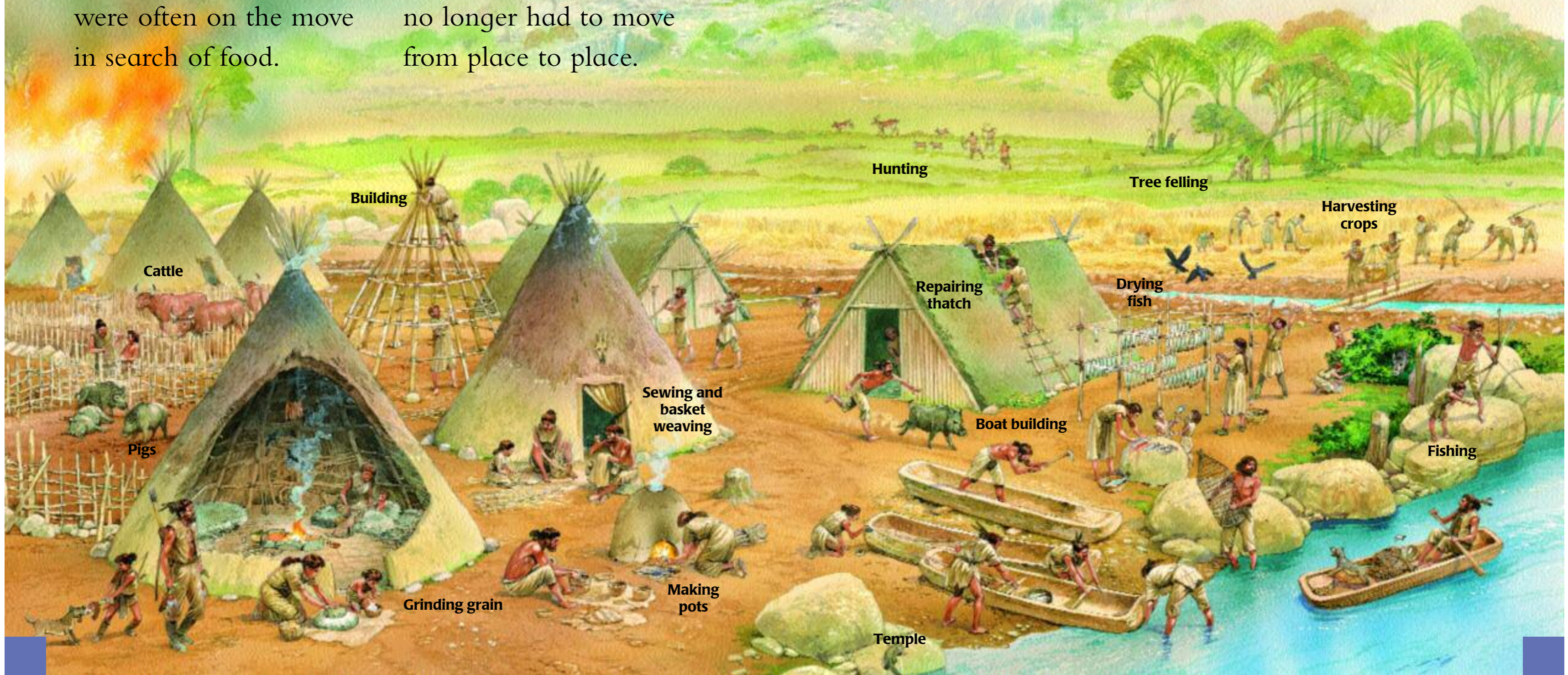
**F**OR THOUSANDS of years early humans survived by hunting animals and gathering plants. This meant they were often on the move in search of food.

Then, about 11,000 years ago, people discovered how to grow certain food plants and keep animals, such as goats. Now they no longer had to move from place to place.

## AN EARLY VILLAGE

People began to settle in small villages, often close to water, as in this village in northern Europe. They cut down trees to make room for fields where they could plant their crops. They could now grow barley, wheat and other grains, as

well as keep livestock. People still hunted wild animals and fished in the rivers. The villagers built huts from wood and stone, and made thatched roofs from grass or reeds. They stored food to eat in winter. Some villagers spent their time sewing, weaving and making pots.



# LIFE IN ANCIENT EGYPT

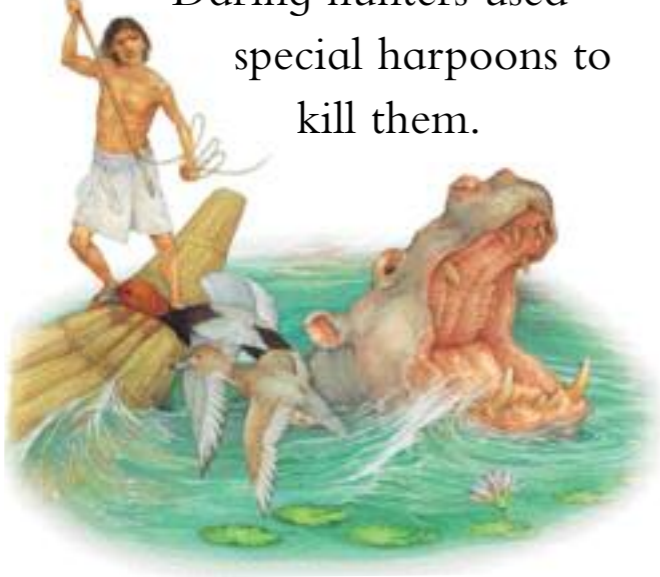
**A** GREAT civilization grew up along the banks of the River Nile in Egypt about 5000 years ago. The people lived by hunting, farming

and fishing. They were also skilled craftworkers and artists. Egyptian kings, known as pharaohs, were thought of as gods by their subjects.

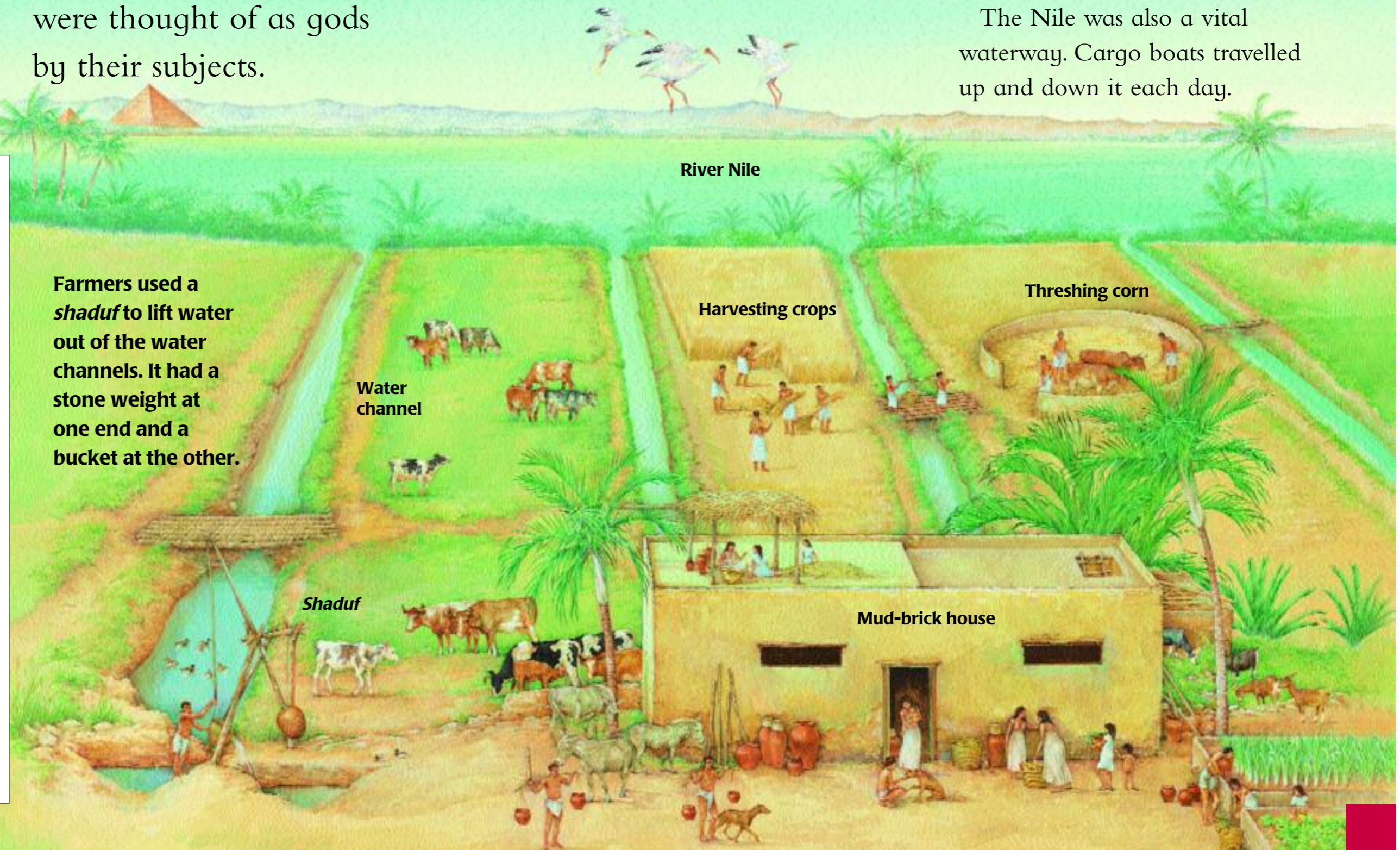
## HUNTING

Dangerous animals, such as crocodiles, lived in swampy areas along the banks of the Nile. Hippopotamuses were a nuisance to the Egyptians. They trampled their crops and frightened their cattle.

