

children's illustrated encyclopedia

Peoples of the World



 Orpheus

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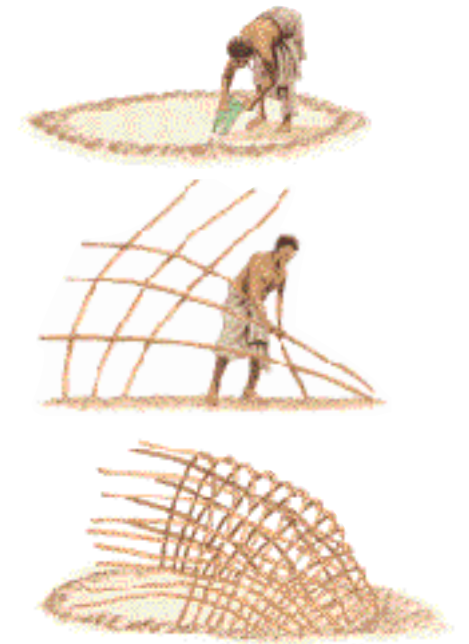
Photograph on page 6: The Illustrated London News Picture Library



CONTENTS

PEOPLE

- 4 **POPULATION**
Population density and growth • The world's most populous countries
- 6 **CITIES**
How cities developed • Supercities • The world's largest cities
- 8 **GOVERNMENT**
Liberal democracies • How US government works • European Union • United Nations
- 10 **WORLD PEOPLES**
Different ethnic groups
- 12 **WORLD LANGUAGES**
Main language families • Most widely spoken languages
- 14 **WRITING AND ALPHABETS**
History of writing • Different alphabets • Spread of languages • Sign language



RELIGIONS

- 16 **WORLD RELIGIONS**
What religion is • Shintoism
- 17 **JUDAISM • SIKHISM**
- 18 **HINDUISM**
- 19 **BUDDHISM**
- 20 **CHRISTIANITY**
- 22 **ISLAM**

LIVING

- 24 **HOUSES AROUND THE WORLD**
- 26 **TRADITIONAL HOMES**
A Japanese home • A Maasai home
- 28 **FESTIVALS**
Berber Festival of Brides • Japanese festivals • Mardi Gras • Ritual dances
- 30 **SPORTS**
Olympic Games
- 32 **INDEX**



POPULATION

THE WORLD'S population has undergone a massive increase during the 20th century. In 1900 it stood at 1.6 billion. By the end of the century, it topped 6 billion, and is still increasing at a rate of 86 million people a year. According to the United Nations (see page 9), world population will be at least 7.9 billion by 2020 and could reach 13 billion by 2050.

The world's population is not evenly spread. As this map (below) shows, some regions, including Europe, eastern North America, India, China and Japan have a much higher density of people. Here there are many more industrial cities, or the land is intensively farmed.

Rapid population growth began in about 1800 with the onset of the Industrial Revolution. Then most of the increase was in Europe and North America as better



The island of Hong Kong has a very large population for its size.

health care and food resources became available. In 1900 most of the world's largest cities were in these continents.

In the past century, about 97 per cent of this growth has taken place in the poorer countries of Africa, Asia and Central and South America, sometimes referred to as "the South". Here, people have traditionally had a lot of children because they fear that many will not survive to be adults. The average fertility rate in Sudan, for example, is 4.6 babies per family, compared to 1.6 in Canada. Better health care, even in poor

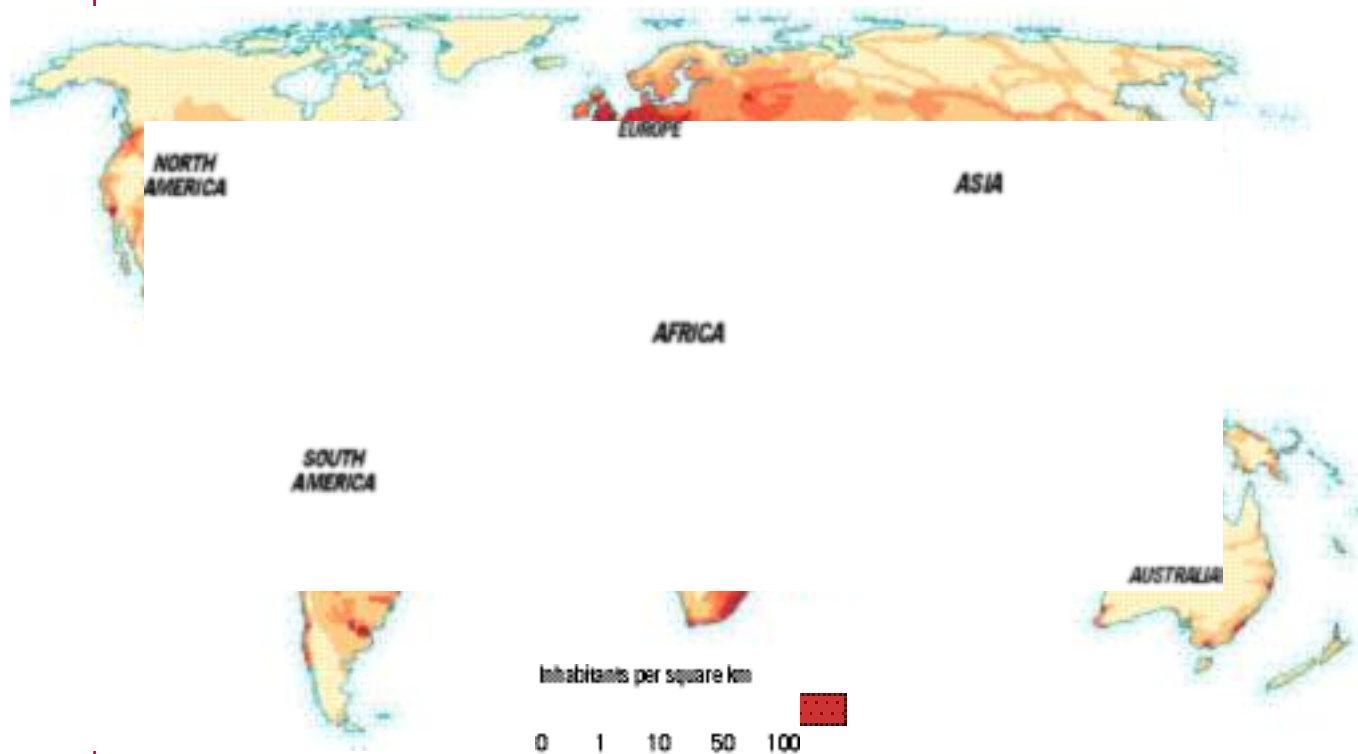


One square millimetre (□) represents one million people

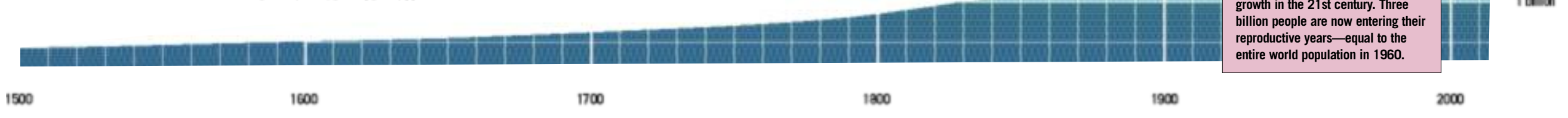
countries, means that today fewer children die of hunger or disease and fewer women die in childbirth. As a result, the populations of countries in the South now have large proportions of young people. Half of India's population, for example, is under 30 years old. These young people are having children of their own, so the birth rate remains high.

Countries like China, the most populous country in the world, have taken steps to arrest the growth of its massive population. The government has introduced a policy of one child per family.

The map above shows the countries of the world drawn in relation to their population—1 square millimetre represents 1 million people. Comparing this with an ordinary map shows which countries are heavily populated. For example, the population of India is huge and growing at an annual rate of 1.6 per cent, while Australia, a country more than twice India's size, is sparsely populated (20,600,856).



THE WORLD'S MOST POPULOUS COUNTRIES	
1 China	1,330,044,605
2 India	1,147,995,898
3 United States of America	303,824,646
4 Indonesia	237,512,355
5 Brazil	191,908,598
6 Russia	140,702,094
7 Pakistan	167,762,040
8 Bangladesh	153,546,901
9 Japan	127,288,411
10 Nigeria	125,000,000



This chart shows the dramatic rise in population during the 20th century and a prediction of future growth in the 21st century. Three billion people are now entering their reproductive years—equal to the entire world population in 1960.

CITIES

THE WORD “city” is generally used to describe a large and important town. Every country has a capital city, where its government is based. Other large cities have grown up around industries and the services that go with them, such as ports, shops, transport and offices.

Cities first developed in the ancient world, in those places where farming had become so efficient that not everybody had to work on the land. Some people became craftworkers, priests or teachers instead. The cities brought together many people with skills and new ideas. The emergence of cities marked the beginning of civilization (from the Latin *civis*, meaning citizen, a city-dweller).

Some cities developed from market towns, local trading centres. People came from the countryside to sell their produce at the market. If that town was favourably positioned—for example, at a place where a



An industrial city in 1879. Industry led to the rapid growth of many cities.

river could be bridged or near a natural harbour—it grew as more and more people came to live and work there.

The Industrial Revolution of the 18th and 19th centuries provided a major boost for the expansion of cities. Large cities grew up around the new factories and ports, where jobs much better paid than those in the countryside were on offer.

Cities have continued to grow up to the present day and some have become merged to become a supercity or “megapolis” where many millions of people live and work. The region of the eastern USA from Boston via New York and Philadelphia to Washington is an example of a megapolis. Cities cover only 2 per cent of the world’s surface but use 75 per cent of its resources. It is estimated that two-thirds of the world’s population will live in cities by 2025.

The fastest-growing cities today are in the developing world. Many people from poor rural districts go to cities where they hope to find work and a better life. Home to about 20 million people, Mexico City is one of the world’s largest cities. Like many fast-growing cities in the developing world, a significant proportion of its inhabitants live in shanty-towns surrounding the city. Cities with such massive populations often face serious overcrowding, pollution problems and high unemployment when work is short.



The cities of North Africa are famous for their colourful markets or *souks*. A *souk*, normally in the old part of the city, has many different stalls selling a huge variety of goods, from fruit and vegetables to leatherware, copper goods and finely embroidered cloth.

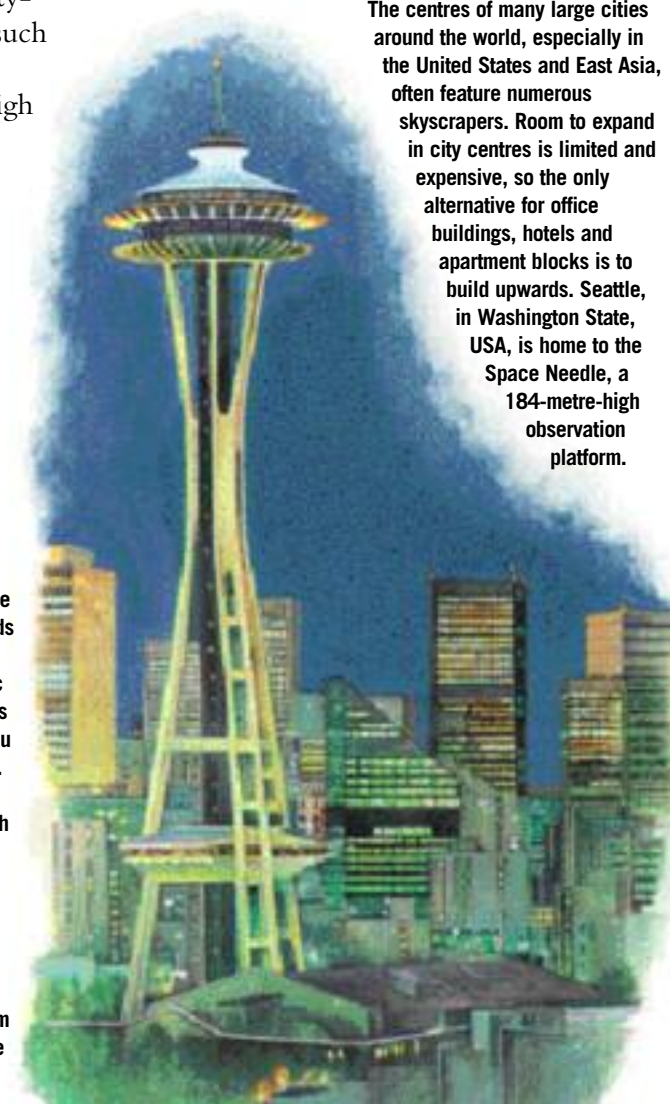
The world’s largest city is the supercity of Tokyo-Yokohama, Japan. Space for building is limited in this mountainous country, although some land has been “reclaimed” from the sea. Tokyo’s facilities, including its underground railway, hotels and swimming pools, for example, are often overcrowded.

