

The rat was very proud to be the first to be asked and went off to tell the cat. The cat was afraid he might oversleep and made the rat promise to give him an early morning call. That night the rat began to imagine how ugly he would look in comparison to the sleek and handsome cat, and he decided to let the cat oversleep.

So the next morning the King inspected the animals, but then turned to his adviser and asked why there were only eleven. Having no answer, the adviser quickly sent a servant down to Earth to catch the first animal he could – it turned out to be a pig.

Meanwhile, at the Jade King's palace in Heaven, the rat was afraid he was so small that the King wouldn't notice him, so he sat on the ox's back and played a flute! The King was so delighted that he awarded the rat first place, and the ox second. The tiger was placed third for his courage and the rabbit fourth because of his fine white fur. Then followed the dragon, the snake, the horse, the goat, the monkey, the rooster and the dog. The latecomer, the pig, was put in twelfth place.

The Chinese New Year doesn't begin on the same date every year, although it always falls between 20 January and 20 February, so if you were born between those dates you need to look at a table of dates to work out which Chinese year you belong to.

#### Here are the tables from 2001-2015 to help you:

**24 January 2001 to 11 February 2002 – SNAKE** 

12 February 2002 to 31 January 2003 - HORSE

1 February 2003 to 21 January 2004 - GOAT

22 January 2004 to 8 February 2005 - MONKEY

9 February 2005 to 28 January 2006 - ROOSTER

29 January 2006 to 17 February 2007 – DOG

18 February 2007 to 6 February 2008 - PIG

7 February 2008 to 25 January 2009 – RAT

26 January 2009 to 13 February 2010 – OX

14 February 2010 to 2 February 2011 – TIGER

3 February 2011 to 22 January 2012 - RABBIT

23 January 2012 to 9 February 2013 - DRAGON

10 February 2013 to 30 January 2014 - SNAKE

31 January 2014 to 18 February 2015 – HORSE

19 February 2015 to 7 February 2016 - GOAT

RAT

A real party animal! Sociable but also cheeky, choosy and calculating. The rathas a nose for business and a way of finding simple solutions to difficult problems.

© John Good



Practical, down-to-earth and patient sometimes to the point of being stubborn! But the ox is very honest and loyal and has an excellent memory.

TIGER

Quick-witted, energetic, brave and passionate! The tiger likes to take risks and to show off a bit...

RABBIT

Cautious, sensible, reserved and thoughtful. The rabbit has expensive tastes and appreciates things which are rare, beautiful and good.

DRAGON

Stylish, charming with a magnetic personality. The dragon likes to attract attention and to be admired.

SNAKE

Elegant and refined, the snake has a taste for the mysterious. Rather lazy, but also ambitious — if a snake really wants something, he'll probably get it!

HORSE

Fiery, impetuous and unpredictable, but the horse can change his mood in a flash and become calm, serene and full of charm and good humour.

GOAT

Sensitive and tender. A gentle, dreamy nature gives the goat a delicate, changeable, temperamental character.

MONKEY

Blessed with a thousand and one talents and hardly time to use them all, the monkey loves being talked about by other people!

ROOSTER

Proud, loyal and determined, roosters don't beat about the bush and sometimes end up with their foot in their mouth!

DOG

Faithful, positive, spontaneous and always on the go. Dogs don't like to be alone and their devotion to those they love knows no bounds.

PIG

Cheerful, easy-going and pleasure-loving, pigs are also brave, sturdy and tough.

# ALADDIN... Lad with the lamp!

The story of *Aladdin* and his wonderful lamp is one of the most popular tales of all time. Here we find out where the story came from and how it has grown into the famous pantomime show.

#### Where does Aladdin come from?

A lthough most modern pantomime versions of Aladdin are set in a Chinese background, the story originated in another part of the world, the Middle East. The basic tale is many hundreds of years old, although much of the modern version has been added in more recent times.

Like the adventures of *Sinbad the Sailor* and *Ali Baba*, the story of Aladdin can be found in the famous collection of old Arabian and Eastern tales, the *One Thousand and One Nights*, also known as the *Arabian Nights*.