Daring hunters used special harpoons to kill them.



Farmers used a *shaduf* to lift water out of the water channels. It had a stone weight at one end and a bucket at the other.



River Nile

Harvesting crops

Threshing corn

Water channel

Shaduf

Mud-brick house

## THE RIVER NILE

The River Nile, which flowed through Egypt's deserts, was vital to the ancient Egyptians. For four months each year it flooded, leaving a layer of rich black soil along its banks. It was ideal for

growing crops, such as barley and emmer, a kind of wheat. The Nile also provided water for animals, such as oxen and goats. They were also used to work the land. The farmers lived in simple mud-brick houses near their fields.

The Nile was also a vital waterway. Cargo boats travelled up and down it each day.

# PYRAMIDS

**P**YRAMIDS were built as huge tombs for pharaohs when they died.

The largest one, the Great Pyramid of Khufu, was 147 metres high.

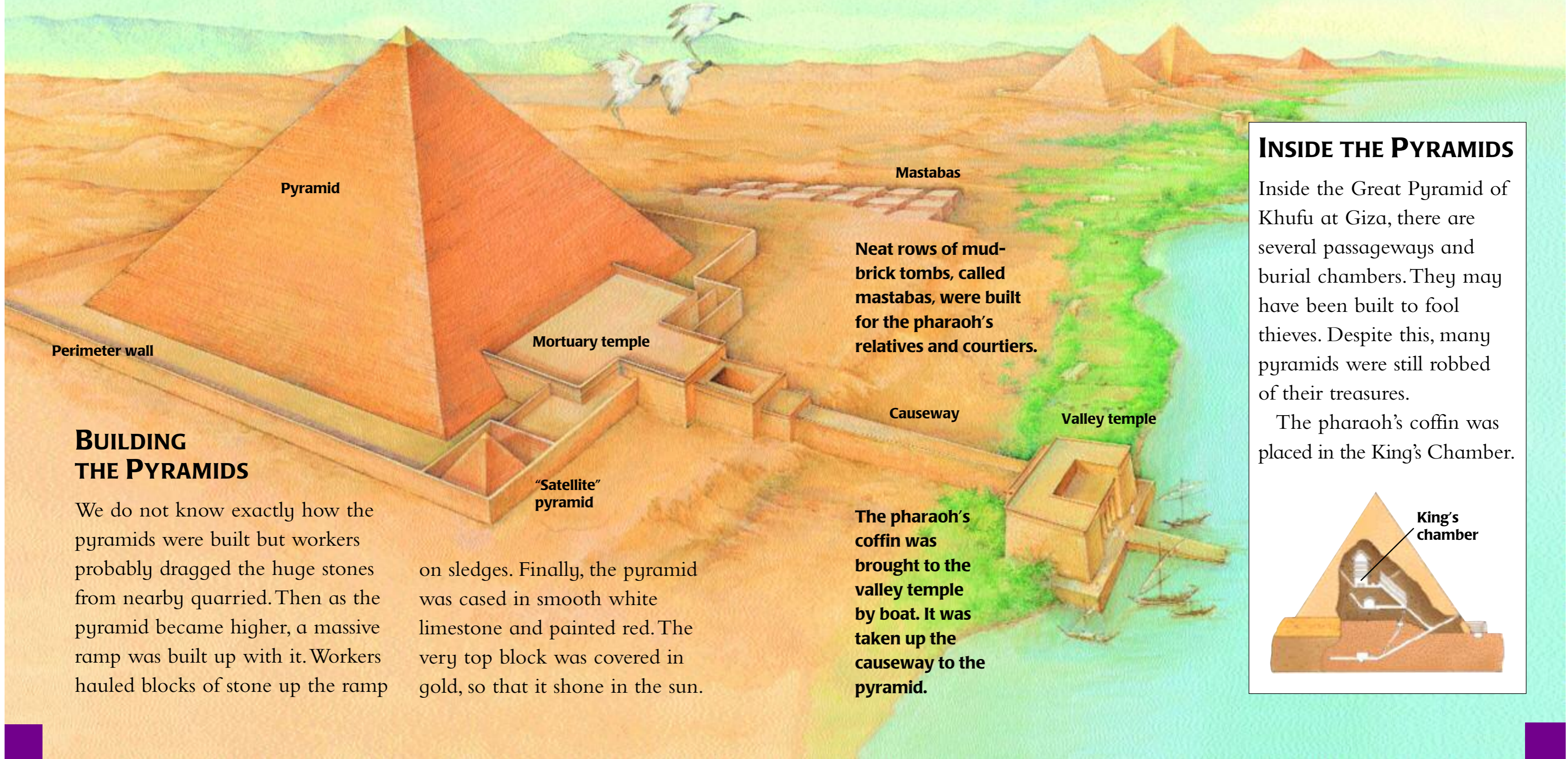
## BUILDING THE PYRAMIDS

We do not know exactly how the pyramids were built but workers probably dragged the huge stones from nearby quarried. Then as the pyramid became higher, a massive ramp was built up with it. Workers hauled blocks of stone up the ramp

on sledges. Finally, the pyramid was cased in smooth white limestone and painted red. The very top block was covered in gold, so that it shone in the sun.

It took thousands of workers more than twenty years to build a single pyramid. Most of the

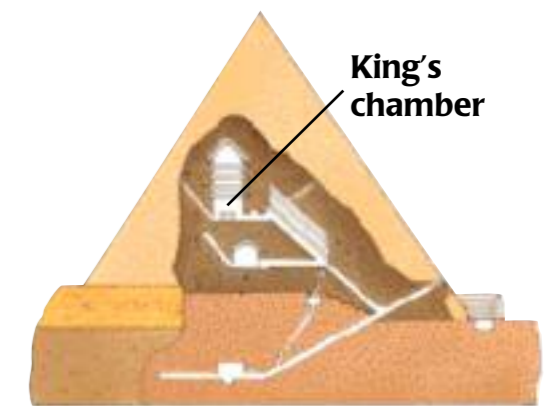
pyramids still stand today above the banks of the Nile, 4500 years after they were completed.



## INSIDE THE PYRAMIDS

Inside the Great Pyramid of Khufu at Giza, there are several passageways and burial chambers. They may have been built to fool thieves. Despite this, many pyramids were still robbed of their treasures.

The pharaoh's coffin was placed in the King's Chamber.



**Mastabas**  
Neat rows of mud-brick tombs, called mastabas, were built for the pharaoh's relatives and courtiers.

**Causeway**  
**Valley temple**  
The pharaoh's coffin was brought to the valley temple by boat. It was taken up the causeway to the pyramid.

