

GINGERBREAD, OUR BLOODHOUND



Gingerbread investigates all subjects of interest to children.

He has reporter friends all over the world who supply him with information.

We call him “ **our bloodhound** ” because he really is an excellent detective.

You can help if you want to or just ask questions using the email address : children@gingerbread.org

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This torture lasted a long time, until one day the famous hero Heracles (Greek name of Hercules) happened to pass by. He killed the eagle and freed the bound giant.

Zeus pardoned him, but made him wear a ring of iron and stone, a symbol of his punishment.

African Termites

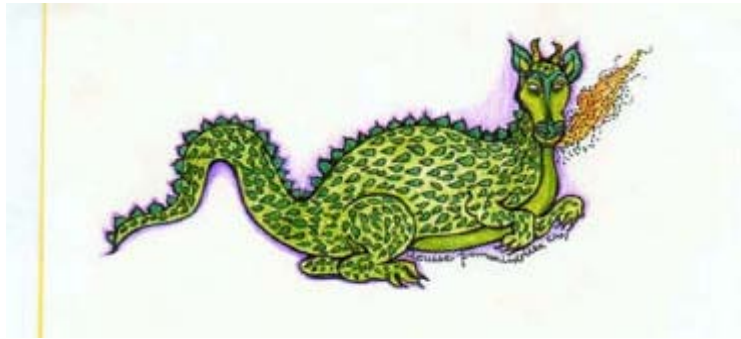
I want to share with you something that awfully interested me during a trip in Central Africa. At the end of the rainy season, winged termites leave their burrows by the thousands for their nuptial flight.



With African friends I took part in this really festive event. They "pick" the insects and put them into some containers in order to eat them later in quite a few of different ways. They are an important source of proteins.

And, just as when we pick wild berries, they eat one from time to time, alive! I tasted it: earth and hazelnut. If there is an insectarium where you live, go and visit it and you just might be in for a delicious discovery!

CHINA



Chinese civilization is thousands of years old: its customs and traditions are super fascinating. During my investigation, I learned that the Chinese invented **PAPER** by crushing bamboo stems into a pulp and letting it dry into a flat sheet. Before that, people would engrave their messages on stone.

Chinese painting is often ornamented with decorative writing called **IDEOGRAMS**. In school, pupils learn to write these complex signs, using brushes made of the hair of leopards, wolves, weasels, rabbits, and goats; or of duck down; or of peacock feathers. This way of writing is the art of **CALLIGRAPHY**.

Every year, September 9, children and grown-ups celebrate **THE FESTIVAL OF KITES**. This pastime is a real national sport. Participants make their own kites and they want them to be as impressive as possible.

TEA is the most widespread drink. The Chinese cultivate it in every part of the country and export it around world. I'm sure you know black or green tea, but did you know that it can also be white, yellow or red? It is often flavoured with jasmine, rose, spices or orange.

For the Chinese, eating is the most important daily activity, which explains why more than 10,000 recipes exist. A cook is called **THE LORD OF THE KITCHEN**. For every meal, he prepares various-flavoured dishes. You might be surprised to learn that sometimes people eat sea-swallow's nests or shark's fin soup at the end of the meal.

THE GREAT WALL, which partly surrounds China, is some 6,000 km long. It was built in parts over 15 centuries. It is the only man-made construction that is visible to the naked eye from the moon!

Hänsel et Grétel A story, an opera.



The brothers **Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm** were born in Hanau, Germany. Both studied law and became attorneys. But their passion was literature : they particularly loved tales and legends. Together they researched and collected a great number of tales, coming either from the Germanic tradition or from authors of quality, such as Charles Perrault from France. Then they rewrote them in their own manner, which is wonderfully fresh, inventive, full of life. Moreover, their style is magnificent. I'm sure that you know **Sleeping Beauty** or **Little Red Riding Hood** (after Perrault), or **Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs** and maybe even **Hänsel and Gretel** .

Several of their tales are now among our favorite cartoons. If you want to know more about these enthusiasts, you can find information on the WEB : **The Grimm Brothers**. Several sites are assigned to them. You can even read a great part of their work.

Hänsel and Gretel has inspired **Engelbert Humperdinck** who composed an opera blending rich music with children's songs. In many places in Germany, one can attend this opera every year at Christmas time. The atmosphere which is created when the witch appears on the stage is quite breath-taking ! Go and see it ... or read it...

Henri Rousseau, called “the customs officer” but wasn’t one!



“He had the jungle in his head”

Customs officer Rousseau, who was called that by his friends to please him is now acknowledged as one of the worlds great artists. His works are found in the most important museums.

The 21st May.....Henri is born in France in the pretty town of Laval. He has three sisters and one brother.

His father is a.....

He does not study painting, but he likes to draw and compose music.

He learns the pantograph in order to reproduce the contours of.....which serve as models when he is in his workshop.

Customs officer Rousseau always dreams of travelling to..... or or but he never does. He paints portraits, but he prefers landscapes.

He is haunted by the lush vegetation of the..... But he has never seen it in person. He uses his.....and often visits Paris, le Jardin des Plantes an enormous greenhouse which resembles a botanical garden.

Henri Rousseau observes the flowers, the.....and the animals. He sketches or he photographs. Once he arrives back in his workshop he composes the.....where he plays with everything he has seen; some....., a lion, a buffalo, a....., ferns and.....He mixes everything, we call that a free interpretation of nature.