#### About the Arabian Nights

ost people are familiar with the structure of the *Arabian Nights*. It features a powerful, but terrible king called Shahriyar who discovers that his wife has been unfaithful to him and, in his rage, vows to marry a new wife every day and kill her at dawn the next day.

However, things change when he marries a clever young girl called Sheherazade. On their wedding night, knowing that she only has hours left to live, Sheherazade begins to tell her husband a story. When dawn comes she still has not finished and, so keen is the King to hear more, that he decides not to kill her until next day. But the following night the same thing happens and, night after night,

the inventive young girl keeps the King entertained with exciting tales. Finally, after a thousand and one nights have passed, the King realises that he loves Sheherazade too much to ever consider killing her and they live happily ever after.

No one knows exactly when the *Arabian Nights* was written or who the authors were. It is most likely that the linking story of Sheherazade and the King was created by one author and then hundreds of stories and folk tales from many different countries were added over the years. The complete book is said to date back to as early as 850AD. The first European translations were not made until 1704.



# Were there really a thousand and one stories?

t is doubtful that the Arabian Nights ever contained a thousand and one stories the best estimate is around two

hundred and sixty. In fact the phrase 'a thousand and one' was probably just a fancy way of saying 'lots and lots' in the same way that we say 'hundreds and thousands'.



t might seem unusual that a story written in Arabic over a thousand years ago should be set in China, but in fact many of the tales in the Arabian Nights come from or are set in other countries, including India, Iran, Iraq, Turkey, Egypt and Greece, as well as China and Arabia. This is because the stories were collected together during the height of the Islamic Empire, which stretched from Spain and Portugal in the west, right across Africa and much of Asia. Traders from the Empire visited most of the known world (and may even have reached the Americas, according to some historians), bringing back tales and legends as well as goods and treasures.





he Pantomime

The first stage version of Aladdin was seen in London's Covent Garden Theatre in 1788. This was followed by a comedy musical version of the tale in 1813 starring the famous English clown Joseph Grimaldi (who was like a film star back then). At the time people in Britain were fascinated by China and the Orient; willow pattern plates were introduced and ships such as the clipper Cutty Sark were doing a brisk trade importing tea and other merchandise. As a result, the story of Aladdin developed into a far more Chinese tale than the original and has remained that way ever since.

