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People, Places, and Cultures

An Erie Water World pg. 12 • When Coffee was Illegal pg. 32

ISTANBUL: THE QUEEN OF CITIES

MYSTERY PHOTO?

FEBRUARY 2016

FACES[®]

People, Places, and Cultures

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Do you know what this is?

Answer is on page 48.

ABOUT THE COVER

Istanbul is the only city in the world that straddles
two continents — Europe and Asia. Journey with
us to this vibrant city! © Greg Balfour Evans/Alamy



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HIGH FIVE

Istanbul is the only city in the world that straddles two continents – Europe and Asia. More than 14 million people call this vibrant city home. Here are five fun facts to get you started on your journey to this unique city.

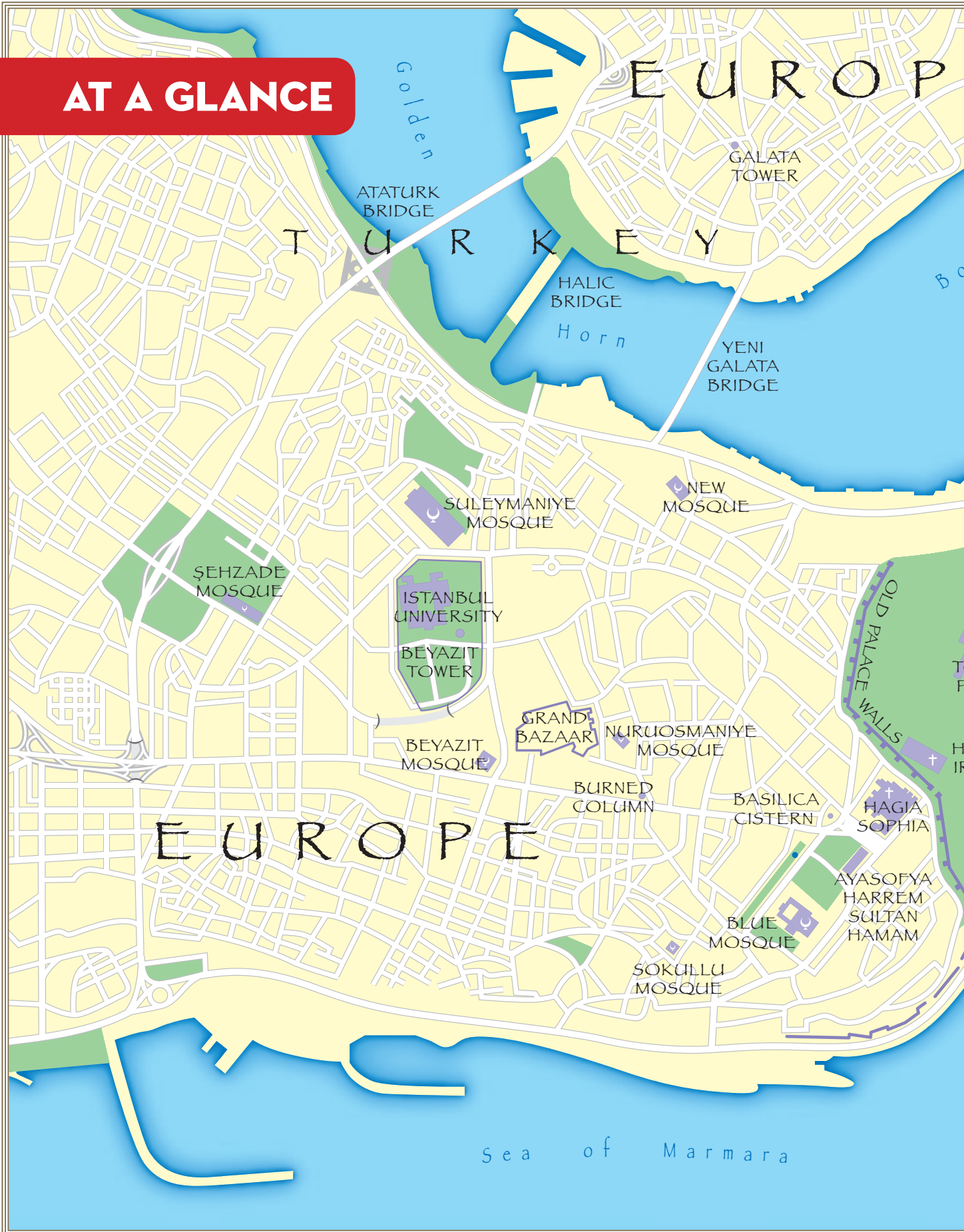




1. Istanbul is just the latest in a line of names that this city has had. Until 1922, it was known as Constantinople. After World War I, it became part of the newly created Republic of Turkey.
2. Medusa can be found under the city of Istanbul! Well, SCULPTURES of Medusa can be found there – as part of the elaborate Basilica Cisterna. A water storage facility built at the order of Emperor Justinian I, the location is now one of the city’s top tourist attractions.
3. Rub-a-dub-dub! Public baths are a tradition that date to Roman times. The Turkish version, called a *hamman*, is a combination of a spa, a way to get clean, and a gathering place for friends.
4. From trash to treats! Throughout the streets of Istanbul are specialized vending machines that accept recyclables and dispense food for stray animals. Puggedon machines help keep the streets clean, the city green, and animals fed.
5. Love to shop? You’ll find the oldest and largest covered market in the world in Istanbul. The Grand Bazaar is home to more than 3,000 shops and boasts 250,000 to 400,000 visitors a day.

The Maiden’s Tower was first constructed in 1110 and has been reconstructed several times over the years.

AT A GLANCE





ISTANBUL

Location: Istanbul, Turkey is the only city in the world that straddles two continents – Europe and Asia.

Area: 2,063 square miles

Climate: warm, humid summers and cold, wet winters. Istanbul sees some snow, but not as much as other parts of Turkey.

Population: 14.2 million

Religion: 99 percent of the population is Muslim



CRITTER CORNER

KITTIES IN THE CITY



Most of the stray cats in Istanbul are well cared for.

BY PAT BETTELEY

"Cats here, cats there, cats and kittens everywhere!" This line from a famous children's book describes the streets of Istanbul perfectly. The city is brimming with stray cats, and dogs, too. The dogs are less popular, as they are considered unclean and shunned by some in the Islamic world. But cats have a better reputation; as a result the people of Istanbul take care of the stray cats rather than try to rid the city of them.

Legend has it that Muhammad (the founder of Islam) had a favorite cat named Muezza that saved him from being bitten by a deadly snake. Sometime later, Muhammad was called to prayer, but Muezza had fallen asleep on the sleeve of his robe. Rather than disturb the cat, Muhammad cut off his sleeve. Some say that the distinct "M" on the forehead of the tabby cat forever associates it with Muhammad. In modern Istanbul, many people who do not own

cats put out containers of food next to city buildings to help support the stray cat population.

Cats are one of the most popular pets worldwide. There are more than 500 million domestic (housecats or tamed pets) cats in the world, and humans have been associated with them for almost 10,000 years. It's easy to imagine how wild cats were once attracted to the early human farming settlements that contained lots of rodents feeding on grain stores. Early farmers would have welcomed the predator cats, which rid them of damaging pests. Today, cats are valued not so much for their hunting abilities, but for their companionship and loving (sometimes quirky) behavior.

Cats' bodies are flexible and their teeth are adapted for hunting small animals. They have powerful night vision, excellent hearing, and a powerful sense of smell. Kittens especially love to pounce, play, and chase toys. Play fighting may be how they practice and learn to hunt and fight. Domestic cats that we keep as pets are known as little cats. They are different from the large cats (lions and tigers) because they are active at night and can purr. If a cat has ever licked you, you know



An Istanbul kitty takes a catnap atop some newspapers.

that its tongue feels rough like sandpaper. This is because its tongue is covered with backward-facing barbs that guide food to the back of the mouth and help in grooming and drinking water.