The centres of many large cities around the world, especially in the United States and East Asia, often feature numerous skyscrapers. Room to expand in city centres is limited and expensive, so the only alternative for office buildings, hotels and apartment blocks is to build upwards. Seattle, in Washington State, USA, is home to the Space Needle, a 184-metre-high observation platform.

THE WORLD'S LARGEST CITIES		
1	Tokyo-Yokohama, Japan	33,473,000
2	Mexico City, Mexico	19,231,000
3	São Paulo, Brazil	19,977,000
4	Seoul, South Korea	23,421,000
5	New York City, USA	18,818,000
6	Mumbai (Bombay), India	20,870,000
7	Osaka-Kobe, Japan	18,643,000
8	Shanghai, China	18,450,000
9	Kolkata (Calcutta), India	14,681,000
10	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	11,714,000



The Italian city of Venice (left) was built on islands in a shallow bay, called a lagoon, of the Adriatic Sea. The city has canals instead of streets, so you cannot take a car there. People travel in boats called gondolas or catch a water bus called a *vaporetto*. Venice was once an independent state with a ruler called a Doge. The Bridge of Sighs, shown in this illustration, crossed from the Doge’s Palace to the prison.

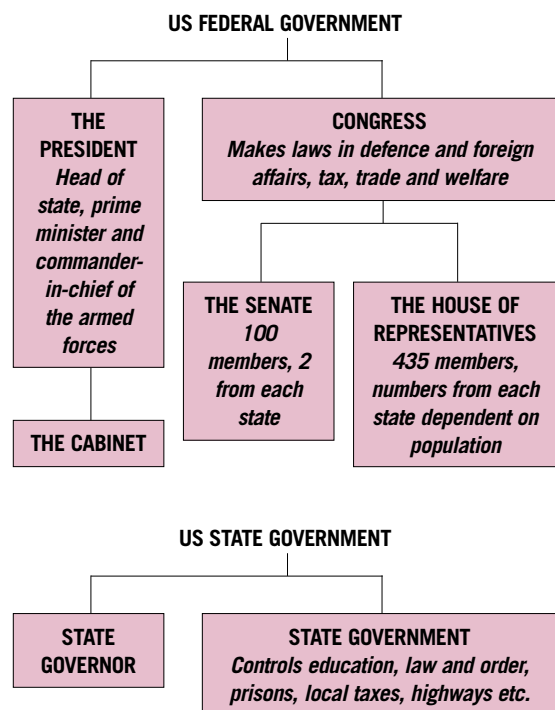


GOVERNMENT

A GOVERNMENT is any system in which an authority is exercised over the people. There are several different types of government. A liberal democracy is a style of government where there is more than one political party and the people vote for the party of their choice. A totalitarian government is a one-party state in which the state has total power. An autocracy is a form of government where power is in the hands of one person, or of the army.

In a liberal democracy, there is an election in which the people vote for the candidate of their choice. In France or the United States, people vote directly for the president as well as for members of parliament (MPs). In other countries, such as the United Kingdom, people vote for MPs. The political party with the most MPs forms the government. Under a system known as "proportional representation", each party draws up a list of candidates and the people vote for a party, not an MP. Parties gain a percentage of seats depending on the number of votes they have.

The Capitol in Washington DC is the centre of the United States government.



Some liberal democracies, for example, the UK, Spain and Japan, are also monarchies. While the monarch is head of state, the government is run by elected members of parliament. Countries that do not have monarchs, for example, the USA, France and Russia, are called republics. Their head of state is the president.

The USA is a federal republic of 50 states. Each state has its own elected government that makes decisions on matters such as education and certain laws, while the government is in charge of national and international affairs. The United States government, known as Congress, is divided into two houses: the Senate and the House of Representatives. All congressmen are directly elected by the people. The head of the US state is the president, who is elected independently and is not necessarily a member of the majority party in Congress.

The countries of Europe have their own governments, but some are members of the European Union (EU). They agree to work together more closely, aiming to create a peaceful and prosperous Europe. The EU is run by the Commission, a body that is accountable to the Council of Ministers.



UN flag



EU flag



NATO flag



OAU flag

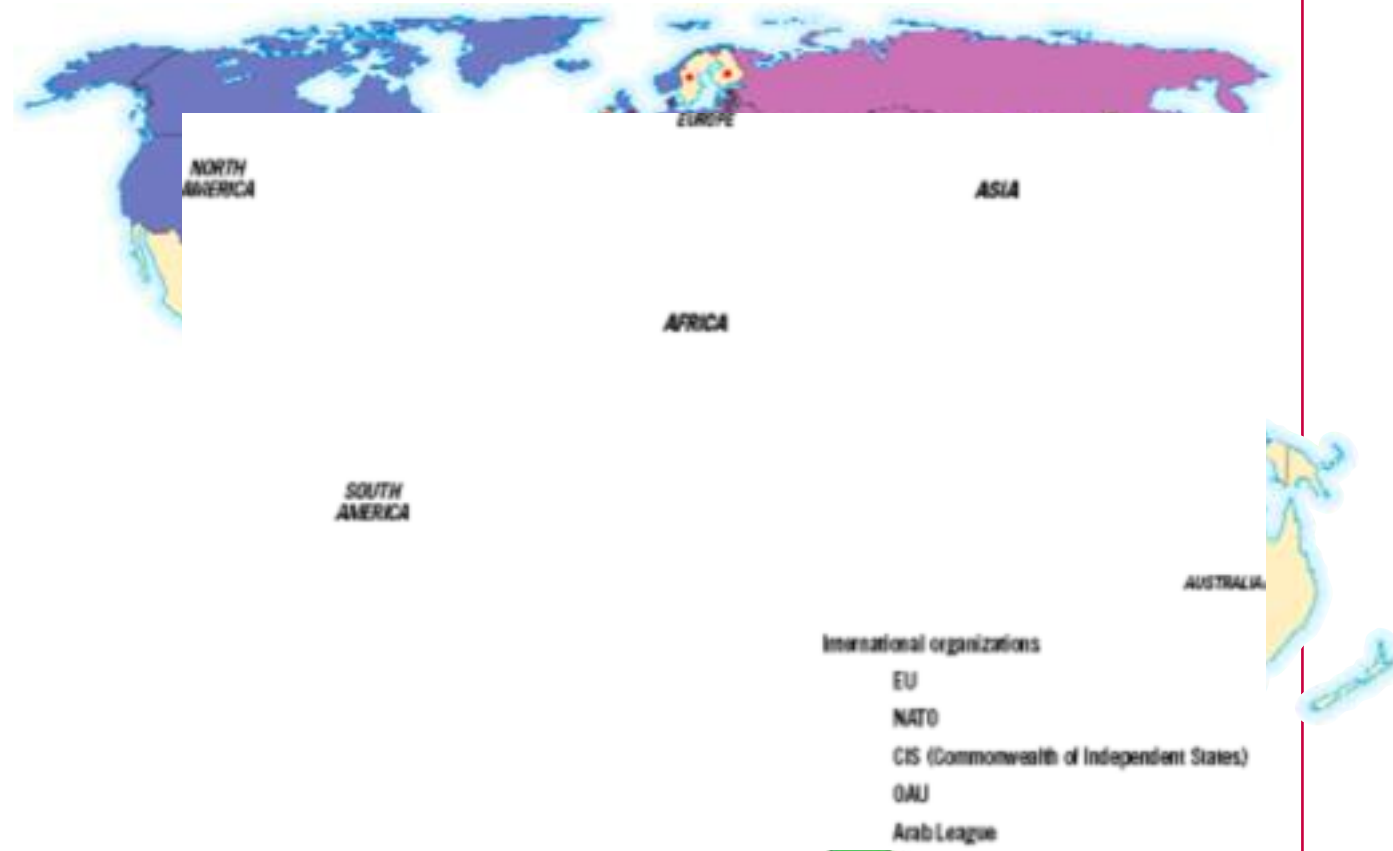


Arab League flag

THE UNITED NATIONS

The United Nations (UN) was formed to prevent war and to foster good relations between nations. Set up in October 1945, at the end of World War II, the UN today is a worldwide organization with 192 member countries. Every member has a seat on the General Assembly. A body of selected countries form the UN Security Council, together with five permanent members, USA, UK, France, Russia and China. This takes decisions at times of crisis. The UN sends troops from different countries to keep the peace between warring groups.

Other international organizations include the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the Arab League and the Organization of African Unity (OAU). NATO was formed in 1949 to defend the West against possible attack from the then Soviet Union during the Cold War, a period of tension that lasted until 1989. The Arab League was formed in 1945 to promote co-operation between Arab countries. The OAU provides a means for African countries to discuss their political and economic problems.



WORLD PEOPLES

THE EARLIEST humans evolved, it is thought, in Africa. After thousands of years, they began to move to other parts of the world. By about 30,000 years ago, they had spread to every continent of the world except Antarctica.

As people settled in different parts of the world, different ethnic groups emerged. These are large communities of people who have physical characteristics, languages, religions and other traits in common. People developed languages so that they could communicate with each other. Different cultures, including art and religion, soon followed.



This woman and the Kayapo man are native Indians from South America. Both follow traditional cultures largely unchanged for centuries.

People have moved around throughout history, because of the opportunities offered by the discovery of new lands, or for better economic prospects. War or natural disasters such as flooding or drought have also led to mass-migrations of people. When groups of people settle in a new country, they often bring their own religions and cultures with them. Some nations, such as the United States, are now considered multicultural.



This Yakut girl lives in Sakha, part of Siberia in Russia, one of the coldest inhabited places in the world. The Yakut form one-third of the population of Sakha. They used to be nomadic reindeer herders but now many have settled in one place. The main occupations are mining for minerals, trapping animals and some farming in the south.



This man (right) is from Ethiopia in Africa. He comes from one of over 70 ethnic groups who live in Ethiopia. The country's main religions are Islam or Christianity. Three languages are spoken besides the official language, Amharic.



A Lapp boy (left) from Norway in northern Europe and a gypsy girl from the south.



Bali, where this girl comes from, is an Indonesian island. The population of Indonesia consists of more than 300 ethnic groups, most of which are of Malay descent. There are 583 regional languages and dialects. The four main religions of Indonesia are Islam, Christian, Buddhist and Hindu (see pages 18-23).



This Efe girl (right) comes from Congo, central Africa, which is a land of tropical rainforest. The Efe do not live in one place, but move around hunting and gathering fruit. They are a pygmy people, distinguished by their smaller-than-average height.



In a very few parts of the world, people still live as they have done for thousands of years, although nearly all are affected in some way by the modern world. Natives still hunt and fish in the Amazon rainforest just as their ancestors did. Their lifestyle is threatened by destruction of the forests.