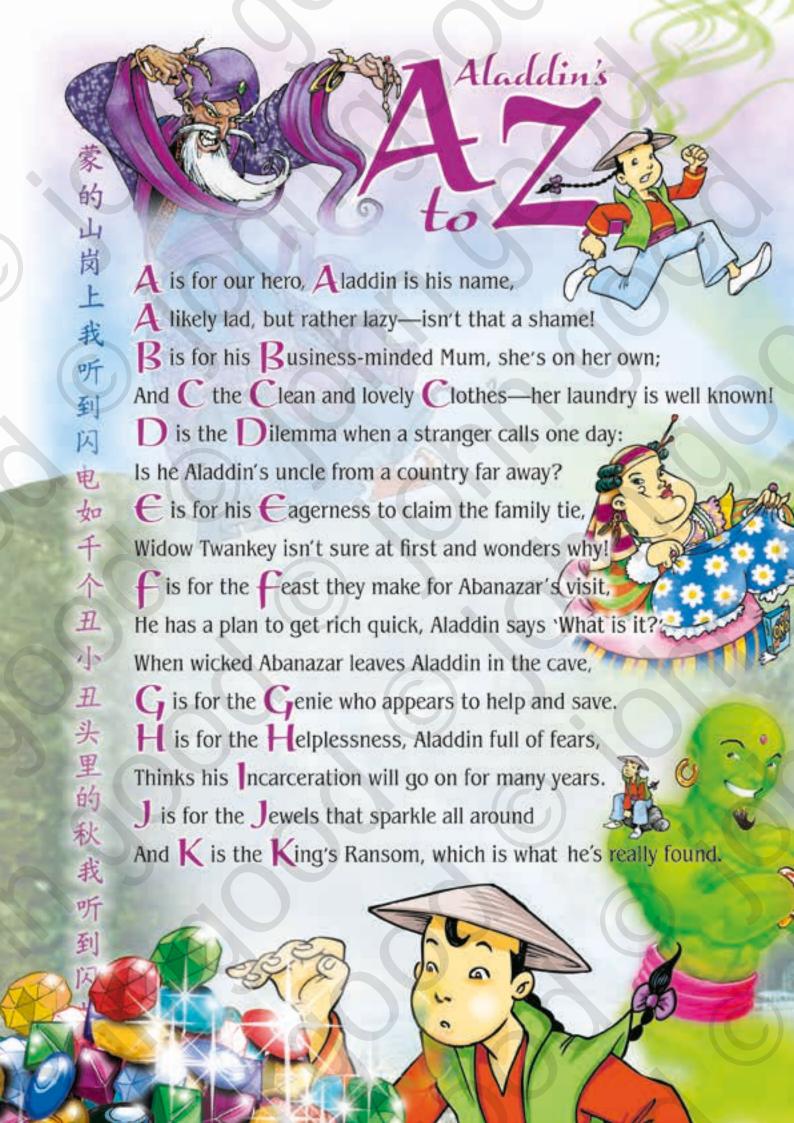
### Changing Names

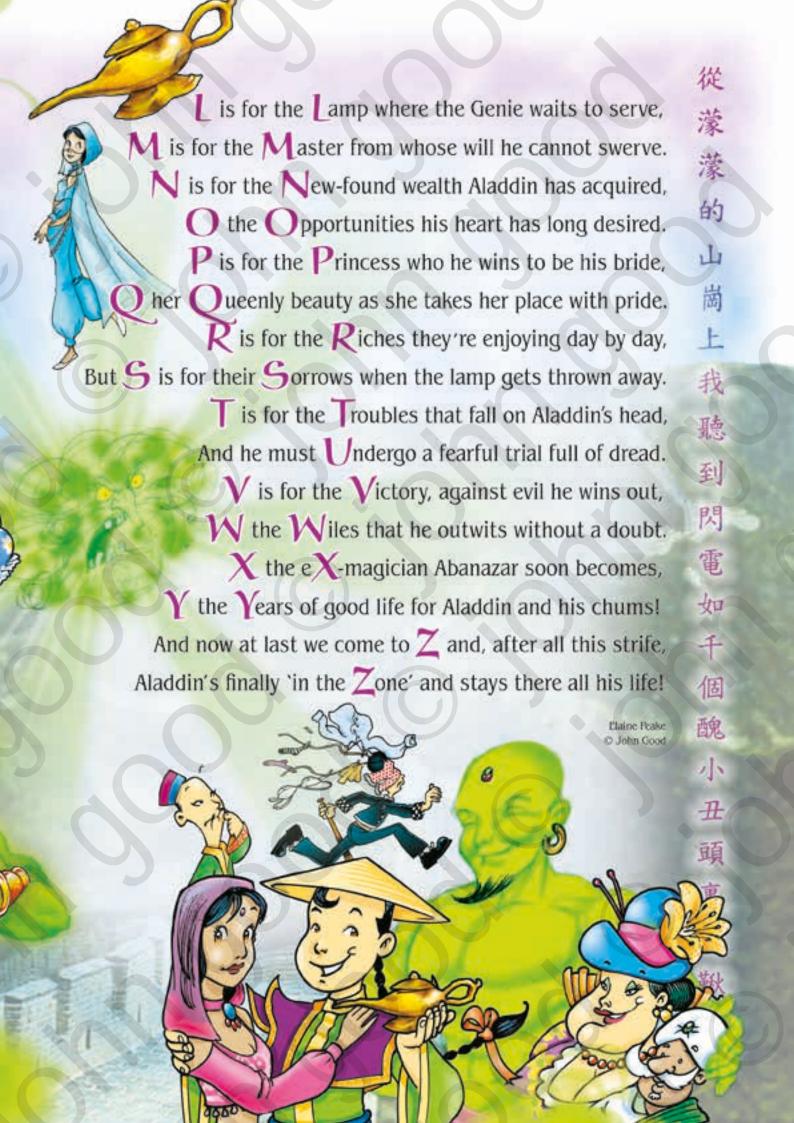
s the pantomime of Aladdin changed over the years, so many of the characters we know today were added or had their names changed. Aladdin's mother, for example, was known for years as Widow Ching Mustapha (a name that was part Chinese, part Arabic). In 1861, however, this was changed to Widow Twankey, named after a popular brand of Chinese tea. Similarly the evil magician Abanazar was simply known as the 'African Magician' until 1813. And as for Aladdin's brothers Wishee and Washee, they didn't even exist in the original story! Along with the laundry, they were