Humans have many names for cats. Some are not well known, such as a *clowder* of cats or a *kindle* of kittens. More familiar are names such as a *tom* for a male, a *molly* or *queen* for a female, and a *kitten* for a baby cat. To a cat lover, a cat by any other name is still beloved. For example, Jack Wright from Ontario, Canada, holds the world record for the number of cats kept by one person. He owns 689 of them! Thus, the world's cat *infatuation* (intense admiration), or inCATuation has thrived for thousands of years and is still going strong today.



Muslims associate cats with Muhammad, the founder of Islam.

STATS

Scientific Name: *Felis catus*

Type: mammal

Diet: carnivore

Size: 18-28 inches (46-71 cm) body length

Weight: 5-20 pounds (2.3-9 kg)

Trivia: The heaviest domestic cat on record is almost 21.3 kg or 47 pounds

One City, Two

by Christine Graf



For thousands of years, Istanbul was one of the most coveted cities in the entire world. Powerful empires fought for control of it, and it was invaded more than 60 times. It was a city that everyone wanted, and it was all because of its location.

Istanbul is the only city in the world that sits on two continents. The eastern half of the city is located in Asia, and the western half is in Europe. It is ideally situated for trade between the two continents, and it has easy access to the sea.

The Black Sea borders the city to the north, and the Sea of Marmara (the northeast extension of the Mediterranean Sea) borders it to the south. The Bosphorus Strait (sometimes spelled Bosphorus), a very narrow waterway, separates the eastern and western parts of Istanbul. Ships cannot travel from the Black Sea to the Mediterranean Sea without passing through the strait.

In the 7th century B.C., the ancient Greeks established a settlement called Byzantium (later

Two Continents

Istanbul has long been coveted for its easy access to the sea.

called Byzantium) along the Golden Horn, a natural harbor that leads to the Bosphorus Strait. The Bosphorus quickly became one of the most important trade routes in the ancient world, and the Greek settlement flourished. Byzantium was constantly invaded because of its desirable location, and it eventually became part of the vast Roman Empire. In A.D. 330, Emperor Constantine made the city the new Roman capital and renamed it Constantinople. It was located on the western side of the Bosphorus

where the land forms a horn-shaped peninsula. Massive walls and towers were built around the peninsula to protect the city from naval attacks, and walls were also built to protect the city from land invasions. The walls are considered to be one of the most complex and elaborate fortification systems ever built. The Romans also strung a giant chain across the entrance to the Golden Horn to prevent enemy ships from entering the harbor.

In addition to fortifying the city against

attack, Constantine built palaces, monuments, and churches. He commissioned great works of art and also made Christianity the official religion of his empire. The city prospered under Roman rule and was able to withstand repeated enemy attacks. Despite their military success in Constantinople, the Roman Empire collapsed after Rome fell to barbarian invaders in the 5th century. The Romans maintained control of Constantinople and renamed their empire the Byzantium Empire. The city remained rich and powerful and was a center of learning, art, culture, and architecture.

In the centuries that followed, Constantinople was repeatedly attacked by Middle Eastern invaders. It fell into economic and military decline and was captured by armies of the Christian Crusades in 1204. The Byzantine Empire regained control in 1261, but the city had been plundered and left in ruins. It never fully recovered and was very vulnerable when it was attacked by the Ottoman Turks in 1453. The Turks were able to breach the city's defensive walls by firing 1200-pound cannonballs at them. They evaded the chain that was stretched across

the Golden Horn by rolling their ships across land on oiled logs. After a 54-day siege, they captured the city and began their almost 500-year rule.

The Ottoman rule was a time of artistic and architectural achievement, and Constantinople was restored to its former glory. Although people of many faiths populated the city, the Ottomans were Muslim and constructed many mosques throughout Constantinople. It wasn't until after World War I that they lost control of their prized city. They fought on the side of the Germans (the losing side) during the war, and they lost much of their vast empire when the war ended. Constantinople was occupied by the French and British after the war, and in 1922, the renamed city of Istanbul became part of the newly-created Republic of Turkey.

Today, Istanbul is a modern city that retains many elements of its past. Two-thirds of the population lives on the European side of the city where commerce and tourism thrive. Ancient palaces, churches, mosques, fortresses, and fortification walls remain standing throughout Istanbul, and they are popular tourist attractions.



Above: The Aqueduct of Valens was built by Emperor Valens in the late 4th century and is one of the most important landmarks in the city. Right: This mosaic has survived from the Byzantine era.





Street performers fill the air with music.

The European side of Istanbul is also home to world-class museums, which house historically-significant artifacts and works of art. The Asian side of the city is much quieter and is home to many residential neighborhoods.

Istanbul remains one of the world's great cultural and architectural centers as well as a place where European and Asian cultures meet. It also continues to be a major center of commerce, and 36 percent of Turkey's exports

and 40 percent of its imports pass through the city. The significance of the Bosphorus Strait has not lessened over the years, and it is the primary hub for transport of oil to Europe from Russia and western Asia. It is one of the world's most active shipping lanes, and the traffic is so heavy that it must be managed by a control tower.

Although it has been many years since the Greeks, Romans, and Ottomans ruled the city, reminders of their dynasties are everywhere. All it takes is one visit to this beautiful city to understand why it was worth fighting for.

Christine Graf is a frequent contributor to FACES.

FAST FACTS

- Istanbul was located along the Silk Road, an ancient trade route that linked China with Europe.
- In order to restore Constantinople to its former glory, the Ottomans forced subjects from every corner of their empire to move to the city.

This image depicts the fall of Constantinople in 1453.



THE BASILICA CISTERNA:

The Greek monster Medusa can be found in the waters of the Basilica Cisterna.

52 Steps to a Really Cool Water World

by Gloria Lannom

The Basilica Cisterna, the largest and most famous survivor of an ancient water storage system, lies underground near Hagia Sophia in the historic Sultanahmet area of Istanbul.

Constantinople, as Istanbul was then known, had no natural fresh water sources. The city had earlier depended on rainwater collection and aqueducts to deliver water from a distance. Now far greater quantities were required to meet the Emperor Justinian I's ambitious plans for expansion and he ordered the construction of a series of underground **cisterns** for storing water.

The Basilica Cisterna was greatly enlarged from an existing cistern under the Stoa Basilica on a great square of Istanbul's First Hill. Its main purpose was to provide water for the Great Palace and its surrounding buildings.

Upon completion in 532, the Basilica Cistern measured about 453 feet long by 212 feet wide, a total of 105,000 square feet. Walls 13 feet thick, coated with waterproofing mortar, enclosed the basin, which was reportedly capable of holding 80,000 cubic meters of water (more than 200,000 gallons). The water traveled along aqueducts from sources in the Belgrade Forest 12 miles away.

Some 7,000 slaves worked on this massive construction project, according to historical

records. The domed ceiling was supported by 336 marble and granite columns, each 30 feet high. They were set 16 feet apart in 12 rows of 28 columns each. Their beautiful carving, symmetrical arrangement, and great heights create the feeling of a sunken palace. The columns came from ancient Greek and Roman ruins and can be thought of as early examples of architectural recycling!

Several of the columns are "standouts." The Hen's Eye column is decorated with raised carvings of hen's eyes in tears. Legend says the design symbolizes sorrow for the many workers who died during the construction.

The bases of two other notable columns were made by reusing ancient stone blocks that feature sculptured heads of the monster Medusa. Workers placed one block with the head upside down and positioned the other 90 degrees to one side rather than straight on in order to ensure a good fit.

WORD HELP

A basilica is an early Christian church building style.

A cistern is a manmade reservoir or tank for holding water.



Today, the site is one of the most visited in Istanbul.



The Basilica Cisterna is the largest surviving underground water storage system.

The Basilica Cisterna provided water for the Grand Palace complex until the 13th century when the Byzantine sultan rulers moved to another palace. The system was abandoned and largely forgotten until the 16th century.