Perimeter wall

Pyramid

Mortuary temple

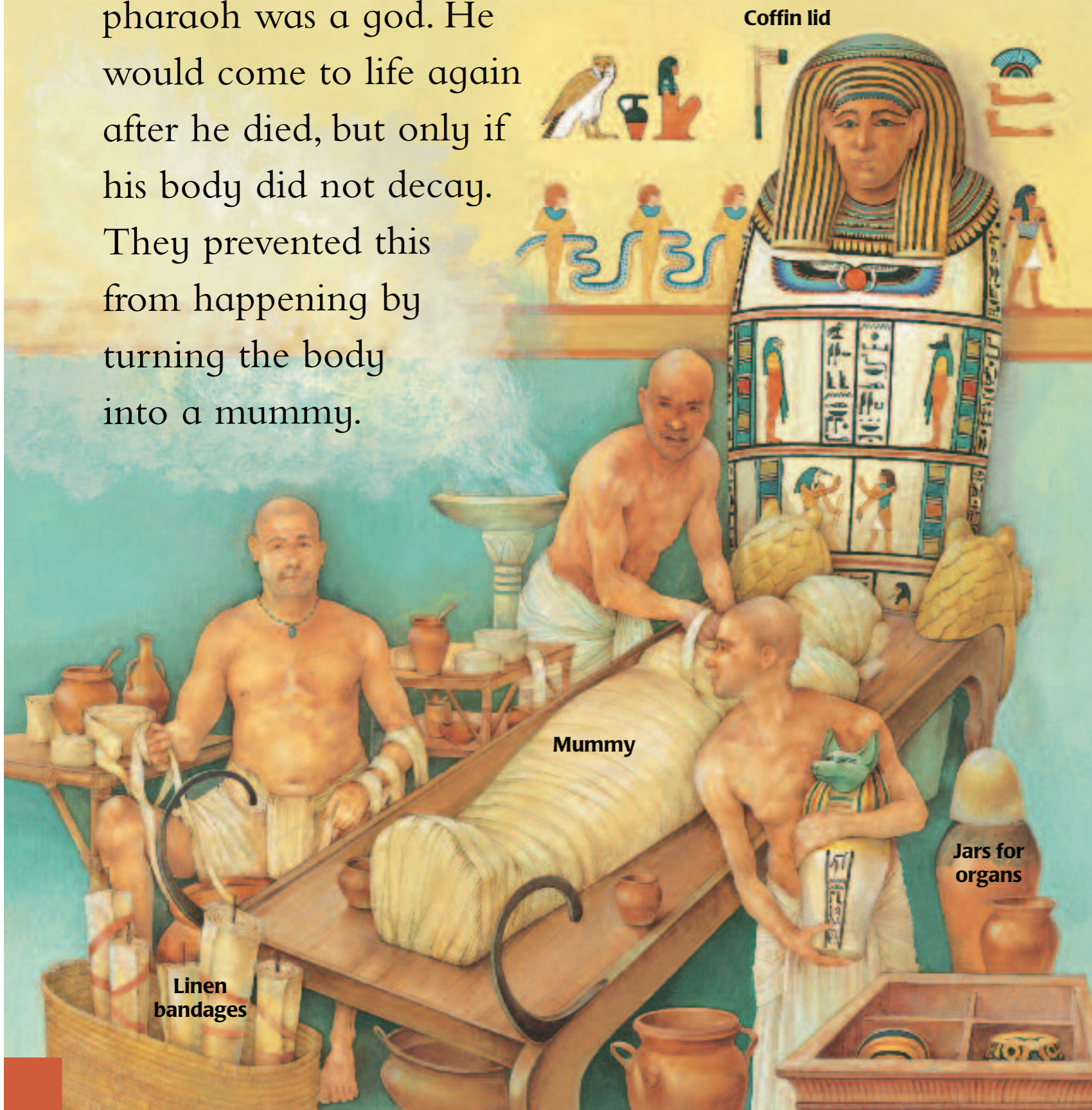
"Satellite" pyramid

King's chamber

# MUMMIES

The Egyptians believed that their pharaoh was a god. He would come to life again after he died, but only if his body did not decay. They prevented this from happening by turning the body into a mummy.

These men are making the pharaoh's body into a mummy. They have taken out the organs and placed them in special jars. Now they are wrapping the body in linen bandages.



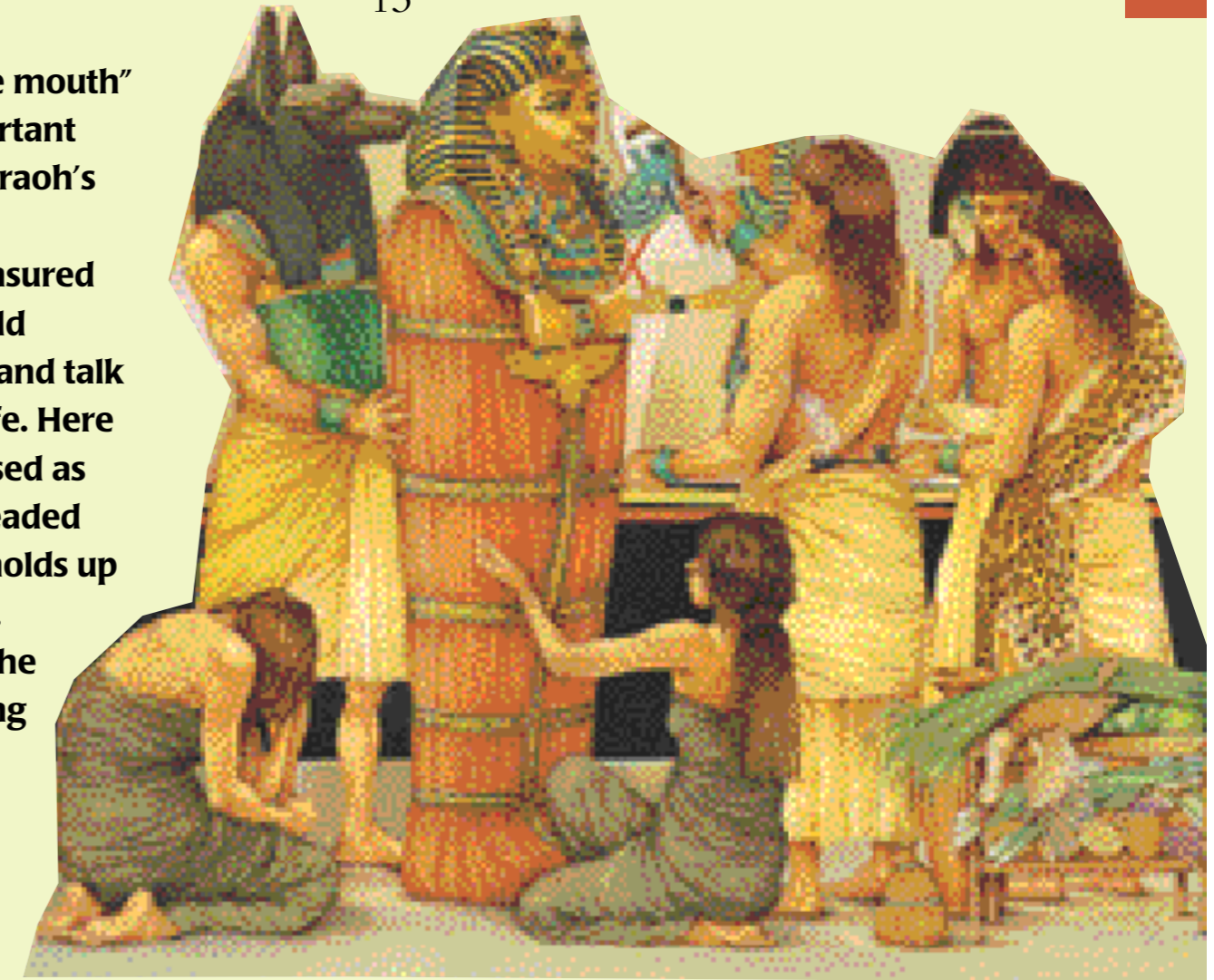
Coffin lid

Mummy

Jars for organs

Linen bandages

“Opening the mouth” was an important part of a pharaoh’s funeral. This ceremony ensured pharaoh could breathe, eat and talk in the afterlife. Here a priest dressed as the jackal-headed god Anubis holds up the mummy. Anubis was the god of making mummies.



## MAKING A MUMMY

First the brain, lungs, liver and other organs were removed and put into special jars. The heart was left in the body. The Egyptians believed it was used for thinking and would be needed in the afterlife. The body was dried out using salt. It was then covered with spices and resin (sticky tree-sap). The inside was packed with sand. Finally, the body was carefully wrapped in linen bandages.

