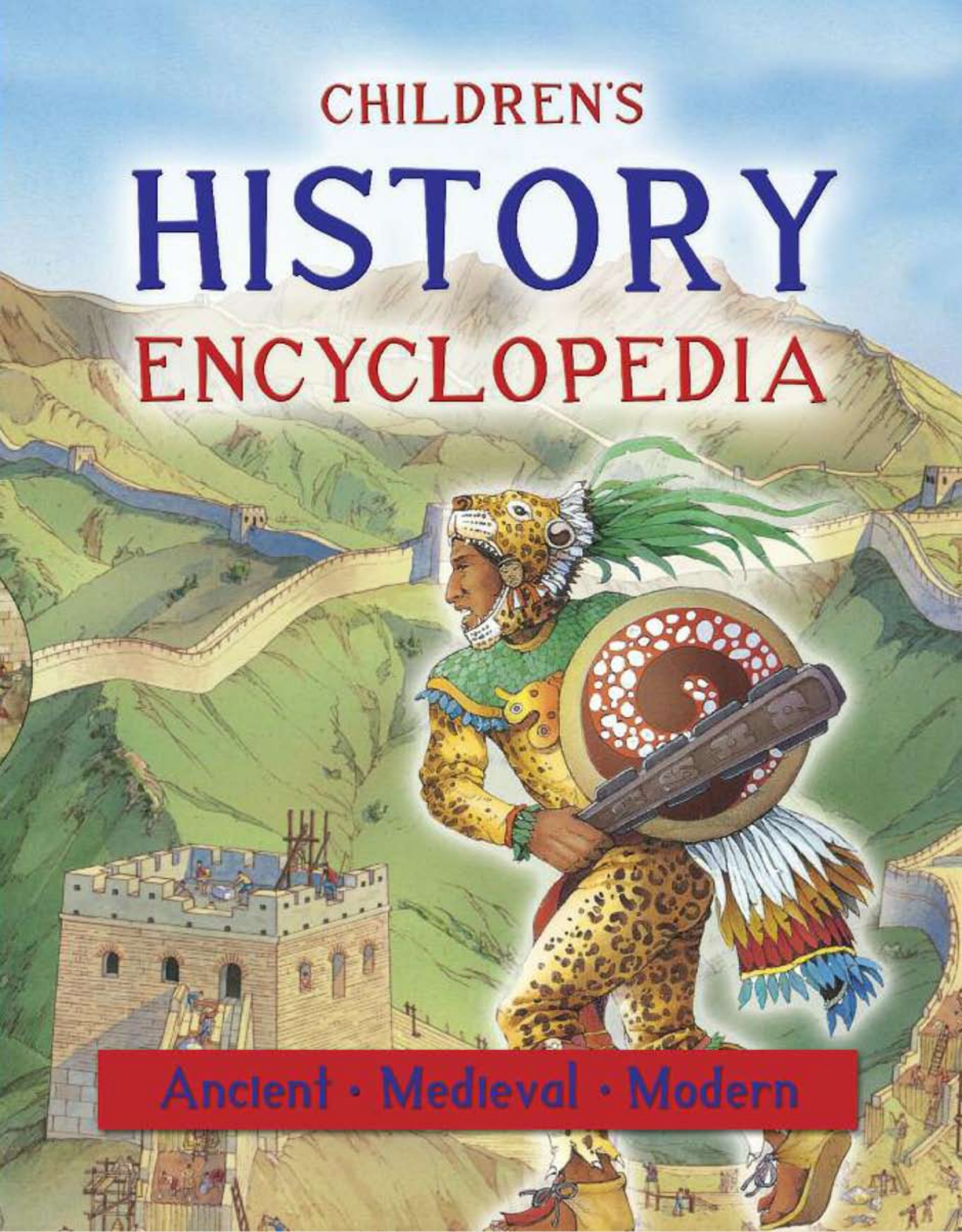


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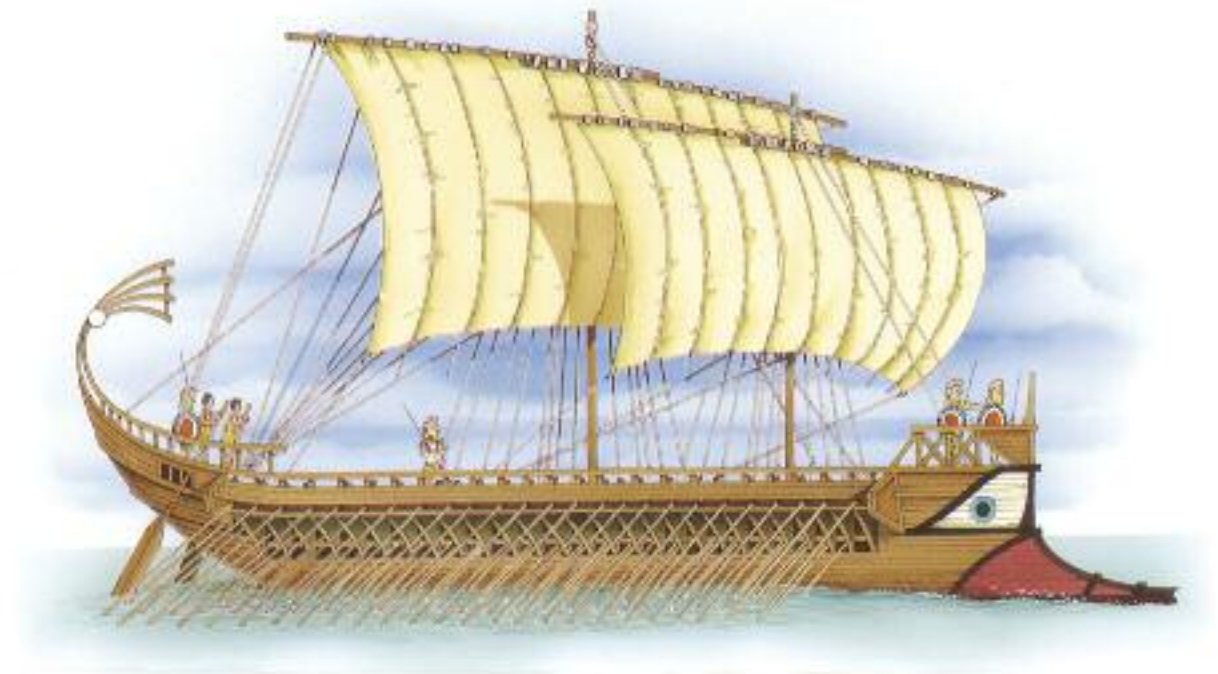


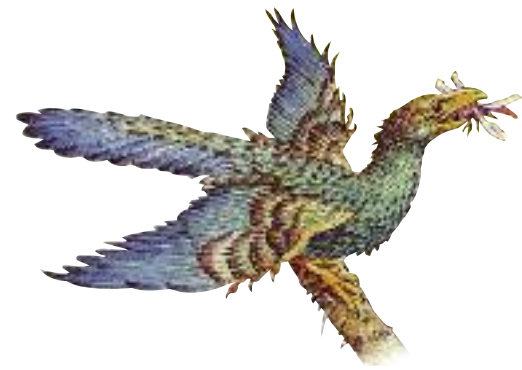
Ancient • Medieval • Modern

CHILDREN'S
HISTORY
ENCYCLOPEDIA



CHILDREN'S
HISTORY
ENCYCLOPEDIA





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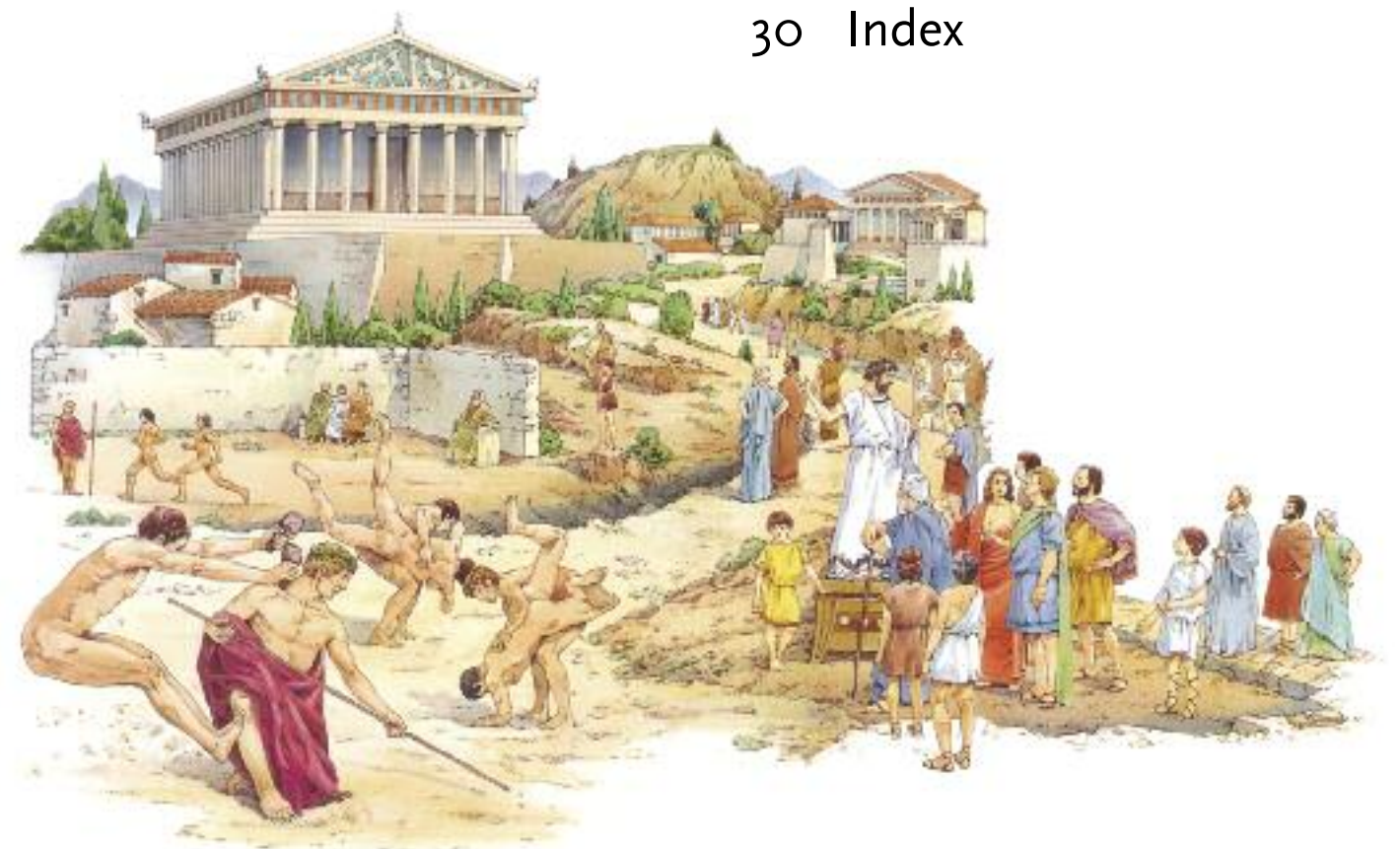
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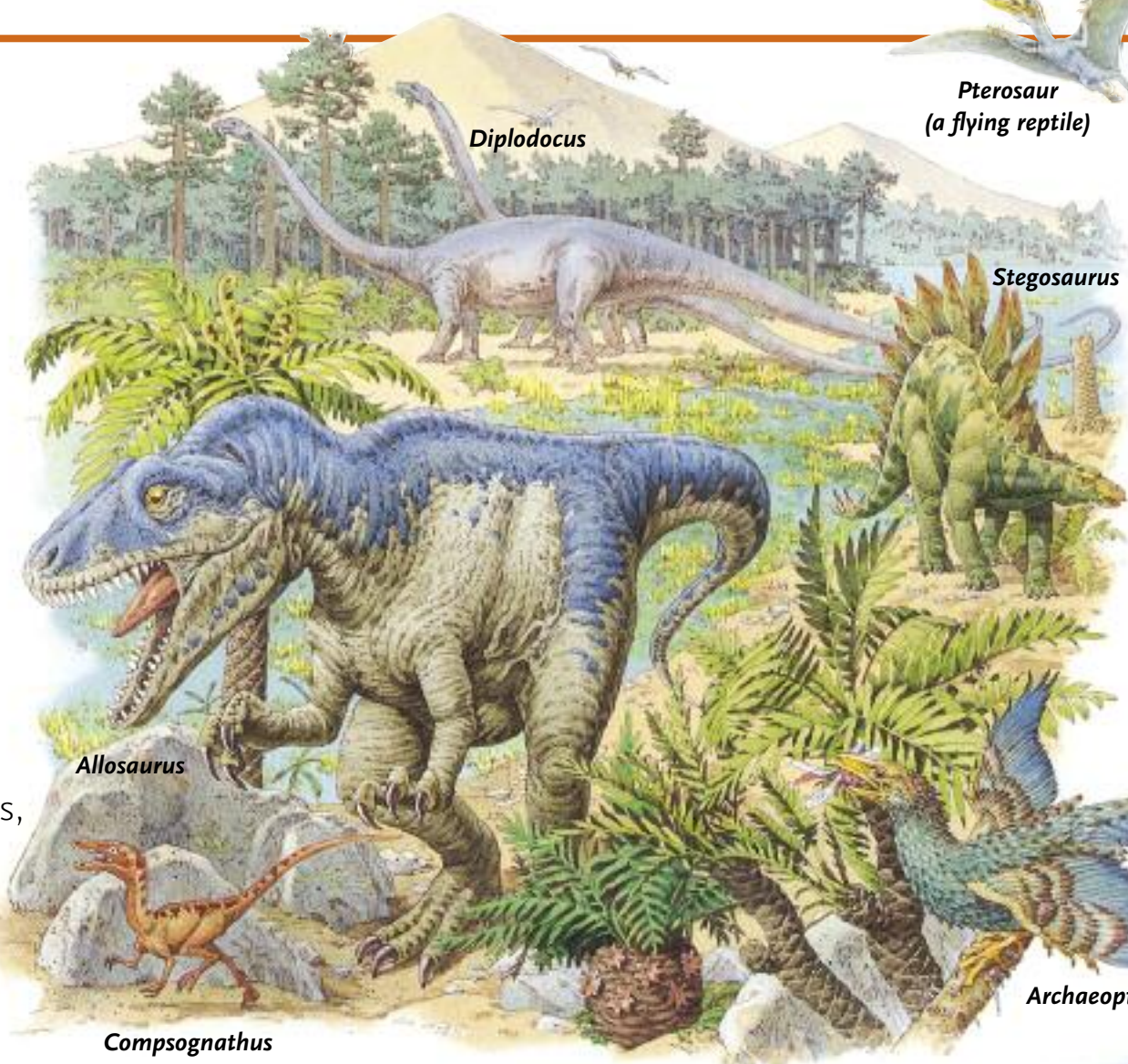
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PREHISTORIC LIFE

LIFE ON EARTH has existed for many hundreds of millions of years. The particular kinds of plants and animals alive today have not, however, been around for all that time. If we were to travel back millions of years, we would discover some completely different kinds, called prehistoric life. Over long periods of time, some living things have gradually changed, either becoming better able to survive in the environment around them, or becoming extinct (dying out). This process is called evolution. Some fish evolved into amphibians, some amphibians to reptiles, and some reptiles to mammals and birds.



Pterosaur (a flying reptile)

Stegosaurus

Allosaurus

Compsognathus

Archaeopteryx

◀ Dinosaurs were land reptiles that stood with their legs beneath their bodies. They ranged in size from the enormous, long-necked plant-eaters like *Diplodocus*, to tiny chicken-sized sprinters like *Compsognathus*. Immensely powerful flesh-eating beasts such as *Allosaurus* preyed on other dinosaurs. But some, like *Stegosaurus*, were heavily defended by back plates and spiky tails. All the dinosaurs died out 65 million years ago.