Enter Pierre Gilles, a French scholar who arrived in the city in 1544 to study and later wrote four books on its geography and antiquities. Local people told him they collected water by lowering buckets on ropes down through holes dug in the cellar floors of their homes. They said they sometimes caught fish that way, too. Gilles investigated and discovered the Basilica Cistern and then found the remaining cisterns.

The Basilica Cistern did not return to its original use, however. Instead, it became a place where people dumped trash, including dead bodies. This unsanitary situation continued until repairs were made in the 18th century. Further work took place over the years. Restoration

efforts in 1985 included removing 50,000 tons of mud from the cisterns.

The Basilica Cistern no longer supplies water to the city and is home only to a few fish. It opened to the public in 1987 and soon became one of Istanbul's top tourist attractions. A stairway of 52 steps takes visitors down into an eerie subterranean watery world. Walkways lead them through the dimly lit cavern above water that today is only a few feet deep. Many visitors try to be first to find the Medusa heads and the Hen's Eye column. (Hint. They can be found in the far northwest area at the back.) The Basilica Cistern

is an excellent example of Roman engineering skill dating back to the prosperous reign of Justinian I and it's a very enjoyable place to visit.

Writer Gloria Lannom enjoys visiting Istanbul and imagining how the sultans lived and how grand the Topkapi Palace tulip festival parties must have been. She also likes to stroll around in the bazaars and eat "Turkish Delight" sweets.

FAST FACTS

- The Turks call the Basilica Cistern "Sunken Palace" or "Sunken Cistern."
- The Belgrade Forest is now a popular recreational park area of trees, animals, birds, and flowers.
- Medusa was a Greek goddess who was transformed into an ugly monster with snakes for hair. Medusa had the power to turn to stone anyone who looked directly into her fierce gaze.

Although the cistern no longer provides the city with water, it does create an eerie experience.





A Puppet Theater of Shadows

by Marcia Amidon Lusted



There are many kinds of puppets and puppet shows, from marionettes and hand puppets to large Muppet-like puppets that may even have worn costumes. Puppets are usually colorful and appealing, meant to be seen. But what about puppets that aren't seen, and entertain audiences only with their shadows? Shadow puppets are a tradition in Turkey as well as other parts of the world, and they are much more intricate than those hand shadows you might make on the wall of your room with a flashlight, although the idea is the same!

Shadow puppets are flat figures cut from camel or donkey leather. They are covered with oil to make them partly transparent, then painted, with small perforations made in the figures to let light shine through. Perforations are also made for the joints, which are moveable because they are threaded with strings made of gut. Some of the puppets have many joints. Most are between 13 and 16

Karagöz and Hacivat are the two most popular characters in Turkish shadow puppetry.

inches (35-40 centimeters) tall. After the puppets are finished, they are mounted on sticks. A white sheet is hung up, with a bright light source behind it, and the shadow puppets are pressed against the lit side of this screen. The audience watches from the other side, so that all they see are the shadows of the puppets, not the puppets themselves. The puppeteer animates the puppets, using the stick to control their movements. A puppeteer who is very good can make his puppet walk, run, dance, jump, fight, and even nod or laugh.

There is a story about how shadow puppets became popular in Turkey. In the year 1396, two workmen were helping to build a new mosque in the city of Bursa. These workmen, named Karagöz and Hacivat, were known for telling jokes and other antics. The other workmen would stop and watch their comedy routines, and work was not progressing as fast as it should have. So the sultan of Bursa became angry and condemned Karagöz and Hacivat to death. Soon after, the sultan felt guilty about the executions, and to cheer him up, an Islamic



A shadow puppeteer must be able to juggle many roles at once!



Puppet shows were held in coffeehouses, parks, and other public places.

monk made two little puppets out of camel skin and put on a puppet show for him at his palace. Ever since, the traditional Turkish shadow puppet play has featured Karagöz and Hacivat and their antics, their jokes and pranks, and their fights. The plays were performed at coffeehouses, parks, and other public places.

Over time, more characters were added to the plays, both human and animal. More plays were added that related to life under the sultan as well as timeless themes such as love, jealousy, and rivalry. The plays were also a safe way to make fun of the ruling class and government officials. Hacivat usually represents the educated and privileged part of society, while Karagöz is one of the common people. Some of the common scenes in the shadow puppet plays about Karagöz and Hacivat include "The Bathhouse" (where Karagöz finds himself in the ladies' section of the hamman, or bathhouse), and an episode where both Karagöz and Hacivat climb on a donkey, breaking it in two. They put the donkey back

together with its legs upside down. The puppeteer is kept busy, moving all of the puppets as well as creating their voices. In addition to Karagöz and Hacivat, there are many other characters, from old women and young, beautiful girls to animals, fish, djinn (genies), dancers, witches, and monsters. The puppeteer usually has an assistant to play the tambourine and supply the sound effects, as well as handing puppets to the puppeteer in the correct order for the story. The play traditionally ended when Karagöz and Hacivat fight, and Hacivat shouts, "You have brought the curtain down . . . you have ruined it!" Then Karagöz simply replies, "May my transgressions be forgiven."

Shadow puppet theaters are no longer the source of entertainment they once were for the Turkish people, now that electronic entertainment like television and the Internet are available. But the timeless stories and the familiar characters are still popular when they appear. Often the puppeteer sets up his theater in a public place, just as he might have hundreds of years ago, and he can always find an audience.



The timeless stories of shadow puppetry are still popular throughout Turkey.

Agatha Christie's Istanbul Mystery

by Syndee Barwick

Disappearance: Mystery #1

Agatha Christie left her suburban London home and vanished on the night of December 3, 1926. The next morning, her car was found — but not Christie. Great Britain launched its largest missing persons search in history. For 11 days, rumors swirled around the author's bizarre disappearance, even making the front page of *The New York Times*.

Eleven days later, she was discovered alone, at a spa hotel many miles away from her home — with no recollection of how she got there — or who she was.

Christie, her family, and others said it was amnesia born of emotional distress, while others such as Christie expert Jared Cade (author of the biography, *Agatha Christie and the Eleven Missing Days*), says that "she deliberately

staged her disappearance . . . (and) set out to frame her then-husband Archie for murder."

Christie never mentioned her disappearance again, and in 1928 Agatha and Archibald Christie divorced.


Istanbul and The Orient Express

In the autumn of 1928, following her divorce, Agatha was two days away from traveling to the West Indies "to seek sunshine." Meeting friends for dinner, they talked about Baghdad, and her friend told her she could go by the Orient Express.

Said Agatha Christie in her *Autobiography*, "All my life I had wanted to go on the Orient Express."

In less than 24 hours, Agatha Christie cancelled her West Indies trip and "got tickets and reservations for a journey on the Simplon-Orient Express to Stamboul." (French for Istanbul) From

Istanbul to Damascus, and from Damascus on to Baghdad (via the Taurus Express). It was her first trip alone and the first trip on the Orient Express — "the train of my dreams" — but it wouldn't be her last!



Agatha Christie wrote 66 mysteries, 150 short stories, and 19 plays.

Istanbul of the 20s and 30s

Teeming with spices and spies, Istanbul of the late 1920s/early 1930s was a cosmopolitan crossroads and a melting pot of cultures from across Europe and the Near/Middle East.

On her first visit to Istanbul, Agatha Christie was whisked around the city in a whirlwind sightseeing tour, staying at the Hotel Tokatlian – at which her detective Hercule Poirot from *Murder on the Orient Express* dined prior to boarding the Express.

outside of Istanbul in Cherkeskoy for six days. Although Christie was not aboard, it is one of the incidents that inspired *Murder on the Orient Express*.

Strangely enough, in December 1931, while returning on the Orient Express from one of her husband's archaeological digs, Agatha was involved in something similar. Torrential rains and flooding washed away parts of the track, and the train was stranded for 24 hours with many "colorful" passengers. Says Jared Cade,



The Orient Express began operation in 1883.

