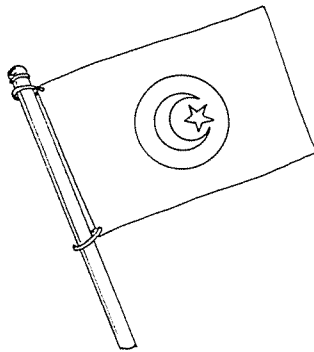


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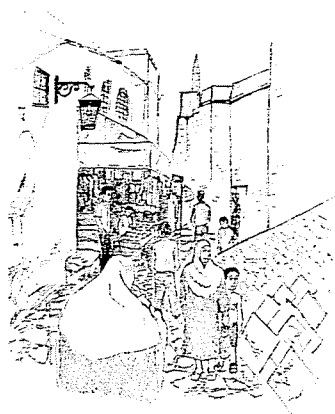
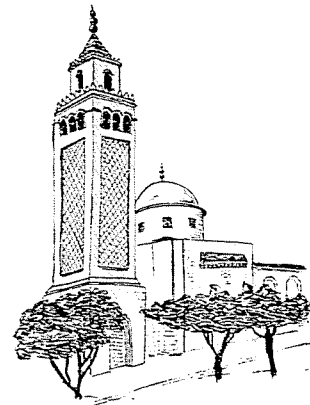
Maghreb:

Tunisia



Whether you know it or not, you've seen Tunisia in movies such as *Star Wars* (*La Guerre des étoiles*), *Raiders of the Lost Ark* (*Les Aventuriers de l'arche perdue*) and Monty Python's *The Life of Brian* (*La Vie de Brian*). Besides the film crews which often come to Tunisia, the country is invaded by European tourists in search of an inexpensive package holiday at one of the many resorts that dot its coast. Perhaps in part because of the presence of so much foreign money as well as its position on the north African coast, Tunisia is the richest, smallest and most westernized of the three Maghrebin countries you have been reading about in this series. However, if you go to Tunisia, don't expect to see the kind of wealth or the relaxed attitude to morality that you might have at home.

Its capital, Tunis has other riches which have made its centre a world heritage site. Its centre is called the medina or old/ancient quarter (*le vieux quartier* ou *le quartier ancien*) and is much safer than Algiers'. It contains approximately 700 monuments, including palaces (*des palais*), mosques (*des mosquées*) and their minarets (*des minarets*), which are Muslim places of worship and the towers (*les tours*) from which the Muslims are called to prayer several times a day, fountains (*des fontaines*) and markets (*des marchés*), called *souks* in Arabic. Walking in the medina you will see reminders of civilizations even older than the French. One of the many mosques is built using columns from buildings constructed by the ancient Romans. Just as France is known for its perfume, the medina of Tunis



has its own souk for perfume makers (*des parfumeurs*) containing flowers, fragrant oils and spices. Every town has its own souk, selling crafts such as carpets (*les tapis*), jewelry (*les bijoux*), bowls (*les bols*) and leather goods (*les articles en cuir*). If you've ever thought you'd be a good actor, the souk is the place to test your skills. Shopping in Tunisia is a test of wills between you and the seller. Never pay the first price you are quoted. Bargaining is all part of the theatre of buying and selling. It's important to pretend that you're not interested in the article you want to buy as the merchant will be less likely to reduce the price. If necessary, politely walk away from the vendor. You're likely to hear him or her call you back to continue the negotiations!

Tunisia

Activity Five:

We're all mixed up! Unscramble the word in capital letters in each sentence.

1. Tunisia is often invaded by tourists and _____.
SWECR
2. Tunisia is the most _____ of the countries which make up the Maghreb.
NEDRWEETZSI
3. Compared to westerners, Tunisians still do not have the same relaxed _____.
ITALOMRY
4. The capital of Tunisia is _____.
NISUT
5. The centre of Tunis is called the _____, or old quarter of the city.
EIDNAM
6. Muslims worship at a _____.
UMQEOS
7. Each mosque has a _____, from which the faithful are called to prayer.
AMNIETR
8. The Arabic word for "market" is _____.
SUKO
9. The _____ had invaded Tunisia long before the French.
NSOMARI
10. When shopping in Tunisia, it is a good idea to _____ with the merchants.
GETOEIANT
11. Never pay the first _____ you are quoted in a Tunisian market.
EPICR
12. The _____ sold in Tunisian souks are particularly beautiful.
EASPTCR
13. Tunisian women have more legal rights than anywhere else in the _____ world.
SIMUMI