## THE FACE OF A PHARAOH

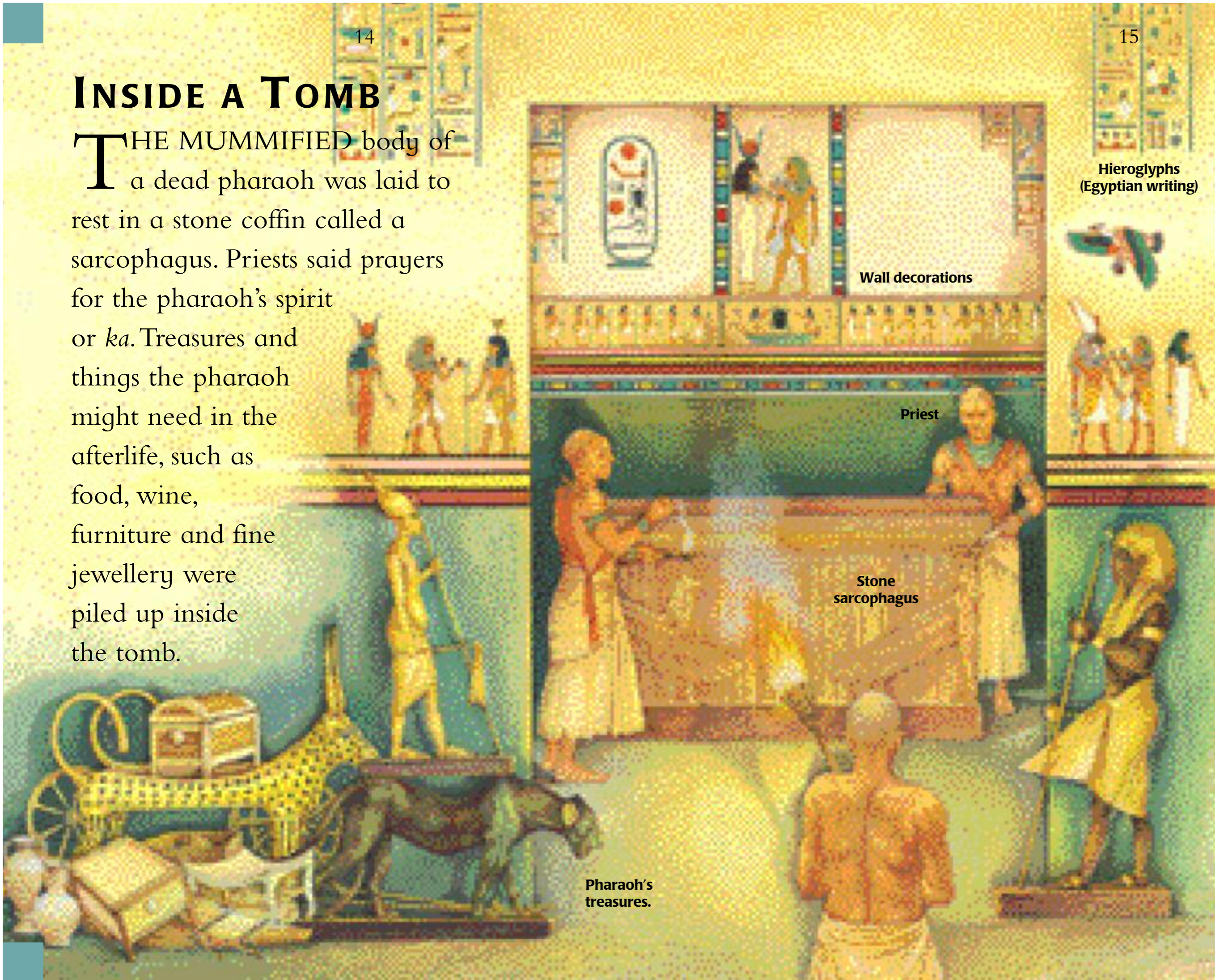


Some pharaoh mummies have survived right up to the present day. This (above) is the mummy of Ramesses II. His reign lasted for 66 years. This powerful ruler was father to more than 100 children!

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## INSIDE A TOMB

THE MUMMIFIED body of a dead pharaoh was laid to rest in a stone coffin called a sarcophagus. Priests said prayers for the pharaoh's spirit or *ka*. Treasures and things the pharaoh might need in the afterlife, such as food, wine, furniture and fine jewellery were piled up inside the tomb.



Pharaoh's  
treasures.

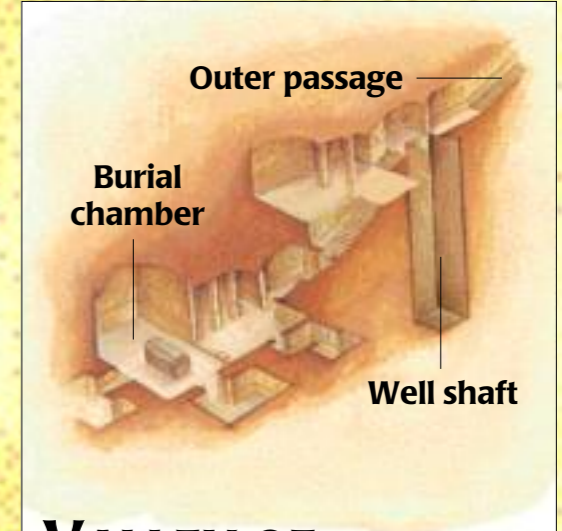
Stone  
sarcophagus

Priest

Wall decorations

Hieroglyphs  
(Egyptian writing)

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## VALLEY OF THE KINGS

Pharaohs used to have their tombs in pyramids, but these were often robbed. Later pharaohs were buried in tombs carved out of the rock in the Valley of the Kings. They hoped these tombs would be more difficult to rob. Some had a well shaft to drain away water if the tomb ever flooded. The well was also a barrier to thieves. The burial chamber was hidden behind many rooms and passageways. It was sealed shut with blocks of stone.

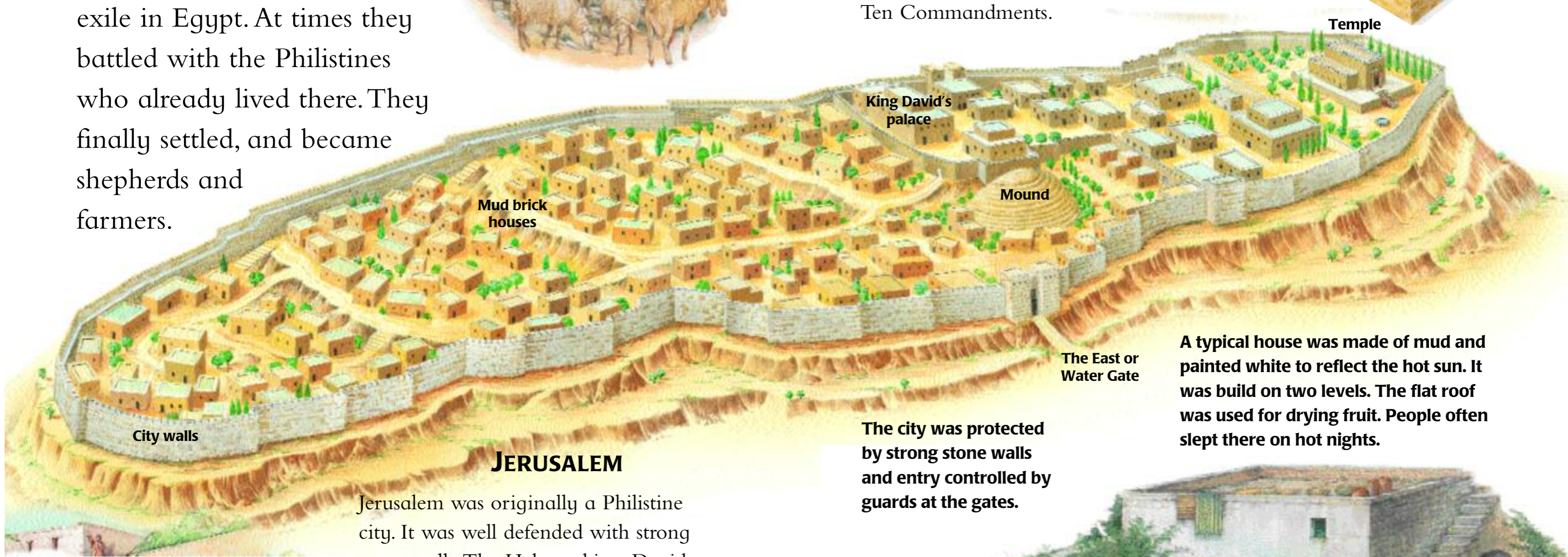


# LIFE IN BIBLICAL TIMES

**T**HE PEOPLE living in Israel about 3000 years ago were called Hebrews. They came to Israel from exile in Egypt. At times they battled with the Philistines who already lived there. They finally settled, and became shepherds and farmers.



A shepherd



Mud brick houses

King David's palace

Mound

The East or Water Gate

City walls

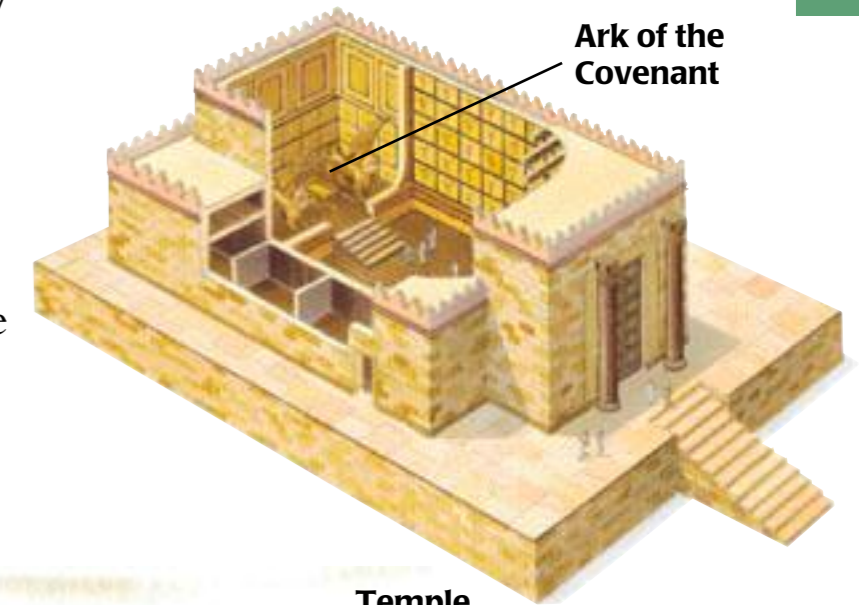
## JERUSALEM

Jerusalem was originally a Philistine city. It was well defended with strong stone walls. The Hebrew king, David, captured Jerusalem and made it his capital. He built a great palace in the north of the city to mark his victory.

**Jerusalem stood on top of a hill with steep valleys on three sides.**

# THE TEMPLE

David's son, King Solomon, built a magnificent temple (*right*) to the Hebrew god, Yahweh. It was made from stone, cedarwood, bronze and gold. It housed the Ark of the Covenant, which contained the Ten Commandments.