In 1930, Christie married the distinguished archaeologist Sir Max Mallowan and accompanied him on many digs, traveling the Paris-Istanbul route of the Orient Express, roundtrip, **THIRTY** times.

Murder on the Orient Express: Mystery #2

In February 1929, just a few months after Christie first traveled the Orient Express, a horrible snowstorm stranded the train just

"Several of the characters, as described vividly in a letter to her husband Max, later surfaced in *Murder on the Orient Express*."

The Pera Palace

As a frequent visitor to Istanbul, Agatha Christie occasionally stayed at The Pera Palace Hotel. Built in 1892 specifically for the rich-yet-weary Orient Express passengers, it was Istanbul's most luxurious hotel. It is inextricably and forever linked to Agatha Christie and the

Orient Express, as well as the crux of intrigue and espionage — in more ways than one.

Christie's Key — Mystery #3

As an often-repeated story in books, travel guides, newspapers, magazines, and online articles throughout the decades, on the say-so of a psychic, a key was found under the floorboards of Room 411 at the Pera Palace Hotel — the room in which, legend has it, Agatha Christie stayed and wrote *Murder on the Orient Express*. According to the tale, this key would unlock a Christie diary in which the author explained her 1926 disappearance.

Real Story

Christie experts agree: **there was no key**. Rather, it was a fabulous — yet fabricated — story dreamed up by a publicist for the 1979 television movie, and, perhaps, the hotel.

Says Dr. John Curran, award-winning author of *Agatha Christie's Secret Notebooks* and *Agatha Christie — Murder in the Making*, "The key story is a shameless publicity stunt."

As for writing *Murder on the Orient Express* in Room 411 of the Pera Palace? "There is no proof whatsoever that she wrote it at the hotel," said Jared Cade. Rather, it appears that Christie may have written the bulk of her famous novel in 1933 during the excavation at Arpachiyah (in Iraq).

Still, Agatha Christie's presence looms over the city. In 2015, Istanbul celebrated her 125th birthday, with the Pera Palace Hotel sponsoring a week-long crime fiction festival called "Black Week."

Although the Orient Express is gone and Istanbul is no longer the same as in Agatha Christie's day, the three are forever tied together in one tremendous mystery.

Syndee Barwick is a world traveler who rode Japan's famed "Bullet Train," the *SHINKANSEN*, from Tokyo to Kyoto and backpacked for months across Europe via various trains using a *EURAIL* pass. Some day she hopes to ride the Venice Simplon-Orient Express' once-a-year Paris-to-Istanbul route — just as Agatha Christie and Ian Fleming did!



A woman sits at the desk in Agatha Christie's room at the Pera Palace Hotel.

FAST FACTS

- Dame Agatha Christie (DBE – Dame Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire) is the most published author in the world (only the Bible and Shakespeare have sold more), selling more than a billion books in English and a billion more in over 100 foreign languages.
- Christie's play *The Mousetrap*, is the longest-running show in the world: over 60 years on stage (it opened in 1952!), with more than 25,000 performances — and still running!

The Legendary Orient Express

“Once upon a time on the Orient Express ...”

Not many things in life achieve “legendary” status, but the fabled Orient Express did.

In 1883, Compagnie Internationale des Wagons-Lits (the International Sleeping Car Company) began regular rail service (supplemented by ferry) from Paris to Constantinople (Istanbul) – but it wasn’t until June 1891 that it became a “through” train to Istanbul – and was officially named “Orient Express,” taking three days to complete the journey.

Says Keith Fender, world news editor for the U.K.’s *The Railway Magazine*, “It was the place to be seen in its heyday of the 1920s/30s.” As the height of luxury adventure, the Orient Express connected Continental Europe, and international travel became possible as various routes carried wealthy travelers, royalty, spies, and other famous and powerful people across Europe.

The Orient Express appeared in numerous books, films, and television programs. Ian Fleming’s James Bond traveled on it in *From Russia with Love*, while in Bram Stoker’s *Dracula*, it carried Jonathan Harker, Dr. Van Helsing, and the others from Paris to Varna (Bulgaria) to battle the vampire count. Agatha Christie’s *Murder on the Orient Express* is the most famous book and film featuring the Express. It also appeared in Alfred Hitchcock’s *The Lady Vanishes*, the “Mummy on the Orient Express” episode of *Dr. Who*, and even an episode of *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles*!

From its zenith in the 20s and 30s, the historic Orient Express experienced a slow demise.

Fender says, “In the 1950s, it was just a regular long distance train. In 1977 the Paris to Istanbul route ended, then in 2007 Paris to Vienna ended, and finally, 2009 saw the last time the name “Orient Express” was used for a regular train.”

Today, one can ride the classic route, beginning in Paris and terminating in Istanbul, with stops in Budapest (Hungary) and Bucharest (Romania). Run by Belmond, the private Venice Simplon-Orient Express recreates the trip once a year – complete with the legendary luxury and glamour.

— S.B.



The 1974 film based on Agatha Christie’s novel *Murder on the Orient Express* was nominated for several Academy Awards.

FAST FACTS

- The Orient Express had many nicknames: the Mystery Train, the Royalty Train, and . . . the Spies’ Express. Why? During WWI, the Orient Express route went through many volatile European countries, where intelligence gathering played a crucial part in the war on both sides – and where any man or woman on the Orient Express could be a spy with top secret information!
- At one point, during its height between the two World Wars, there was more than one Orient Express: the Orient Express, the Simplon Orient Express, and the Arlberg Orient Express – each with different routes.

ERHABA (MARE-HA-BA), EVERYONE,



AND HELLO FROM TURKEY!



A DAY IN ISTANBUL

by Wende Dikec

My name is Melis, and I live in Istanbul. I'm in the fifth grade. I have a little sister, Defne, and a cat named Tiger.

Istanbul is an incredible and very historic city, located where the continents of Europe and Asia meet. The Bosphorus Strait goes down the middle of the city, like a beautiful, blue river. Sometimes you can see dolphins in the Bosphorus, as well as fishing boats, bustling water taxis, and huge ocean liners. It's a noisy, lively place.

Two bridges span the Bosphorus, connecting Europe to Asia, and a third bridge is being built not far from my house. I live on the European side of Istanbul, close to the Black Sea.

Sometimes we go to the seaside for brunch on weekends. It's really lovely there. On vacations, we go to the south of Turkey, where the beaches are gorgeous and the





Melis enjoys spending time with her family and friends in her hometown of Istanbul.

water is clear and blue. I love to swim in the sea, and I like to collect shells with my sister, too.

Not every day is a vacation, though. On a typical school day, I wake up early to have breakfast and get ready for school. A Turkish breakfast usually includes bread, tomatoes, cheese, and sometimes meat. The bread is delivered to our door fresh and warm from the bakery. My sister likes to have chocolate-hazelnut spread on her bread. It's pretty yummy that way, too.

My sister and I take a service bus to school. It's smaller than a school bus, and we have a hostess who rides with and takes care of us. She has to help with the little kids especially. They can be extremely annoying.

We attend a private school not far from our house. We're in the same building, but my sister is in the elementary wing and I'm in the middle school. When we get to school on Monday morning, we sing the national anthem all together before class, and then we go to homeroom.

In Turkey we call our teachers by their first names. My teacher's name is Suheyla (sue-hay-la) and I call her Suheyla Öğretmen (sue-hay-la eau-ret-men), which means "Suheyla Teacher." We don't use last names as much in Turkish as people do in English. It's okay to call people by their first names.

We wear uniforms to school, khaki pants or a skirt and a white polo shirt. We're supposed to keep our hair up in a ponytail, but most teachers won't say anything if we leave it down. We can't wear nail polish or make-up, although some of the high school girls do and it isn't a big problem.

