



At Home in Tunisia

- What are the things that help make Ahmed feel safe, comfortable, and happy?
- How do these things add to his quality of life?

Favourite Foods

Ahmed's favourite food is couscous. Couscous is a grain. His mother serves it with green peppers, carrots, and lamb. Ahmed also likes the fresh bread his mother gets from the market. The bread is flat and round. It smells so good!



Ahmed is a citizen of Tunisia. He lives with his father, his mother, and his older brother. They live in the old part of the city of Tunis. Tunis is the capital of Tunisia. Ahmed's house is made of whitewashed stone with a blue door and blue window frames. The house has a flat roof. On summer nights, the family goes up to the roof to cool off in the breeze. Some of Ahmed's uncles and aunts come over to visit. They talk with his parents.

Ahmed started school when he was six. His school is close to his home. He studies Arabic, French, mathematics, history, and geography.



In the old part of Tunis, the streets are narrow and winding.

Ahmed and his friends enjoy puzzles and drawing. They also love football. Cars are not allowed in old Tunis, so Ahmed and his friends play football on the street in front of his home.



These boys are playing football. It is a very popular game in Tunisia.



In My Own Words

I only have one brother, but my family is very big. There are all my uncles and aunts and cousins. My family does everything together. I know all my neighbours, too. They always say "hello" to me.

My brother and I do some chores around the house. But my mother and father say it is more important for us to study hard.

Ahmed, Tunisia

Fact Flash

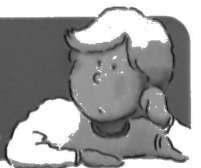
In Tunisia and many other countries, people play football. In North America the same game is called soccer.

Here AND There

Computer games are played by children in Canada, Tunisia, and other countries around the world.



Think About It



What are some things that are important to Ahmed and his family? How do you know?



In the new part of Tunis, there are many tall buildings and offices.

In the City

The old part of Tunis is crowded with people. Covered markets called *souks* (sooks) sell spices, carpets, jewellery, and many other items. The new part of the city is full of cars, trucks, and buses. Horns honk and engines roar. Ahmed's father works in a bank there. He speaks Arabic and French at work. He goes to the bank on a streetcar. Ahmed's mother teaches at a school nearby. She walks to work.

At noon the family eats together. The lunch break in Tunisia is two hours long. That means Ahmed's mother and father have time to come home for a meal with Ahmed and his brother.

Did You Know ?

Many business people in Tunisia use French in their jobs.



In a *souk*, you can buy plates, fruit, and spices like the ones shown here.



In the Country

Ahmed's grandparents live in a village. It has electricity and good roads. Ahmed's grandfather is a farmer. He grows orange and almond trees. Other farmers nearby grow wheat, barley, and sugar beets. Ahmed's grandparents don't need a car. They visit the city by bus or train. Sometimes they share a taxi with other people.

Some people in Tunisia used to be **nomads**. They travelled across the country looking for food and water. They kept goats and camels or horses. Today most of these people live in villages where the children go to school.

These carrots were grown on farms in Tunisia. They are being shipped to local markets where they will be sold.



In My Own Words

I like visiting my grandparents' farm. Tunis doesn't have many parks, so it's great to be able to walk around and see trees and flowers.

Ahmed, Tunisia



These camels are resting. Nomads of southern Tunisia use camels to travel.



Services in Tunisia

- Do people in Tunisia have the services they need?
- How do services affect communities in Tunisia?

Here AND There

In Canada, students learn English and French. They also learn other languages. In Tunisia, students learn Arabic and French. They also learn English.

Protection

Long ago, people protected their towns by building walls around them. The walls kept out invaders. Today, people watch their neighbours' houses to make sure everything is okay.

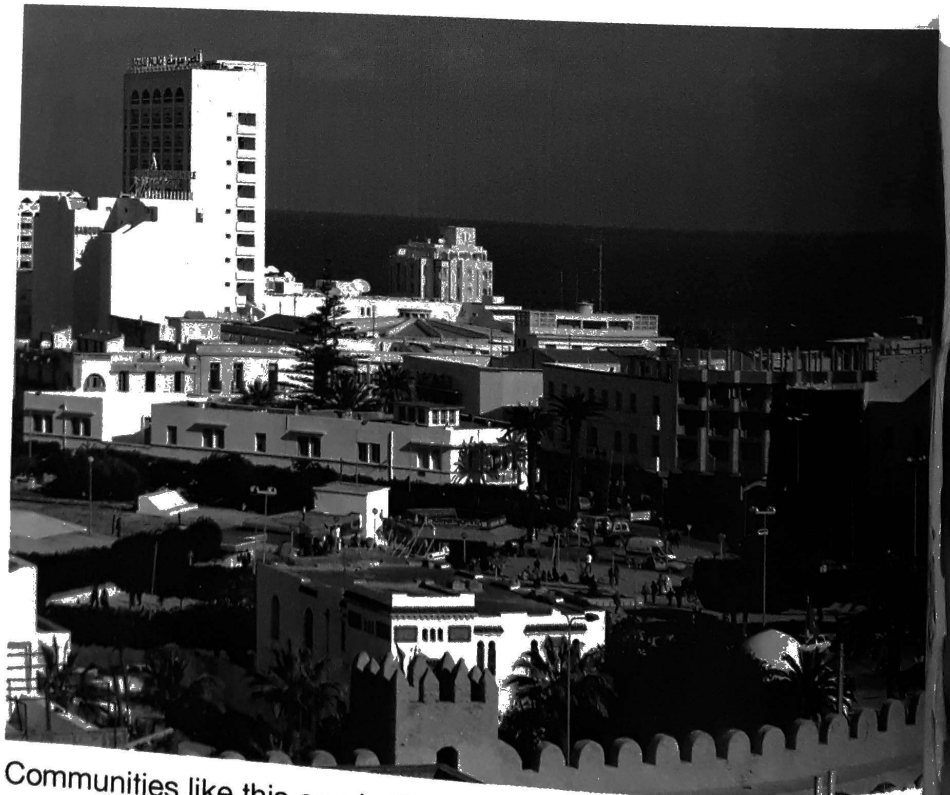


Ahmed's home in Tunis is comfortable. His parents can afford to pay for running water and electricity. His family has a television, a telephone, and a computer.