This girl has followed an age-old tradition of stretching her neck by having brass rings fixed round it from a very young age. Some necks grow to lengths of 38 cm or more. These giraffe-necked women, from Pondaung in southeast Burma (Myanmar), are famous for this tradition. They also wear brass rings round their necks, arms and legs.

The Inuit (top left) come from the Arctic. The Hopi girl (top right) and the Guatemalan girl (bottom right) are descended from Native Americans. The American boy (bottom left) has European ancestry. The boy (right) from a Caribbean island is of African descent.



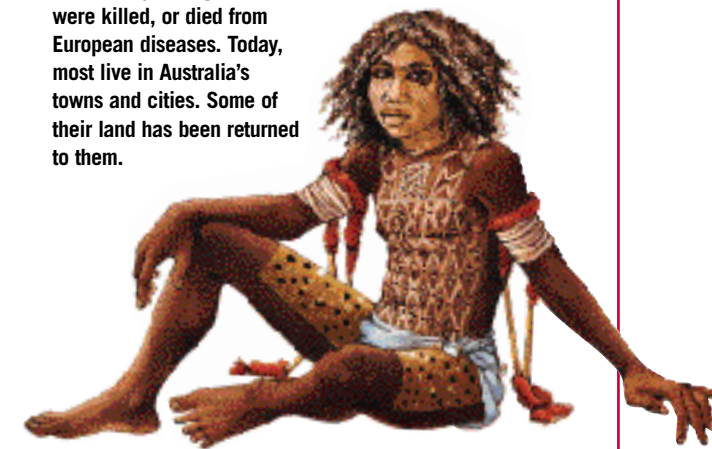
This boy (right) lives in Nigeria in West Africa. There are more than 250 different ethnic groups. The largest are the Hausa, Fulani, Yoruba and Ibo. People from the north follow Islam, while Christianity and other religions are followed in the south.



These people come from Asia. The boy (right) is from Oman and speaks Arabic. The Kurdish woman (below left) lives in Kurdistan, a mountainous region on the borders of Turkey, Iran and Iraq. The girl (below right) belongs to one of hundreds of ethnic groups in India.



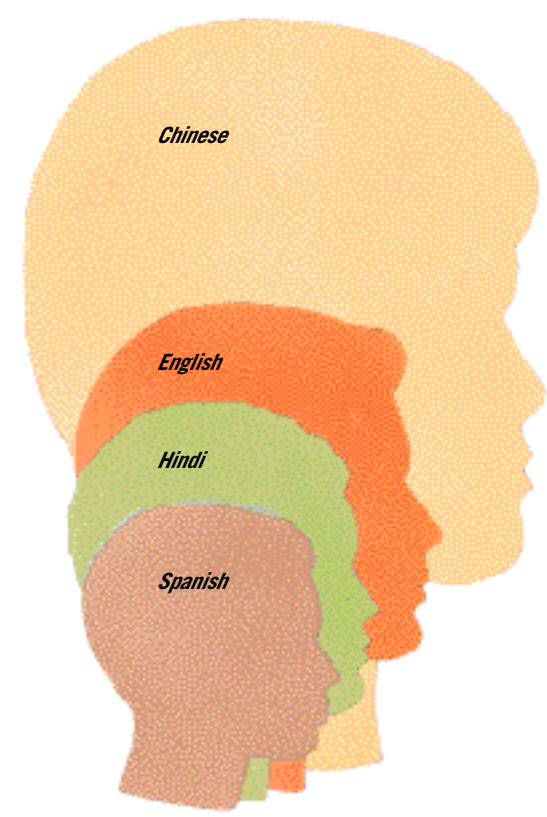
This aboriginal boy is descended from people who arrived in Australia from Asia about 50,000 years ago. For thousands of years, Australia's aboriginals lived by hunting with spears and boomerangs and taking care not to disturb the environment. About 200 years ago, European settlers arrived, seizing their hunting grounds and sacred sites. Many aboriginals were killed, or died from European diseases. Today, most live in Australia's towns and cities. Some of their land has been returned to them.



WORLD LANGUAGES

THERE may be up to 6000 different languages spoken in the world today—no-one is quite sure how many. Of these, 90 per cent are spoken by very few people and are in danger of becoming extinct. More than a third of the world's population speak one of five languages—Chinese, English, Hindi, Spanish and Russian. People first developed languages to communicate with one another. Languages spread and changed as people moved to new lands, often as a result of invasion and conquest.

Languages fall into a number of different families (see map, right). Most European languages and many of those of southwest Asia and India belong to a single group, known as the Indo-European language family. More than 80 languages in all, they developed from a single original language, probably spoken by farming peoples who lived in Eastern Europe about 6000 years ago. As these people spread out over a wider area, their language gradually changed as communities lost contact with each other.



The four most common first languages (left) are: Chinese—more than 1 billion speakers; English—450 million speakers; Hindi—400 million speakers; and Spanish—350 million speakers.

More than 800 languages are spoken in Papua New Guinea where this boy (right) comes from.



The main language of India is Hindi (see left) but there are hundreds of others. This boy (right) speaks Gujarati, the language of Gujarat, a state in western India. More than 20 million people in Gujarat and another state, Maharashtra, speak Gujarati. It is descended from the ancient Indo-European language.



The most common Chinese language is Mandarin, which is spoken by 70 per cent of the population. Mandarin was the language of the government officials who were appointed in China until 1911. However, China has many different peoples who still speak their own languages. This Miao girl (right) comes from one of these communities.



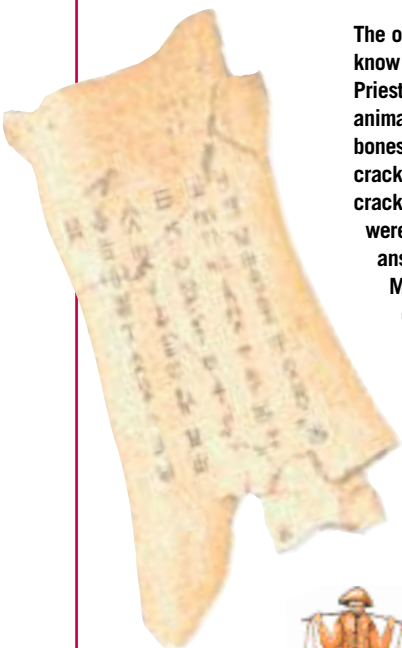
WRITING AND ALPHABETS

AS LANGUAGES became more established and civilizations developed, people needed to write things down. The earliest known writing was invented about 5500 years ago by the Sumerians, who lived in Mesopotamia (now Iraq). Later, they used a reed stylus with a wedge-shaped tip to write symbols in soft clay. This style of writing is known as cuneiform, from the Greek word for “wedge-shaped”.

Other ancient peoples developed picture writing which was slow to use because there were so many different symbols. The ancient Egyptians used a form of picture writing known as hieroglyphs and later added a simplified form called hieratic script which was quicker to use. The Maya, who built up a civilization in Central America between AD 300 and 900, carved picture symbols in stone.

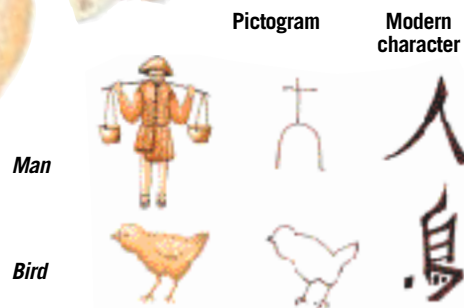
Alphabets use single letters to represent the different sounds in a word. Writing with letters is far quicker than using hundreds of different symbols. The first people to use an alphabet were the Canaanites, who lived about 3000 years ago on the eastern shores of the Mediterranean Sea. Their writing had only 18 letters. Hebrew, Arabic, Hindi and Phoenician alphabets all developed from it. The ancient Greeks took up the Phoenician alphabet but added vowels. The Romans developed their alphabet from a later Greek version. All Western European languages still use the Roman alphabet today. The Cyrillic alphabet also developed from the Greek alphabet. It is used in Russia and some Eastern European countries today.

Canaanite	Modern
	A
	B
	C
	D
	E
	F
	H
	I
	K
	L
	M
	N
	O
	P
	Q
	R
	S
	T



The oldest Chinese writing we know about is on oracle bones. Priests scratched questions on animal bones and then held the bones in a fire so that they cracked. The places where the cracks crossed the pictograms were thought to give the answers from the gods.

Modern Chinese writing has developed from the earliest pictograms such as those shown below, which illustrate how the characters have changed over the centuries.



The Chinese and Japanese still write with symbols called characters. The characters are painted with deft strokes, using a brush and ink. Chinese characters are descended from an ancient form of picture writing. They symbolize whole words or parts of words.

A Japanese boy practises calligraphy, the art of writing, at a school called a *juku*.



There are many different alphabets in use today. The Roman alphabet is probably the most widely used. The Arabic alphabet, which has 28 letters, is written from right to left. The Devangari alphabet, used for northern Indian languages, has 46 letters.

Examples of writing in different languages are shown below. All the words mean “book”. Hindi, Greek, Russian and Arabic all have their own alphabets which are quite different from the Roman version. Other languages use the Roman alphabet but have accents over letters to show that they are pronounced in a special way.

The realization that words could be put together using a set of letters or symbols was a remarkable achievement which has allowed people to record history and to write down poetry, stories and plays.

Book

<i>English</i>	Book
<i>Hungarian</i>	Könyv
<i>Greek</i>	βιβλίο
<i>Thai</i>	หนังสือ
<i>Russian</i>	книга
<i>Swahili</i>	Kitabu
<i>Chinese</i>	書
<i>Hindi</i>	पुस्तक
<i>Arabic</i>	كتاب

This boy, who belongs to the original inhabitants of southern Africa, speaks a language from the Khoisan group. It consists of clicks made with the lips and the tongue. The Kung people of the Kalahari Desert in southern Africa speak a similar language. Zulu, an unrelated language also from southern Africa, uses about 15 different click consonants.



People who are deaf have to understand a language without being able to hear it. Many of them do this by reading the shapes of words on the speaker’s lips. This is known as lip-reading. Another way is to use the special sign language for the deaf. Sign language differs from one country to another, but the names of the countries are “signed” in the same way (below).



“Japan”



“Denmark”



“USA”

Many languages have changed and developed because of outside influences. English as we know it today, for example, has many words adapted from other cultures. It has some Latin words from the days when England was part of the Roman Empire. It has a large number of words derived from French, the language of England’s ruling classes following the Norman invasion of 1066.

Spanish, Italian, French, Portuguese and Romanian languages all have many similar words. This is because they are descended from Latin, the language of the Roman Empire, of which Spain, Italy, France, Portugal and Romania were once part.

WORLD RELIGIONS

THERE ARE many different religions in the world. Seven of the most important are: Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism and Sikhism. These religions have now spread far beyond the places where they began and there are followers of them all over the world.

A religion is a collection of beliefs that help people understand the world and the events that take place in it. Most religious people believe in one God, or several gods. In religions such as Judaism, Christianity and Islam, people worship one god. In others, such as Hinduism and the Japanese religion Shinto, people worship many gods.

People have worshipped gods since ancient times. They have always believed that the world was created by some unseen being or beings. Many of the ancient beliefs centred around natural elements such as the sun and rain which were so necessary for life. People felt that they needed to worship sun and rain gods and make them offerings so that their crops would grow.

Religions of the world today are different from one another, but also similar in many ways. People follow set rituals and celebrate special holy days. They go to a place of worship such as a church, a synagogue, a mosque or a temple to pray, and most religions have priests who conduct religious worship and preach to the people.



Religions of the world

Buddhism

Hinduism

Islam

Judaism

Sikhism

Chinese religions

Japanese religions

Other religions

CHRISTIANITY

Orthodox

Protestantism

Roman Catholicism



The Wedded Rocks (above) stand in the sea off the southern coast of Japan. They are supposed to represent the god and goddess who created the islands of Japan. The Japanese Shinto religion is very ancient. Followers worship many different gods and spirits, known as *kami*. To followers of Shintoism, everything, including rocks, waterfalls, islands, trees, animals as well as people (alive or dead) have spirits.

