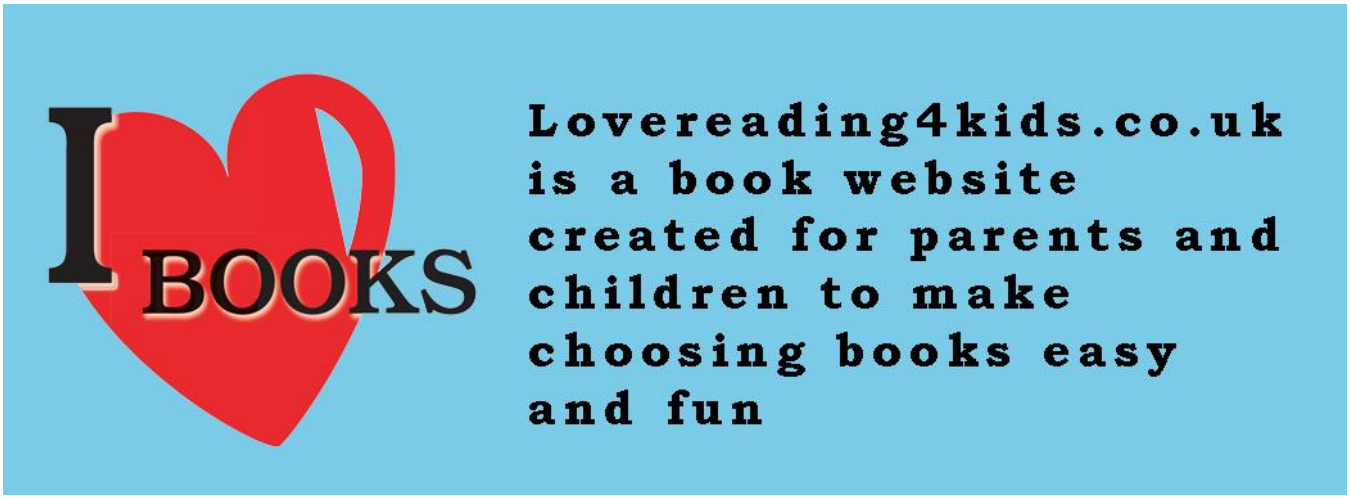

Opening extract from

The Spot the Mistake: Lands of Long Ago

Written by

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Illustrated by

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SPOT THE MISTAKE

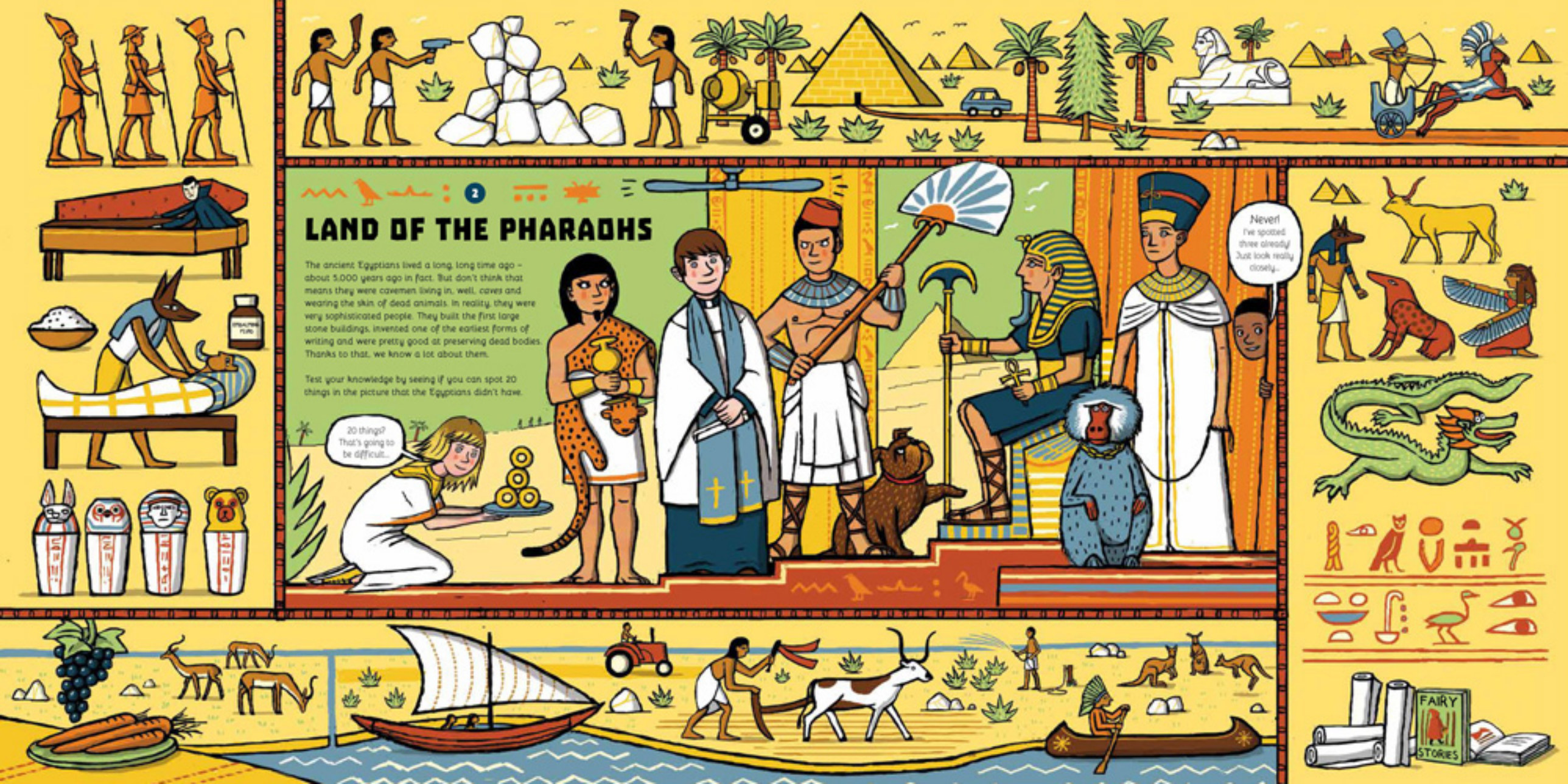
AMANDA WOOD & MIKE JOLLEY

LANDS OF LONG AGO



ILLUSTRATED BY FRANCES CASTLE

WIDE EYED EDITIONS


2
LAND OF THE PHARAOHS
The ancient Egyptians lived a long, long time ago – about 5,000 years ago in fact. But don't think that means they were cavemen living in, well, caves and wearing the skin of dead animals. In reality, they were very sophisticated people. They built the first large stone buildings, invented one of the earliest forms of writing and were pretty good at preserving dead bodies. Thanks to that, we know a lot about them.
Test your knowledge by seeing if you can spot 20 things in the picture that the Egyptians didn't have.
20 things? That's going to be difficult...
Never! I've spotted three already! Just look really closely...
FAIRY STORIES


4
THE EMPEROR'S PALACE
China is one of the world's oldest continuous civilisations and for more than 2,000 years, until the early 20th century, it was united under a series of rulers. The Chinese emperors were all powerful and during their reign, China led the world in art and technology innovation. They invented many things that we still use today, from porcelain to paper, gunpowder, kites and even the humble wheelbarrow!
But can you spot 20 things the Chinese did not have?
Time to stop clowning around!
Can anyone tell me the time?

8

JOUSTING WITH THE KNIGHTS

It was the duty of every medieval knight to learn how to fight for his lord and it took many years of training. Taking part in jousts helped keep both the knight and his horse in tip-top condition, since being a knight involved not just skill with weapons but supreme fitness and strength. Every knight had his own colours and would display these on his banner and the cloths covering his armour and horse.

When the tournament came to town it was a colourful affair – involving mock battles between knights as well as jousting competitions, and lots of feasting, music and dancing.



1. Window. No medieval castle would have had glass windows. During the Middle Ages people had to be prepared for war at any time, so they built castles to protect themselves from their enemies. A great iron gate called a 'portcullis' often guarded the entrance, and the only 'windows' were slits in the stonework high up in the walls through which archers could fire their arrows.

2. Motorbike. There were very few forms of transport in medieval times and certainly no motorbikes, which weren't invented until the 1880s. The rich used carriages or were carried in 'litters' (a covered chair carried on poles) but most people relied on either horses or their own two feet to get around.

3. Football. 'Foteball' was a kicking-ball game that had been played in medieval England since the 13th century but it didn't involve wearing team shirts or even having goal posts. It was played between two teams and had a marked-out pitch, but otherwise it wasn't much like the game we know today. In fact, in those days it was so violent and ruthless that it was often banned!