At school we study math, science, social studies, art, music, religion, and Turkish. We also study English about 12 hours a week. We began studying English in kindergarten, and



Education is very important in Turkey and students work hard to earn good grades.

as my mom is American, I'm really good at it. This year I started studying Spanish, too, but only a few hours a week.

I usually eat as soon as I get home, because I'm always starving after school. Then I'll watch television or listen to music. I like Ariana Grande and Selena Gomez, and I like to watch Nickelodeon.

We usually have a few hours of homework every night. It's very competitive in Turkey, and grades are important. In eighth grade I'll take an exam called the TEOG, which will determine where I go to high school. It's really hard to get into a good school, and some of the best schools are language schools. There are German schools, French schools, Italian schools, Spanish schools, and, of course, English schools. I want to go to an English high school, so I have to try my best. From fifth grade on, every grade counts.

For fun, I like hanging out with my friends and playing outside. I also enjoy spending time with my family and playing with my cat. My dad, I call him Baba, makes the best French fries in the world. We usually force him to make them for us every weekend.

From Istanbul, this is Melis saying, "güle güle" (goo-lay goo-lay). Bye, bye!

Wende Dikec spent her life traveling the world and collecting stories wherever she visited. She's an award-winning young adult fiction author with three sons and a crazy puppy named Capone the Wonder Dog (who gets into lots and lots of trouble and makes life very interesting).

FUN FACTS

- The Turkish language is part of the Ural Altay family of languages, which means it is linguistically related to Japanese, Finnish, and also Hungarian.
- Did you know Saint Nicholas was born in Turkey? He was born in Lycia, on the Mediterranean coast of Turkey.

ISTANBUL CROSSWORD

ACROSS

5. author of *Murder on the Orient Express* (two words)
8. sculptured heads of this Greek monster are found in the Basilica Cisterna
9. type of puppet popular in Turkey
10. this sea is the northeast extension of the Mediterranean

DOWN

1. this body of water separates the city of Istanbul (two words)
2. founder of Islam
3. a manmade reservoir or tank for holding water
4. former name of Istanbul
6. a natural harbor that leads to the Bosphorus Strait (two words)
7. the western half of Istanbul is located on this continent



Answers are on page 48.

Turkish Baths...

Let's Clean Up!



A man receives a traditional soap massage at a Turkish bath.

by Marcia Amidon Lusted

For most Americans, taking a bath is something to do when they are dirty, preferably alone in the privacy of their own bathroom. But if you live in Istanbul, or even if you are just visiting, you may choose to take a bath, in public, maybe even with some of your friends!

The Turkish tradition of public baths dates to the Romans, who had public bathhouses where citizens went both for cleanliness and to socialize. A Roman bath included different rooms with bathwater ranging from

cold to very hot. Bathers moved from one room to the next to experience every water temperature. The Turks merged the Roman bathing traditions with their own, adding a religious concern for cleanliness and the need to conserve water by bathing communally. The Turkish version, called a *hamman*, was a combination of a spa, a way to get clean, and a gathering place for friends.

Hammans have a long history in Turkey. They were part of everyday life, where people of every rank and of all ages, could visit and bathe. Rich people and poor people, people from big towns and people from small villages, could all use the hamman. Men and women did bathe separately, often at different times of the day. Many important occasions were also celebrated there, including the 40th day of a newborn baby's life, the bride's preparation for a wedding, and even ceremonies for mourning. Sometimes visiting the hamman was just a way of showing hospitality by taking guests there for a visit. It was also a place where women could relax and enjoy some freedom from their households, as many



Turkish baths consist of several rooms.



women in Turkish history were not allowed to spend time outside or alone except at a bath.

For many people who visit Istanbul, experiencing a hamman is an important aspect of learning about Turkish culture. Some Turkish hotels even have

The courtyard is a place to relax and catch up with friends.

their own hammans. A visit to a modern public hamman is not just about sitting in the Turkish version of a hot tub. The hamman has its own special rituals to follow. Men and women still bathe in separate areas. A visitor to a hamman is escorted into a dressing room, where they put on a robe and slippers. Then they proceed to a warm, humid room with a raised stone platform in the center. It is surrounded by alcoves for bathing, each one tiled with beautiful colors and patterns. The tiles help to remove static electricity from the air, relaxing the mind and the body. Bathers sit or lie down on the platform until they are hot and sweaty, then they are led to a bathing area for a 45 minute wash!

The attendant scrubs them with a coarse mitt called a *kese*, which gets rid of any dead skin, then soap. The soap is put on with a lacy cloth that the attendant blows through to create soap bubbles, until the bather is covered with white frothy bubbles. The bather is probably cleaner than they've

A visit to a Turkish bath should be on everyone's list when they journey to Istanbul.



ever been before. Then there's a rinse with warm water before returning to the stone platform for a massage.

Many bathers stay in the hottest area of the baths for a while, simply to relax. Often this section has a high ceiling with a central dome that allows light to filter in from outside, giving it a different feeling from regular, everyday life. The last stop in the hamman is the cold room, where visitors may be served a glass of sherbet, juice, or a cup of Turkish tea. This allows the body to return to a normal temperature before going back outside.

Turkish baths are so popular, and so much a part of Turkish culture, that many cities around the world have hammans. So for people who want to experience bathing as the ancient Romans and ancient Turks did, as well as modern Turks, it isn't necessary to travel to Istanbul. There's probably a steamy Turkish bath not too far away . . . although still farther away than your own bathtub.

WHERE IN THE WORLD?

HERE IS A HINT:

This building is a smaller version of a much larger structure in Istanbul.



The answer is on page 48.

Turkish coffee sets can be very elaborate.



COFFEE ANYONE?

by Christine Graf

It's not hard to find a coffeehouse in Istanbul — they are everywhere. Coffee was brought to Istanbul in the late 15th century, but the city's love affair with the beverage didn't begin until the 16th century during the rule of Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent. The Sultan developed such a love for coffee that he appointed a chief coffee maker to his palace staff. The chief coffee maker ensured that the sultan received the perfect cup of *kahve*, Turkish coffee. Coffee beans were roasted to perfection over an open fire, finely ground, combined with water, and slowly brewed over the ashes of a charcoal fire. The sultan served coffee to palace guests, and it wasn't long before the beverage was widely consumed.

In 1555, two Arab merchants opened a coffeehouse in one of Istanbul's busiest commercial districts. It attracted people from all walks of life and quickly became a popular meeting place for men (it would be hundreds of years before the women of Istanbul were welcome in coffeehouses). Coffeehouses began to spring up throughout the city, and they became centers of social interaction. They were places where men could talk, discuss current events, play games such as chess and backgammon, listen to music, read, and discuss poetry and literature. Many coffeehouses had small stages where artists could play musical instruments, dance, or read aloud.

They were very crowded, and it was often difficult for patrons to find seats. People tended to patronize only one coffeehouse, and all of these "regulars" knew one another. Different establishments catered to different crowds, but there was a coffeehouse for everyone in Istanbul.

Before coffeehouses became popular, the people of Istanbul had few gathering



A man prepares coffee in Istanbul during Ramadan.



Gathering with friends is a great reason to enjoy a cup of coffee.



You won't have to look too hard to find a coffee shop in Istanbul.

places except for their local mosques. With the introduction of coffeehouses, people had places to discuss current events and issues that affected their country. As more and more people began spending time in them, the rulers of the Ottoman Empire became nervous. These establishments were outside of their control, and they viewed them as a threat. The leaders of the Islamic faith also felt threatened by the popularity of coffeehouses after they began to notice a drop in attendance at daily prayer services.

By the end of the 16th century, the government had issued various decrees that banned the consumption of coffee and ordered the closure of coffeehouses. At the local mosques, imams preached about the dangers of coffee and called it a mind-altering beverage that was as intoxicating as alcohol. Faithful Muslims were told to not drink coffee or patronize businesses that served it.

Despite the best efforts of the government and Islamic religious leaders, coffee and coffeehouses remained popular in Istanbul. If a coffeehouse was forced to close, it was simply moved to a different location on a backstreet or in an alley. Wealthy people even opened lucrative businesses in their own homes.