JUDAISM

JUDAISM is the religion of the Jewish people. They believe in one God who created Heaven and Earth. God has a covenant (an agreement) with everyone who leads a good life. Their holy book is the Hebrew Bible (the Old Testament of the Christian Bible). The most important part is the *Torah*, which contains God's laws. The Bible, along with many Jewish festivals, commemorates events in the history of Israel, from where the Jews originally came.



This Jewish boy wears his hair in traditional side ringlets. Men and boys who have had their Bar Mitzvah (coming of age celebration) wear some special garments when worshipping in the synagogue. These include a cap (*kippah*) and a silk or woollen prayer shawl (*tallit*).

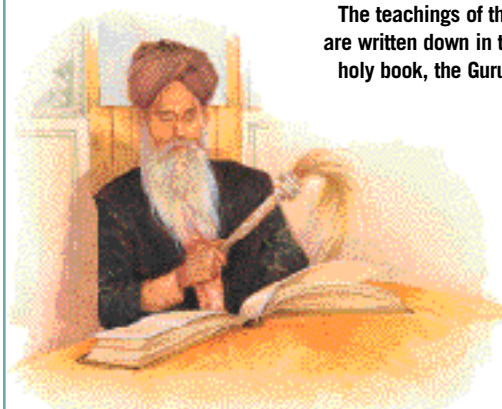
Traditionally, Jews are not allowed to work on Saturday, the Sabbath. The word sabbath comes from the Hebrew *sabat*, meaning "rest". Saturday is the main day of worship, when Jews go to the synagogue for a service conducted by a rabbi.

This man is a Hasidic Jew. The word *hasid* means "pious". This group of Jews was founded in the 18th century and had a particularly large following in Poland, which is why Hasidic Jews wear the clothes of Poland in the 1700s. The man is praying at the Western Wall, also called the Wailing Wall, in Jerusalem. It is the only part of their ancient temple still standing today and many Jews go there to pray. Jerusalem is an important city for Christians and Muslims as well as Jews.



SIKHISM

MOST SIKHS live in the Punjab, India. Their holy city is Amritsar. Sikhs follow the teachings of ten leaders called gurus (guru is the Punjabi word for "holy man"). They all lived between 1469 and 1708. The first guru and founder of Sikhism was Guru Nanak who was born a Hindu (see page 18). Guru Nanak believed that ceremonies and rituals divided people of different religions and that it was how people behaved and what they believed in that mattered. The gurus who came after him were all chosen to carry on his work.



The teachings of the gurus are written down in the Sikh holy book, the Guru Granth Sahib.

Sikhs believe in one God who created the Universe. Their place of worship is called a *gurdwara*, which means "God's house". There are no priests in Sikhism. Readers, called *granthi*, conduct services and read from the Guru Granth Sahib in the *gurdwara*, but any member of the congregation can speak at a service. Sikhs live all over the world today and their day of worship follows the traditions of the country they live in.

Sikhs wear five special symbols, known as the five Ks. They are: *kesh*, uncut hair kept tidy in a *kanga* (comb), *kachera* (underpants), *kara* (wrist band) and *kirpan*, sword.



HINDUISM

HINDUISM is one of the oldest religions in the world. It began more than 4000 years ago in India.

Hindus believe in a set of ideas called the *dharma*, the truth. All living things have souls that are reborn many times, in both animal and human form. The actions (*karma*) of people in this life will decide their fate in the next.

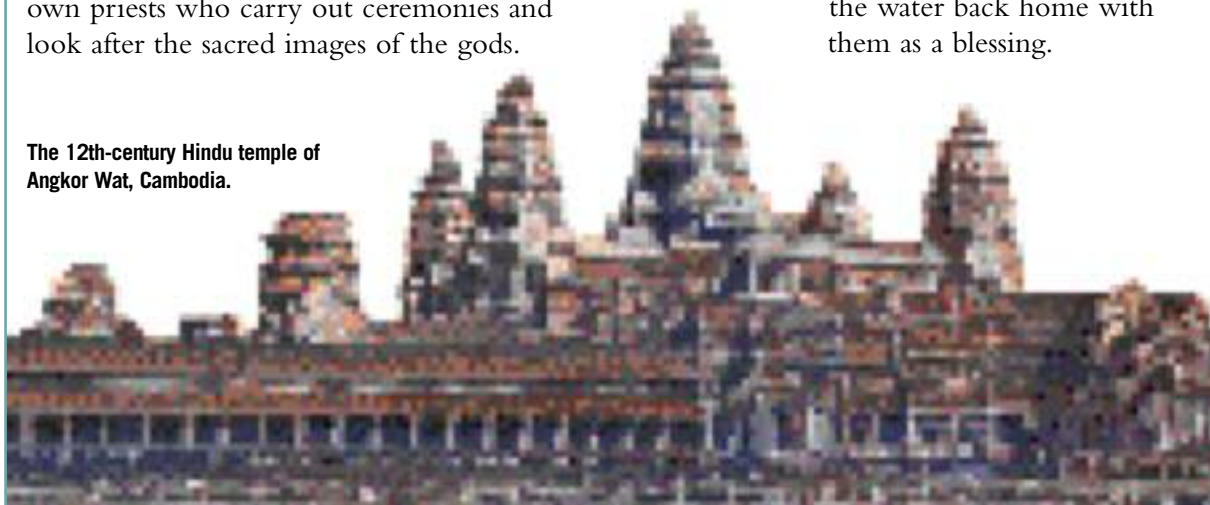


Hindus believe that Shiva is found in frightening places, but he is sometimes seen as a loving god, too. Two of his other titles are "Lord of Dance" and "Lord of the Beasts". His wife Parvati is the goddess of happy marriage.

The Hindu religion has many gods who are all different appearances of the supreme spirit, Brahman. The three most important gods are Brahma the Creator, Vishnu the Preserver and Shiva the Destroyer.

A Hindu place of worship is called a *mandir*, although it is often referred to as a temple. There are *mandirs* all over the world, wherever groups of Hindus have settled. Many are elaborately decorated with carvings and sculptures. Each *mandir* has its own priests who carry out ceremonies and look after the sacred images of the gods.

The 12th-century Hindu temple of Angkor Wat, Cambodia.



To Hindus, the River Ganges, which flows through northern India and Bangladesh, is a holy river. They believe that bathing in the river will wash away their earthly sins. Millions of Hindus make pilgrimages to the holy city of Varanasi, (also known as Benares). Varanasi is one of the oldest cities in India. It has special steps called *ghats* along the river bank from which people can bathe in the Ganges (*above*). They take a little of the water back home with them as a blessing.

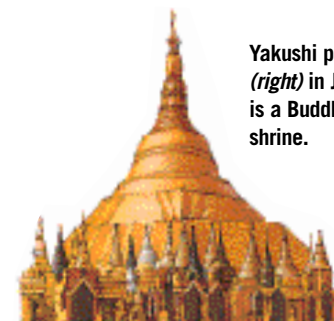
BUDDHISM

BUDDHISTS do not worship a god but follow the teachings of an Indian prince, Siddhartha Gautama (c. 563–483 BC). Siddhartha lived a life of luxury in his father's palace but he saw suffering around him and wanted to find an answer to it. He left his home and spent six years studying and talking to holy men. One day he sat under a fig tree and resolved to stay there until he had found the answer. After 49 days he had reached a state of wisdom in which he could understand human suffering and see how people could live in peace and harmony together. He had achieved *nirvana*, or enlightenment (the name Buddha means "the enlightened one"). He spent the rest of his life travelling and teaching people how to live happier and better lives.



Buddha taught four "noble" truths. First: life is full of suffering. Second: this suffering is caused by greed. Third: suffering would end if we stopped desiring material things. Fourth: there is a path to a state of peace.

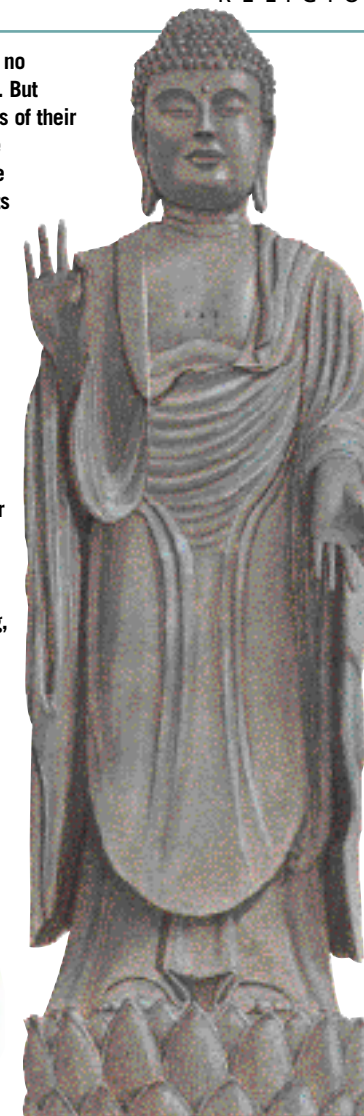
The golden stupa at Yangon in Burma (*below*). A stupa is a sacred structure containing holy texts and relics. Stupas in India are said to contain parts of Buddha's body.



Yakushi pagoda (*right*) in Japan is a Buddhist shrine.



At first there were no statues of Buddha. But Hindus had statues of their gods and so those of Buddha became popular. (Buddhists today keep small statues in their homes for inspiration.) The Amida Buddha (*right*) in Ushiku City, Japan, is the world's tallest statue. It is 120 metres high and contains rooms for meditation and learning. Buddha is also shown sitting or reclining, as with this famous statue at Polonnaruwa, Sri Lanka (*below*).



Today there are about 400 million Buddhists in the world, many of whom live in the Far East. Some Buddhists dedicate their lives to becoming monks and nuns so that they can give other people the *dharma*, Buddha's teachings. Buddhist monks and nuns live simple lives in monasteries. They carry out ceremonies in the temples and monasteries, where people come to meditate and pay their respects to Buddha. Buddha's teachings were written down about 300 years after his death and these are the sacred texts that Buddhists study.

Buddhism has two main branches: the Theravada and the Mahayana. They have different festivals, but all Buddhists celebrate Buddha's birth, enlightenment and death, the three most important dates in their year.

CHRISTIANITY

CHRISTIANS believe in one God who sent his son Jesus Christ to Earth to save people from sin by sacrificing his own life. The name Christ is from a Greek word meaning “the anointed one”. The Christian holy book, the Bible, contains both the Old Testament or Hebrew Bible (see page 17) and the New Testament, which describes the life and work of Jesus and his disciples.

Jesus was born 2000 years ago in Judaea, then part of the Roman Empire. He spent his life teaching people about love and forgiveness. He had many followers, but he made enemies among the Jewish priests.



Jesus's parents, Mary and Joseph, on their way to Bethlehem, where Jesus was born in a stable.

The priests persuaded the Roman governor to condemn Jesus to death by crucifixion. But his followers, especially St. Paul, preached the message of Christianity throughout the Roman Empire. The Romans condemned Christianity for many years, but it eventually became the official religion of the empire under the Emperor Constantine (c. AD 274–337).