Ark of the Covenant

Temple

**The city was protected by strong stone walls and entry controlled by guards at the gates.**

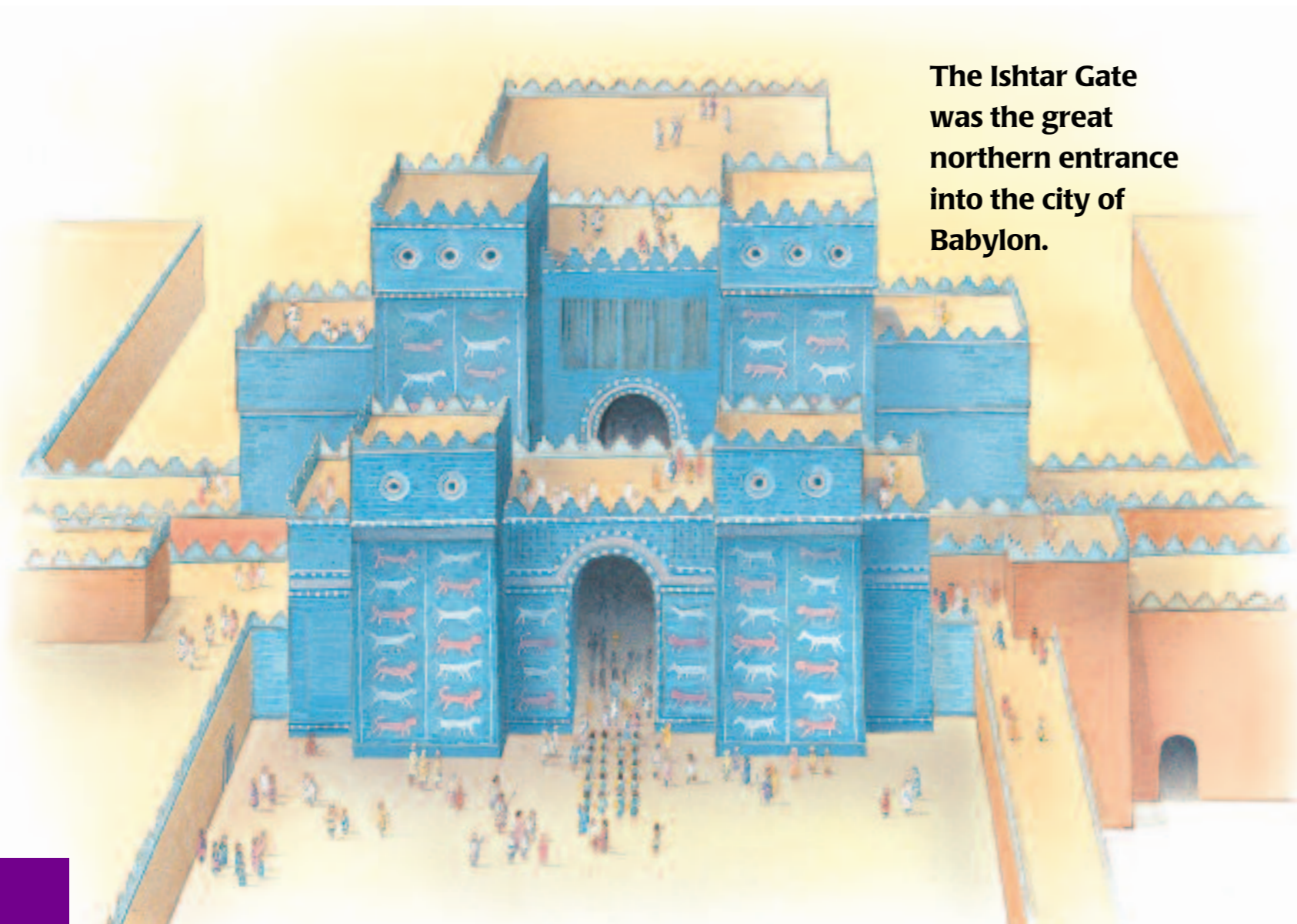
**A typical house was made of mud and painted white to reflect the hot sun. It was built on two levels. The flat roof was used for drying fruit. People often slept there on hot nights.**



## ANCIENT BABYLON

**B**ABYLON became one of the richest cities in the world under King Nebuchadnezzar II. Before him, the city had been under the rule of the warlike Assyrians, who eventually destroyed it.

When Nebuchadnezzar became king in 604 BC, he changed Babylon's fortunes. He fought many wars and created a huge empire. He used wealth from his conquests to rebuild the city.



**The Ishtar Gate was the great northern entrance into the city of Babylon.**

## ZIGGURATS

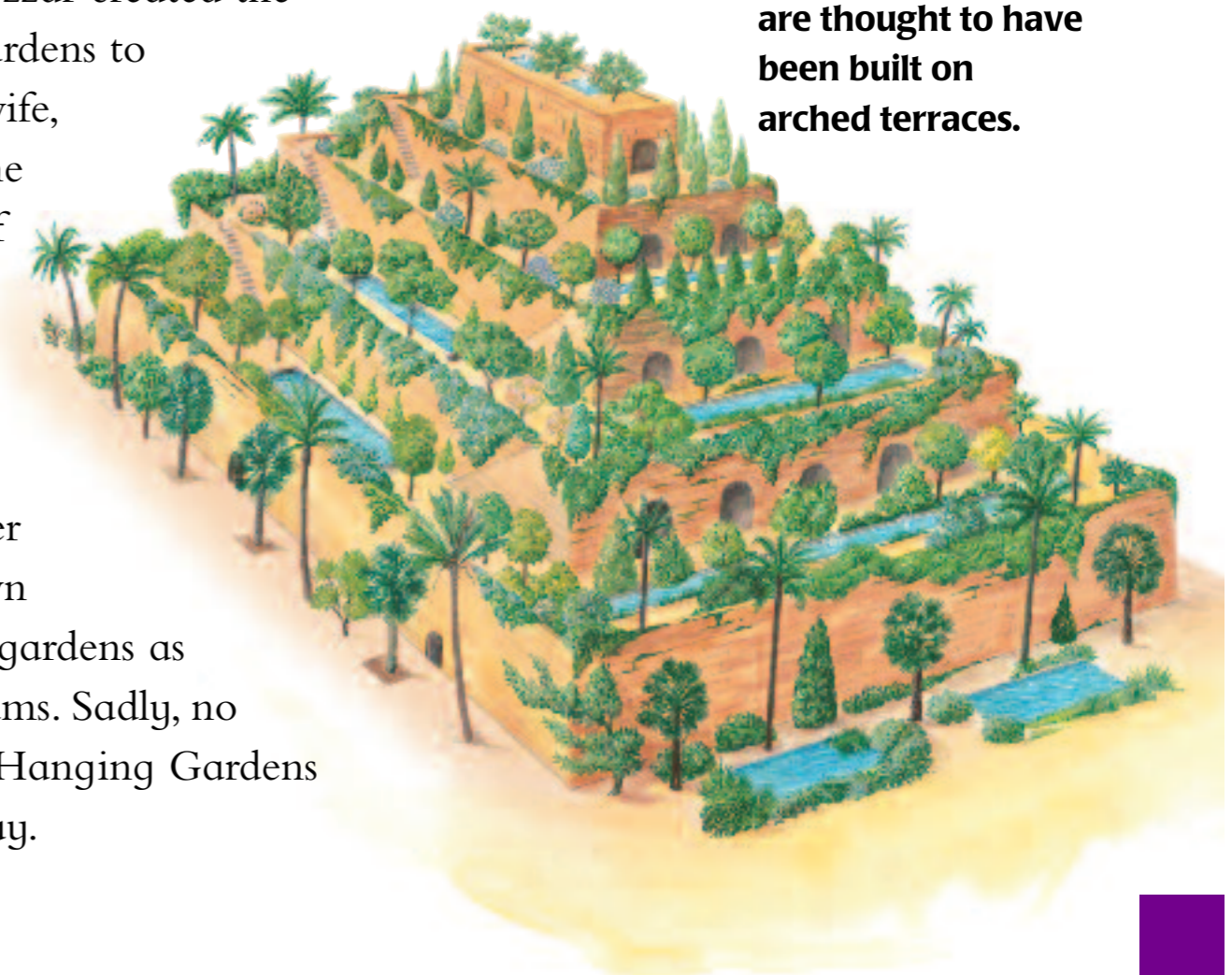
Ziggurat was the Assyrian word for mountaintop. Ziggurats were towering stepped pyramids with a temple at the very top. They were built in the Middle East thousands of years ago. They were believed to be stairways linking heaven and earth. King Nebuchadnezzar built a huge ziggurat temple to the god Marduk in the centre of Babylon.

Temple

Stairway

## THE HANGING GARDENS

Nebuchadnezzar created the Hanging Gardens to remind his wife, Amytis, of the green hills of Media, her homeland. Water was pumped up from the river and ran down through the gardens as cooling streams. Sadly, no trace of the Hanging Gardens remains today.