Archaeopteryx was one of the first birds. It evolved from a tiny dinosaur that developed feathery wings.



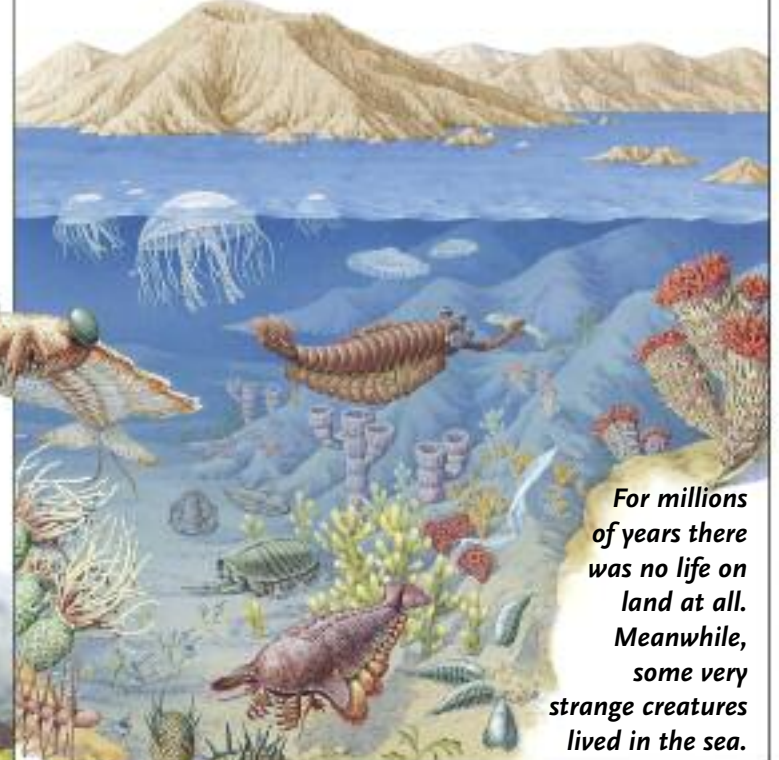
◀ About 300 million years ago, some parts of the world were covered with dense, hot, swampy jungle. The air was thick with insects, including giant dragonflies many centimetres long. Huge centipedes scuttled about. Over millions of years, some fish had evolved into animals capable of living out of the water. These amphibians still had fish-like heads and fishy tails, but they had legs and feet. Some later amphibians succeeded in laying their eggs out of water, and so became the first reptiles.



◀ Mammals first appeared during the Age of the Dinosaurs. The first kinds were tiny, shrew-like animals that came out only at night for fear of attack. When the dinosaurs became extinct, an enormous variety of mammals and birds evolved. Some prehistoric mammals looked very different to modern kinds. Mammals also evolved in the oceans (whales and dolphins) while others learnt to fly (bats).

FIRST LIFE

THE FIRST living things appeared at least 3500 million years ago. Microscopic beings, they were similar to bacteria that exist today. It took millions of years for them to evolve into larger creatures. But, in warm seas about 520 million years ago, during the Cambrian Period, an amazing variety of life could be found.

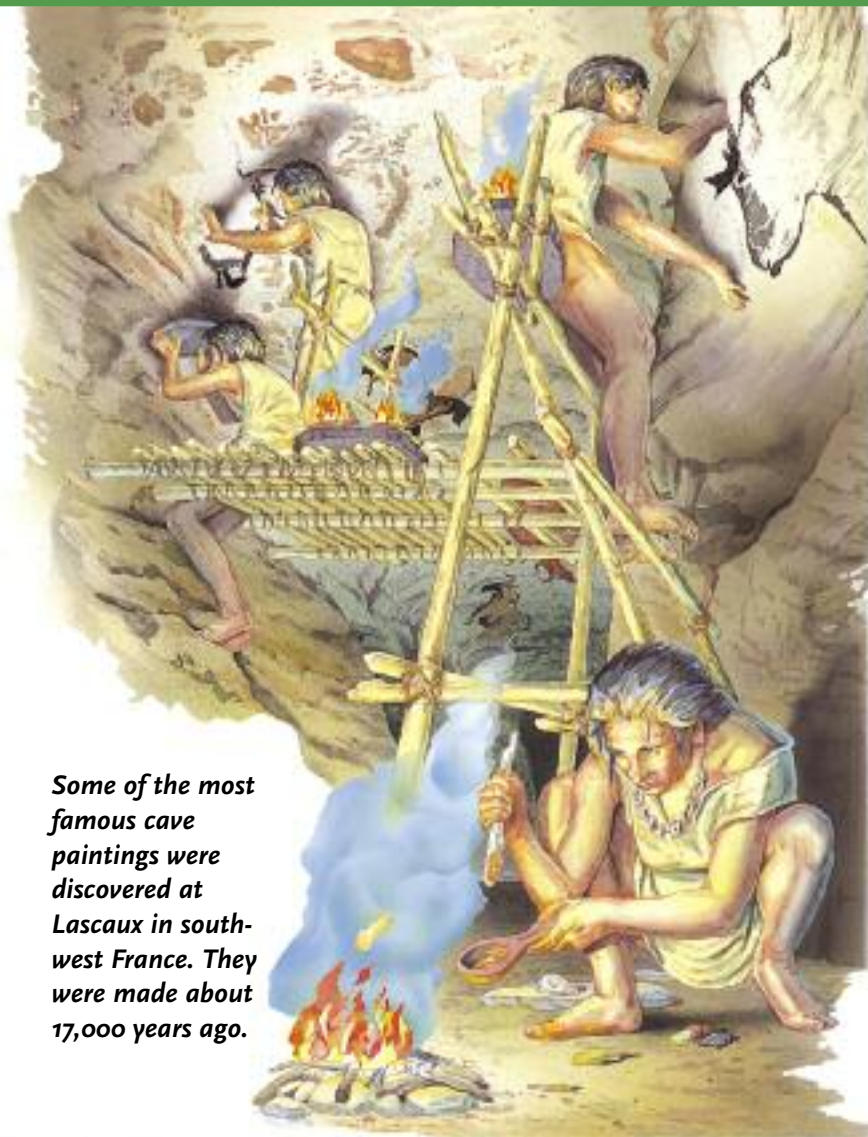


For millions of years there was no life on land at all. Meanwhile, some very strange creatures lived in the sea.

EARLY PEOPLE

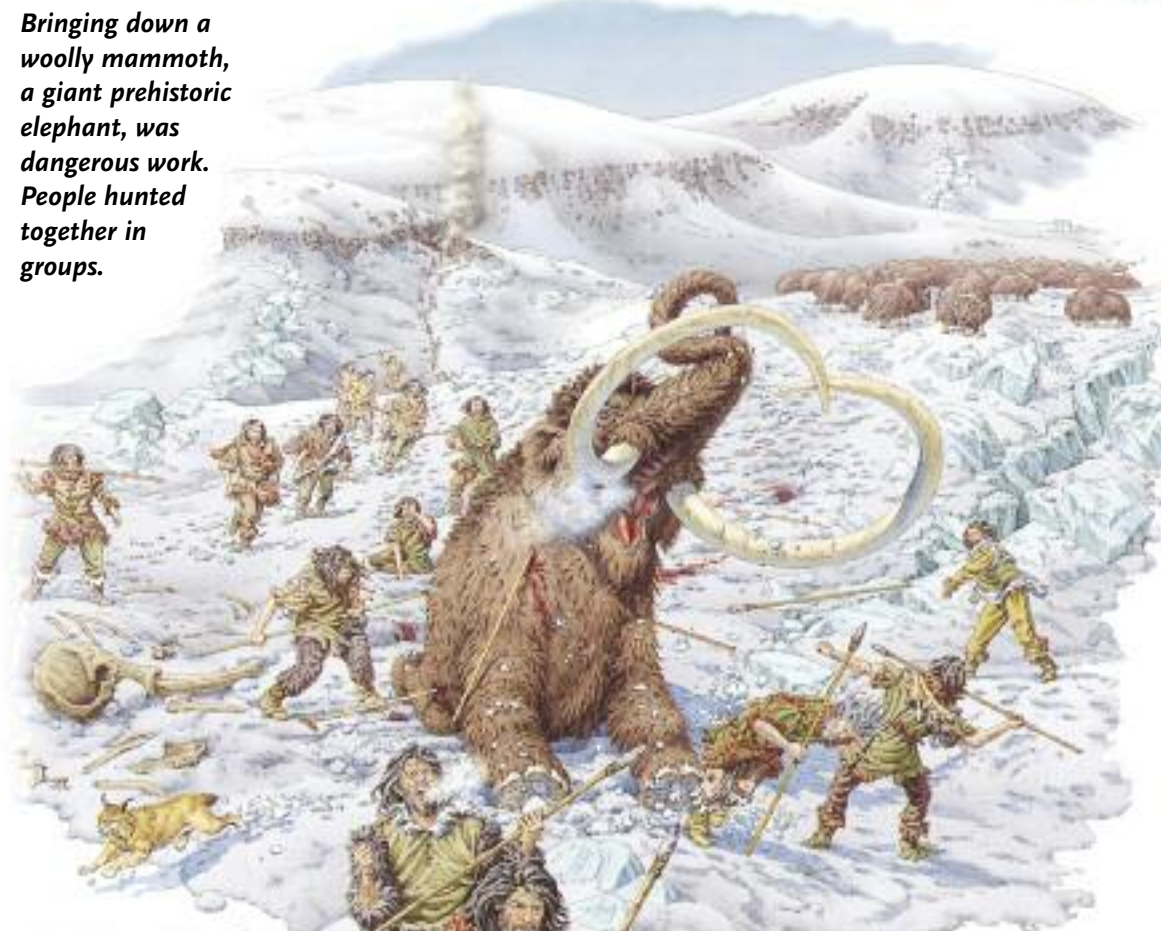
WE KNOW how people lived from the time when writing was first invented, about 5500 years ago. Before that, the many objects that people left behind—pots, weapons, remains of buildings and so on—tell us much about how they lived. But the story of humans goes back millions of years, to when an ape-like creature first began to walk on two feet.

Scientists are starting to piece together how early humans lived by studying the remains of skeletons. Their discoveries show that, over the years, humans gradually became more and more intelligent, learning how to use tools, live and work together, talk to one another, hunt and build shelters.



Some of the most famous cave paintings were discovered at Lascaux in south-west France. They were made about 17,000 years ago.

Bringing down a woolly mammoth, a giant prehistoric elephant, was dangerous work. People hunted together in groups.



◀ About 2.6 million years ago, the world entered the Ice Ages, a series of cold phases alternating with warmer ones (interglacials). We are currently living in an interglacial which started more than 11,000 years ago. Before that time, thick ice covered wide areas of the Northern Hemisphere. People lived then by hunting animals like woolly mammoths. They used wooden spears with stone blades. For shelter, they lived in tents made from branches and animal skins, or in caves.

◀ During the very coldest years of the Ice Ages, people started to paint pictures on cave walls. They worked by the light of lamps and used colours made from powdered rocks or plants. The paintings they made were probably not just for decoration. The bison, deer and mammoths that appear in them were a vital source of food. The paintings may have been meant as offerings to the gods, in the hope that the animals would always be there to be hunted. Cave paintings from this time have been found all over the world, including South America and Australia.

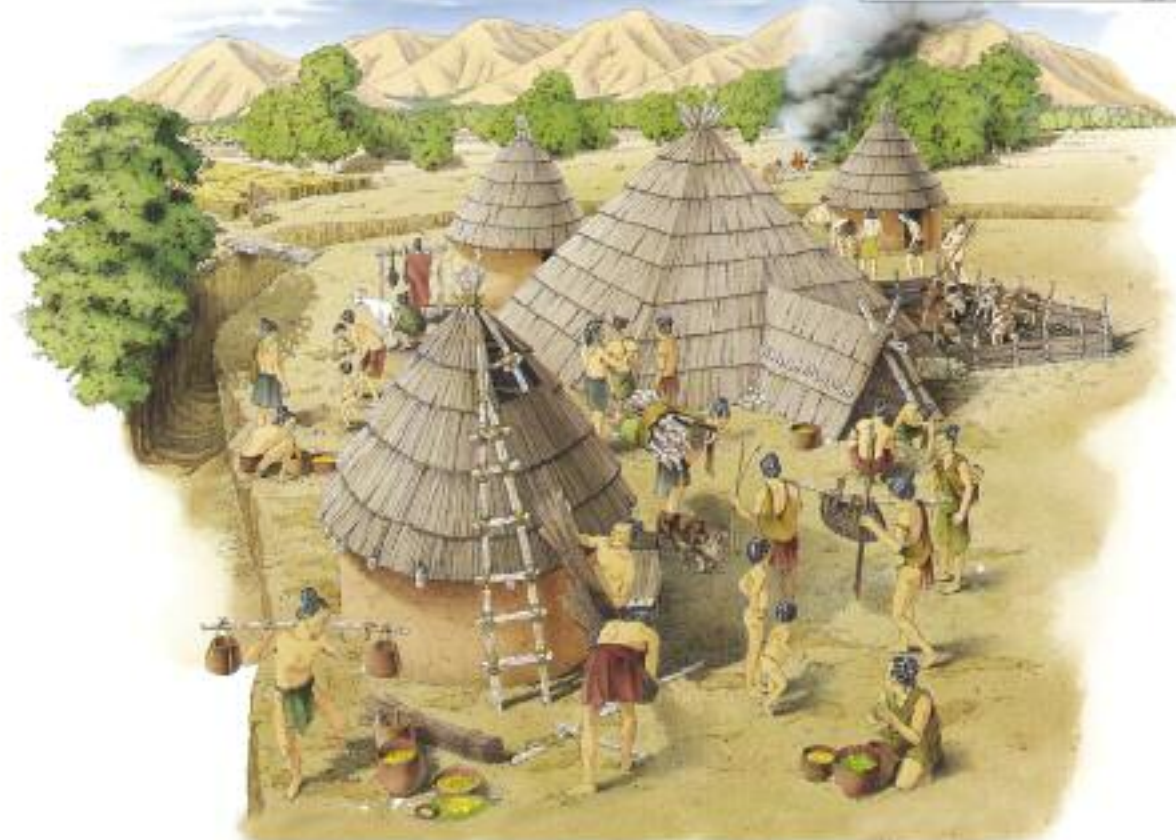


In many places, such as the North American coast, people fished as well as hunted.



Nuts, fruits and berries gathered in summer also provided food in the winter months.

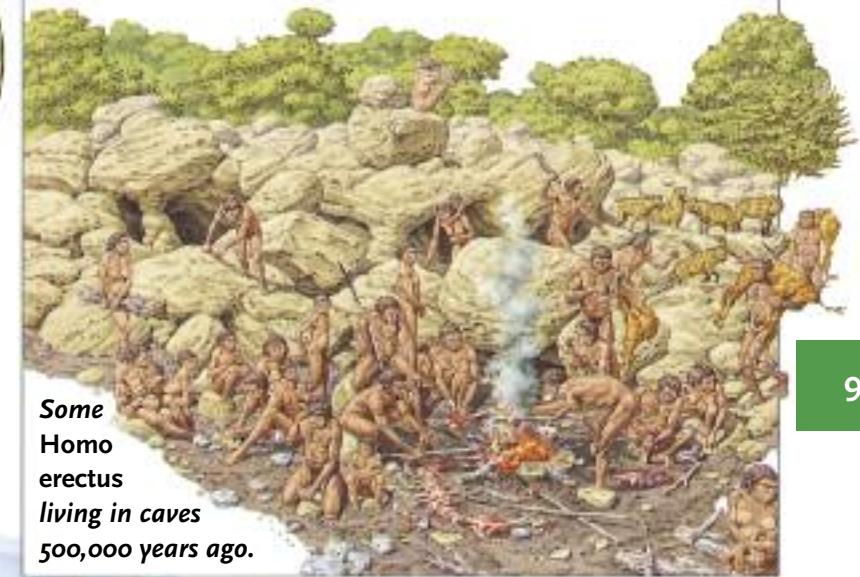
A farming village in China about 5000 years ago. People kept goats and pigs and grew maize.