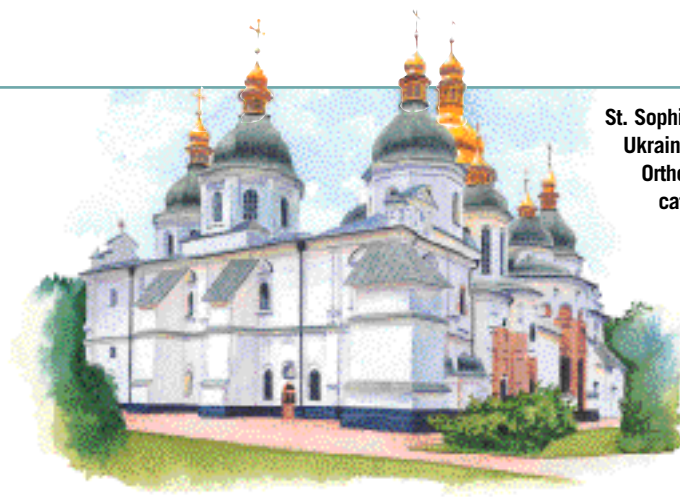
After the fall of the Roman Empire, Christianity continued to spread in new empires that grew up in Europe. More people became converted to Christianity.

**THE CHRISTIAN CALENDAR
for the year 2000**

6th January: Epiphany
 20th February: Septuagesima Sunday
 8th March: Ash Wednesday
 25th March: Annunciation (Lady Day)
 9th April: Passion Sunday
 16th April: Palm Sunday
 20th April: Maundy Thursday
 21st April: Good Friday
 22nd April: Holy Saturday
 23rd April: Easter Sunday
 30th April: Orthodox Easter
 1st June: Ascension Day
 11th June: Whit Sunday (Pentecost)
 22nd June: Corpus Christi
 15th August: Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
 1st November: All Saints
 3rd December: First Sunday in Advent
 25th December: Christmas

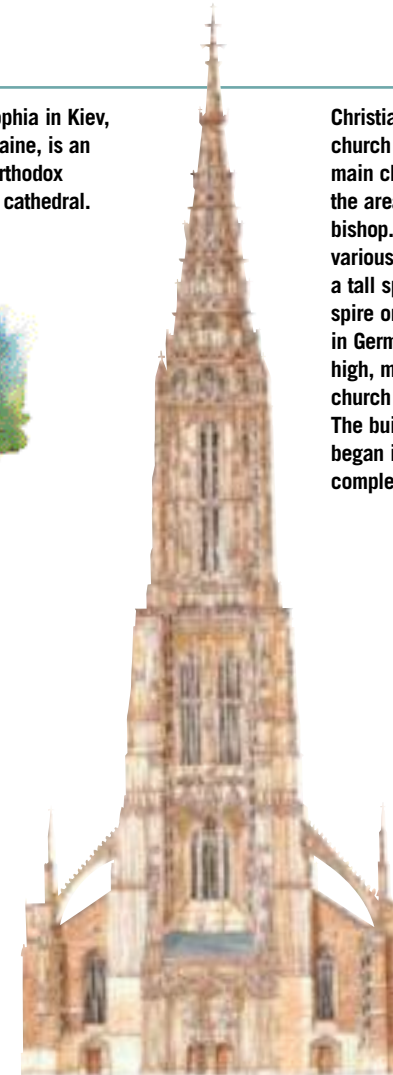
Over the centuries, missionaries travelled around the world in order to convert others to Christianity. Today, there are more than one billion Christians worldwide.

Christians take part in two sacraments, actions that affirm a relationship with God. The first is Mass or Holy Communion: sharing bread and wine that has been blessed. People are welcomed into the faith by baptism (below), the second sacrament, a sign of washing away sin. Children and babies have water sprinkled on their heads.



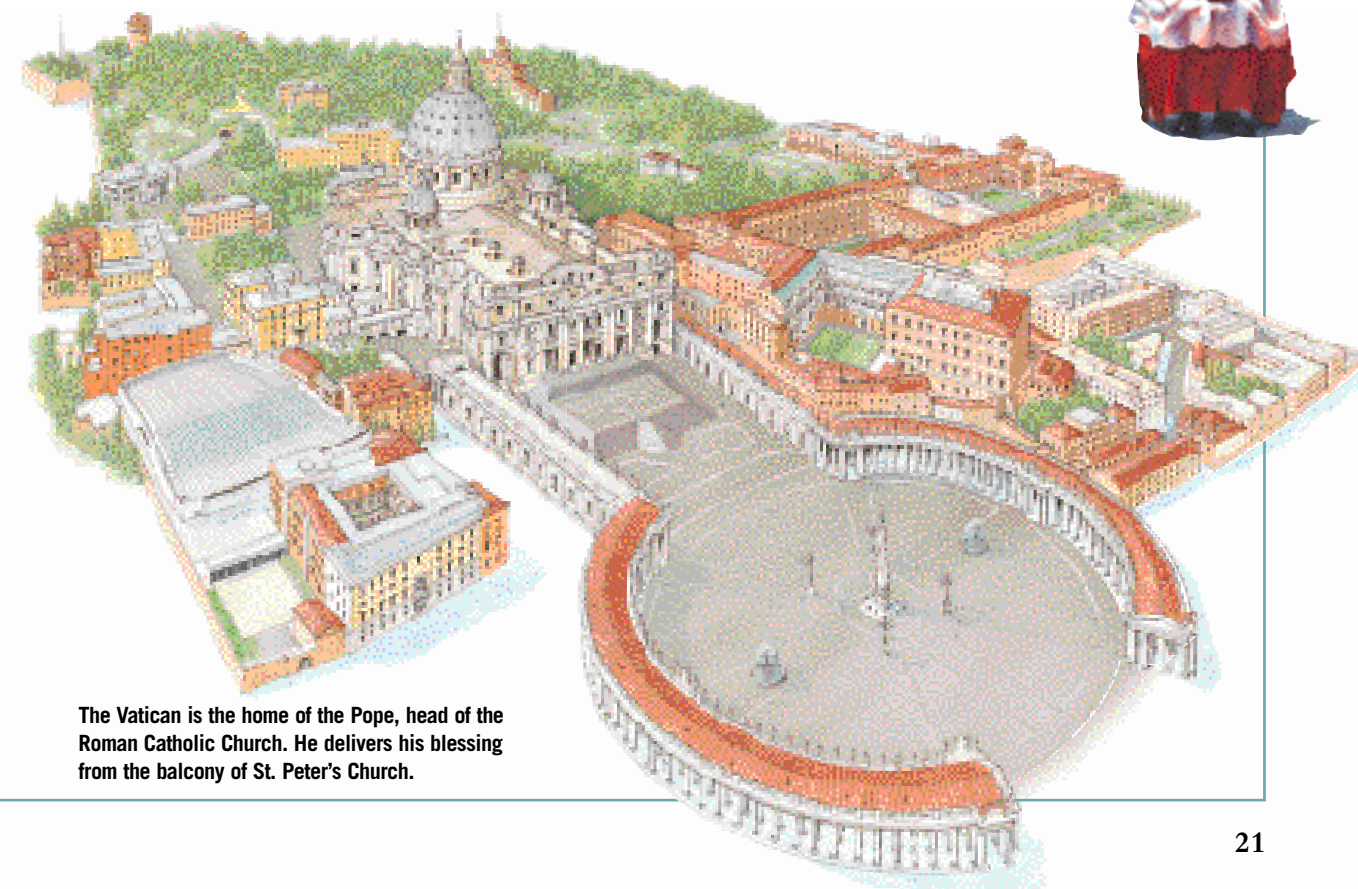
St. Sophia in Kiev, Ukraine, is an Orthodox cathedral.

There are three main branches of Christianity—Roman Catholic, Protestant and Eastern Orthodox. All three follow the same basic principles, but there are some differences. In the Roman Catholic church, the Pope (from the Latin *papa*, a word for father) has supreme authority. Orthodox followers believe that their bishops are supreme. Protestants believe that the Bible is the only authority. Christian festivals take place throughout the year, but the two most important are Christmas, which celebrates the birth of Jesus, and Easter, which celebrates the Christian belief that Jesus rose from the dead and ascended into Heaven.



Christians worship in a church or a cathedral, the main church of a diocese, the area under control of a bishop. They are built in various styles but most have a tall spire or tower. The spire on the cathedral at Ulm in Germany is 161 metres high, making it the tallest church spire in the world. The building of the cathedral began in 1377 and was completed in 1890.

Cardinals (below) are senior figures in the Roman Catholic Church, whose centre is the Vatican in Rome, Italy.



The Vatican is the home of the Pope, head of the Roman Catholic Church. He delivers his blessing from the balcony of St. Peter's Church.

ISLAM

ISLAM means “submitting to the will of God”. The followers of Islam are called Muslims. The founder of Islam was the Prophet Muhammad, who was born in Makkah, Arabia, in AD 570. He was making a pilgrimage to Mount Hira, near Makkah, when the angel Gabriel came to him and told him that there is only one God, who is called Allah and that he, Muhammad, should become the prophet of Allah and teach God’s will.

Prophet Muhammad began to preach but at first people refused to believe what he told them. Pilgrimages to Makkah brought money into the city and people did not want this to change. In AD 622, Prophet Muhammad and his followers were forced to flee from Makkah to the town of Yathrib, later re-named Medina, “the City of the Prophet”. This flight, called the *hijra*, marked the start of the Islamic calendar.

Prophet Muhammad continued to preach in Medina. He said that Allah had told him that people should live peacefully together, rather than fighting between tribes. The words of Allah, which Prophet Muhammad passed on to the people, were written down in a holy book called the Qur’an (Koran), which all Muslims must follow.



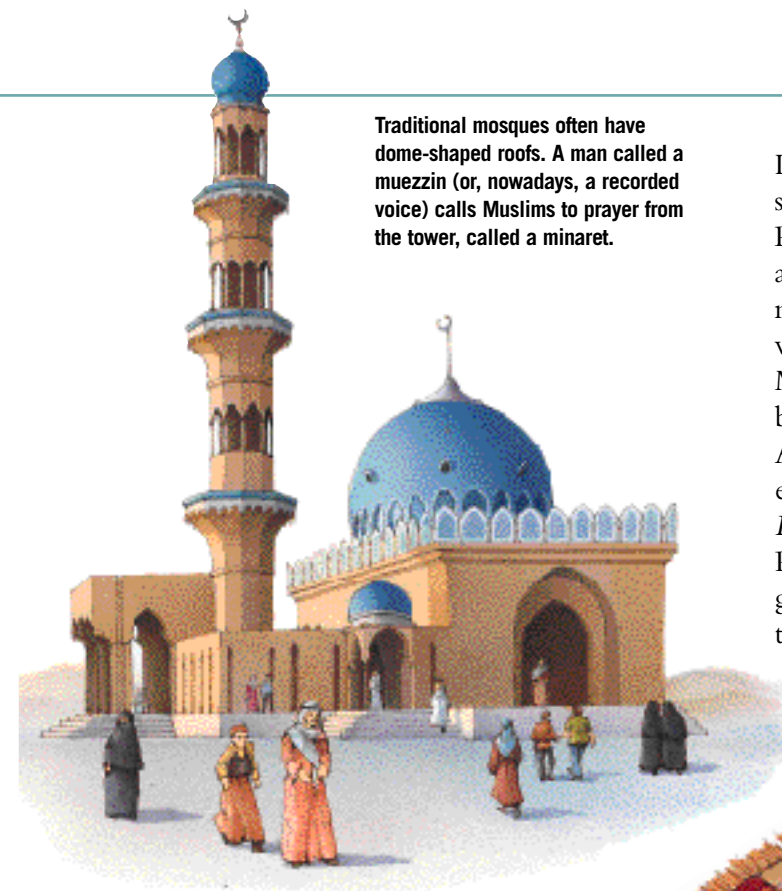
The Shir Dar madrasa at Samarkand, Uzbekistan. A madrasa is an Islamic University where people go learn how to be teachers or prayer leaders of Islam. Madrasas were established in Central Asia from the 16th century onwards. Many were built in the large cities of Bukhara, Samarkand, Khiva and Khokand. Students came from many parts of the Islamic world to study there. Like many Central Asian madrasas, the Shir Dar has a monumental gateway, called a *pishtaq*, decorated with thousands of coloured tiles.

