

Adapted to live in the Sahara Desert



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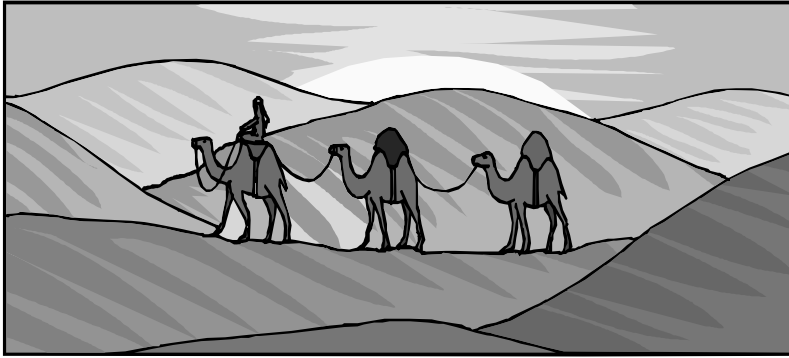
Mohammed lives in the Sahara Desert. He is a camel herdsman. He knows his work. He walks with the camels to their drinking place. The drinking place is not a river or dam. He knows the drinking place only by the stack of white rocks which have been stacked at a certain place. Under the rocks he finds the seepage water. With a jug he scoops water for the camels. They do not drink a lot of water because if they do, they will become sick. Mohammed stays with his camels the entire day. When they start grazing, he takes his piece of dry bread from his bag and eats it. He does not drink water. Mohammed is used to going without water. When a person starts drinking water in the desert heat, he will want more and more. The water in the desert is harmful to people. Camels are their only wealth.

There are no fruit or vegetables in the desert. The desert children eat only meat and milk from their animals. They also eat bread. Mohammed's mother doesn't add any salt to the meat, because that induces thirst and there is hardly any water.

They do not have tables. The food is dished up and placed on the floor. They do not eat together as a family. The men eat in their section of the tent and the women and children in theirs. Each tent is divided into three parts and is made of goat's hair.

Mohammed's father always makes the tea. Only men are allowed to make tea, and this is made in a specific way. One must have lots of time at hand. They use hard rock-like lumps of sugar. This hard sugar keeps well in the

desert. A small copper axe is used to chop off pieces of sugar.



The desert water is not suitable for human use. It is dangerous to their health. Mohammed only

drinks tea. They get the milk from goats and camels. The desert people say that this green tea is the most wonderful drink on earth; it keeps you cool and it takes away the thirst.

Mohammed's people are nomads. Nomads are people who move about from one place to another. They live in tents and do not have a permanent home. This is also the reason why Mohammed doesn't go to school. He can not read or write. Most nomads are Muslims.

The Sahara Desert is the biggest desert in the world. Its origin is at the Atlantic Ocean and it crosses the whole of Africa up to the Red Sea.

Answer the following questions:

1. What is the water called that camel's drink?
2. Why don't people drink the desert water?
3. What happens when a camel drinks too much water?
4. What do desert children's diet consist of?
5. Why do they not use salt in their meat?
6. What is their mealtime routine?
7. What is the purpose of the small copper axe?
8. Why is green tea so special?
9. Who makes the tea and why?

Complete the story

It was very hot in the desert. I was driving when the Jeep's axle broke. I was alone and stranded with nothing in sight but sand and more sand