The government realized they were fighting a losing battle and gave up their efforts to rid Istanbul of coffeehouses. Religious leaders also became more tolerant of them, and some imams even started drinking coffee.

It wasn't until the reign of Sultan Murad IV in the 1600s that the government once again became concerned about coffeehouses. Civilian revolts were becoming more common, and the Ottoman Empire was weakening. The unrest

was blamed on "moral deviance," and Murad embarked on a campaign to restore the morals of his people. The purpose of the campaign was to "enjoin right and forbid wrong," and Murad targeted coffeehouses. He considered them to be "dens of treason" and places where dangerous ideas were being spread.

The people of Istanbul were warned that they would be killed if they were caught drinking coffee or patronizing coffeehouses. Sword in hand and dressed in a disguise, Murad was known to patrol the city looking for coffee drinkers. He beheaded anyone who was unfortunate enough to be caught with the

beverage during one of his patrols. Murad also ordered all bags of coffee to be thrown into the Bosphorus Strait.

More than one unlucky person also ended up at the bottom of the strait after being caught drinking coffee. They were sewn into leather bags and tossed into the water.

The people of Istanbul were not easily intimidated when it came to their beloved drink. Once again, they were able to defy the government and keep

their coffeehouses in operation. And once again, the government eventually gave up. Coffeehouses spread throughout the Ottoman Empire and the world.

Today, coffeehouses are just as popular as ever in Istanbul. People of all ages gather there to read newspapers, play cards, discuss politics, and of course, drink coffee.



Traditional Turkish coffee is finely ground and slowly brewed.

Fast Fact

- The Ottoman Turks designed long-handle brass or copper coffeepots called cezves. The sultan's cezves were made of gold or silver.

Every Dog Will Have

by Kristina Lyn Heitkamp

It's almost impossible to count all the homeless **I**dogs and cats in the world. But the World Health Organization has estimated 600 million strays roam the earth in search of shelter, companionship, and food. That's almost twice the population of people in the United States. The hungry pooches and felines have caused problems in several international cities — some places where there are no laws against cruelty to animals.

While prepping for the Sochi 2014 Winter Olympics in Russia, city officials didn't know what to do with the 2,000 stray dogs that wandered the streets of Olympic Park. Several dogs were killed, some were transported to a nearby refuge, and a few lucky pooches went home with Olympians. Managing homeless dogs and cats is a worldwide problem. But what do you do when stray dogs have lived in a city for hundreds of years?

Homeless hounds and mousers have called Istanbul home for centuries and are part of Turkish culture. With 150,000 dogs roving the streets, there are more strays living in Istanbul than people in Savannah, Georgia. The social strays prefer freedom to fences. They abide traffic lights, knowing to stop on red and go on green. Dogs can be found under outdoor café tables, finding shade under park benches, or enjoying a satisfying belly rub from a local biped. The city is their natural habitat.

Feeding two dogs with one bone

How many bags of kibble does it take to feed 150,000 strays? Well luckily for Istanbul's pack of mutts, Pugedon (poo-ghe-dahn) has recently joined the street gang. A recycling receptacle that feeds homeless animals, Pugedon vending machines help to keep the streets clean, and the city green. Instead of taking quarters and dimes, Pugedon takes plastic bottles and aluminum cans. In return for the recycled items, the machines



its Day



Plastic in, treats out! Keeping the city litter free also helps keep stray animals fed.

dispenses kibble and water. The receptacles have recovered valuable resources from Istanbul's waste-shed. "People are always eager to cooperate with their recycling material, knowing that their small actions contribute to the well being of strays and other animals," said Liz Howell, an environmental scientist and distributor for Puggedon Americas.

The solar-powered machines are made from stainless steel. They can take up to 800 units of recyclables, and can dispense 22 pounds of food. The kibble is paid with the profits from the collected plastic and aluminum. Puggedon machines are in 29 countries around the world, including all over Istanbul and surrounding cities, and in Puerto Rico and Colombia.

But is Puggedon just a Band-Aid for much larger problem? Not everyone in Istanbul is fond of the furry critters pounding the pavement in search of food. Some see the strays as a source of disease and danger. But Howell says Puggedon has had a positive impact in every community where it's installed. She has witnessed hundreds of people adopting strays. Puggedon also works with organizations to provide low cost neutering, vaccinations, and veterinary services to help control over population. "Anyone can be part of the solution," she said.



Dinnertime! A stray cat enjoys a meal courtesy of a Puggedon vending machine.

Kristina Lyn Heitkamp is a Montana-based writer, researcher, and environmental journalist. She has housed several strays and is actively searching for the next homeless hound to bring home.

FAST FACTS

- April 4th is Stray Animals Day. It is a day to show compassion, and promote awareness for all stray animals around the world.
- Istanbul has a Trap, Tag, and Release program. Street dogs are captured, vaccinated, spayed or neutered, ear-tagged, and then released back into their neighborhood.

A CLOSER LOOK

The Grand Bazaar

The Grand Bazaar in Istanbul, Turkey, known as Kapah Carsi, was built in the 15th century and is the oldest and largest covered market in the world.

Four main gates lead to about 60 interconnected vaulted passageways or streets. The streets are named for the professions or vendors who were grouped on the lane – rug makers in one area, jewelers in another.

The market holds 3,000 to 5,000 shops, most are the size of a parking spot.

You will also find a mosque, an absolution fountain used to wash before entering a mosque; many inns, cafes and restaurants, and four fountains.

Shops are open six days a week from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. They are closed on Sundays and holidays.

compiled by Carolee Miot McIntosh



Construction began in 1461, shortly after the conquest by the Ottoman Empire in 1453. The original market included two Bedenstens, or covered markets, in the design of a mosque with high vaulted ceilings.

The bazaar began as a wooden structure but is now stone and brick. An earthquake in 1894 created a need for restoration during which signboards and display windows were added. More restoration and modernization is planned.

What you will see:

Colorful wares from floor to ceiling as you stroll under colorfully designed arched passageways.

Shopping List:

Jewelry of silver and gold, copperware, rugs, souvenirs, clothing, hats, lamps, tapestries, belly dancing costumes, ceramics, fabric, handbags, luggage, boots, soaps, spices.

Tips for shopping:

Prices are generally not shown. You must have a conversation with the shopkeeper. He (traditionally always a man) may ask you to come to the back for some tea. There, other customers will not be able to hear your negotiations.

Be a firm, but kind negotiator. A shopper can usually expect to pay 35 to 50 percent less than the original given price.

Many things are on display, but if you wish for a different color or pattern, this can often be retrieved from storage for you.

The salesmen are said to be polite, persistent, entertaining, complimentary, and full of stories as to why they need you to pay more. ("I have six children at home to send to school!")

The bazaar boasts 250,000 to 400,000 visitors each day and about 30,000 people work at the bazaar.

What began as a simple market has become one of the greatest tourist attractions in Turkey.



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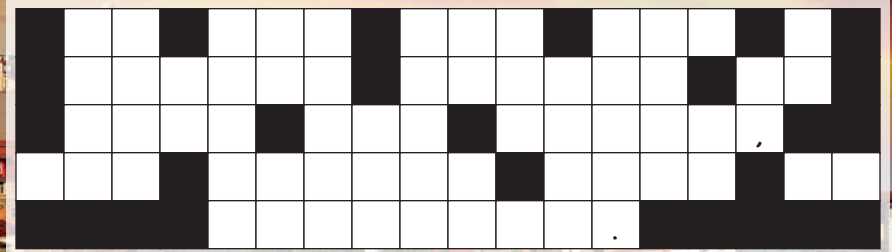


Smithsonian



FALLEN QUOTE

Jumbled below you will find a quote about Istanbul attributed to French poet Alphonse de Lamartine (1790-1869). The letters are directly below the column in which they fit, but are mixed up within the column. It is your job to determine where each letter goes.

