

CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES FOR LOST IN PETRA

THEMES

CONNECTIONS

ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS

FRIENDSHIP & ETHICAL DILEMMAS

SOLVING CLUES & PUZZLES

CRITICAL THINKING CHALLENGES

GRADES 4 UP

STORY SUMMARY

*What can I say that doesn't sound weird?
My parents have secret lives they lie about.*

Eleven-year old Anatolia Steppe arrives in Petra and finds her mother missing. But that's not unusual. Her mom's an archaeologist who often disappears into the wild—places with no indoor plumbing or connection to the Internet.

An odd encounter with a ministry official offering protection sends Ana into the confusing maze of streets as she decides to find her mother herself. Instead she encounters an antiquities collector who ends up dead, a fortuneteller who knows too much, and a key to what is lost. Ana begins to suspect the secret package from her mother she carries wrapped in muslin is much more than just a clue to an ancient Nabatean treasure, the fabled Horde of the Golden Girdle.

In a world where djinn play mean tricks and someone's always watching, Ana finds a friend in a boy named Gordy. Together they track tomb robbers, uncover a spy, and discover much more than gold and silver.

A surprising twist may even prove to be the end for Ana, as she discovers no one is who they appear to be.



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About the Authors

Melissa Mahle is a former spy and author of *Denial and Deception: An Insider's view of the CIA from Iran-contra to 9/11*. She was featured in the documentary *Secrecy* which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in 2008. Film credits include *SALT* with Angelina Jolie and *Hanna* with Saoirse Roman and Cate Blanchett.

Kathryn Dennis is an art director, writer and illustrator with a background in marketing and advertising.

When not writing, Melissa and Kathryn crave travel and adventure. To travel to strange places takes courage, a curiosity for the unknown and a very strong intestinal tract.

Petra is a really cool place in a very hot location. Kids learn a lot about Greek gods and ancient Egyptian civilization, but the Nabateans really rocked. We figure it's about time they got the attention they deserve.

History and background on Petra.

