

One strange thing about Egypt is that each person only is given ONE name - no one has a surname!! Then added to your personal name is the name of your FATHER, followed by the name of your GRANDFATHER!! So in a family where a father named David, has two children named John and Judy, and a father named Fred Henry, the full names are:

(father) - David Fred Henry

(son) - John David Fred

(daughter) - Judy David Fred

and the mother's name might be Alison George Bob!! Can you write out the names of the members of your family, according to these Egyptian rules?

Egyptian Name Puzzle

See if you can guess the names of these people in the Bible, who lived in or visited Egypt:


1. J _ _ O _ (Gen.47:7)
2. M _ _ I _ _ (Ex.15:20)
3. N _ _ U _ _ A _ _ E _ _ A _ (Ezek.29:19)
4. J _ _ _ _ H (Mt.2:19)
5. A _ _ _ _ A _ (Gen.12:10)
6. M _ _ E _ (Ex.2:10)
7. J _ _ U _ (Mt.2:13)
8. A _ _ O _ (Ex.5:1)
9. M _ R _ (Mt.2:13)
10. J _ _ _ _ A (Ex.24:13)

I was able to visit Egypt recently myself and went to some of the places mentioned in this issue. Even though life is so very different, it is exciting that we can make new friends in strange countries, and we are all part of God's family when we make Jesus our Lord! 'Til next time,

Your friend, Shirley

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(Answers to puzzle: 1:Jacob; 2:Miriam; 3:Nebuchadnezzar; 4:Joseph; 5:Abraham; 6:Moses; 7:Jesus; 8:Aaron; 9:Mary; 10:Joshua)

World Kids

Fun facts for kids!  True stories!

PAL Page

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Have you ever heard of a city where everyone lives ON TOP OF TOMBS??!



There IS such a city - and it's called The City of the Dead. You can find it on the edge of the desert outside of Cairo, in Egypt. This cemetery has existed for hundreds of years and is where Muslim families buried their dead in graves in the desert. The Muslim custom is to pray when visiting the graves, so small buildings used as prayer rooms were built over the tombs. Years



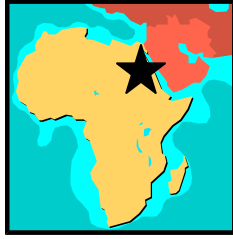
ago, after a terrible disaster when many people became homeless, some families decided to go and live in the prayer room over their family tomb. Soon the cemetery became inhabited by many homeless people, although there was no water or electricity, and now A MILLION people live

there! Until a few years ago, it was a VERY dangerous place at night, but the government has improved the conditions there, bringing in electricity, and there are even some stores and a market for the people who live in this City of the Dead!

Cairo is the capital of Egypt, and is the largest city in Africa and the Middle East, with 17 million people!

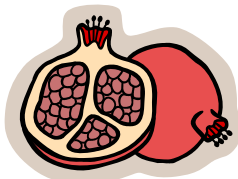


Egypt has been a very important country for thousands of years because it joins the continent of Africa with the landmass that contains the Middle East and is connected to Europe and Asia. You may remember hearing the Egyptians mentioned several times in the Bible, and most people have seen pictures of the Pyramids, which are huge tombs built for the pharaohs over 4,000 years ago - you can still visit these, just outside Cairo. There are many other tombs and ancient palaces farther south in Egypt, in Luxor and what is known as the Valley of the Kings.¹ These can also still be visited today, although they were almost lost forever just 40 years ago when the great Aswan High Dam was built on the River Nile near Egypt's southern border.



This HUGE dam has greatly improved life in Egypt by controlling floods, allowing irrigation of land so that many more crops can be produced, and also by providing almost half of the country's electricity. But as it was being built, it was realized that it would cause the river to rise and flood many famous ancient tombs and palaces. The only way they could be saved, was to cut the tombs out of the rock and move them to higher ground!! This was an incredible task of engineering but was eventually accomplished, and now you can take a boat up the River Nile and still visit these beautiful ancient sites.

The River Nile has always been the reason this desert land developed into a great culture and country with some 70 million people today. If you fly over Egypt, you can clearly see a "long green snake" through the middle of the barren desert. This is the Nile and the irrigated land on either side, that measures only 3-15 miles wide, yet 96% of Egypt's population lives in this oasis area, within 12 miles of the river or its delta where it runs into the Mediterranean Sea. Although nothing grows in the desert, vegetables grow very big in the rich, irrigated soil: cabbages, onions, tomatoes, strange "red" carrots, and fruits like dates, bananas, apples, oranges and pomegranates.



Most of the people in Egypt are very poor compared to western countries, and eat a lot of macaroni, lentils and other dried peas, with only a few meals each week with meat like chicken, sheep or camel. Bread and cookies made of soybeans, nuts or sesame seeds are also common foods.

Because of the small area of habitable land, most people live in high-rise apartment buildings; streets are crowded with traffic and in Cairo, there is a lot of pollution. As you can guess, there is also a lot of garbage produced, but in Cairo this is handled in a very unique way: it is collected by Christians who are Copts (part of the Orthodox Church), who take it back to their part of town, called Garbage City. Here they sort through it all, feeding the food scraps to goats, pigs and chickens, and recycling the glass, metal and cardboard. In the hot weather the smell must be unbearable, but there are about a million Christians now who continue this important work.



True story!

Most of the population of Egypt is Muslim with only 10% Christians, and life is often very difficult for Christians, who are NOT allowed to share the Gospel with Muslims and must never show disrespect for the Koran (Muslim holy book). It is impossible to get permission to build a new church in Egypt and many churches are even bulldozed down! Frequently Christians are imprisoned or killed for their faith, and even children kidnapped and made to be slaves to Muslims! But in 1974 a Coptic priest saw the need to build a church for the Christians of Garbage City. He put up a small tin shelter hidden inside a large cave overlooking the area, and started to teach bible stories to a small group of children! Soon after, the church was started with just 9 people at the first service. More and more Christians started to attend and



the little church quickly grew, and had to be enlarged again and again - each time with money given only by the people of Garbage City. Today, that same cave is a church that seats 20,000 people, and two other "cave churches" have also been built in the rock!