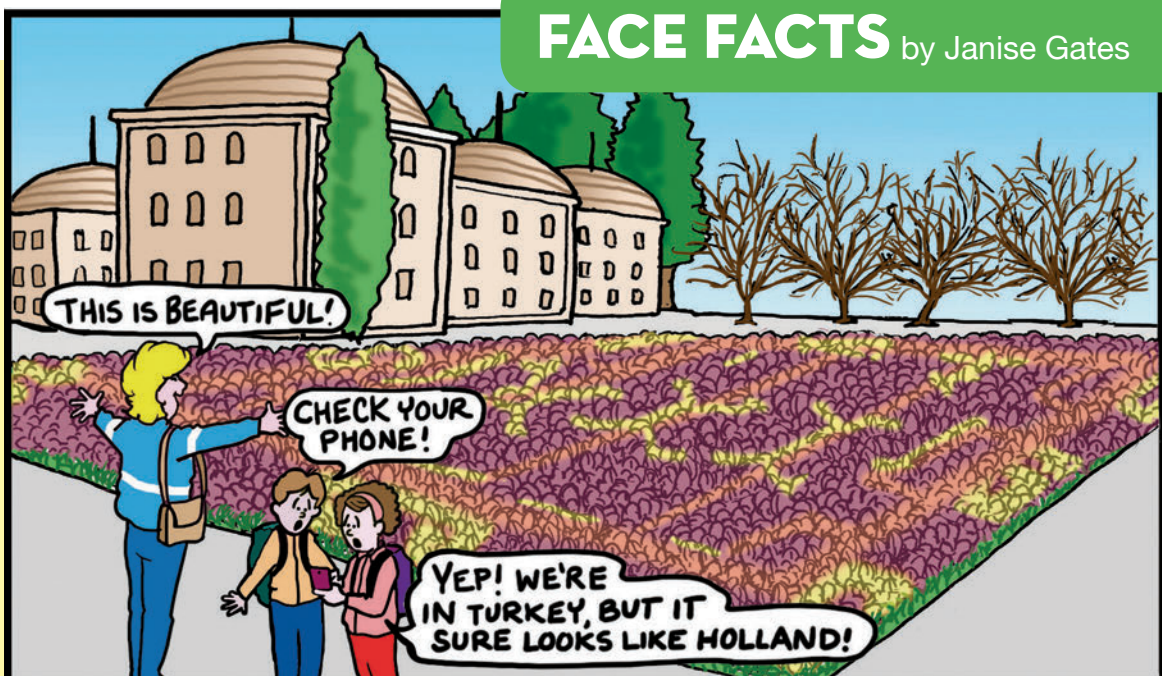


G T N
G E O H E E A U O C E
N I I L E U G L D L A L D A
I F V S S T H H D W G R Z T O
O S I N E N O A L B A N B U E T O N

Answer to Fallen Quote on page 48

You may think of the Dutch when you see a tulip, but the people of Turkey loved the flower long before it made its way to Holland. That love has endured. Today millions of flowers bloom throughout Istanbul during the city's annual spring Tulip Festival.

FACE FACTS by Janise Gates




The Hungry Coat

A Play Based on a folktale from Turkey

retold by Pat Betteley • illustrated by Chris Hsu

CHARACTERS: Narrator 1, Narrator 2, Nasrettin,
Innkeeper, Serkan (host), Berna (servant), Ahmet
(guest), Kudret (guest)





Narrator 1: Long ago, there lived a little, wise man by the name of Nasrettin Hoca. He wore a worn-out coat with patches upon patches and a huge white turban. Riding about on a small gray donkey, Nasrettin tried to help whomever he could.

Narrator 2: One day, as he was riding by an inn, Nasrettin heard a great commotion. Inside the kitchen, a frisky goat had gotten loose. Kicking and tripping, she was knocking over pots, breaking dishes, and spilling cooking oil. The screaming cook and some travelers were slipping in the oil as they tried to catch the goat.

Narrator 1: Nasrettin had always loved goats, and carried a sweet apple in his pocket for them. Thinking quickly, he cut the apple into pieces and lined them up. As the little goat nibbled the last piece, Nasrettin caught her.

Nasrettin: Back into your pen, little one. You have caused enough commotion for one day.

Innkeeper: Thank you for your help. Won't you please stay and eat with us?

Nasrettin: That is most kind of you, but I cannot. I am on my way to a banquet at the home of my friend. (Waves goodbye) Unfortunately, I am so late that I will not have time to change my coat.

Narrator 2: So Nasrettin arrived at the home of his rich friend in his worn-out coat with patches upon patches – dirty, oily, and smelling of goat.

Serkan: (shocked by his friend's shabby appearance) Er, Nasrettin. Come in. My servant will seat you.

Berna: (sniffing the smelly coat) Follow me to the far end of the table, sir.

Ahmet: (to his friend) Do you smell something?

Kudret: Ew! (wrinkling his nose) It smells like goat.

Ahmet: It is Nasrettin, at the end of the table. He keeps trying to start a conversation, but who wants to talk to such a shabby man?

Kudret: Even the servants will not serve him. Let's change seats.

Nasrettin: (to himself) Here I sit, alone and hungry. Each of my friends is scrubbed until he glistens and wears his best coat, while I sit here in my worn-out coat with patches upon patches – dirty, oily, and smelling of goat. I might as well go home.

Narrator 1: So Nasrettin slipped out the door. As he trotted along on his little gray donkey, he made a plan for when he reached home. First, he jumped into a tub of hot water.

Nasrettin: This jar of perfumed soap crystals is just what I need. (pours the entire jar into tub)

Narrator 2: Nasrettin scrubbed himself until he glistened. Then he powdered himself and put on new shoes with tassles.

Nasrettin: And now for the final touches – a sparkling turban and an elegant new coat of shining silk, sewn with golden threads. (preening in front of the mirror) I must admit that I have never looked so fine!

Narrator 1: Everyone nodded respectfully at Nasrettin as he strutted down the street, heading back to his rich friend's home. The servant ushered him into the banquet hall.

Serkan: (smiling) Welcome, my friend. Servant, seat Nasrettin at a place of honor, and serve him our finest food and drink immediately!

Ahmet: (to Nasrettin) What a fine coat you are wearing.

Kudret: You must sit with us so we can talk.

Berna: Some choice grilled lamb chop, sir?

Nasrettin: Thank you. (putting the lamb chop inside his coat) Eat. Eat, coat!

Berna: May I interest you in roasted eggplant and fish fried in vine leaves, sir?

Nasrettin: Yes, thank you. (opens coat to put in food) Eat. Eat, coat!

Berna: How about some boiled squash, chicken breast stewed in rose water, and pomegranates?

Nasrettin: Yes of course. And may I have some sticky baklava? (stuffs food into his coat) Eat. Eat, coat!



Narrator 2: After Nasrettin poured a whole bottle of wine into his coat, his alarmed host drew him aside.

Serkan: Old friend, you must tell me. Why are you feeding your coat?

Nasrettin: You surely wanted my coat to eat. When I first got here, with my worn-out coat with patches upon patches, there was no food for me. Yet when I returned in this new coat, there was every kind of food. This means that it was the coat, and not me, that you invited to the banquet!

Serkan: I have acted foolishly.

Nasrettin: Remember, my friend, a coat may be elegant, but a coat does not make a man. Many a good man may be found beneath a shabby coat.

Serkan: Let us celebrate your wisdom!