IMPORTANT MUSLIM DATES

- 1st Muharram *Hijra* (celebrates the first day of the Muslim calendar)
- 10th Muharram *Ashura* (when Muslims remember when Hussain was martyred at Karbala)
- 12th Rabi al-Awwal *Mawlid al-Nabi* (celebrates the birthday of the Prophet Muhammad)
- 27th Rajab *Lailat al-Miraj* (commemorates the night when Prophet Muhammad ascended to the Heavens)
- 27th Ramadan *Lailat al-Qadr* (celebrates the revelation of the *Qur’an* to Prophet Muhammad)
- 1st Shawwal *Eid Al-Fitr* (festival of successfully fasting in the month of Ramadan)
- 9th Zul-Hijja *Hajj*
- 10th Zul-Hijja *Eid Al-Adha* (commemorates Abraham’s willingness to sacrifice all that he cherished—his own son Ismail—for Allah’s sake)

To Muslims, Islam is a way of life, supported by five rules or “pillars”. Firstly, there is no God except Allah; Prophet Muhammad is His messenger. Secondly, a prayer to Allah is to be made five times a day. Thirdly, alms should be given to the poor at least once a year. Fourthly, Muslims should fast between dawn and dusk, especially during the month of Ramadan. Finally, Muslims should make a pilgrimage once in their lives to Makkah.

Muslims worship in mosques and they are called to prayer five times a day, at times set down in the Qur’an.



Traditional mosques often have dome-shaped roofs. A man called a muezzin (or, nowadays, a recorded voice) calls Muslims to prayer from the tower, called a minaret.



Muslims always face towards Makkah when they pray.

A Muslim religious leader is called an Imam. During prayers in the mosque, worshippers stand in straight rows behind the Imam. The men and boys stand together while the women and girls stand separately from them. Everyone watches the Imam and follows what he does.

Friday is an important day for Muslims. They gather in the mosque to listen to a talk by the Imam at an event called *salat-ul-jumu’ah*. This occasion also gives Muslims a chance to get to know each other, particularly in places where there is not a large Muslim community.



This whirling dervish is a Muslim worshipper from Turkey. Dervishes perform hectic ritual dances at their prayer meetings, when they whirl round and chant.

There are two main religious festivals in Islam. The first is *Eid Al-Fitr*, the festival of successfully fasting in the month of Ramadan. Ramadan is a period of fasting and prayer which lasts for a month and marks the time when Prophet Muhammad was visited by the angel Gabriel. All Muslims over the age of 12 should fast between dawn and dusk during Ramadan. As soon as the new moon appears at the end of Ramadan, everybody celebrates with *Eid Al-Fitr*, which lasts for three days. People dress up in their best clothes and give each other presents. Prayers are said in the mosques.

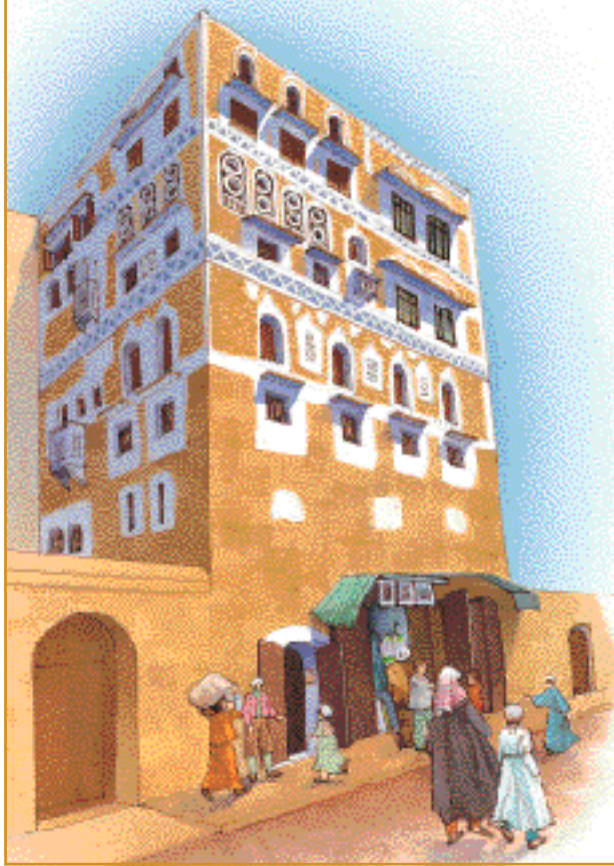
The second festival is *Eid Al-Adha*, the Festival of Sacrifices, which is celebrated at the end of the *hajj* or pilgrimage. All Muslims are expected to make a pilgrimage to Makkah at least once in their lives if they are well enough and can afford the journey. The events of the *hajj* take a few days but pilgrims may stay in Arabia for two or three weeks and visit Prophet Muhammad’s mosque in Medina and other sacred places. About two million people from all over the world make the pilgrimage each year. Muslims mark the end of the *hajj* with prayers and thanks in the mosque.

The Islamic calendar is based on the cycles of the moon, so Muslim festivals fall on different days each year.

HOUSES AROUND THE WORLD

There is an enormous variety in the style of houses built in different parts of the world. Local conditions play an important part in the design of houses. In regularly-flooded areas, houses are built on stilts. Strong foundations are necessary where earthquakes are common. Houses in mountainous lands often have steep roofs, so that heavy layers of snow can slide off.

This illustration (below) shows one of the traditional houses which have stood in the city of Sana'a, Yemen, for hundreds of years. It is the custom in Islamic countries (see page 22) to keep family and visitors apart, and also for men and women to live separately, so each storey in the house has its own special purpose. The top floor is kept for visitors, for example. It has windows to catch cooling breezes.



The Bedouin people (above) are nomads who live in the deserts of Arabia and Africa, herding cattle, sheep and goats. They do not have permanent houses but carry tents with them as they travel around. The tents are made of woollen cloth stretched across wooden poles and held in place with ropes. Some Bedouins now work in towns and cities instead of following the nomadic life but, like the Mongolians (see page 27), many still choose to live in traditional tents in the desert rather than in the towns.



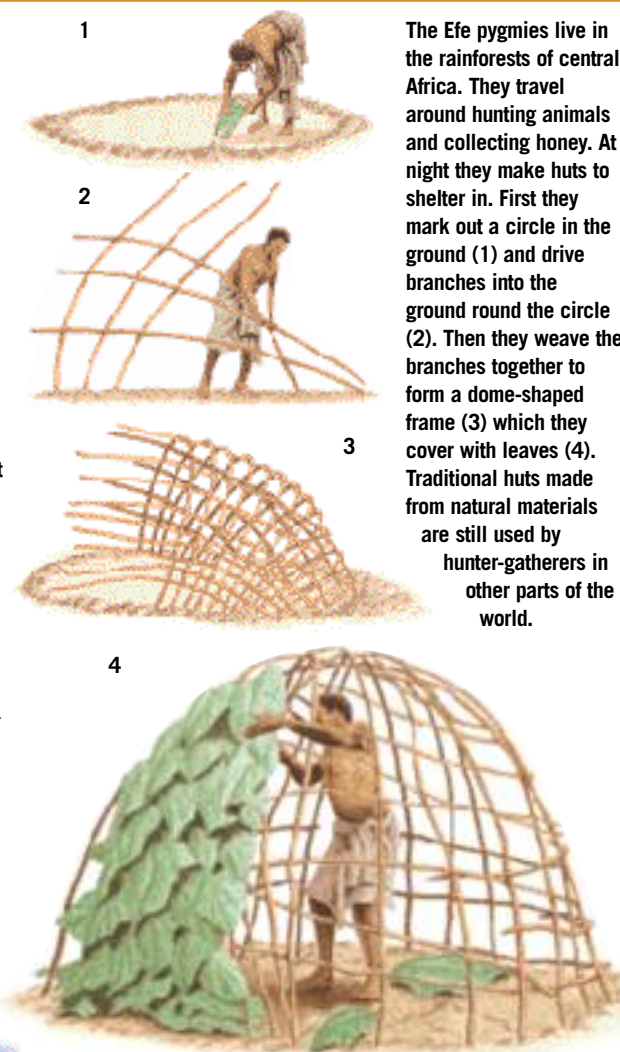
Mudbrick is a traditional building material that has been used for centuries. Early builders noticed that mud bakes hard in hot sun. So they shaped the bricks from wet mud and then left them to dry. The round houses (above) in the Côte d'Ivoire in West Africa are made from baked mud with thatched roofs of dried reeds. Many early houses and huts were round like tents, but as time went by people began to build rectangular houses which were easier to fit along streets in villages and towns. Many mudbrick buildings in the Middle East are thousands of years old. They often have flat, rather than steeply sloping, roofs—unnecessary in these very dry regions.

In the centre of large cities there is very little room for big houses with gardens. Many people live in apartment blocks which tower into the sky. Around the outskirts of a city there will be suburbs where the houses can be more spacious. People prefer to live in the suburbs and commute (travel to work) to the city.



Hong Kong is a very crowded city and land to build on is scarce. Even though many people live in apartment blocks, there is still not room for everyone. Some families live in the large natural harbour on boats called sampans (left).

People live on or near the water for other reasons than overcrowding. The Bajau people from the Philippines (below) travel around the islands of Southeast Asia catching and selling fish. They sometimes live in their boats, which are called lipas, or in wooden houses on stilts in the water.



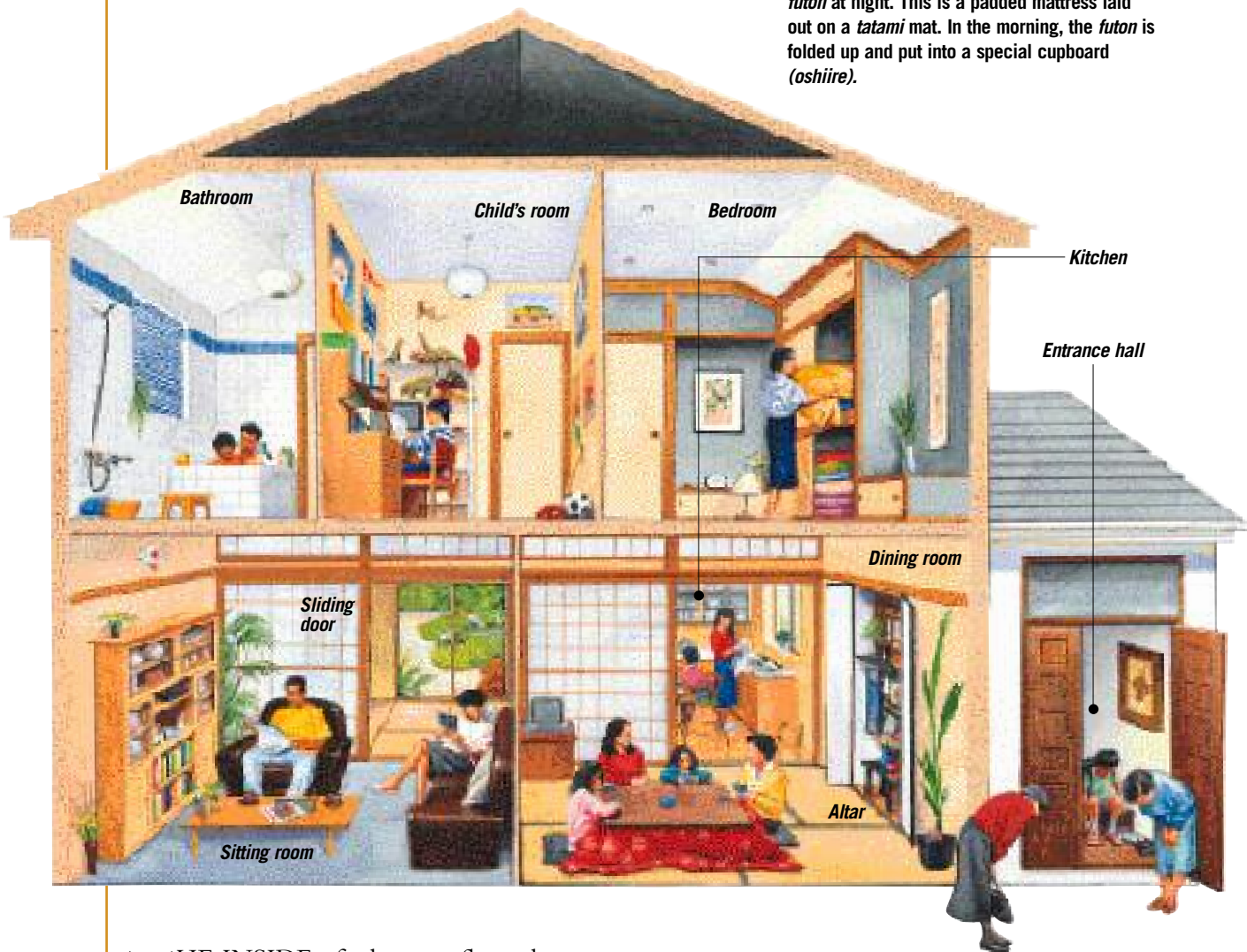
The Efe pygmies live in the rainforests of central Africa. They travel around hunting animals and collecting honey. At night they make huts to shelter in. First they mark out a circle in the ground (1) and drive branches into the ground round the circle (2). Then they weave the branches together to form a dome-shaped frame (3) which they cover with leaves (4). Traditional huts made from natural materials are still used by hunter-gatherers in other parts of the world.