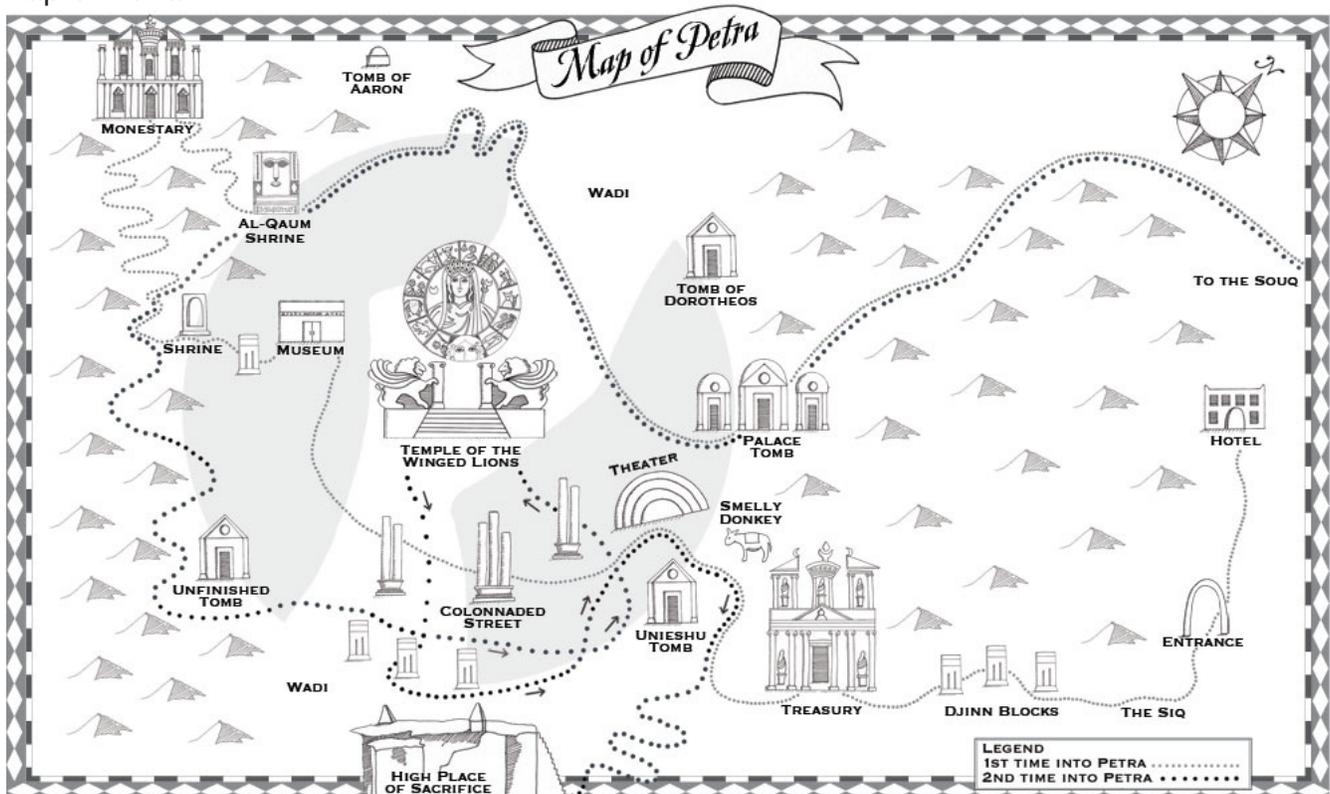
Geography and History

Petra was the capital of the Nabataeans and the center of their caravan trade. Petra is located in the country of Jordan. It's coordinates: $30^{\circ}19'43''N$ $35^{\circ}26'31''E$. From the rocks above the Monastery, you can look across the Red Sea to Egypt and Israel.



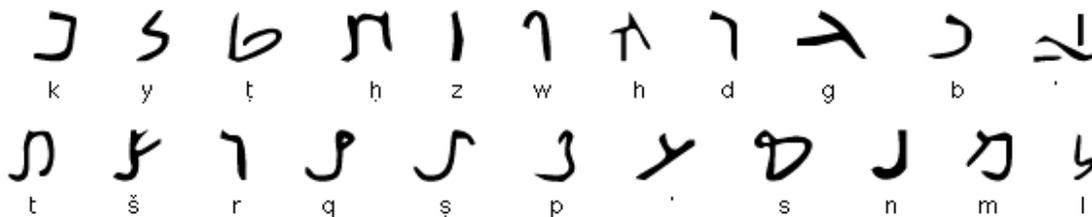
<http://www.amazon.com/Petra-Lost-Kingdom-Nabataeans-Taylor/dp/0674017552>
<http://maps.google.com>

Map of Petra



Culture and Language

The Nabateans spoke a dialect of Aramaic, and wrote with a distinctive calligraphy.



Practice writing your name in Nabatean. At the back of *Lost in Petra* is a glossary of Arabic and Nabatean words used throughout the book.

<http://www.howjsay.com/ind> can help with the pronuciations.

Animals in Petra



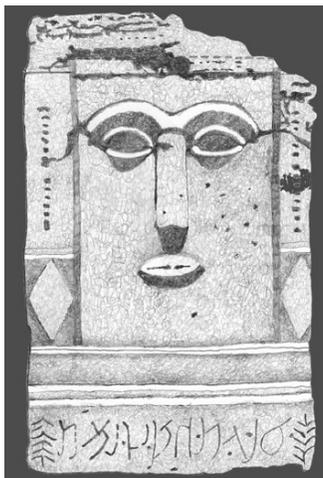
Camels, horses, smelly donkeys as Ana calls them, goats and sheep all live in Petra. At one time 122 different birds could be found in Petra. Including the ostrich. Today only the king vulture and the falcon are found. Why do you think so many animals have dissappeared? Hint: It has something to do with us (humans).

http://www.baitalanbat.org/assets/attach/44_249.pdf

The Nabateans

Learn more about a civilization that flourished for 800 years.

www.anatoliasteppe.com/#!discover



Gods and Goddesses

The Egyptians weren't the only ones with interesting gods and goddesses. Gordy names this Nabatean deity the "grumpy god." Find out why and learn more at our website.

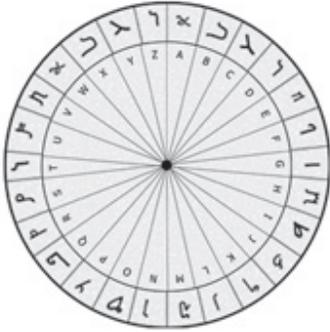
www.anatoliasteppe.com/#!discover



Team Projects using Lost in Petra

1 Codebreaking. Work in small groups.

(download the codewheel from www.anatoliasteppe.com) and break the following code.



אָן סאַבאַנאַט פֿאַר אַזאַן
אָן אַזאַן אָן אָן אָן אָן
אָן אָן אָן אָן אָן אָן
אָן אָן אָן אָן אָן אָן
אָן אָן אָן אָן אָן אָן

answer

The Nabatean Pantheon will reveal itself from the top of the monastery. At the heart is the key. Follow the map to 'Uzza's lost shrine. Find the Golden Girdle and me.