◀ The latest cold phase of the Ice Ages came to an end about 10,000 years ago. The the climate became warmer. Some people discovered that they could plant the seeds of certain wild plants in fields. Some grasses produced grain that could be ground into flour for making bread. These people, the first farmers, could now settle in villages close to their fields. They also tamed animals like cattle and pigs and kept them for their milk and meat.

THE FIRST HUMANS

HUMANS were descended from ape-like animals. We have the same ancestor as the chimpanzee. The first kinds of human-like animals that walked upright on two feet were called australopithecines. They lived in Africa from about 4 million years ago. *Homo erectus* (below), a later kind of early human that lived in Asia, was a skilled toolmaker and had learnt how to cook food over fires. Modern humans, known as *Homo sapiens*, first appeared in Africa about 200,000 years ago.

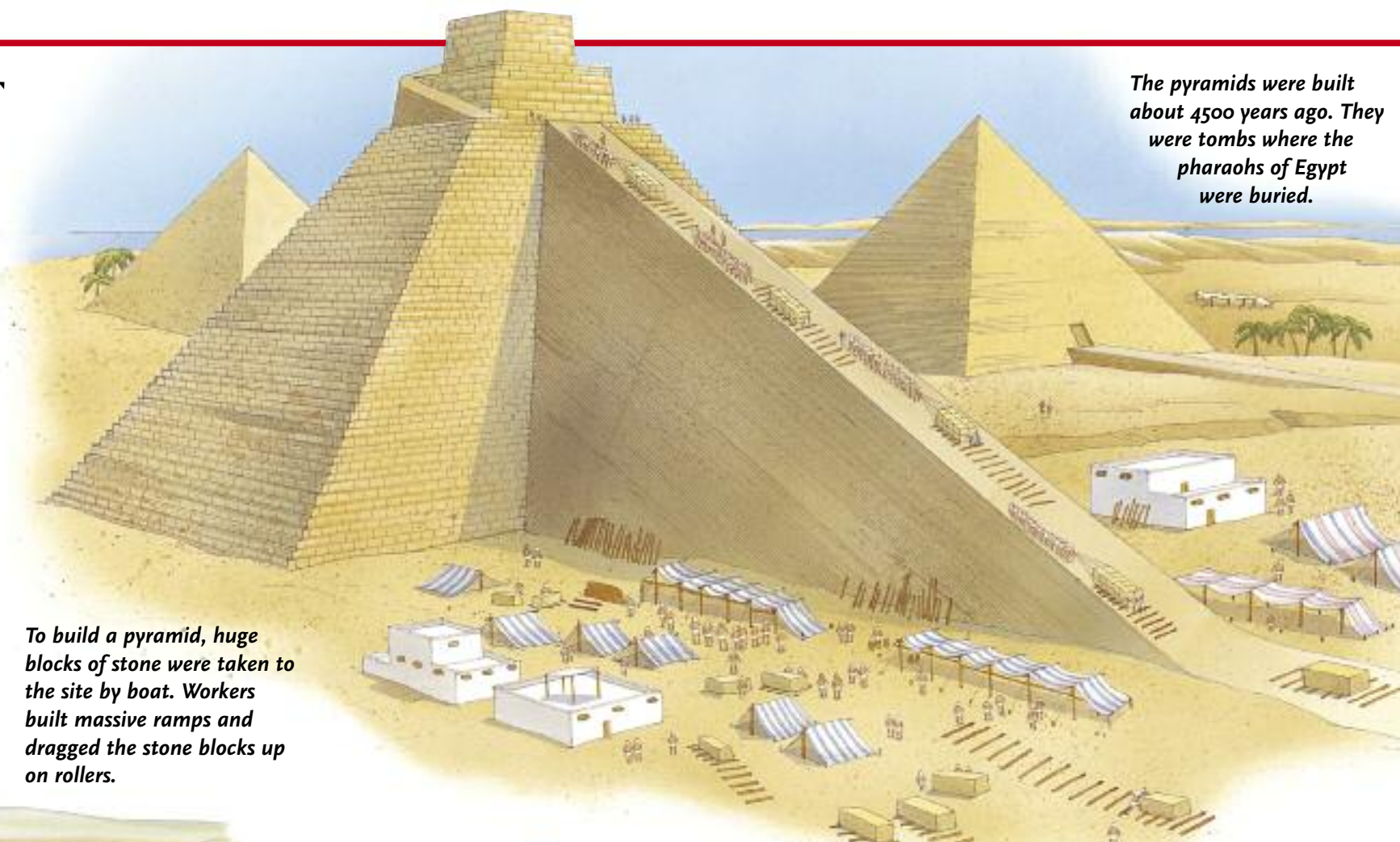


Some Homo erectus living in caves 500,000 years ago.

ANCIENT EGYPT

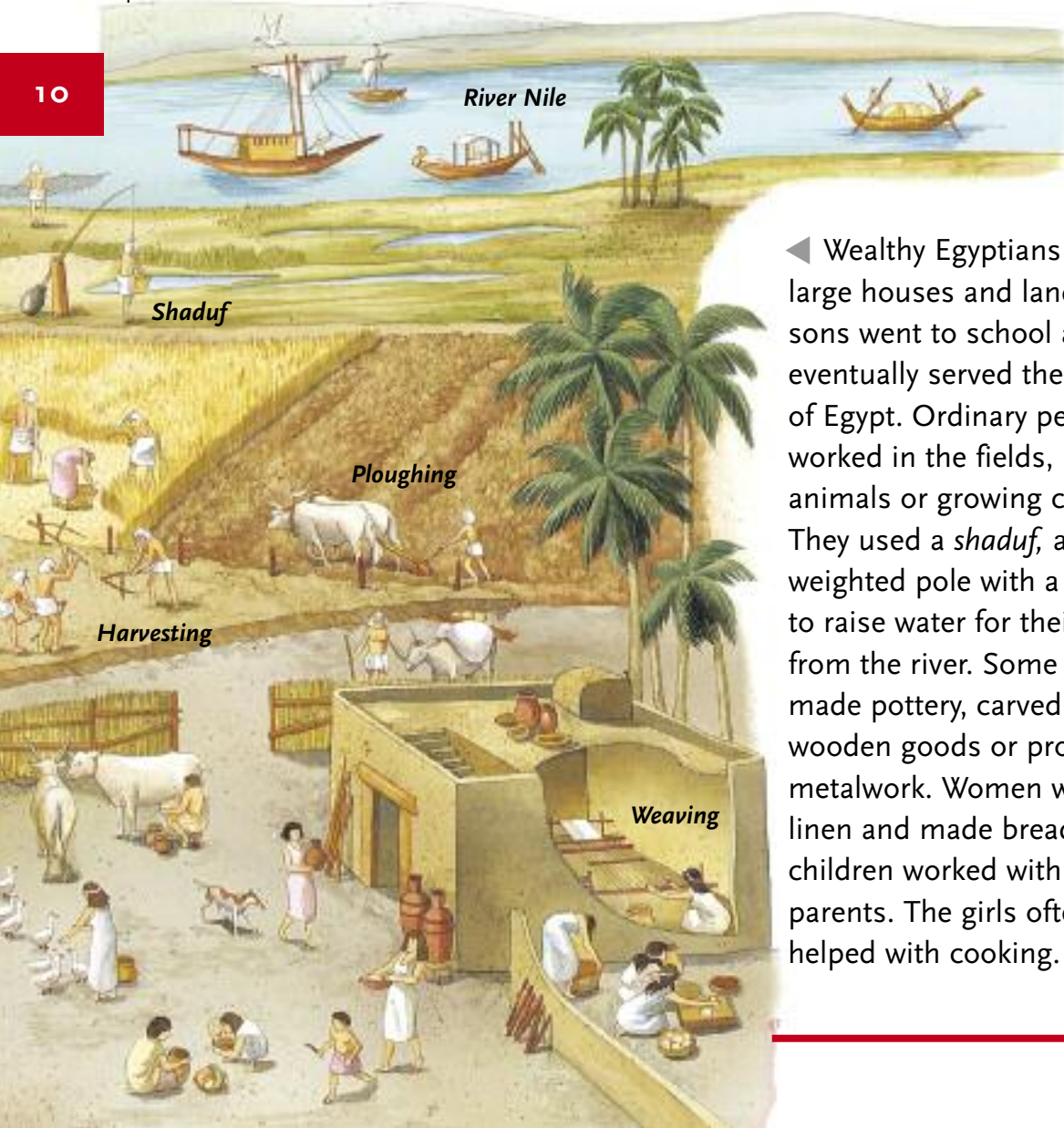
A GREAT KINGDOM grew up on the banks of the River Nile in Egypt 5000 years ago. It was a time of amazing human achievements. Wonderful monuments such as pyramids and vast temples were built. The people of ancient Egypt invented a kind of picture writing called hieroglyphics.

Surrounded by desert, the Nile valley was fertile because the river watered the soil and crops could be grown easily. The Nile was also the Egyptians' highway. Boats could carry many more goods and people than pack animals could.



The pyramids were built about 4500 years ago. They were tombs where the pharaohs of Egypt were buried.

To build a pyramid, huge blocks of stone were taken to the site by boat. Workers built massive ramps and dragged the stone blocks up on rollers.



◀ Wealthy Egyptians owned large houses and land. Their sons went to school and eventually served the rulers of Egypt. Ordinary people worked in the fields, herding animals or growing crops. They used a *shaduf*, a weighted pole with a bucket, to raise water for their crops from the river. Some people made pottery, carved wooden goods or produced metalwork. Women wove linen and made bread. The children worked with their parents. The girls often helped with cooking.



◀ The pharaohs were the kings of ancient Egypt. People believed that they were like gods. The pharaohs had absolute power over everyone, but they also used wealthy advisers called scribes to help them rule the country. When the pharaohs died, they were buried in tombs inside pyramids or beneath temples. Fantastic treasures, pots and even boats were buried in the tombs, too. The Egyptians thought the pharaohs would need them in the next world.

These (below) are called hieroglyphs. Each picture stands for a word or sound. They could be written from left to right, right to left, or top to bottom.

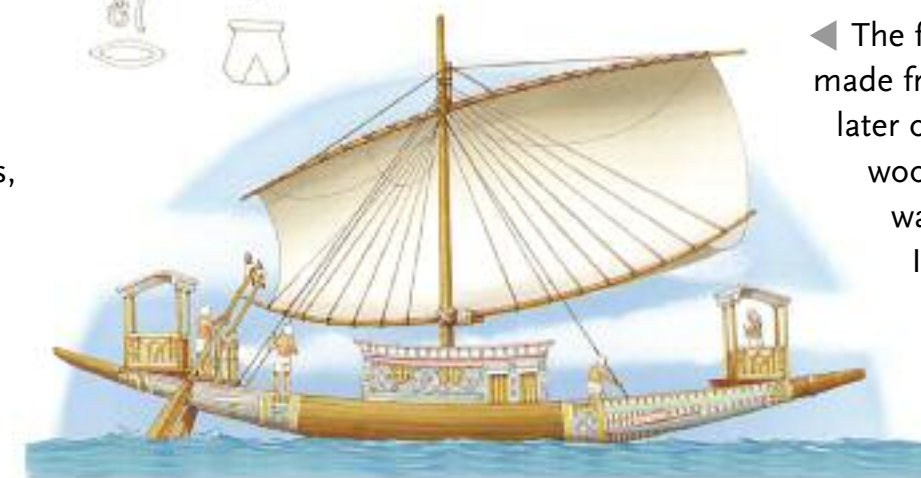


MUMMIES

THE EGYPTIANS believed that preserving their ruler's body after death was very important. By doing this, his spirit would live on forever. A preserved body is called a mummy. First, the body was cleaned and packed with salt to dry it out. Then it was wrapped up in layers of long linen bandages. Finally, the body was placed in a brightly painted coffin and buried in a tomb.



This is a view inside the Great Pyramid of Khufu. Passageways lead to the burial chamber as well as to two empty chambers. Although the entrance was sealed by rock, robbers broke in and stole the pharaoh's treasure.

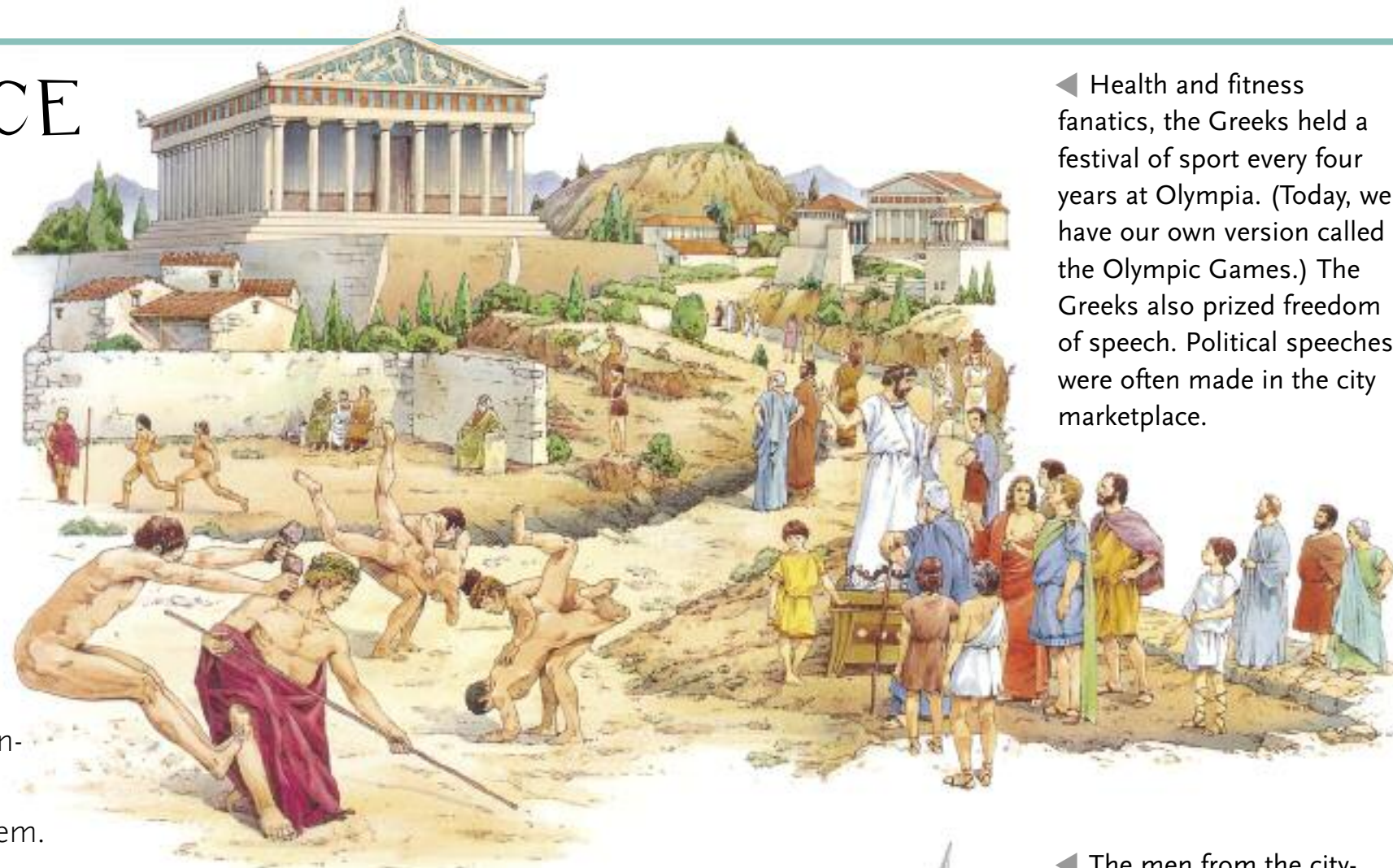


◀ The first boats were made from reeds, but later ones were wooden. This one was a royal boat. It was steered by two large oars attached to posts.