At the edges of the city, many homes are crowded together. People have fewer services. Most homes have electricity, but some people cannot afford televisions or refrigerators. Some people get water from a public fountain.

Ahmed's school is in an old building, but it has new equipment. Ahmed likes using the computer and the library. Not all schools in Tunis have computers.

When Ahmed is sick, his mother takes him to the health clinic nearby. Everyone in Tunisia has access to health care.



Communities like this one in Tunisia have electricity, running water, and hospitals.

In a Village

Ahmed likes to visit his grandparents in their village. His family drives there often.

In the village, there is a library and a new health clinic. The houses all have electricity. Some people in the village get their water from a well.

Ahmed's uncle Ali also lives in the village. He is a metal worker, and he uses electric tools. Ahmed's grandparents don't have a phone. But his uncle Ali has a cell phone.

Ahmed's cousin Saida goes to the village school. The school is close to her house. Some of Saida's friends live outside the village. They have to walk a long way to get to school.



Children in Tunisia go to school six days a week.

Fact Flash

Firefighters in Tunisia are not as busy as firefighters in many other countries. That's because houses in Tunisia are built of stone or brick. They don't burn as quickly as other kinds of houses.



This road sign is near the desert in Tunisia. It warns drivers that camels may cross the road.

Think About It



- What are some services in the city of Tunis?
- What are some services in the village?
- How do these services make people feel healthy and comfortable?

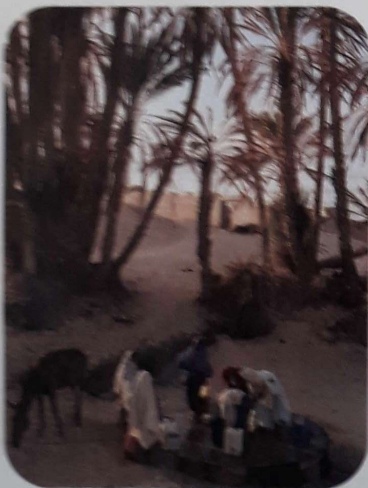
Think About It



Why would solar power work well in the desert?

Water

Water is scarce in parts of Tunisia. In the desert, there is almost no rain. People get water from an **oasis**. An oasis is a place in the desert where there is water under the sand.



Some villages in the desert are using **solar power**. Special panels collect energy from the sun. The energy is turned into electricity. People use solar power for light and heat.

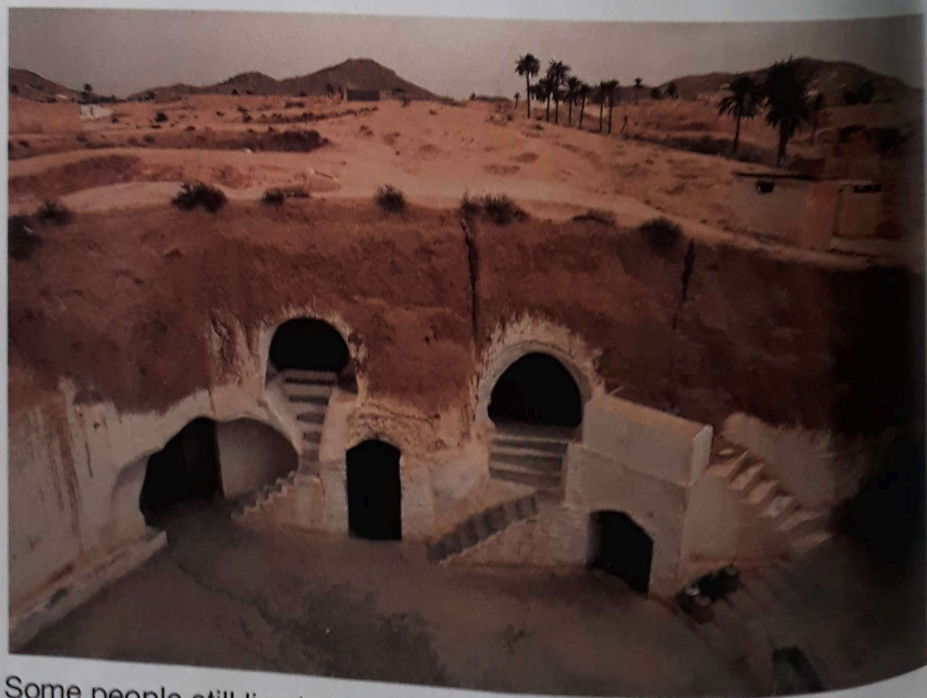


In My Own Words

Today, our teacher talked about desert people in southern Tunisia. Some people used to live in houses carved into the rock. These houses kept them cool in summer and warm in winter. People travelled using donkey carts or camels.

Now many desert villages have new houses with electricity and running water. There are also schools, doctors, and post offices in the villages. Some people still use camels, but many others use Jeeps or vans to travel in the desert.

Ahmed, Tunisia



Some people still live in houses underground.