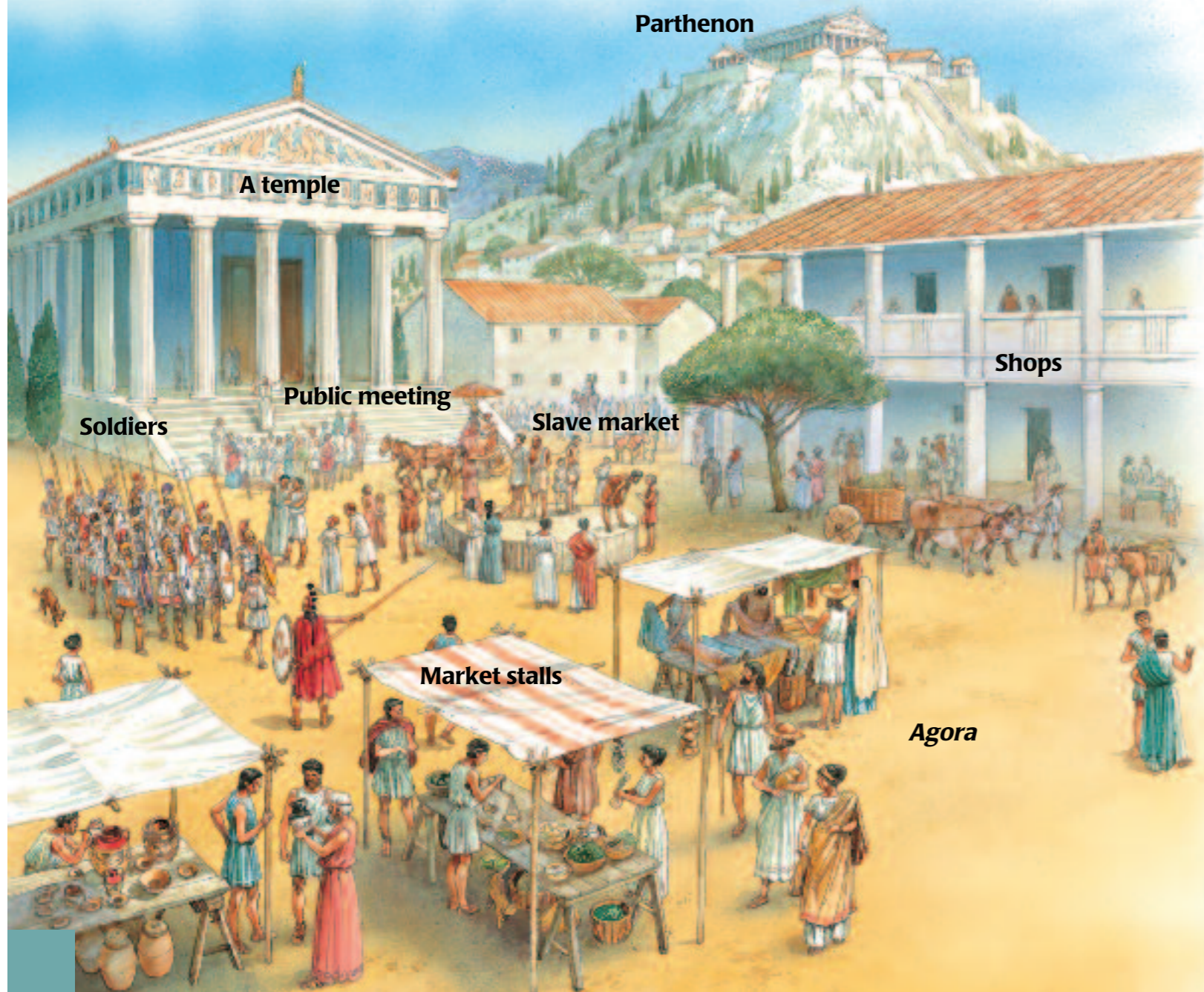


**The lush gardens are thought to have been built on arched terraces.**

# ANCIENT GREECE

**T**HE GREEK city of Athens was rich and powerful around 440 BC. At the heart of the city was the market square or *agora*. Public meetings

were held here and goods and slaves were bought and sold. On a hill above the city stood the Parthenon. This was a temple to the goddess Athena



# GREEK PASTIMES

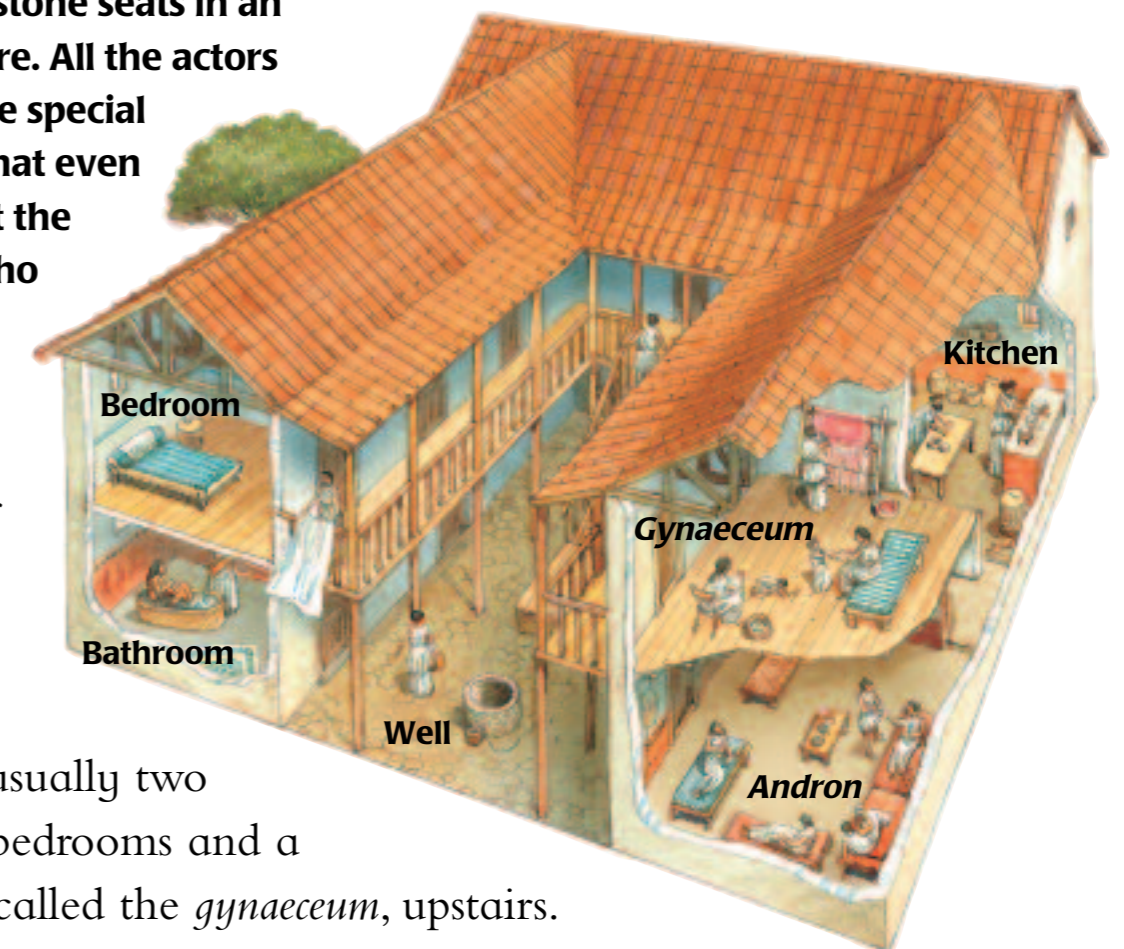
Plays were popular with both men and women. The Greeks also enjoyed sports. The ancient Olympic Games were held every four years, but only men were allowed to compete.



The audience sat on stone seats in an open-air amphitheatre. All the actors were men. They wore special character masks so that even people sitting right at the back could still tell who was who.

# AT HOME

A typical home of a wealthy Greek family was built round an open courtyard. It was usually two storeys high with bedrooms and a room for women, called the *gynaecium*, upstairs. The kitchens, a bathroom and the men's dining area, or *andron*, were downstairs. Slaves would prepare the food, and do all the domestic work around the house.



**A Greek house was built of wood and mud bricks. Its roof was made of pottery tiles.**

## ANCIENT CHINA

**Q**IN SHI HUANGDI was China's first emperor. He was a very powerful man. He ended years of war in China and kept order by killing anyone who opposed

him. His laws were very strict. He made everyone pay tax and use the same sort of money, weights and way of writing. Shi Huangdi also built new roads across the country.

## TERRACOTTA ARMY

Despite his great power, there was one thing Qin Shi Huangdi was afraid of: death. He made elaborate plans for his burial. When he died in 210 BC, more than 7500 life-size soldiers, and dozens of horses, all made of a baked clay called terracotta, were buried alongside him in his tomb. They were there to protect

the emperor's spirit. Every statue, based on a real person, was different. They were originally painted in bright colours and carried real weapons.