ANCIENT GREECE

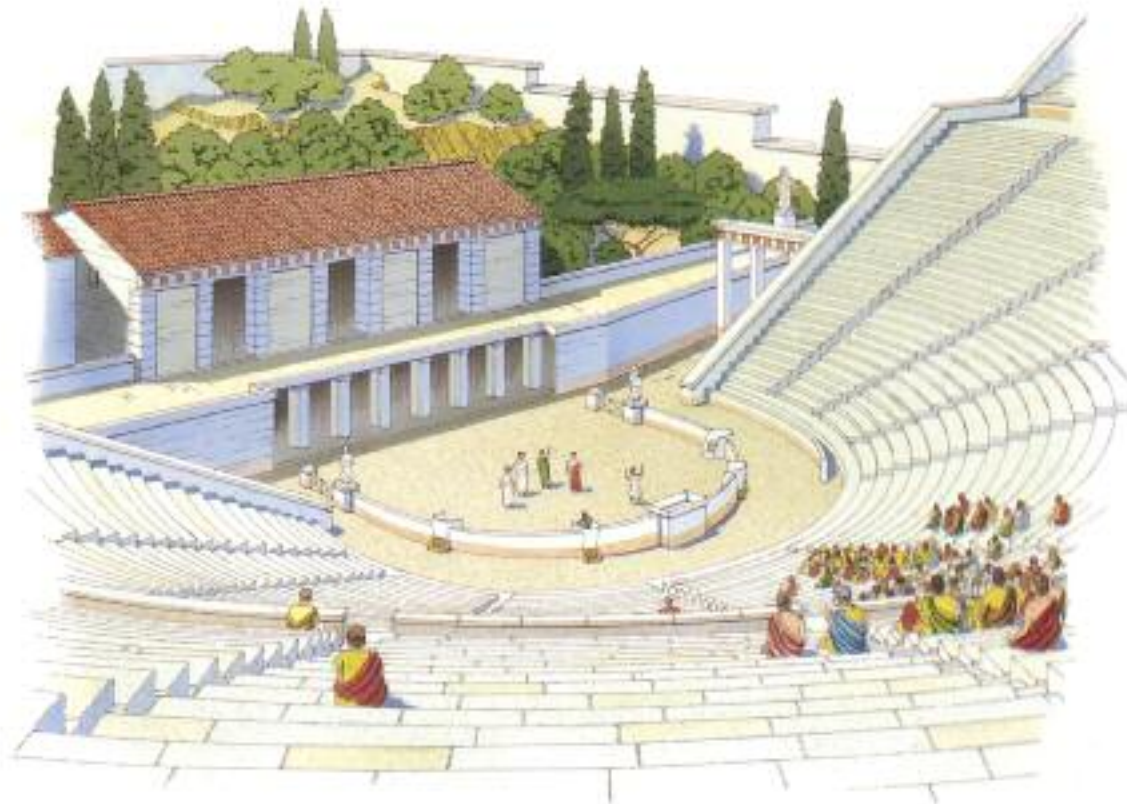
ABOUT 2500 years ago, Greece enjoyed a time of wealth, discovery and invention. It was known as the “Golden Age” of Greece. The country was divided into small states, each normally consisting of a city or town and its surrounding villages. The city-state of Athens was the most powerful of all. It was full of beautiful temples and theatres, and the Athenian people lived well.

The ancient Greeks had many ideas which have passed down to us today. They were the first to use a system of government called democracy, in which ordinary people choose their leaders by voting for them. Greek doctors understood that some illnesses could be cured by medicines made from herbs and plants. The Greeks created an alphabet that is the origin of the one we use today.



The largest open-air theatres were built so that even those on the back row could hear the actors.

Brilliant writers, mathematicians and scientists lived in ancient Greece. Clever people, called philosophers, asked questions about the world that still puzzle us today. The Greeks loved to listen to music, poetry and songs. Many told stories, or myths, about heroes and the gods, such as Zeus, Hera and Artemis, whom people believed lived on Mount Olympus. Plays were very popular. The Greeks built huge open-air amphitheatres, cut into hillsides so that as many people as possible could see the play. The actors were always men.



Health and fitness fanatics, the Greeks held a festival of sport every four years at Olympia. (Today, we have our own version called the Olympic Games.) The Greeks also prized freedom of speech. Political speeches were often made in the city marketplace.

ALEXANDER THE GREAT

ALEXANDER the Great came from Macedonia in northern Greece. His father, King Philip of Macedonia, ruled the whole of Greece. When Philip died, Alexander was only twenty years old. However, he led his powerful army on to conquer a huge area of land stretching from Egypt to northern India, including the mighty Persian Empire. By the time he died, Alexander's empire was almost as large as the United States is today.



The men from the city-state of Sparta were fierce warriors. Boys had to leave home to learn to fight when they were only seven years old. Spartan soldiers, called hoplites, wore armour and carried shields and spears.



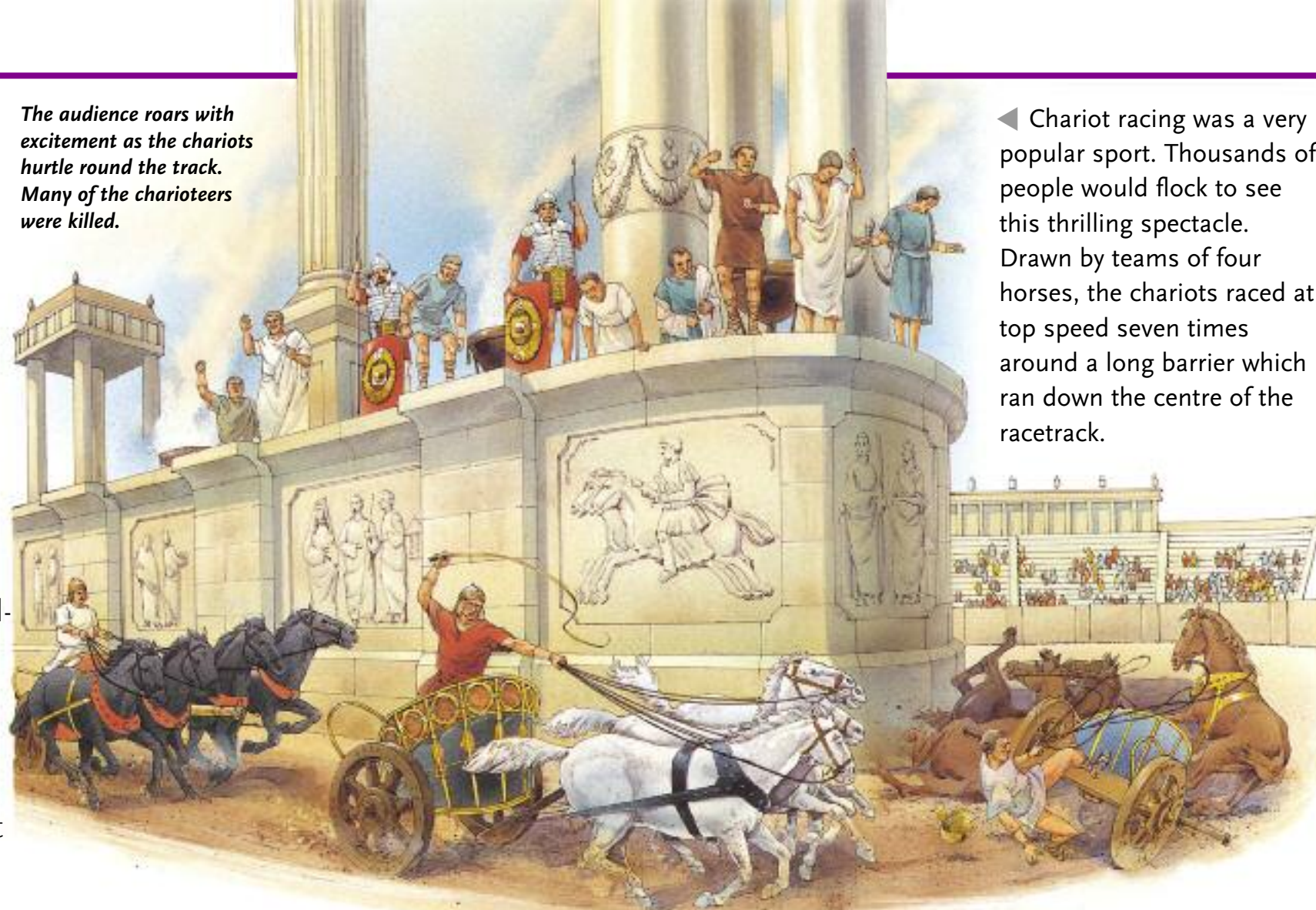
The Greeks had fleets of warships called triremes. They carried masts for sailing, but they were rowed into battle. Inside, the rowers were positioned on three levels. A trireme had a heavy wooden pole at the front, which was used as a battering ram to smash holes in enemy ships.

THE ROMANS

BEFORE the city of Rome was founded in 753 BC, it was a group of small villages in central Italy. Later, it became a republic: its leaders were chosen by the people. Under Julius Caesar and Augustus, the first emperor, the Romans conquered many countries. But by AD 300 their empire had become too large to control and foreign invasions began.

The Romans built long, straight roads, well-planned towns and elaborate heating and plumbing systems. They had public theatres and baths and enjoyed games that nowadays we think cruel, such as captive men fighting to the death against wild animals—or against each other.

The audience roars with excitement as the chariots hurtle round the track. Many of the charioteers were killed.



◀ Chariot racing was a very popular sport. Thousands of people would flock to see this thrilling spectacle. Drawn by teams of four horses, the chariots raced at top speed seven times around a long barrier which ran down the centre of the racetrack.

INSIDE A DOMUS

IF YOU WERE a wealthy Roman living in the town, you would have a large house, called a domus. Roman people liked to be private, so there were very few windows on the outside of the house. Instead, the large hall, or atrium, had a skylight to give the rooms around it light and air. There was a pool under the skylight to catch any rain.

Wealthy people enjoyed a life of luxury. They spent a great deal of time in the dining room lying on couches, while slaves filled the table with a wide selection of exotic food.



The Roman Empire stretched from northern Britain to the Middle East. Its 60 million people wore Roman clothes and spoke Latin, the language of the Romans.



◀ Most Roman towns had at least one bath-house. Everyone, rich and poor, went there to bathe, exercise and meet friends. The baths had several rooms, including a room full of hot air and steam from basins of hot water. There was also a warm bath to soak in. The hot air came from a *hypocaust*, a system of furnaces under the floor, and travelled up through channels in the walls and roof. To get themselves clean, people had oil rubbed into their skins by slaves. The oil was then scraped off, taking the dirt with it.



A Roman soldier wore armour over a thick woollen tunic.

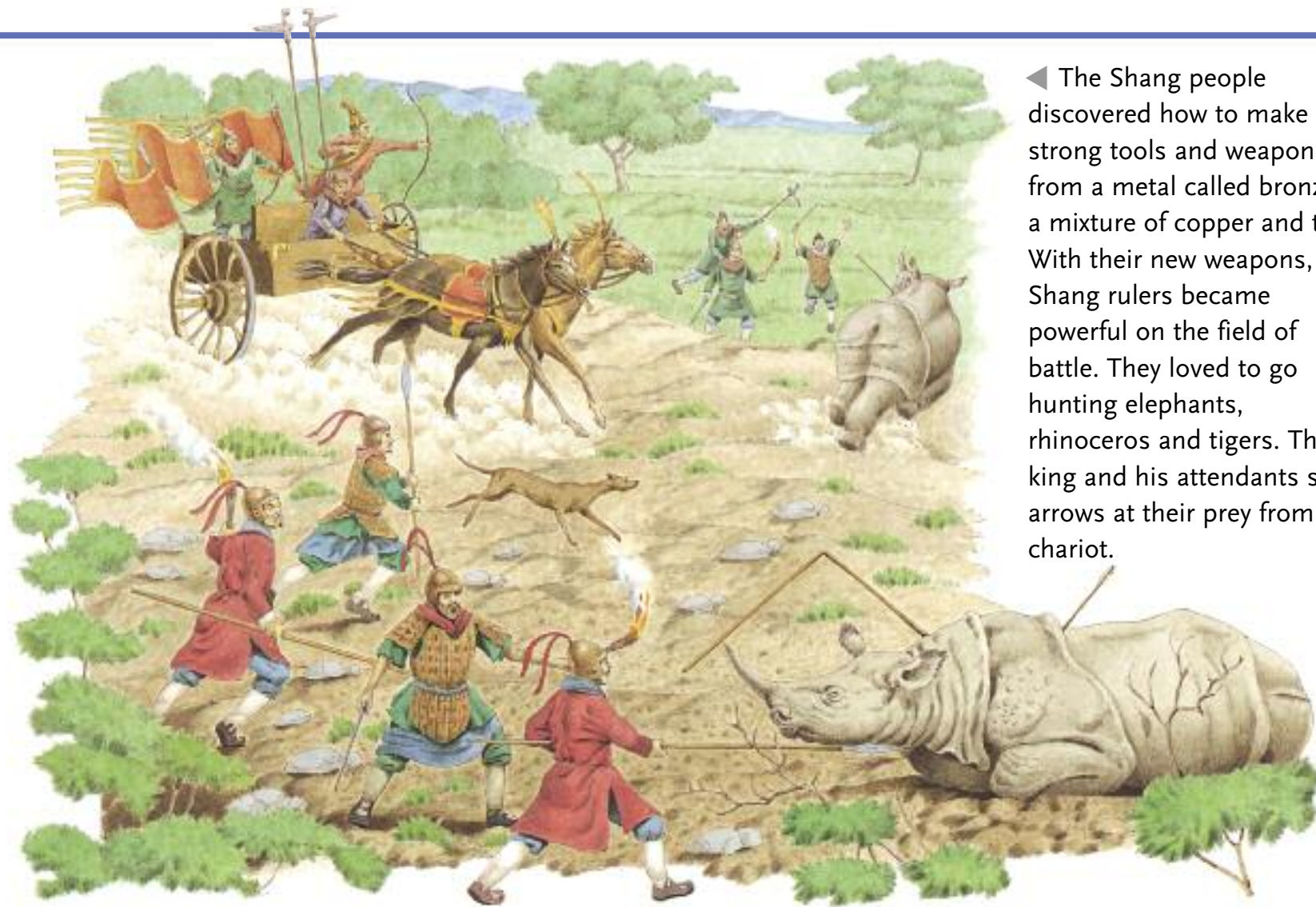
◀ The Roman army was divided into legions, each containing about 5000 men, or legionaries. The Roman Empire was vast, and much of a legionary's time was spent marching from place to place. He had to carry his armour, shield, javelin, sword and tools as well as provisions.

▶ The Roman Empire was at its greatest in the 2nd century AD. Such a huge empire was difficult to control. There were rebellions and the threat of invaders from beyond its borders.

ANCIENT CHINA

PEOPLE began to farm the fertile lands bordering the Yellow River in northern China 8000 years ago. Later, the land became a kingdom under rulers of the Shang dynasty. Their rule was overthrown and China became a land of warring kingdoms until 221 BC, when it was united as one empire ruled by the Qin (pronounced “chin”) dynasty.

The first emperor, Shi Huangdi, commanded new roads and canals to be built, and everyone had to use the same writing, coins, weights and measures. In 202 BC the Han dynasty came to power and ruled China for 400 years. It was a time of wealth, trading and invention.