Then make up codes of your own and have other students break them.

Want to learn more about the history of codes, go to www.cia.gov/kids-page/games/break-the-code/index.html

2 Make a timeline of the Nabatean civilization.

Here are some websites we like that might help with your research.

<http://nabataea.net>

<http://travel.nationalgeographic.com/travel/countries/petra-jordan-photos/>

<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/history/ancient/petra-360.html>

http://www.kinghussein.gov.jo/his_nabateans.html

http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/naba/hd_naba.htm

3 The Nabatean Zodiac is very different from the one we are used to.

The first time Ana sees the Nabatean Zodiac in the museum, she teaches Gordy a handy mnemonic, a way to remember the order of the zodiac.

"All the great constellations live long since the stars can't alter physics."

All stands for Aries, the ram, and it should be at the top.
Stars stands for Sagittarius, the lion, and it should be on the left hand side of the circle. Using the mnemonic, can you correctly identify all the constellations?

<http://nabataea.net/zodiac.html>



Homemade Hummus

The first time Gordy is introduced to hummus, he asks if it is paper-mache. While it does sort of look like paper-mache, we think if you try it, you will like it.

Ingredients

1 16 ounce can of chickpeas or garbanzo beans

16 ounces = ____ pounds?

1/4 cup liquid from can of chickpeas

How many ounces is 1/4 cup of liquid? _____

- 3-5 tablespoons lemon juice (depending on taste)
 - 1 1/2 tablespoons tahini
 - 2 cloves garlic, crushed
 - 1/2 teaspoon salt
 - 2 tablespoons olive oil

Serves 6

Preparation: Drain chickpeas and set aside liquid from can. Combine remaining ingredients in blender or food processor. Add 1/4 cup of liquid from chickpeas. Blend for 3-5 minutes on low until thoroughly mixed and smooth.

Place in serving bowl, and create a shallow well in the center of the hummus. Add a small amount (1-2 tablespoons) of olive oil in the well.

Serve with fresh, warm or toasted pita bread. Use it as a dip for veggies or chips. Try it on a sandwich instead of manyonnaise.

Let's say you want to throw a party, what would the measurements be if you doubled the recipe? If ten friends show up at your party, how many pita chips would you need so they each had one serving?

What is the nutrition and calories in a typical container of hummus? What is the recommended daily allowance (RDA) this represents?



Creative Writing Project

Ana learned how to be a good sleuth from her dad. Did you pay attention to what he taught her?

Did you know there are ten rules from dad buried throughout the book?

These are not just dad's rules, but the rules followed by spies.

Write a short mystery using no more than two pages, set in Petra.

Use the places and people Ana and Gordy saw/met along the way.



Persuasive Speech using Lost in Petra

Ana has to talk her way out of a lot of sticky situations. Come up with a compelling reason why Mr. Hasan shouldn't send you home on the next plane. What would you tell him?

Art Activity

Mosaics are an important part of the Middle East. They depict travels, animals and plants, and tell stories of events. Create your own mosaic using small squares of construction paper to piece together your story for future generations.

<http://www.jordanjubilee.com/history/mosaics.htm>

<http://www.jordanjubilee.com/hcrafts/schoolmos.htm>

Lost in Petra Crossword

Start with the numbered questions **across**, then fill in the questions **down**. All answers can be found in the book "Lost in Petra."

1.		2.				3.	4.			5.		6.			
		7.													
						8.						9.			
10.						11.						12.			13.
	14.														

Across

- 1. Get going!
- 3. Mischievous spirit
- 6. Outdoor Market
- 7. To go in search of
- 8. Dry riverbed
- 9. An item Ana found among her father's things
- 10. An aromatic gum resin
- 11. Entryway into Petra
- 12. The Queen
- 14. Traditional Arab headdress

Down

- 1. Little Animal
- 2. Antonym: Found
- 4. Traditional Arab robe
- 5. To capture or grab someone
- 6. Thank you
- 13. Nickname for Anatolia

answers: across 1.yella 3.djinn 6.souq 7.seek 8.wadi 9.key 10.myrrh 11.siq 12.hulda 14.kiffiyah
down 1.yavrum 2.lost 4.jalabiya 5.nab 6.shukrun 13.ana

www.anatoliasteppe.com
www.facebook.com/AnatoliaSteppe
trailer: [youtube/Lost in Petra](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lost in Petra)

Contact us at spygirls@verizon.net with questions or for further information.