Another type of traditional house is the Inuit igloo. Nowadays, Inuit people, from Canada's Arctic north and Greenland, live in modern houses on settlements, but when they go on a hunting or fishing trip they may still build an igloo for shelter. An igloo is a dome-shaped house made of snow. First, blocks of snow are cut out and laid one on top of the other to form the dome. Each layer leans inwards slightly so that the blocks eventually meet at the top. When the dome has been completed, a lamp is lit inside to melt the snow on the inside walls. Then the lamp is removed and the cold wind freezes the melted snow into a solid, smooth sheet of ice which keeps the walls firm and windtight. Finally, skins and rugs are draped over the walls and ceiling to make the igloo warmer inside.

TRADITIONAL HOMES

This illustration shows the inside of a modern Japanese house. The front wall has been removed so we can see inside.

Many Japanese people like to sleep on a *futon* at night. This is a padded mattress laid out on a *tatami* mat. In the morning, the *futon* is folded up and put into a special cupboard (*oshiire*).



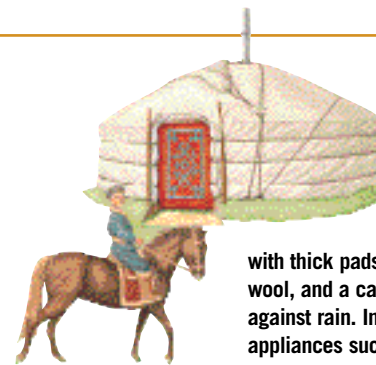
THE INSIDE of a home reflects the lifestyle and customs of the people who live there. These two examples of a family home in the present day, one from a modern developed country, the other from an African farming people, show how traditions shape people's daily lives.

A JAPANESE HOME

Japan is one of the richest and most technologically advanced countries in the world today. The influence of the West is very strong, but the Japanese are nevertheless proud of their traditional cultures and religion.

Japanese homes are a mixture of the old and the new. They are equipped with modern technology such as microwave ovens, televisions and computers, but many people also like to keep up some ways of life that have been around for centuries.

When you enter a Japanese home, it is customary to take off your shoes and put on slippers. Shoes are stored in a cupboard or rack in the entrance hall or *genkan*. Some rooms have woven rush mats, called *tatami*, on the floor. *Tatami* mats are made from fresh grasses: they are green when new. On entering a *tatami* mat room, you take off your slippers, to help keep the mats clean.



Many Mongolians, not just the nomadic herdsmen, prefer to live in circular tents, called yurts. A yurt is made of a wooden framework covered with thick pads of felt made from sheep's wool, and a canvas cover to protect it against rain. Inside there may be modern appliances such as a TV and cooker.

Summers in Japan can be hot, so some rooms have sliding doors made of wood and paper, called *shoji*, which allow fresh air to move around the house. The dining room usually has a low table with no chairs. Everyone sits on a cushion called a *zabuton*. In winter people use a table called a *kotatsu* which has a heater underneath and a quilt to keep the warmth in.

In a Japanese bathroom, known as the *o-furo*, the whole room is used as a bathing place: there is a drain in the floor. You sit on the stool and soap and rinse yourself, before stepping into the deep, square bath.

Even modern Japanese homes will have a Buddhist altar. On it are placed photographs of family ancestors.

A MAASAI HOME

In East Africa, many Maasai prefer to live in small, traditional settlements on the grassland plains close to their cattle or their fields. Maasai women build their own homes. First, they draw the shape of the house, a rectangle, on the ground. They make a frame by weaving together branches and twigs. Then they pack grass and dung over the outside to keep the building dry.

There is just one room inside a Maasai house. Up to six people sleep together in one large bed made of large branches and covered with hide. The woman of the house and her young children sleep in another bed in a more private area. A fire burns in the hearth in the centre of the house. It is used for cooking, warmth and light. There are no windows—just an opening to let light in and smoke out.

Cattle come second only to children in importance to the Maasai. They drink the animal's milk but only eat its meat on special occasions. The women store the milk in a calabash, a long container made from a hollowed-out gourd, a kind of fruit.



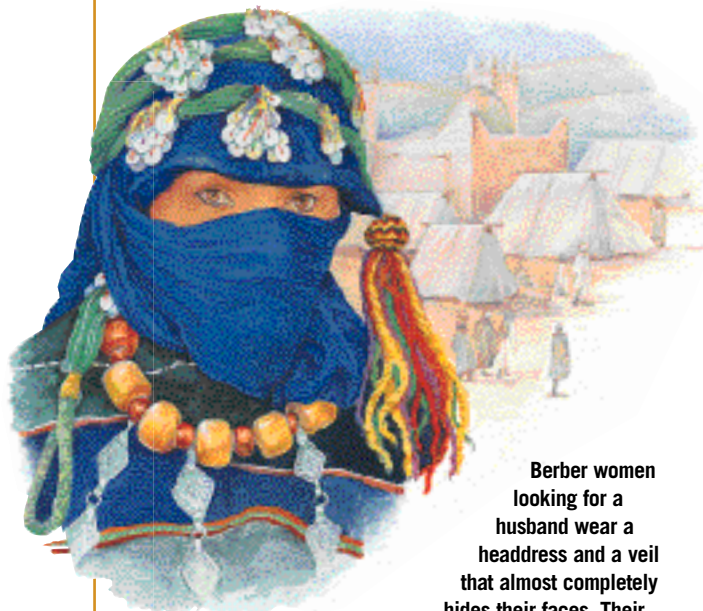
The Maasai people of Kenya and Tanzania wear the same richly-coloured clothes and ornaments as their ancestors did centuries ago.

Each Maasai family has its own cattle herd, and young calves and goats even live in a special den inside the house.

FESTIVALS

THOUSANDS of festivals—celebrations of special events or times of the year—take place all over the world every year. Singing, dancing, ritual (a kind of ceremony), costume or processions are a feature of many festivals. Some are family events. Others are large-scale festivals in which everyone takes part.

There are many festivals concerned with marriage and weddings. These may be to do with choosing a husband or wife, or with the courtship and marriage itself.



Berber women looking for a husband wear a headdress and a veil that almost completely hides their faces. Their bodies are covered, too.

The Berber Festival of Brides is a traditional marriage festival celebrated by the Berber people in Morocco, North Africa, every September. Thousands of men and women come to the festival, many of them hoping to find a partner. Men looking for a wife wear white clothes. The women are so heavily veiled that the men cannot see what they look like before deciding to marry them. The men and women start to talk to one another and some make up their minds to get married. An official scribe writes out a marriage application and a ceremony is carried out by an official called a *qadi*.



In Japan, 5th May is the Boys' Festival. Families give thanks for their sons by flying paper cut-outs of carp, one for each son, at home.



In Japan there are customs to mark the day when a child starts school. The children dress in their best clothes for a welcoming ceremony. Another festival involving children is called the *schichi-go-san* or seven-five-three. Once a year, children aged seven, five and three put on traditional dress (left) and visit their local shrine or temple. Traditional Japanese festivals are centred round the Shinto religion (see page 16).

Some festivals are very large and involve whole towns and cities. Mardi Gras celebrations are held in towns and cities all over the world on the day before Lent, a period when Christians (see page 20) used to fast for 40 days.

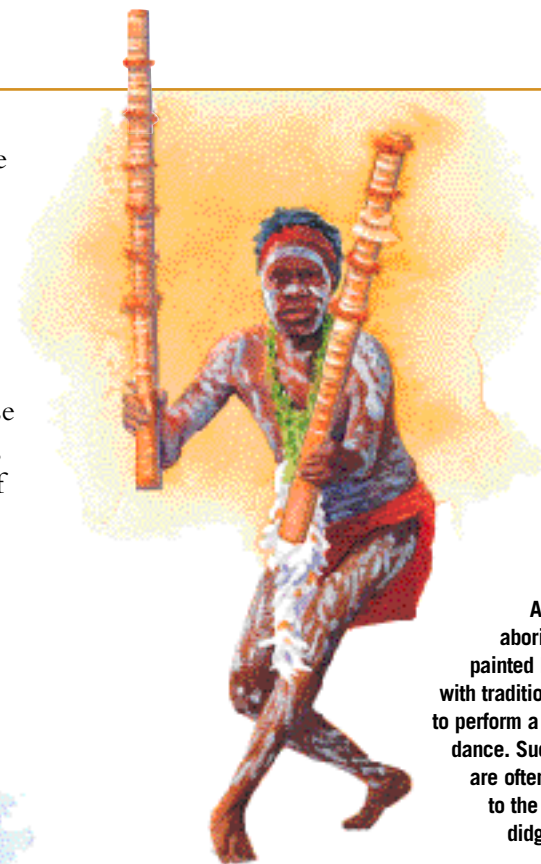
Mardi Gras festivals include colourful street processions with bright clothes, music and dancing.



The Maasai people of East Africa are cattle herders who live a semi-nomadic life (see page 27). Young Maasai boys become members of the warrior class. Warriors are expected to be brave and fearless hunters, even though they do not rely on hunting for food. One test of their courage is the traditional lion hunt, although this is not carried out as often as it used to be because lions have become scarce. Before the hunt, the warriors perform ritual dances. One of these is the Namba, in which the dancers leap up in the air and land with their legs braced stiff (below).



Many peoples have ritual dances (performed for religious purposes) which go back to ancient traditions. The aboriginals of Australia are an example of such a people. They traditionally believe that the Earth and everything that lives on it were created by certain mythical beings. This process of creation is called "Dreamtime". They believe that the spirit goes on for ever, known as "Eternal Dreaming". The music, dance and art of the aboriginals has been inspired by these religious beliefs and the importance they attach to their land.



An aboriginal has painted his body with traditional designs to perform a ritual dance. Such dances are often performed to the music of a didgeridoo.

People all over the world celebrate the harvest. In the Far East, they are concerned with ensuring the safe arrival of the rice crop. In Sumatra and Java in Indonesia, when the rice is ready to be cut, the oldest woman in the family goes to choose the "Rice-mother", made from the first stalks that bend in the breeze. The chosen stalks are tied together, and then put into a barn to look after the rice as it is harvested.



Many dances have become tourist attractions. Here a girl in traditional costume dances for visitors to the island of Bali in Indonesia. The Balinese are Hindus (see page 18) and their dances are based on religious rituals. Some dances act out scenes between gods, demons and other traditional figures.