◀ The Shang people discovered how to make strong tools and weapons from a metal called bronze, a mixture of copper and tin. With their new weapons, the Shang rulers became powerful on the field of battle. They loved to go hunting elephants, rhinoceros and tigers. The king and his attendants shot arrows at their prey from a chariot.



GREAT INVENTIONS

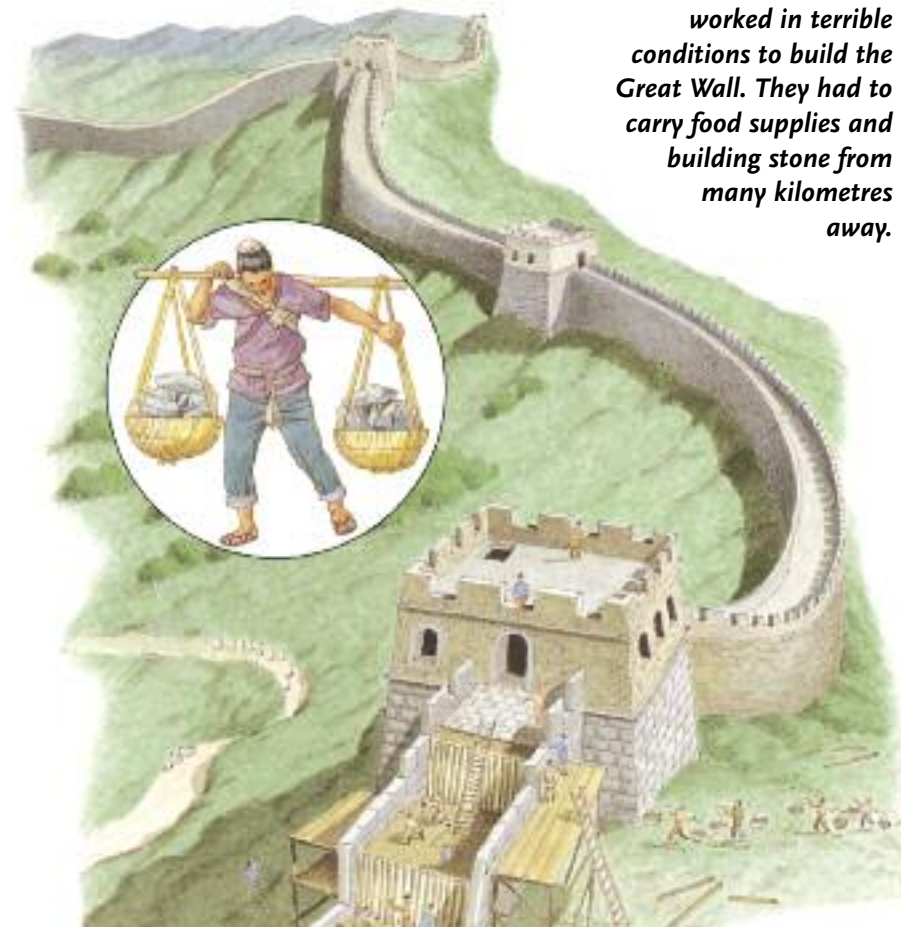
The Chinese wheelbarrow needed much less effort to push it than modern Western machines.

MANY THINGS we use today were first invented in China. Paper money, printing, kites, wheelbarrows and umbrellas are all Chinese inventions. Methods of planting crops and ploughing fields also came from China, as did rockets, mechanical clocks, magnetic compasses, suspension bridges and a clever device for recording earthquakes called a seismograph (below). Some of these inventions found their way to Europe through reports from travellers. Sometimes Europeans came up with the same idea themselves, but hundreds of years later.

When this seismograph is shaken by an earthquake, one of the dragons drops a ball into the mouth of a toad below. This gives the direction of the quake.



Thousands of people worked in terrible conditions to build the Great Wall. They had to carry food supplies and building stone from many kilometres away.



◀▶ Over the centuries, emperors of China built and re-built a huge wall across the north of the country to stop invaders. Today, the Great Wall of China is 6000 kilometres long. It is still the largest single structure ever made by mankind.

Chinese traders carried their silks on camels for thousands of kilometres to trade it for gold and horses. The route they took across Central Asia became known as the Silk Road.



◀ When Emperor Shi Huangdi died, he was buried in an underground tomb. In 1974 farmers digging a well near the lost tomb discovered life-size heads made from clay. Since then, scientists have uncovered several pits containing about 8000 clay soldiers, chariots and horses. It is clear that Shi Huangdi wanted an army to defend him at all times—even in his tomb. The soldiers held bronze weapons such as swords, spears and arrows, some of which are still sharp after 2000 years.

Many of the statues were broken when discovered, and their colours had almost disappeared. Each clay soldier has a different face, probably because the statues were modelled on real people.

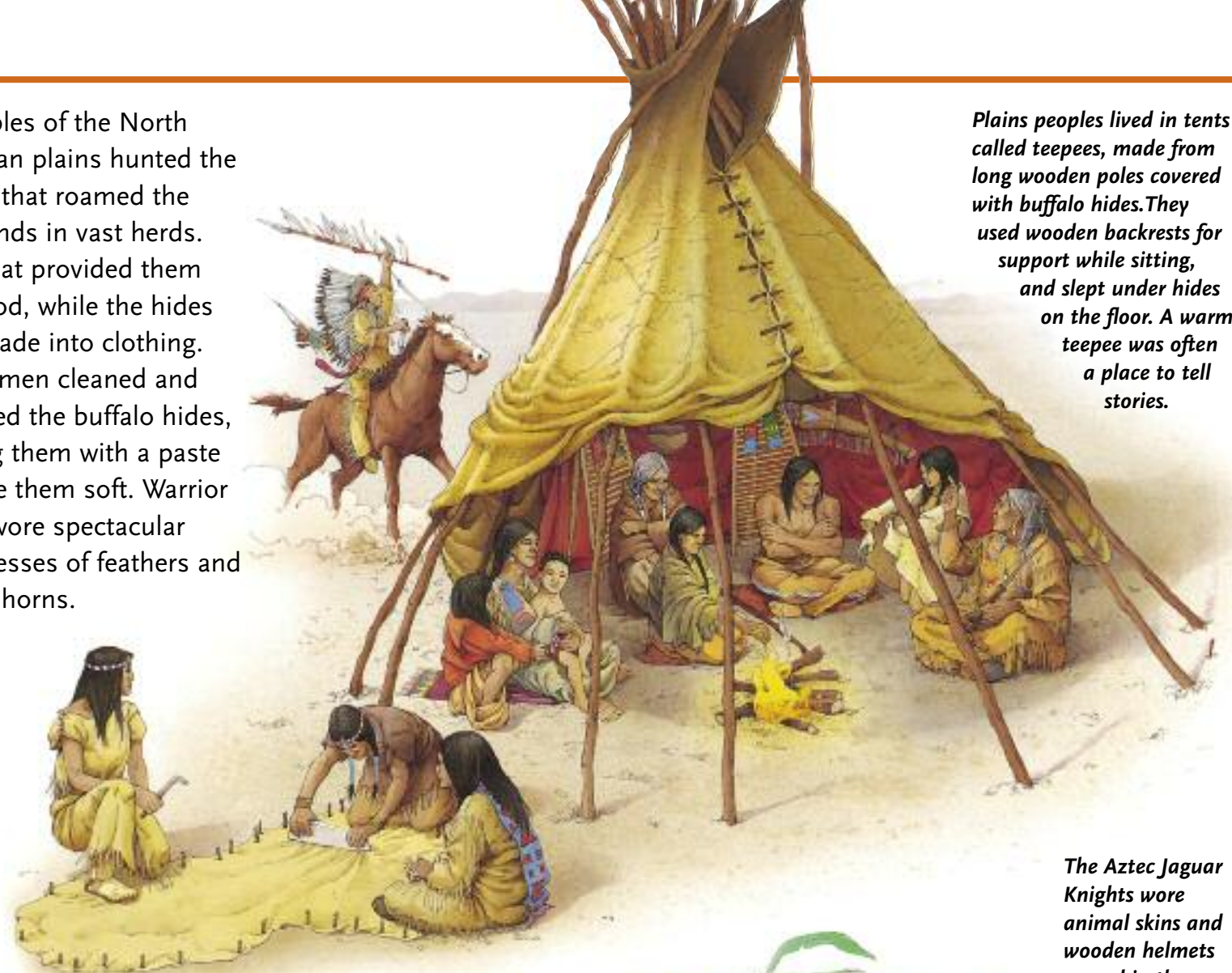


ANCIENT AMERICA

PEOPLE had lived in the Americas for thousands of years before the first European settlers arrived. In the eastern woodlands of North America, they farmed the land and built huge earth burial mounds. To the west, people followed the buffalo herds on the Great Plains, while the Inuit lived in the frozen north. In the deserts of the southwest, the Anasazi people built stone and mud brick houses.

Meanwhile, great empires grew up in Central and South America. Their inhabitants built cities with magnificent stone temples and palaces. They used metal such as gold, silver and copper to make tools, weapons, jewellery and ornaments. Roads, bridges and canals enabled people to travel and trade goods.

▶ Peoples of the North American plains hunted the buffalo that roamed the grasslands in vast herds. The meat provided them with food, while the hides were made into clothing. The women cleaned and stretched the buffalo hides, rubbing them with a paste to make them soft. Warrior chiefs wore spectacular headdresses of feathers and buffalo horns.



Plains peoples lived in tents called teepees, made from long wooden poles covered with buffalo hides. They used wooden backrests for support while sitting, and slept under hides on the floor. A warm teepee was often a place to tell stories.

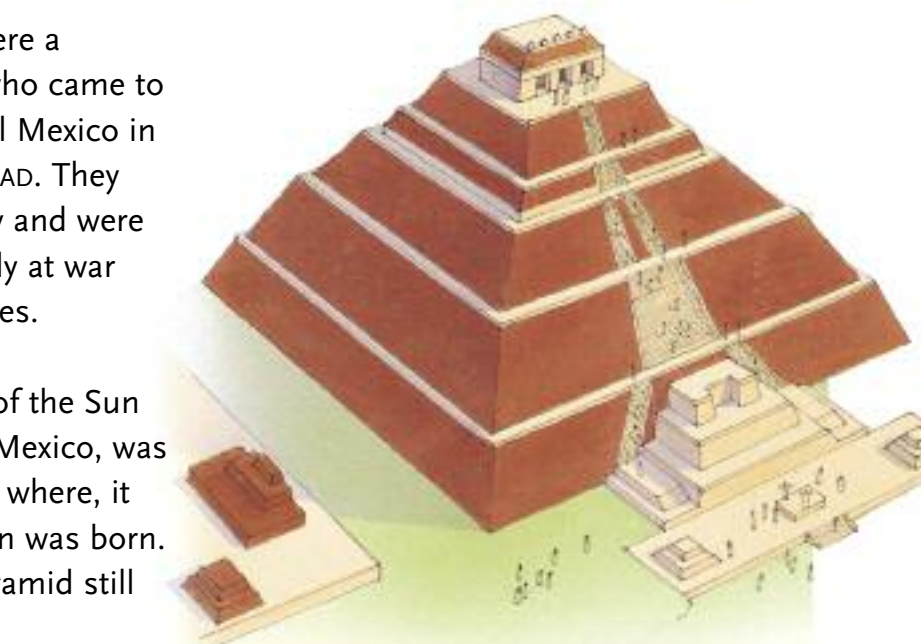
◀ About 500 years ago, the Incas ruled an empire in the Andes Mountains of South America. They built a network of roads across the mountain empire. Bridges made out of twisted vines crossed deep ravines. Messengers and troops walked along the roads, but important people were carried in litters by servants. The Incas were great craftsmen. They cut and shaped blocks of stone until they fitted together exactly. Many of their sturdy buildings, walls and roads still stand today.



The Aztec Jaguar Knights wore animal skins and wooden helmets carved in the shape of jaguars' heads. They carried the macahuitl, a wooden club edged with sharp stone blades.

◀ The Aztecs were a warlike people who came to dominate central Mexico in the 13th century AD. They had a huge army and were almost constantly at war with other peoples.

▶ The Pyramid of the Sun in Teotihuacán, Mexico, was built over a cave where, it was said, the Sun was born. This gigantic pyramid still stands today.



THE MAYA

THE MAYA built magnificent stone cities, temples and palaces in the rainforest of Central America between AD 250 and 900. They invented a number system for counting and used picture writing to record important events. They studied the movements of the Sun, Moon, stars and planets, and created a calendar.

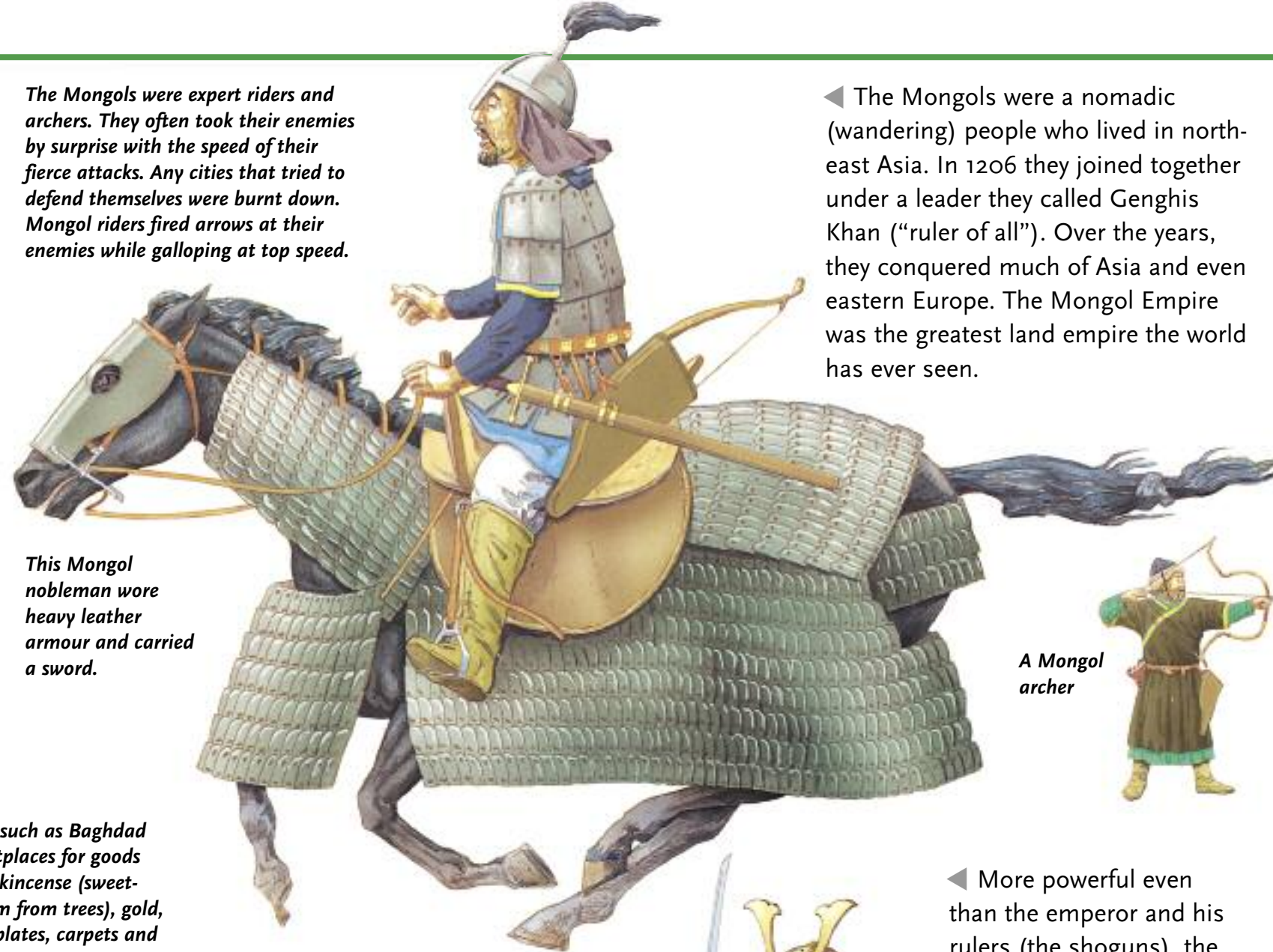
The Maya played a ball game on courts in front of their temples. Two teams had to knock a ball through a ring on the court wall using only their forearms, hips or knees. Members of the losing team were condemned to death.