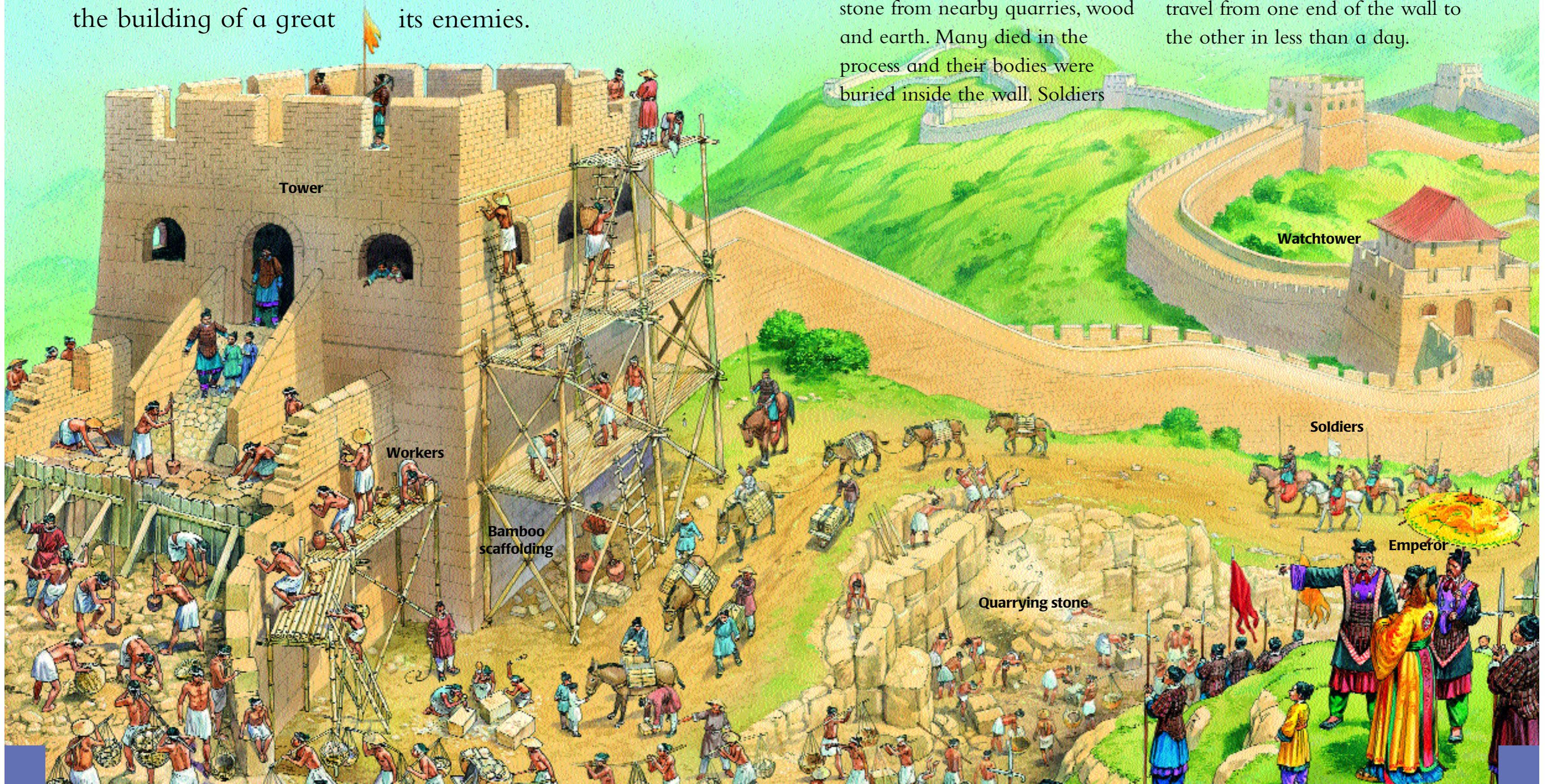
The ancient Chinese were great inventors. As well as gunpowder, rockets and paper, they



invented an earthquake detector. When the machine was shaken by earth tremors, a ball would drop from one of the eight dragons' mouths into a waiting toad's mouth. This indicated the direction of the quake.

# GREAT WALL OF CHINA

**I**N 214 BC Emperor Qin Shi Huangdi, ordered the building of a great wall to protect the north of China from attack by its enemies.



Tower

Workers

Bamboo scaffolding

Quarrying stone

Watchtower

Soldiers

Emperor

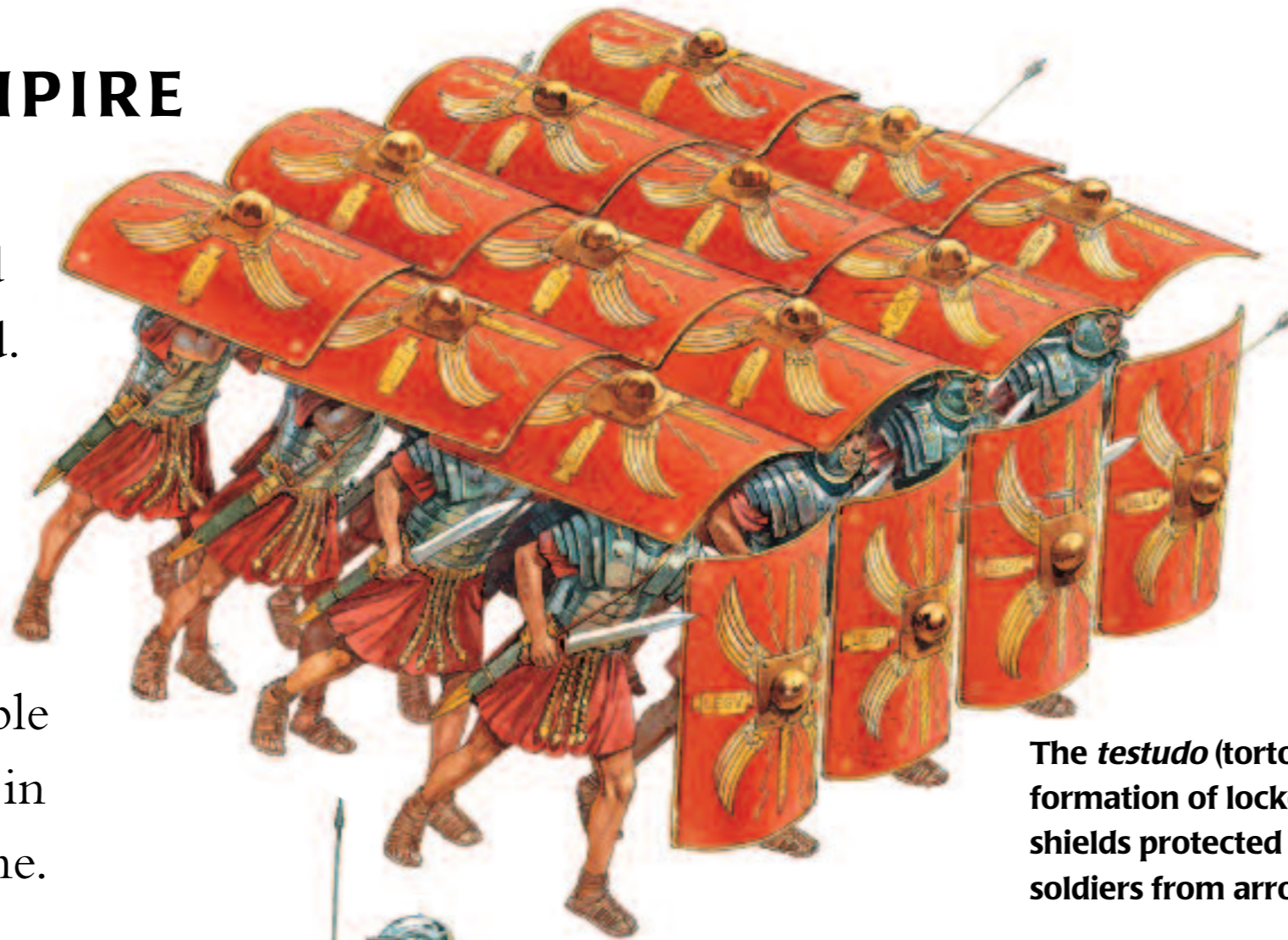
## BUILDING THE WALL

More than 300,000 soldiers, peasants and convicts helped to build the Great Wall. They used stone from nearby quarries, wood and earth. Many died in the process and their bodies were buried inside the wall. Soldiers

were stationed in watchtowers all along the wall's 3000-km length. They sent messages to one another by smoke signals. Messages could travel from one end of the wall to the other in less than a day.

# THE ROMAN EMPIRE

TWO thousand years ago the Romans ruled most of Europe and beyond. Their way of life spread across the empire. They built roads, aqueducts, and fine buildings in the lands they conquered. Many people learned to speak and write in Latin, the language of Rome.



The *testudo* (tortoise) formation of locked shields protected soldiers from arrows.