If you want to know more about this artist, fill in the gaps with the words Jumble to complete the text :

paintings - Mexico - 1844 - plants - tiger -imagination - pictures -
Indochina tinsmith - banana trees - jungle - monkeys - Africa.



Inquisitive Gingerbread worries...



As I travelled all over the paths of the Canadian forest, I learned that it suffers from over exploitation, that certain species of trees and animals are endangered and that others are already extinct. This natural wealth does not belong only to us, Canadians, but to the global population. We must preserve this precious gift in order to share it better.

A game to understand better...

TRUE or FALSE ?

- 1) Canada possesses 418 million hectares of forest.
- 2) A female polar bear can give birth to a litter of 5 cubs.
- 3) Trees keep all their water for themselves.
- 4) A bat feeds its young while flying.
- 5) Trees make the landscape look ugly.
- 6) The wood turtle endangers flowers and mushrooms.
- 7) Trees are dormitories for birds.
- 8) The osprey is disappearing because of logging practices.
- 9) The sap of the maple tree is sweet.
- 10) The crow and the falco

Answers:

- 1) true 2) false 3) false 4) true 5) false 6) false 7) true 8) true 9) true
10) false

The Legend of Prometheus and Fire



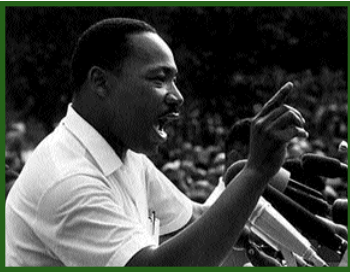
Reading about ancient mythology, I learned that humans didn't discover **fire** at all : it had been given to them as a present. When? How? It was several hundreds of thousands of years ago.

Humans had been created by the earliest gods, the Titans (very strong giants), but they were naked and weak.

Fortunately, a Titan, Prometheus, took pity on them and gave them intelligence. It was a wonderful gift, but they were still naked and weak. Then, with a torch, Prometheus stole a piece of the sun and brought them **fire**.

From now on, they were able to keep warm, get light, scare the wild animals away and cook their food.

Furious, Zeus had Prometheus chained to a rock where every day an eagle came and devoured his liver, which grew again, Prometheus being immortal.



**Dr. Martin Luther KING, Jr.
(1929-1968)**

Born in Atlanta, Georgia, ordained a Baptist minister (at age 17!) like his father, he was one of the principal leaders of the American civil rights movement and a prominent advocate of non-violent resistance to racial and social oppression.

A Doctor of Theology from Boston University, his studies led him to explore the works of Gandhi, whose ideas became the core of his own philosophy of non-violent protest. He even visited India in 1959 to deepen his understanding of this political attitude. Other black leaders were demanding change “by any means possible”, including terrorism, but King’s prestige ensured that non-violence remained the official mode of peaceful resistance, even though he was arrested several times.

On August 28, 1963, he led the historic march on Washington and he will be remembered for ever for his lyrical and riveting speech “I Have a Dream”, delivered from the Lincoln Memorial, in front of a huge crowd and aired all over the country. Its themes were peace, equality and freedom. In 1964, he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

On April 4, 1968, he was assassinated by a white escaped convict.



His mentor was Gandhi!

Pieter Bruegel

Like you, I love to play.

I recently discovered Pieter Bruegel, a Flemish artist who, in 1560, painted a work called Children's Games. That painting really tempted me to join the 230 children in it, as they seemed to be having so much fun.

Imagine, nearly 450 years ago other children played the same games as us, and they already knew 84 of them!

Children's Games is a painting on wood, depicting the beautiful story of those who together shared these games, which they would sometimes lose and sometimes win. That's life!

What really amuses me is to know that Pieter Brueghel (known as the Elder) liked to disguise himself in order to better observe the crowds that frequented public places. It is estimated that he produced 45 paintings and 120 drawings and engravings. He was a hard worker.

Now it's your turn to explore Children's Games. This painting is described by experts as an encyclopaedia.

Why do you think they said that?

I'm waiting for your reply at: **children@gingerbreadguild.org**

Childre Games Pieter Bruegel 1560

Do you know all these games?
See if you could find them in this painting?



**Blind Man's Buff Follow The Leader Knuckle Bones Stilts Odds &
Evens Bolws Top Tug of War Leap Frog Hoops**

The stamp's beginnings

For you and me, it's easy to communicate; our only difficulty is that of choosing the method: phone, fax, telegram, letter, email and the trick is done.

Before such almost immediate exchanges across the planet, people engraved their messages on stone, wood, wax, metal; then they wrote them on papyrus and paper.

For centuries, their parcels, passports, announcements travelled in the bags of animals, in the chests of ships, in the trunks of coaches.



Sir Rowland Hill and the first stamp

Important messages were trusted to runners or reders, to carrier pigeons, always reliable. Then, one used hot air balloons and planes.

Until May 6th, 1840, the addressees had to pay for the letters they received. At this precise date, in England, Sir Roxland Hill invented "ONE PENNY" stamps, and from that day, senders have paid for the postage of their letters by buying stamps.

Today, all states issue stamps at various prices on which you can see a little of their history. To collect, exchange, offer them is exciting! Would you ever have thought of travelling aboard a postage stamps?. Through time and space, you would live incredible adventures; so I recommand two films produced by Roch Demers and Kevin Tiervey, available on video: "Tommy Tricker and the Stamp Traveller" and "The Return of Tommy Tricker." The world of stamps ignorers borders. Take advantage of it!