GREAT EMPIRES

AN EMPIRE is a region covering many lands and peoples that is under the rule of one nation or person. Often, the language, customs and religion of that ruler would be adopted in all parts of the empire.

Empires need a lot of organization. The Persian Empire, which stretched from Egypt to India in ancient times, was divided into provinces, each with its own governor. Such large empires were frequently under attack from surrounding peoples. In 330 BC Alexander the Great (see page 13) overran the Persians and made their lands part of his vast empire.

The Mongols were expert riders and archers. They often took their enemies by surprise with the speed of their fierce attacks. Any cities that tried to defend themselves were burnt down. Mongol riders fired arrows at their enemies while galloping at top speed.

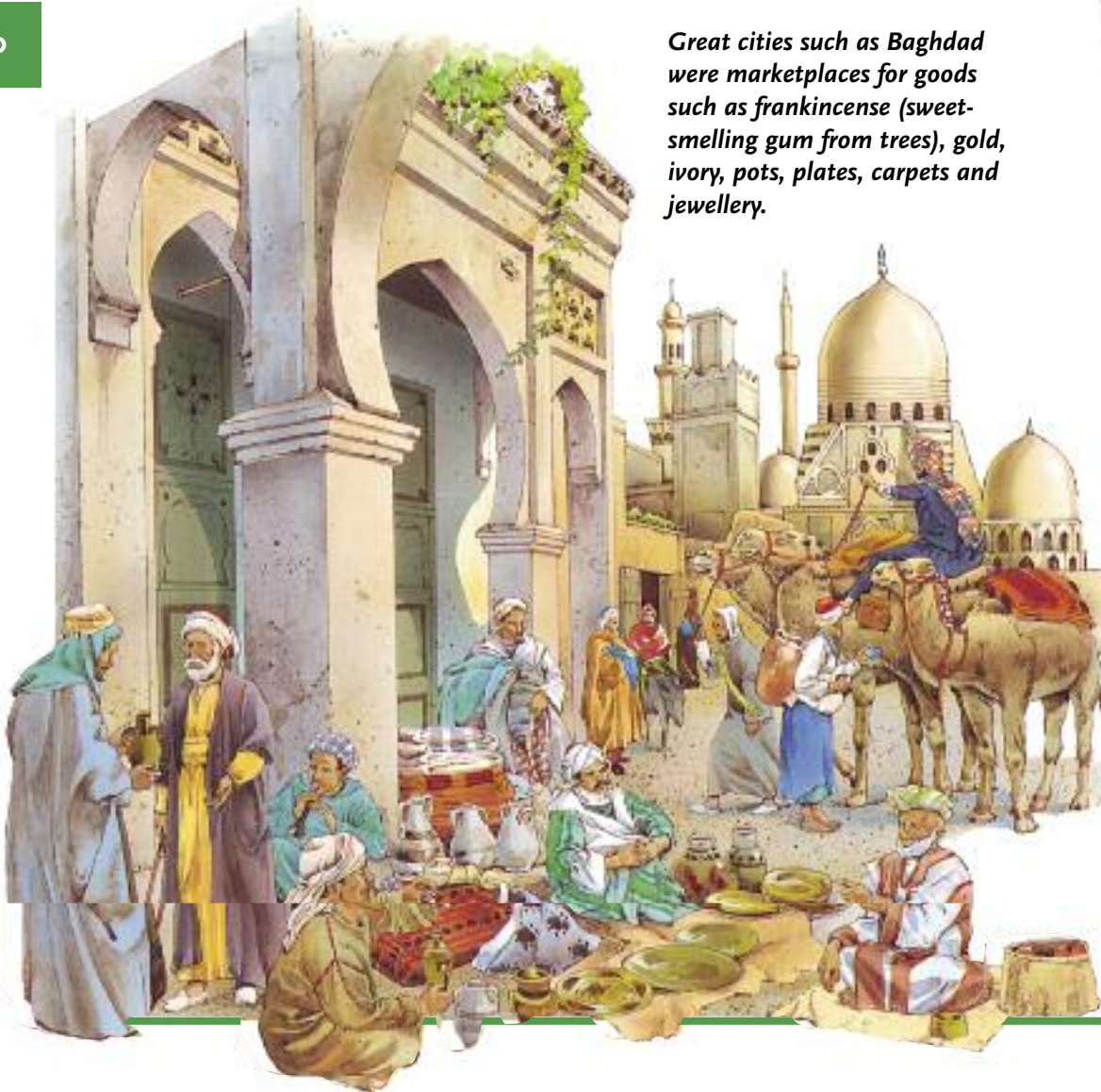


This Mongol nobleman wore heavy leather armour and carried a sword.

A Mongol archer

◀ The Mongols were a nomadic (wandering) people who lived in north-east Asia. In 1206 they joined together under a leader they called Genghis Khan ("ruler of all"). Over the years, they conquered much of Asia and even eastern Europe. The Mongol Empire was the greatest land empire the world has ever seen.

Great cities such as Baghdad were marketplaces for goods such as frankincense (sweet-smelling gum from trees), gold, ivory, pots, plates, carpets and jewellery.



◀ The Arab Empire was built up in the 7th and 8th centuries AD. Inspired by Muhammad, the founder of the Islamic religion, the Arabs conquered vast territories. At its height, the empire stretched from Spain, through North Africa and across Asia as far as India. Aboard their ships, known as dhows, the Arabs traded goods around the Mediterranean Sea and between Africa and Asia. Arab scholars made great advances in astronomy, mathematics and medicine.



Samurai warriors wore heavy armour and face masks.

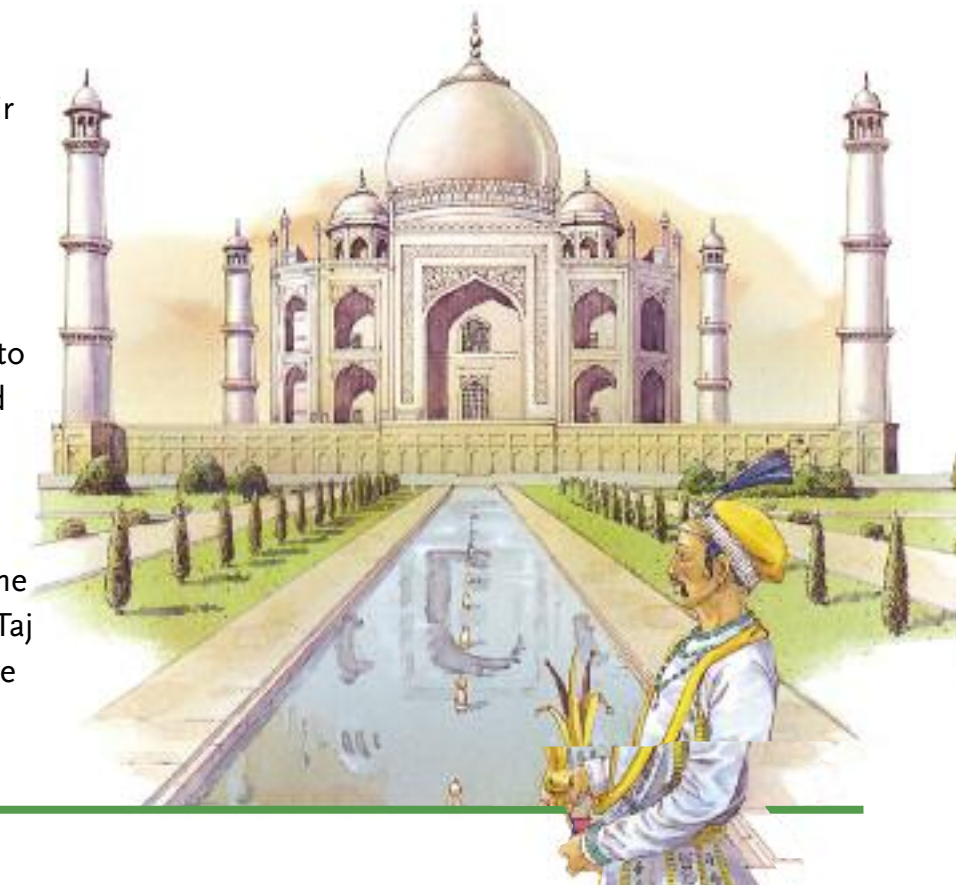
◀ More powerful even than the emperor and his rulers (the shoguns), the samurai dominated Japan from the 12th to the 18th centuries. They were rich landowners who had their own private armies. The most important samurai lived in fine castles.

▶ The Mughal empire in India lasted from 1504 to 1858. When his beloved wife Mumtaz Mahal died in 1631, emperor Shah Jahan vowed to build the most beautiful tomb in the world for her. Called the Taj Mahal, it is made of white marble, studded with thousands of jewels.

AFRICAN EMPIRES



FOR HUNDREDS of years, African peoples mined gold and other metals and traded with China and Arabia. Many, such as the west African empires of Ghana and Mali and the southern African empire of Zimbabwe, grew rich and powerful. An important trade centre, the walled settlement of Great Zimbabwe (above) grew up in the 1400s in a land of cattle herders and farmers. The ruler and his followers lived in round, thatched houses protected by high walls. In places, the walls were several metres thick. They were skilfully made by shaping stone blocks so that they fitted together perfectly.



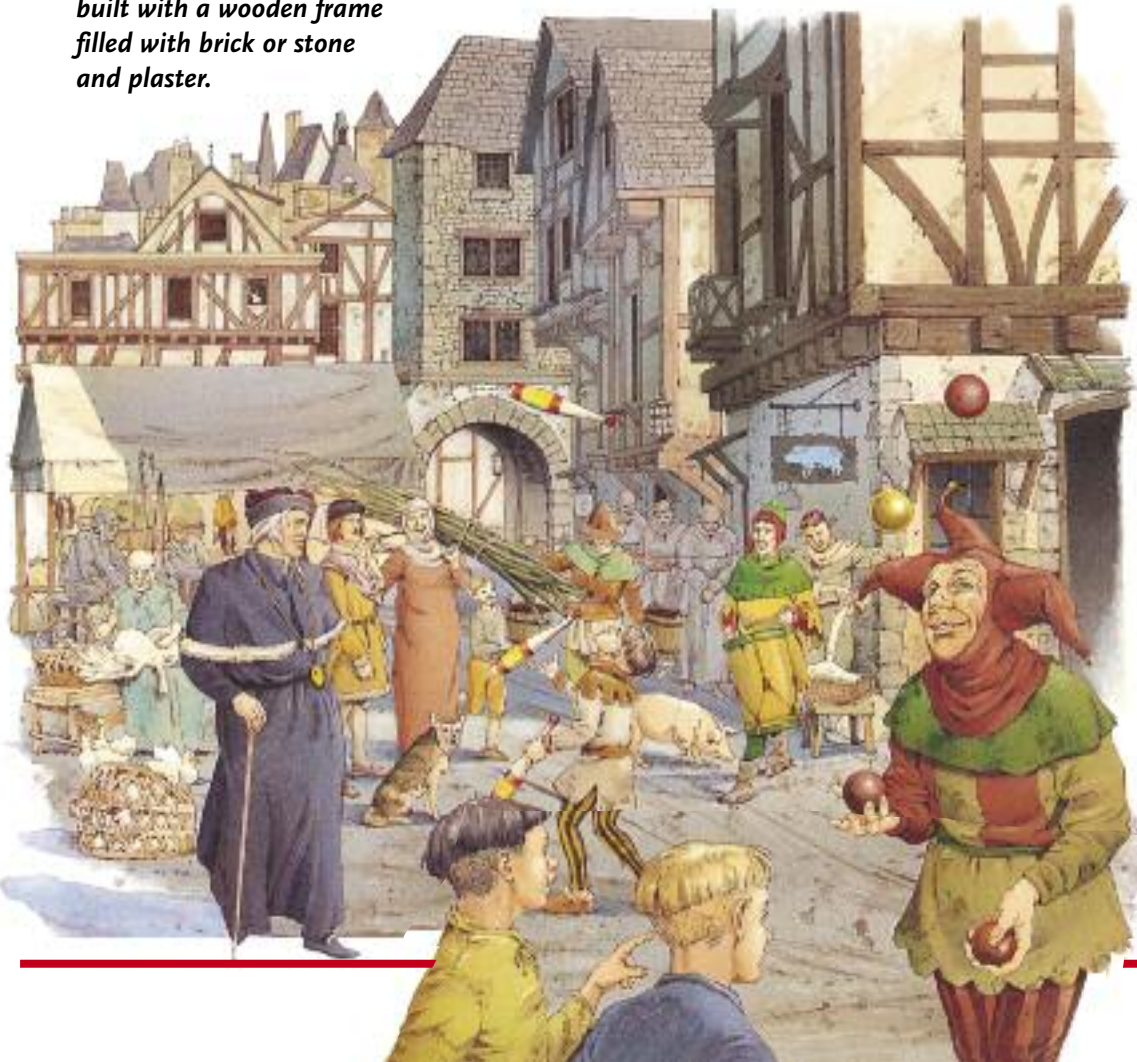
MIDDLE AGES

WE CALL the period of European history between about AD 500 and 1500 the Middle Ages. During these years, Europe became a patchwork of kingdoms, frequently warring amongst themselves.

Knights and noblemen fought in wars for their kings. In return, they were given land. Very often, they became more powerful than the kings themselves. They let peasants live and work on their land and made them pay taxes. This was known as the feudal system.