The standard was the symbol of each legion or century. It was carried into battle by the *aquifer* (left) or the *signifer* (below).



## THE ROMAN ARMY

The Romans were successful in conquering their huge empire because of their well-trained and organized army. Ordinary footsoldiers were called legionaries (*right*). Their officers were centurions (*left*). The army became very powerful. It crushed any rebellions within the empire and could even control who became emperor.



## THE ROMAN EMPIRE

In AD 117, the Roman Empire stretched from Britain to the Middle East. Today the same area includes more than 40 countries. The Romans governed their empire well and protected it from other invaders. The empire lasted for nearly 500 years.



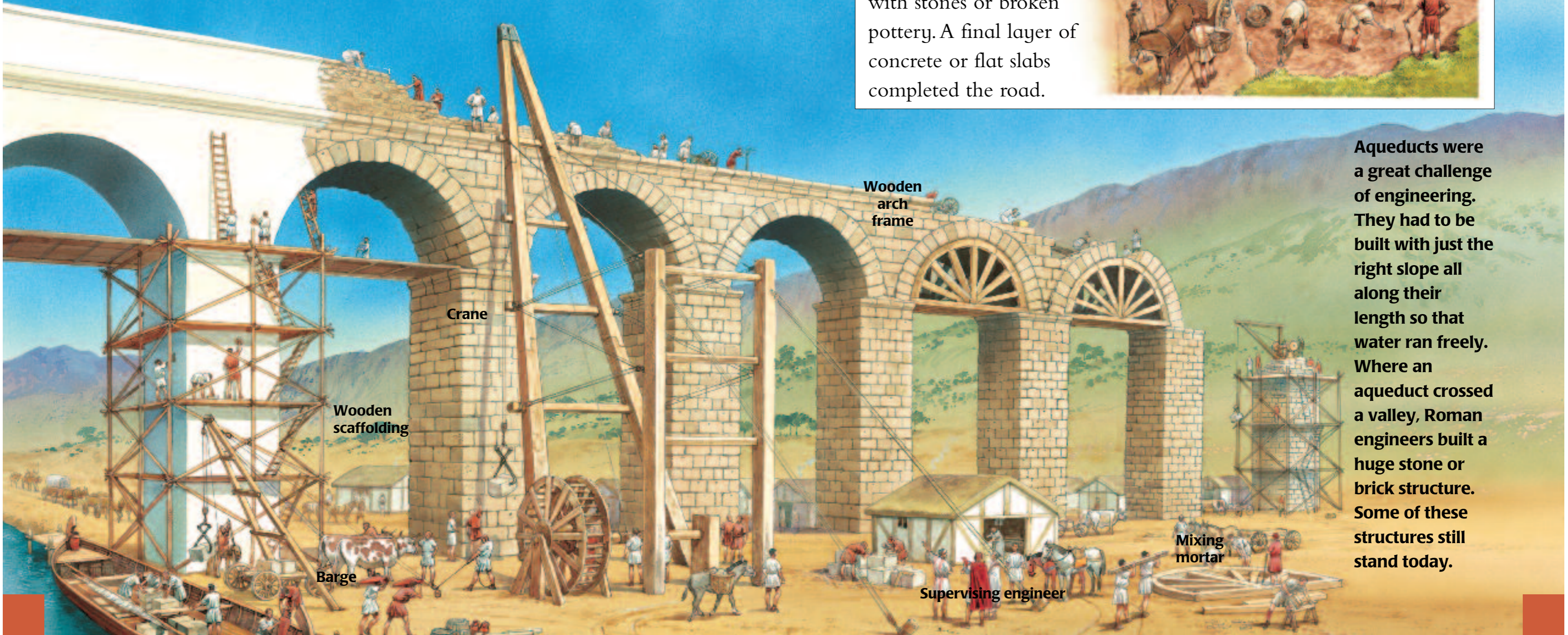
# ROMAN ENGINEERING

**T**HE ROMANS were expert builders and engineers. They built thousands of kilometres of roads across their empire.

They also built great aqueducts: long stone channels that carried water into towns and cities from rivers or lakes.

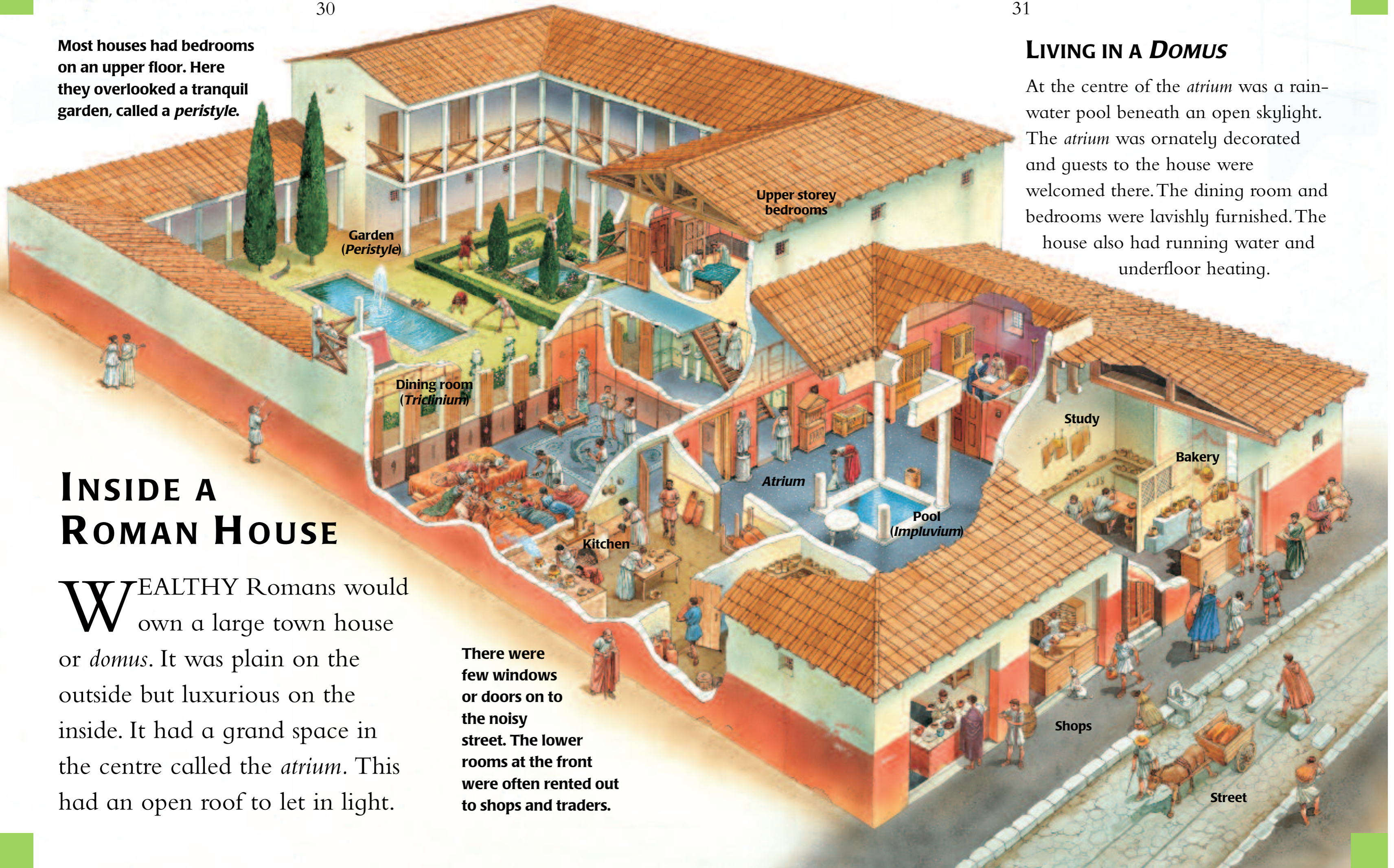
## ROAD BUILDING

Roman roads were built to last. Workers would first dig out a trench then stamp down the base. A layer of sand was laid to make the road level. Stones and clay followed then a layer of concrete with stones or broken pottery. A final layer of concrete or flat slabs completed the road.



**Aqueducts were a great challenge of engineering. They had to be built with just the right slope all along their length so that water ran freely. Where an aqueduct crossed a valley, Roman engineers built a huge stone or brick structure. Some of these structures still stand today.**

Most houses had bedrooms on an upper floor. Here they overlooked a tranquil garden, called a *peristyle*.



## INSIDE A ROMAN HOUSE

**W**EALTHY Romans would own a large town house or *domus*. It was plain on the outside but luxurious on the inside. It had a grand space in the centre called the *atrium*. This had an open roof to let in light.

There were few windows or doors on to the noisy street. The lower rooms at the front were often rented out to shops and traders.

## LIVING IN A *DOMUS*

At the centre of the *atrium* was a rain-water pool beneath an open skylight. The *atrium* was ornately decorated and guests to the house were welcomed there. The dining room and bedrooms were lavishly furnished. The house also had running water and underfloor heating.



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