SPORTS

MANY of the sports we know today have their origins in ancient history. Some began as religious rituals. Other were tests of strength or endurance. Sporting competitions encouraged men to practise archery, horsemanship, wrestling and other exercises. This helped warriors prepare themselves for battle.

Today, there are professional sportspeople who train hard and compete regularly with others from around the world. Many people also play sports for fun and exercise. They may join in team sports such as football and hockey, or perform as individuals in sports such as tennis and running.

The most famous sporting competition in the world is the Olympic Games which is held every four years. It is named after Olympia in Greece, where the games were first held in ancient times. They began as a way of honouring the gods and gradually became an organized competition with running, throwing, jumping, wrestling, riding and chariot-racing events.



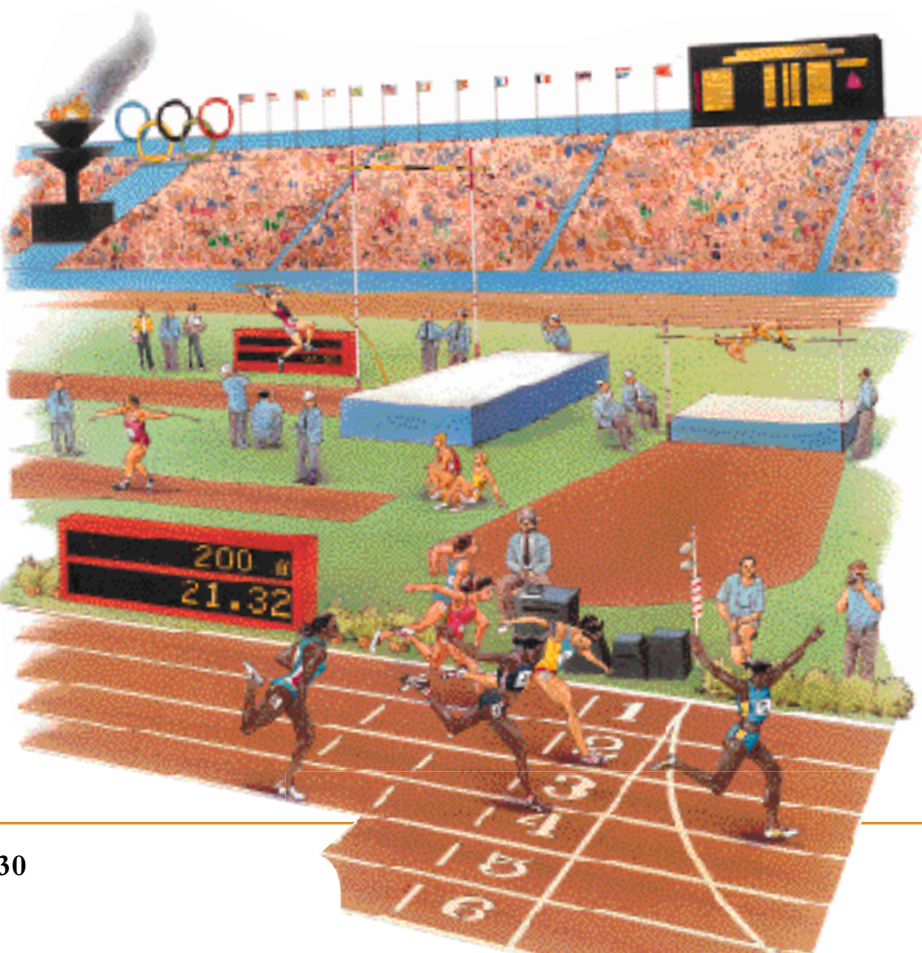
The Olympic stadium in Munich, Germany, built for the 1972 Olympic Games, has a self-cleaning glass roof.

In the modern Olympics, begun in 1896, men and women from all over the world try to win bronze, silver and gold medals in their sport. The Games are held in a different city around the world each time. A special stadium is often built for the event, such as the one in Munich, Germany, for the 1972 Olympics (above).

Of all the popular sports, association football (soccer) is probably the most international. National sides from all over the world compete for the World Cup every four years.

An athletic stadium allows several different sports to go on at the same time. There is a running track around the outside of the stadium, marked off into separate lanes. The track is used for running races, which are known as track events. The races may be short sprints or longer races of several laps. Some races involve jumping over hurdles. In relays, members of a team each run a section of the race before passing a baton to a team-mate.

Inside the track there are areas for "field" events such as throwing the javelin, discus or shot-put, pole vaulting, and the long and high jumps.



Cricket is a favourite summer game in England, South Asia, southern Africa, Australasia and the West Indies, while baseball is played mainly in North America and Japan. Pelota is a fast ball game that originated in the Basque region of Spain, and which is now popular in Latin American countries.

Some people prefer taking to the water to sail or row boats. The most daring sailors pit their wits against all conditions in round-the-world races. White-water canoeists steer their long, narrow canoes through very rough water.

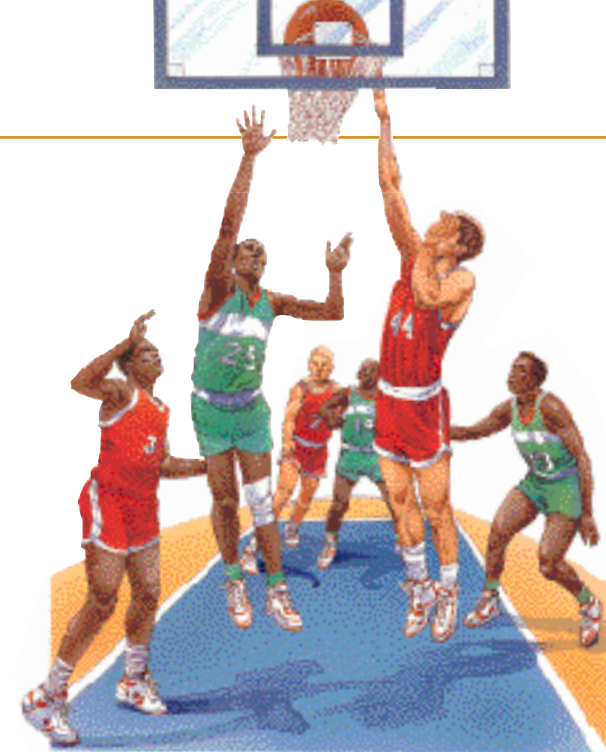


Cricket is a team game in which one side bats while the other fields and tries to get the batsmen out. It can be a short event or last several days.

Ice hockey is particularly popular in North America. It is a six-a-side game which is played on an ice rink with a stick and a puck.



Association football, or soccer, is a team game of 11 players. Team games using a football were played in China in about 200 BC and in ancient Greece and Rome. Rugby football is played with an oval ball and players score tries. American football, which is fairly similar to rugby football, developed in colleges in the United States in the 19th century.



Basketball is a fast-moving team game which is played on a court.

Basketball was invented in the United States in 1891. The object of the game is to throw the ball into the other team's basket, a net mounted three metres above the court. The game of netball was adapted from basketball and is quite similar.

Horses are used in some sports, including racing. They may run on a level course or one in which they have to clear obstacles.

Showjumpers have to tackle a variety of fences erected around a course.



INDEX

Page numbers in **bold** refer to main entries.

A

Aboriginal people 11, 29
African peoples 10
Allah 22
alphabets **14-15**
Americans, Native 10
Amharic 10
Arabic alphabet 14
Asian people 11
Australia 5, 11
Australian people 11
autocracy 8

B

Bajau people 25
baptism 20
Bar Mitzvah 17
Bedouin people 24
Berber Festival of Brides 28
Berber people 28
Bible 17, 20
Boys' Festival 28
Brahma the Creator 18
Brahman 18
Buddhism 11, **19**, 27
Buddhists 19

C

calligraphy 14
Caribbean peoples 10
cathedrals 21
Christianity 10-11, 16, **20-21**
Christians 17, 20-21, 28
Christmas 21
churches 16, 21
cities 4, **6-7**
civilization 6, 14
cuneiform 14

D

dances 29
democracy, liberal 8
Devangari alphabet 14
dharma 18, 19

E

Easter 21
Eastern Orthodox church 21
Efe people 10, 25
Eid Al-Adha 23
Eid Al-Fitir 23
election 8
English language 12, 15
enlightenment 19
Ethiopian people 10

ethnic groups 10
European people 11

F

fasting 23, 28
federal republics 8
festivals 17, 19, 21, 22-23, **28-29**
French language 15
Fulani 10

G

Gautama, Siddhartha 19
God 16, 17, 20, 22
gods 16, 18
government **8-9**
Greek alphabet 14-15
Greeks, ancient 14
Guatemalan people 10
Gujarati 13
gurus 17
gypsy people 11

H

haji 23
Hausa 10
Heaven 17, 21
Hebrew alphabet 14
hieratic script 14
hieroglyphs 14
hijra 22
Hindi alphabet 14-15
Hindi language 12-13
Hinduism 11, 16, **18**
Hindus 18, 29
Holy Communion 20
Hopi 10
houses **24-25**, 26-27
humans, early 10

I

Ibo 10
Imam 23
Indo-European languages 12
Inuit 10, 25
Islam 10-11, 16, **22-23**, 24
Italian language 15

J

Jesus Christ 20-21
Jewish people 17
Jews, Hasidic 17
Judaea 20
Judaism **16-17**

K

kami 16
karma 18
Kayapo people 10
Khoisan 15
Koran *see* Qur'an
Kung people 15
Kurdish people 11

L

languages 10, **12-13**, 15
Lapp people 11
Latin 15
lipas 25

M

Maasai 27, 29
madrasas 22
Maharashtra 13
Mahayana 19
Makkah 22-23
Mandarin 13
mandir 18
Mardi Gras 28
marriage 28
Mass 20
Maya 14
Mesopotamia 14
Mexico City 7
Miao people 13
Middle East 24
missionaries 20
monarchies 8
Mongolians 27
monks, Buddhist 19
mosques 16, 22-23
Muhammad, Prophet 22-23
Muslims 17, 22-23

N

Namba dance 29
netball 31
nomads 24
Normans 15
North American peoples 10
nuns, Buddhist 19

OP

Olympic Games 30
parliament, members of 8
party, political 8
peoples of the world **10-11**
Phoenician alphabet 14
pictograms 14
pilgrimages 18, 22-23
Pope 21
population **4-5**, 6
Portuguese language 15
president 8
priests 16
proportional representation 8
Protestants 21
pygmy people 10, 25

QR

Qur'an (Koran) 22
rabbi 17
Ramadan 22-23
religions 10, **16-17**, 18-23
republics 8

rituals 29, 30
Roman alphabet 14-15
Roman Catholics 21
Roman Empire 15, 20
Romanian language 15
Romans 14
Russian alphabet 15

S

Sabbath 17
St. Peter's Church, Vatican 21
St. Sophia cathedral 21
sampans 25
schichi-go-san 28
Senate 8
shantytowns 7
Shinto religion 16, 28
Shir Dar madrasa 22
Shiva the Destroyer 18
shrines 19
sign language 15
Sikhism **17**
Sikhs 17
skyscrapers 7
souks 7
South American Indians 10
Spanish language 12, 15
sports **30-31**
stupa 19
suburbs 25
Sudan 4
Sumerians 14
supercities 7
synagogue 16, 17

TUV

tatami mats 26
temple 16
Theravada 19
Torah 17
totalitarian government 8
Ulm cathedral 21
United Nations 4, 9
Vatican 21
Venice 7
Vishnu the Preserver 18
voting 8

WYZ

warriors 29, 30
Wedded Rocks 16
weddings 28
Western Wall (Wailing Wall) 17
whirling dervish 23
World Cup 30
World War II 9
worship 16
writing **14-15**
Yakushi pagoda 19
Yakut 11
Yoruba 10
yurts 27
Zulu 15