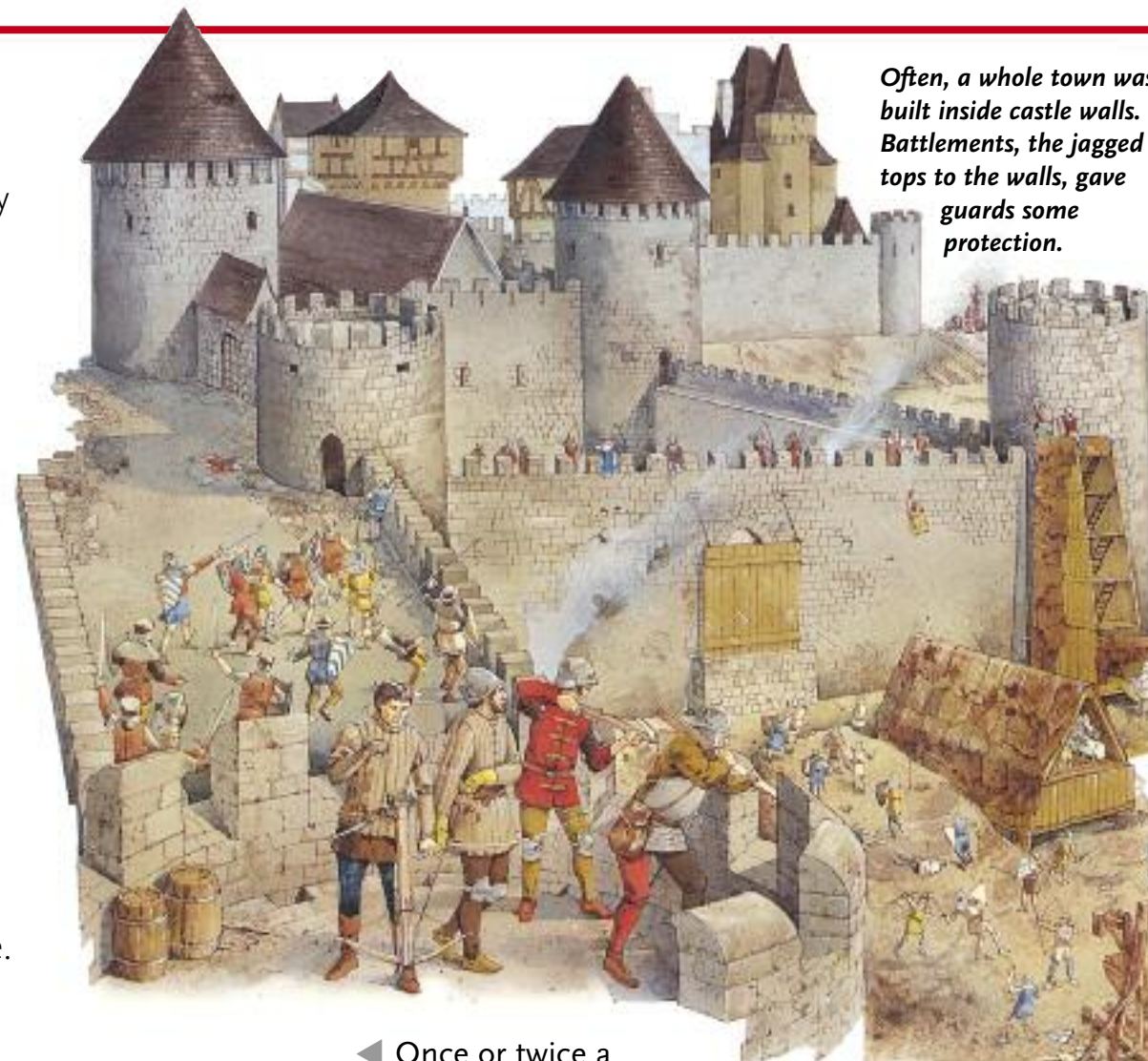
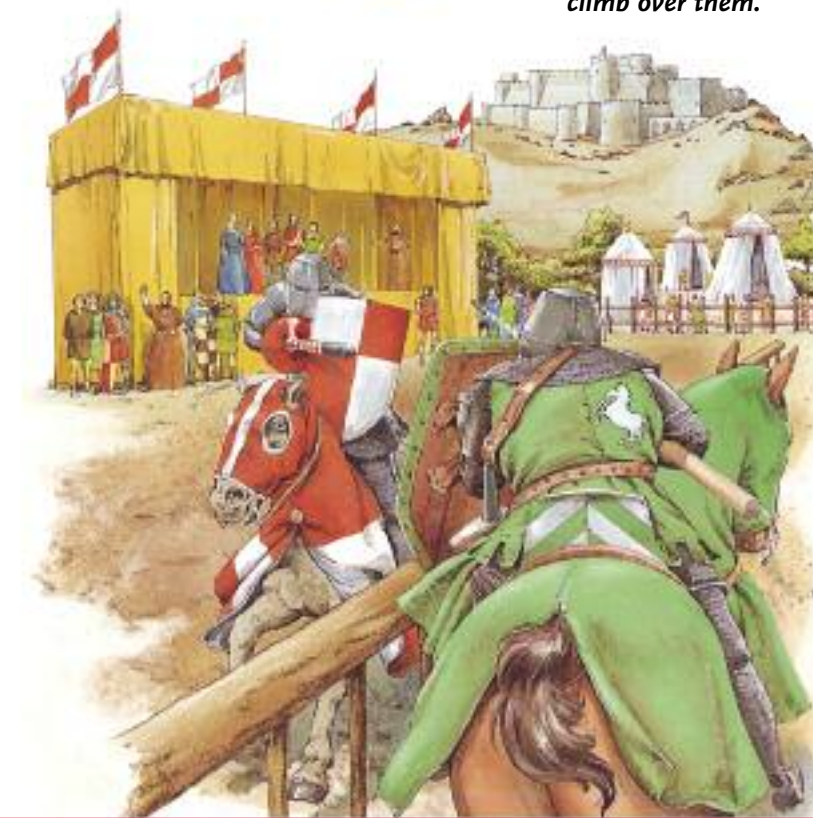
Noblemen's families lived comfortable lives. The boys trained as knights while the girls learnt to read, play music and do fine sewing. But life for poorer families was often a struggle.

Many townhouses were built with a wooden frame filled with brick or stone and plaster.



◀ Once or twice a week, the town market was held. Local farmers brought produce to sell to the townspeople. Travelling merchants sold fine cloth to those who could afford it. Jugglers entertained people with their clever tricks.

▶ To practise their fighting skills, or to decide who should win an argument, knights took part in tournaments. In exciting contests known as jousting, two knights rode towards each other at top speed, each using his lance to try to knock the other off his horse.



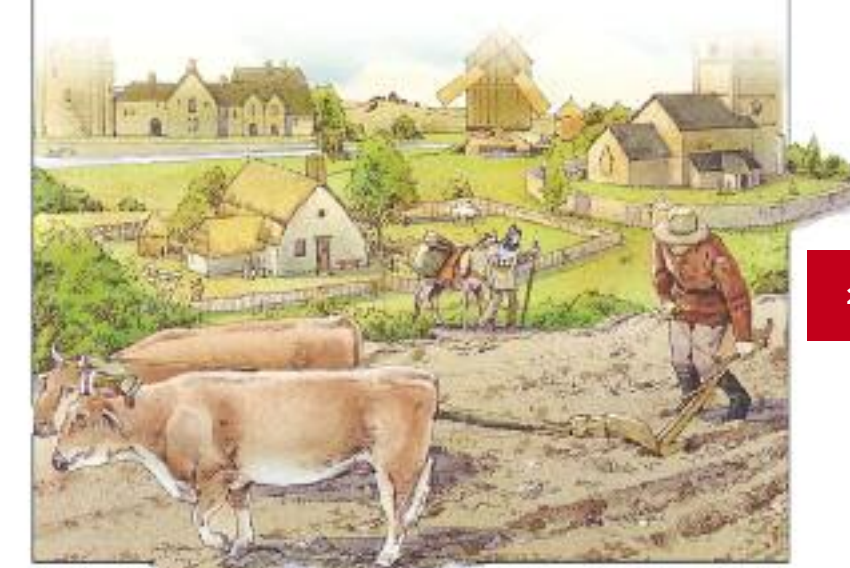
Often, a whole town was built inside castle walls. Battlements, the jagged tops to the walls, gave guards some protection.

◀ A nobleman's castle was built to keep out his enemies. It had strong, thick, stone walls and a moat full of water. Soldiers stood guard on the walls looking out for danger. Sometimes, enemies would lay siege to a castle: they would surround it and wait for the people inside to starve. Here, they are attacking the castle with powerful weapons. The castle's soldiers fire arrows from their crossbows on to the enemy below.

The enemy filled in the moat with straw so that they could push their battering rams right up to the castle doors. They used huge catapults to smash holes in the walls, or a tall, wooden tower to climb over them.

LIFE IN THE COUNTRY

NOBLEMEN divided up the lands given to them by the king into manors. These consisted of three large fields: one each for wheat and barley and a third left unsown (lying fallow) so that the soil could recover its richness. The fields were, in turn, divided into strips. Peasants worked their strips of land and lived in the villages that grew up around a manor house. They grew or made everything they needed to live. Their animals pulled their ploughs and provided meat and clothing. At harvest time, the crops were gathered in and the grain ground into flour using windmills.



▶ Between 1347 and 1349 a terrible disease called the bubonic plague swept Europe and Asia, killing millions of people. Known as the Black Death, it was carried by rats and the fleas that lived on them. No-one then understood the causes of the plague or knew how to cure it. Whole villages disappeared as more and more people died. Carts went round collecting the bodies.



EXPLORERS

TODAY, we have a detailed knowledge of our world. Satellites take pictures of the Earth from space. Cars, trains, ships and aircraft have taken people to most parts of the world. But a few hundred years ago, with only sailing ships, pack animals and their own two feet as means of transport, very few people travelled any distance at all. Those who risked their lives to discover other lands are remembered today as famous explorers.

Early explorers had no maps to guide them and many lands were discovered by accident. More than 500 years ago, Christopher Columbus sailed west from Spain and reached America. However, he believed he had sailed round the world to the Far East.



◀ The Vikings made many expeditions by sea from their homelands in Scandinavia. In about AD 982 Eric the Red landed on a large island which he named Greenland. Viking settlers lived in this bleak, harsh landscape, grazing their animals and catching fish and seals.

▶ In 1271, at the age of 17, Marco Polo set off from his home in Venice, Italy, with his father and uncle. They travelled across Asia to the palace of Mongol emperor Kublai Khan in China. When Marco's amazing stories were later told in a book, hardly anyone believed them.



POLAR EXPLORERS

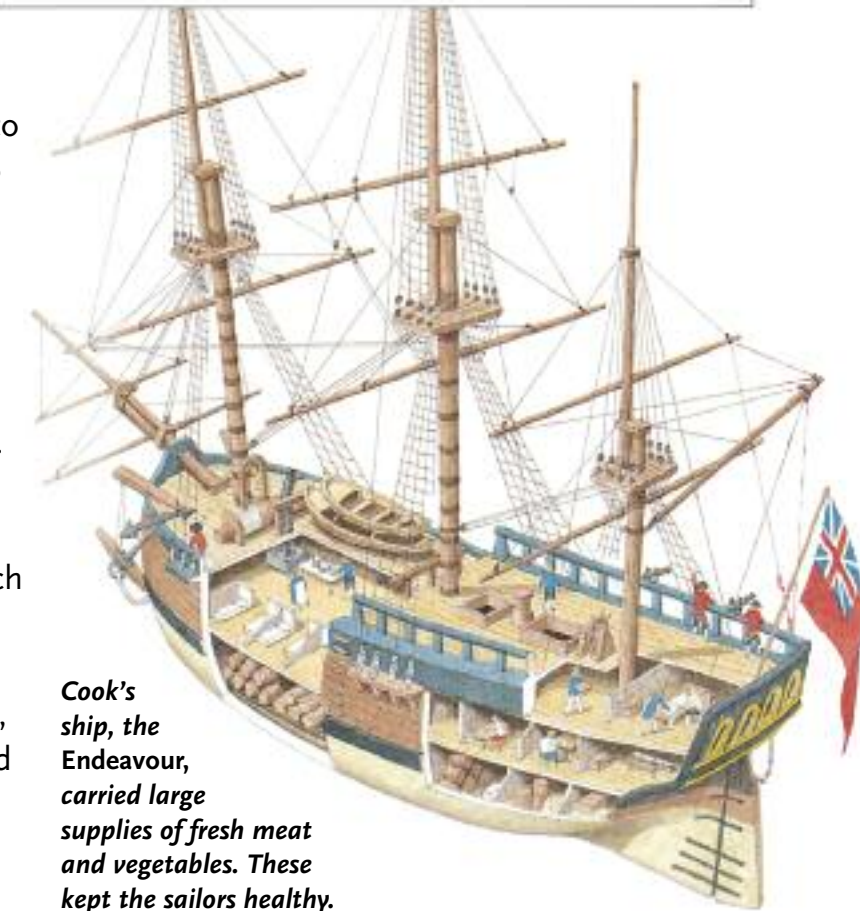


THE FIRST person to reach the North Pole was an American, Robert Peary. He had already made seven Arctic expeditions and had lost most of his toes to frostbite. He recorded in his diary that he had reached the Pole in April 1909.

The first person to reach the South Pole was the Norwegian Roald Amundsen (*above*), in 1911. He was racing against a rival British team led by Robert Scott. Amundsen used husky dogs to pull his sledges quickly. When Scott arrived at the Pole he found Amundsen had already beaten him. On their way back, Scott and his team died in a blizzard.

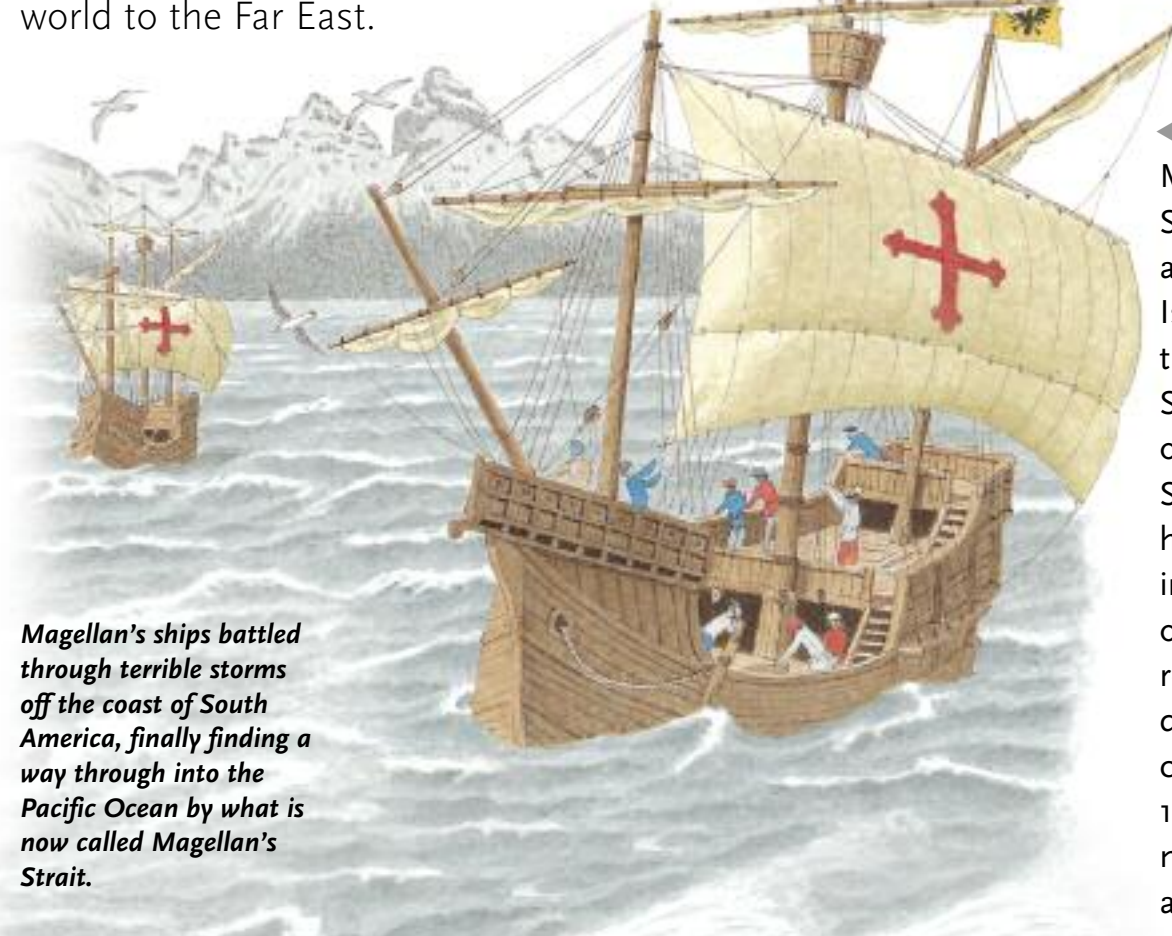
◀ In France in the early 1820s a prize was offered to the first person to travel to Timbuktu in Africa and return safely. René Caillié took up the challenge. He reached the city after a journey of about 2400 kilometres, mostly on foot.

▶ Captain James Cook, a British sailor, went in search of the fabled "southern continent" in 1772. Although he did not find it, Cook explored and mapped the east coast of Australia and the islands of the Pacific Ocean.



Cook's ship, the Endeavour, carried large supplies of fresh meat and vegetables. These kept the sailors healthy.

◀ In 1519 Ferdinand Magellan set out from Spain with five ships. His aim was to reach the Spice Islands in the Far East by travelling west around South America. It took just over two years to reach the Spice Islands. Magellan himself was killed by natives in the Philippines. Only one of the ships, the *Vittoria*, returned to Spain, 1082 days after leaving. Out of a crew of over 200 men, only 18 were left. But they had made the first voyage around the world.