4. Tannoy speakers. People did not use speakers to make announcements in the Middle Ages. Instead, town criers or heralds would work their way through the crowds, shouting out any important information, so everyone would know what was going on. When a forthcoming joust was first announced, the town crier would shout about it in the streets and the news would spread by word of mouth through the surrounding area. It was always the cause of great excitement and the banners of knights would be hung outside of people's houses to show support for their favourite knight.

5. Headphones. No one would have been wearing headphones at a medieval jousting match – they weren't invented until the 20th century. There was lots of other entertainment, though, including acrobats, dancing bears, jugglers and minstrels (medieval musicians).

6. Fizzy drink. Every knight had his attendants, who were training to become squires and eventually knights themselves. They were the knight's errand runners and servants. Although they might have served refreshments to his supporters, it would have included beer or wine and sweet pastries – rather than cans of fizzy drink.

7. Sunglasses. Medieval ladies would not have used sunglasses to shield their eyes from the sun. Instead, they sometimes had veils attached to their hats.

8. Saxophone. Bands of minstrels provided the musical entertainment of the Middle Ages. They would have played all sorts of musical instruments, including lutes, tambourines, recorders, flutes and even triangles – but not a brass saxophone.

9. Camel. No knight would have been seen riding a camel, but his horses were among his most prized possessions. War horses were more expensive than normal riding horses and a special kind of war horse, called a 'destrier', was famous for its abilities in battle and was the most desired horse of all.

10. Horsebox. A knight would not have moved his horses around in a horsebox, even though he would have had quite a few of them. Knights had three different kinds of horse, named after their uses rather than their breed. 'Chargers' (or war horses) were used for riding into battle or for tournaments and jousting matches. 'Everyday' riding horses were called 'palfreys', and packhorses were used to pull carts or transport goods and equipment.

11. Union Jack. This design would not have featured on a knight's colours in medieval times, since it was not created until 1801. It combines the three flags of England, Wales and Ireland into the national flag of Great Britain. Special knights called 'crusaders' fought under the red cross of St George. Can you find one in the picture?

12. Dalmatian dog. Dogs were an important part of medieval life. Kings and nobles often had packs of hounds that they used to hunt deer, wild boar and even bears and wolves. Farmers used them to catch rats and other vermin. However, Dalmations originally come from the Dalmatia region of Eastern Europe and were not developed as a breed until the 19th century.

13. North American teepee. 'Pavilions' were the brightly-coloured, circular tents that were set up around the edges of a tournament. They housed the knights and their servants, including their surgeon, who was there to patch up any wounds. They wouldn't have had a tent shaped like this teepee.

14. Mayan warrior. Knights would have come from far and wide to compete in a tournament, but you wouldn't have found this Mayan warrior from the Americas there.

15. Dragon. There are many myths and legends about brave knights fighting off fearsome, fire-breathing dragons but there were no real dragons in medieval Europe.

16. Vulture. Falconry was a popular sport in the middle ages. A falconer would train hawks and falcons to catch small birds and animals, but he would not have had this Egyptian vulture.

17. Green armour. A medieval knight's armour was extremely expensive to produce and was tailor-made to fit the knight perfectly. It involved a complex array of garments, chain mail and iron plate and had to be strong enough to protect the person inside but light enough to allow quick movements when fighting in battle (or at the joust). During the medieval period, armour became more and more complex, until, by the 16th century, knights wore full plate armour that covered their whole bodies and could weigh as much as 25 kilogrammes. However, the armour was made of iron and would never have been painted green... even though the Green Knight was one of the knights in the famous legends of King Arthur.

18. Rosettes would not have been given out to winning knights at tournaments. Instead, the knights competed to win the purse, or prize money. Can you find a knight being given a bag of money somewhere in the scene? But apart from the cash, fame and glory were two important reasons why knights fought in jousts.

19. Motorbike helmet. A helmet was an essential part of a knight's armour. Early helmets were a bit like metal hats, but as helmet design developed they began to cover the whole face – with air holes so that the knight could breath and eye slits so he could see (though not very well). Some helmets also had conical tops that could deflect blows more easily. It wasn't until the early 14th century that helmets with moveable visors were invented, and they certainly didn't look anything like this modern motorcycle helmet.

20. Coat of arms with a koala and cockatoo. Tournament crowds could identify their favourite knight by his coat of arms – a personal combination of colours and objects that was used on his shield, surcoat and horse draperies. You might expect to see stags, lions, eagles or dragons but not a koala or a cockatoo from Australia (since no one in Europe even knew they existed). Most coats of arms also featured a motto, usually in Latin. Can you see one that means 'brave in difficulties'?

Did you find 20 medieval mistakes?