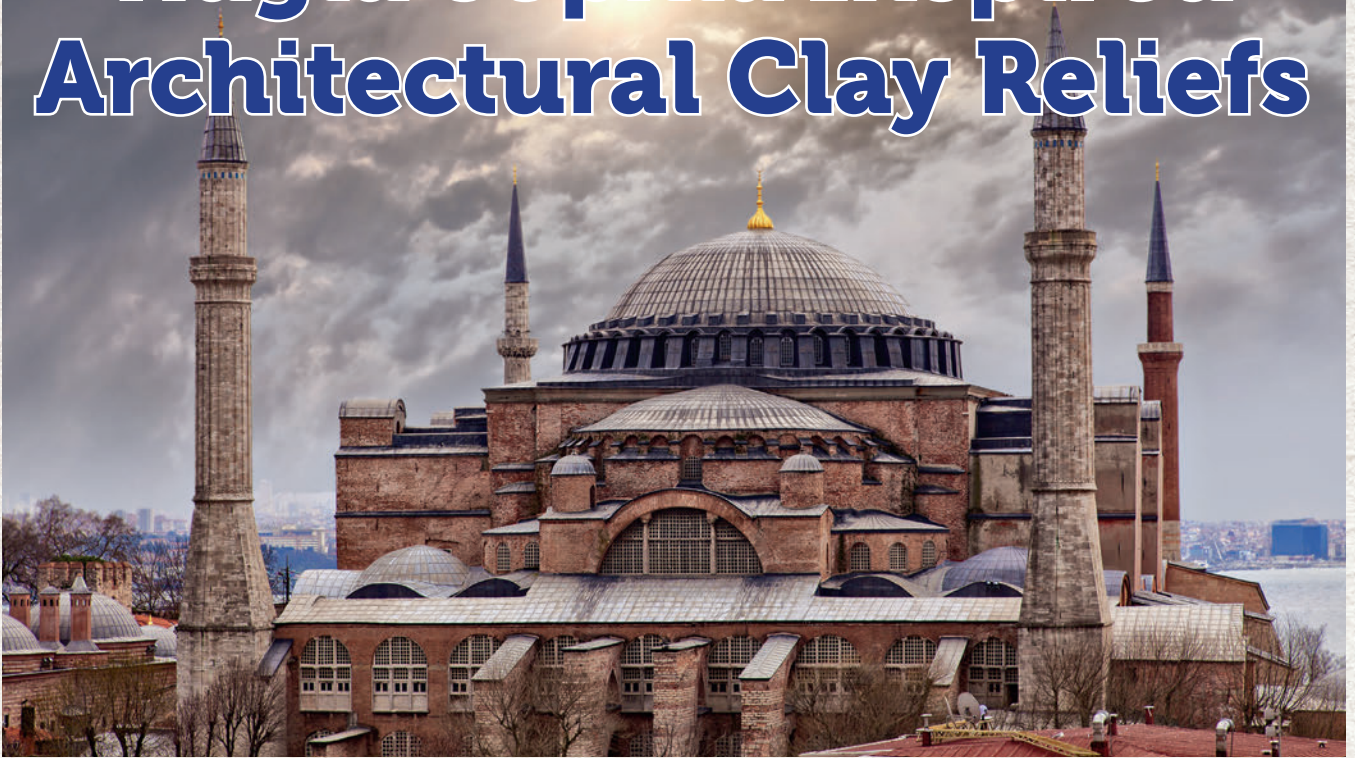
Narrator 1: So, for the rest of the night, Nasrettin and his friends enjoyed fireworks and music, and danced under the stars of heaven.

*He who wears heaven in his heart
is always well dressed.*



ART CON

Hagia Sophia Inspired Architectural Clay Reliefs



by Brenda Breuls

Istanbul has some of the finest architecture ever constructed. Hagia Sophia was built in A.D. 537 by order of Byzantine Emperor Justinian I and remained the largest cathedral in the world for nearly a thousand years. It was said to have changed the history of architecture. Imagine the creativity there must have been behind the plans for such a spectacular building. It has architectural elements such as columns, towers, arches, and the famously large dome. If you were to design an amazing building, what architectural features would you want to include? You might not be able to build an actual cathedral, but how about making a clay relief using some of your ideas?

Materials

- Scrap paper for sketching plans
- Air drying clay (AMACO Mablex self-hardening clay is a recommended brand)
- A large ceramic tile surface to work on
- Clay tools, rolling pin, sharp knife, and other tools found around the house such as forks, cuticle sticks, or toothpicks. (A note of caution: Once a tool has been used for clay, it should not be used again for cooking.)
- Acrylic paint and paintbrushes
- Sponges and water for clean up

INSTRUCTION

STEP 1: Sketching Plans

Start your project by viewing various pictures of Hagia Sophia or other famous buildings. Notice the use of columns, arches, windows, doors, towers, and domes. Make several sketches of ideas for using some of these features in your own piece. Once you have made a few sketches, choose one to use for your clay relief.

STEP 2: Preparing the Clay

Roll out your clay onto the ceramic tile surface until it is about ¼ inch thick. Using your sketch as a guide, cut the edges of the clay to make the basic outside edges or shape of your relief.

STEP 3: Making Your Design

Draw the basic design from your sketch onto the clay using a toothpick or other pointed tool. Using some of the clay you have left over, experiment with some of the tools to see what textures you can create. You can also use some clay to build up parts of your piece to make columns stand out or an archway across a doorway. When you have decided which ideas to use, add them to the relief.



STEP 4: Painting Your Design

Follow the instructions for drying your piece. This may take a few days. Once it is fully dry, give the entire piece a coat of black paint. When it is dry, paint colors on top of it. The black will show through on cracks or lines giving your piece an old look.

STEP 5: Displaying Your Architectural Relief

When everything is dry, use an easel to display your architectural clay relief. Who knows, maybe this will inspire you to become an architect one day.

Contest: Clay Relief

Send us your photograph of "Clay Relief"!

Mail the photograph to FACES Clay Relief Contest, 70 East Street, Suite 800, Chicago, IL 60601 or email a high-resolution image to faces@cricketmedia.com by March 15, 2016. Include your full name, age, and address. Select art will be featured in an upcoming issue of FACES. *All submissions become property of Cricket Media and will not be returned.

EDITOR'S PICK

Uncovered in Istanbul

by Melissa Mahle & Kathryn Dennis

Follow fearless detective Anatolia Steppe to the city of Istanbul, Turkey. An old diary purchased in the Grand Bazaar unlocks the legend of a mysterious girl in the Sultan's harem, a modern-day assassination plot, and the secret life of Ana's father. Ana and Gordy continue their search for answers in Istanbul, with the help of an intrepid dog. This is the second book in the Anatolia Steppe mystery series.

Ages 9 to 13

SpyGirls Press, 2014

www.skygirlpress.com



Answer to Mystery Photo on inside front cover: YUM! Turkish Delight is a tasty candy popular throughout Turkey.

Answer to Where in the World? on page 31: Exterior of the little Hagia Sophia, also known as the Kucuk Aya Sofya, in Istanbul, Turkey.

Answers to Istanbul Crossword on page 27:
ACROSS

5. Agatha Christie; 8. Medusa; 9. shadow; 10. Marmara.

DOWN

1. Bosphorus Strait; 2. Muhammad; 3. cistern; 4. Constantinople; 6. Golden Horn; 7. Europe.

Answer to Fallen Quote on page 41:

"If one had but a single glance to give the world, one should gaze on Istanbul."
— Alphonse de Lamartine

Answer to Shopping Frenzy on back cover:



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SAY WHAT?



from October 2015 **FACES:**

Cats

Cat: "Hi, Mr. Food!"

Parrot: "I'm not your food!"

— Juliet B.

Cat: "What's for lunch?"

Parrot: "Not me!"

— Campbell T.

Cat: "Can we be friends?"

Parrot: "I don't think so!"

— Haley R.

Cat: "Go away!"

Parrot: "Give me a cracker first!"

— Tori C.

ONE LAST FACE



Fill in the speech bubble for this photograph. The best entries will be published in an upcoming issue! Send your captions to faces@cricketmedia.com. Please put the title of this issue in the subject line.

Shopping Frenzy

Can you find the two plates that are identical?
Answer is on page 48.

illustration by Chuck Whelon