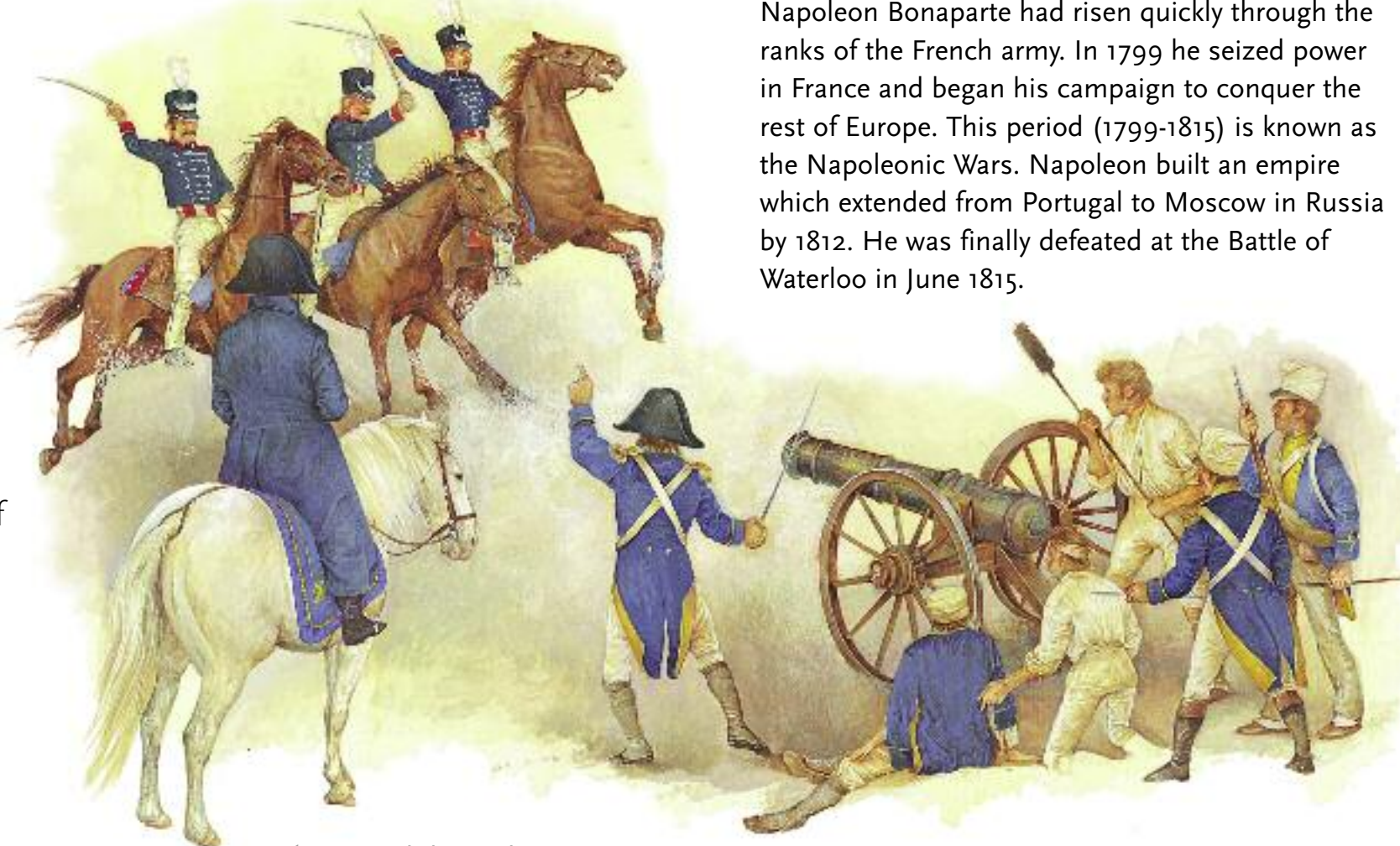


Magellan's ships battled through terrible storms off the coast of South America, finally finding a way through into the Pacific Ocean by what is now called Magellan's Strait.

MODERN HISTORY

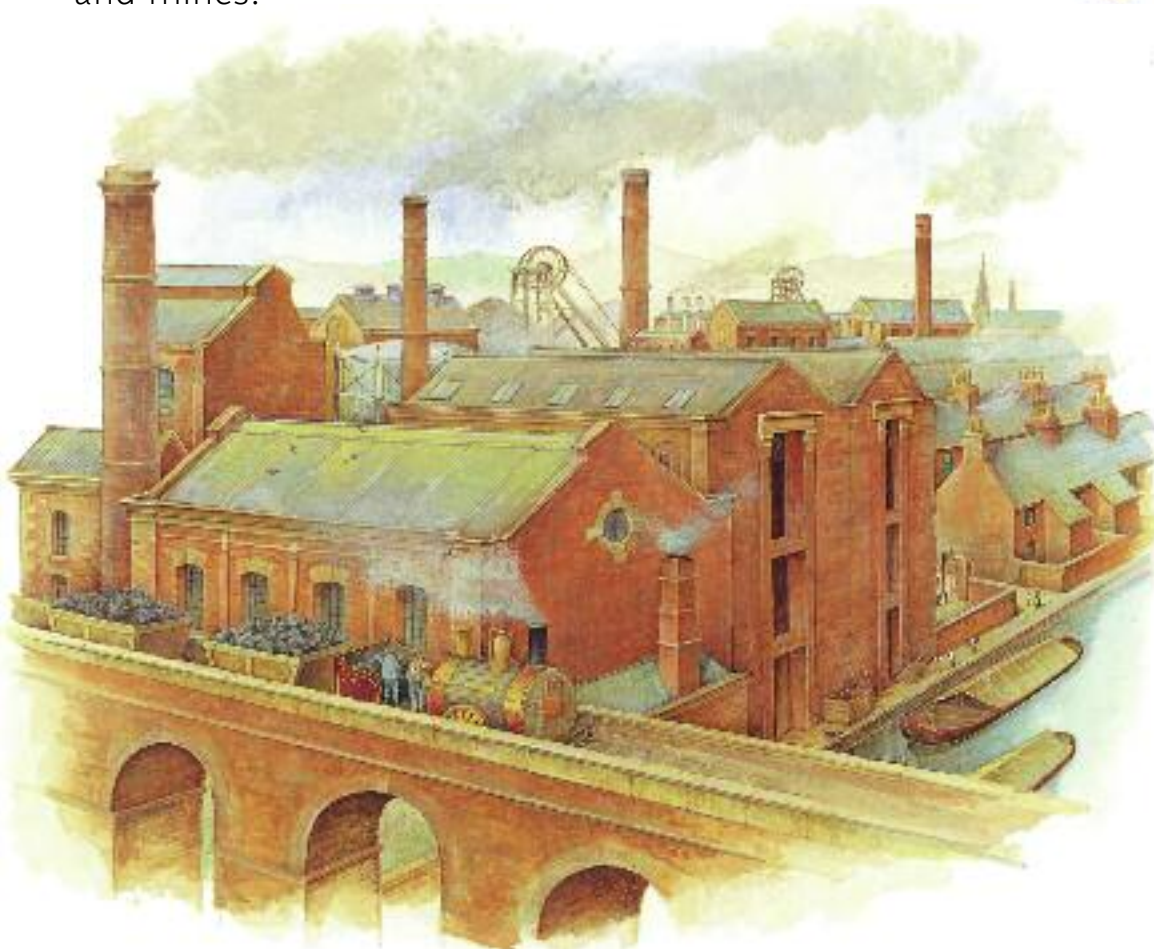
IN the second half of the 18th century two major revolutions took place. The first, taking place between 1775 and 1783, led to the independence of the United States of America from Britain. The second happened in France, starting with the storming of the Bastille Prison in Paris in 1789 and ending with the abolition of the monarchy. Discontent over unfair taxation amongst ordinary French people led to the drawing up of a Declaration of the Rights of Man, which gave rights to all citizens.

Another kind of revolution was going on at about the same time. The Industrial Revolution caused great changes in the way people lived and worked. Millions of people moved from rural areas to work in the new factories, mills and mines.



▼ Following the French Revolution, A general called Napoleon Bonaparte had risen quickly through the ranks of the French army. In 1799 he seized power in France and began his campaign to conquer the rest of Europe. This period (1799-1815) is known as the Napoleonic Wars. Napoleon built an empire which extended from Portugal to Moscow in Russia by 1812. He was finally defeated at the Battle of Waterloo in June 1815.

◀ Up until the mid-1700s, machines were driven by hand, or by water- or animal-power. Then, in Britain, bigger machines were invented, making it possible to produce goods more quickly. They were powered by steam engines. Manufacturing was now starting up in mills and factories. Britain had plentiful supplies of coal and iron. Coal heated the furnaces where iron was separated from its ore (smelting). It also provided fuel for steam engines. Iron was used to make engines and machines, as well as bridges and railways.



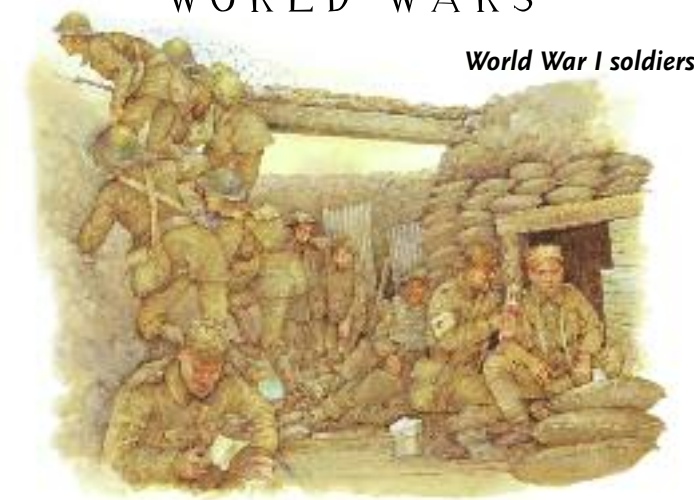
The motor car first appeared in the 1880s The engines used to power the earliest cars were invented by two German engineers, Gottlieb Daimler and Karl Benz, in 1885. In 1903 two American brothers, Orville and Wilbur Wright, made the first successful powered flight, marking the birth of the aeroplane.

◀ Industrialization in the 19th and 20th centuries brought new technology. Electric power, cars and air travel were inventions that changed everybody's lives.

▶ After World War II, Germany was divided between East and West. East Germany was ruled by a Communist government. Germany's capital, Berlin, was also divided. In 1961, the Communists built a wall across the city to prevent people moving from East to West Berlin. The hated wall came down in 1989 when Communism in eastern Europe collapsed.

WORLD WARS

World War I soldiers



THE 20TH CENTURY was shaped by two world wars. The first broke out when Arch-duke Ferdinand, heir to the throne of Austria-Hungary, was assassinated by a Serbian protester in 1914. Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia, prompting Russia to send troops to defend her ally. Soon, Germany, France, Britain, and later the USA, were drawn into what became World War I. It ended with the defeat of Germany in 1918.

World War II broke out after the rise to power of the Nazi leader, Adolf Hitler, in Germany, and Japan's invasion of China in the 1930s. In 1939 Germany invaded Poland, drawing nations across the world into war once again. The Allies—Britain, France, USA and Soviet Union—defeated Germany in 1945. Japan surrendered following the dropping of nuclear bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki later in 1945.



TIMELINE

c.4600 million years ago The Earth is formed.

c.3500 million years ago First living things appear.

c.230 million years ago First dinosaurs evolve.

c.4.4 million years ago Early humans walk upright.

c.200,000 BC First modern people appear in Africa.

c.10,000 BC Farming begins in Mesopotamia; some animals are domesticated.

c.5000 BC Chinese civilization begins; Farmers begin irrigation in Mesopotamia.

c.3500 BC Early writing develops in Mesopotamia.

c.3000 BC Cities, such as Ur in Sumer, grow up; first pottery made in the Americas.

c.2100 BC Hebrews, led by Abraham, settle in Canaan; Judaism is founded.

c.2575 BC The Great Pyramids at Giza are built.

c.1270 BC The "Exodus": Hebrews leave Egypt.

c.1160 BC Death of Rameses III, the last great pharaoh of Egypt.

c.800 BC City states are founded in Greece.

776 BC The first Olympic Games are held.

753 BC Rome is founded.

563 BC Siddhartha Gautama (Buddha) born in India.

Ancient Egyptian royal ship



c.560 BC Rise of Persian Empire under Cyrus the Great.

551 BC Chinese philosopher Confucius is born.

c.500 BC Classical Age in Greece; democratic government begins.

510 BC Rome becomes a Republic.

490 BC The Greeks defeat the Persians at the Battle of Marathon.

449 BC Athens flourishes under Pericles; the Parthenon is built.

336 BC Alexander the Great becomes King of Macedonia

221 BC Work on the Great Wall of China begins.

210 BC The Han dynasty begins in China.

c.112 BC The Silk Road links China to the West.

46 BC Julius Caesar rules Rome as a dictator; Cleopatra becomes Queen of Egypt.

27 BC Octavian becomes Augustus, the first Roman Emperor.

c.5 BC Birth of Jesus Christ, founder of Christianity.

AD 30 Jesus Christ is crucified in Jerusalem.

79 Mount Vesuvius erupts, destroying Pompeii.

100s City of Teotihuacán is built in Mexico.

117 Roman Empire at its height under Hadrian.

c.300 Mayan civilization flourishes in Central America.

c.400-455 Germanic tribes conquer Britain; Goths, Visigoths and Vandals sack Rome.

527-65 Justinian rules over Byzantine Empire.



Roman soldier

Mongol horseman



632 Death of the Prophet Muhammad; Islam spreads to North Africa and parts of Spain.

661-1055 Umayyad and Abbasid dynasties rule the Islamic world.

c.750 Vikings begin raiding voyages in Europe.

800 Charlemagne crowned Holy Roman Emperor.

c.1000-13 Leif Eriksson sails to Newfoundland.

1096-1272 The Crusades.

1215 Magna Carta signed in England.

1215-23 Genghis Khan occupies Beijing and Russia.

1271-92 Marco Polo travels to Asia and the Far East.

c.1279 Kublai Khan conquers China.

1347 Black Death arrives in Europe.

1386-1644 Ming Dynasty rules in China.

c.1400-1521 Aztec Empire in Mexico.

c.1438-1572 Inca Empire in Peru.

c.1450-1600 Renaissance in Western Europe.

1453 Constantinople falls; Byzantine Empire ends.

1492 Columbus explores the Caribbean islands.

1517 Protestant Reformation begins.

1519-22 Magellan's fleet circumnavigates the world.

1521 Spanish conquistadors defeat Aztec Empire.

1522-60 Sulaiman I rules the Ottoman Empire.

1532 Francisco Pizarro conquers Incas in Peru.

1556-1605 Akbar the Great rules Mughal Empire.

1603 Tokugawa shoguns begin rule in Japan.

1632 Work begins on the Taj Mahal.

1644-1912 Qing (Manchu) dynasty in China.

1682-1725 Peter the Great rules Russia.

1776 Declaration of Independence; USA founded.

1789 French Revolution begins



Roald Amundsen, polar explorer

1799-1815 Napoleonic Wars.

1861-1865 American Civil War

1911 China becomes a republic under Sun Yixian.

1914-18 World War I.

1917 Russian Revolution.

1929 Great Depression begins.

1939-45 World War II.

1945 Atomic bombs are dropped by Allies on Japan, ending World War II.

1947 India becomes independent.

1949 Communist rule in China under Mao Zedong.

1961 Yuri Gagarin is the first human in space.

1961 Berlin Wall is built in Germany.

1969 Neil Armstrong is first to walk on the Moon.

1989-91 Communism ends in Eastern Europe.

2001 Terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon, USA.

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