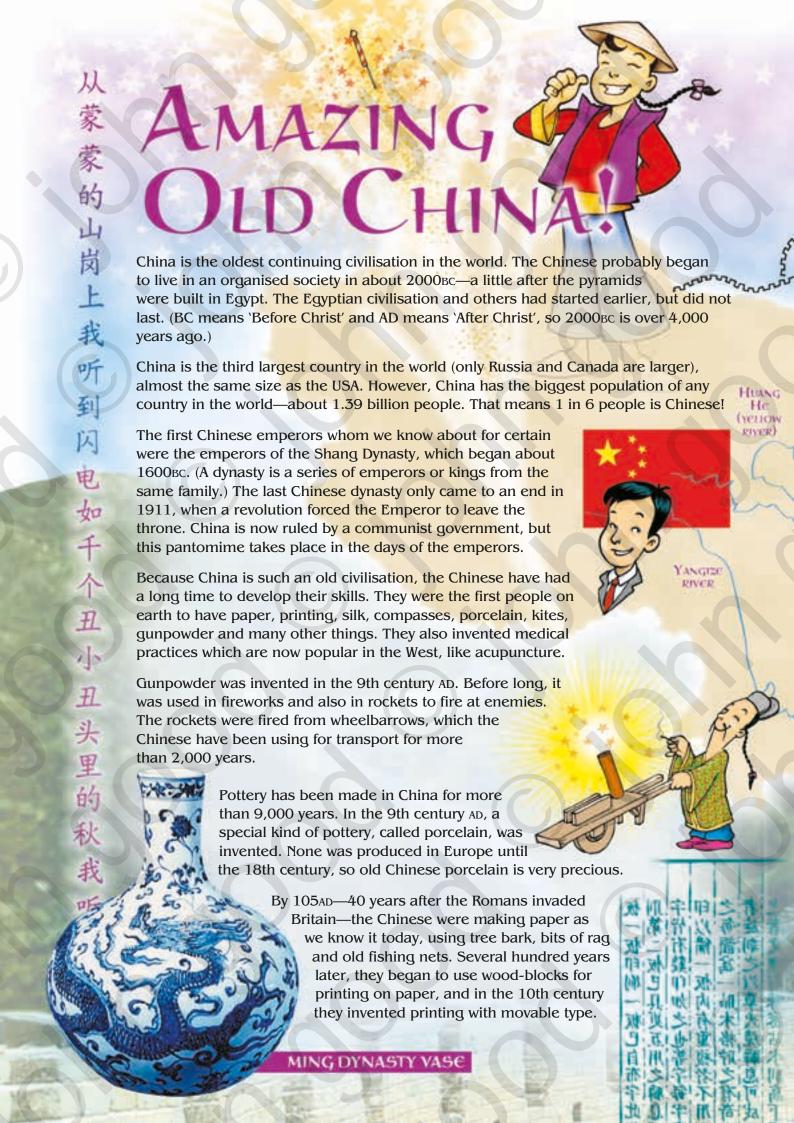
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added relatively

recently.







The Chinese have been making silk for over 2,000 years. They collect it from silkworms and use a loom to weave it into cloth.

To tell the time, the Chinese invented the frankincense-burner and the water clock.



The Great Wall of China was began more than 2,000 years ago. It grew longer bit by bit, until it was five thousand kilometres (more than three thousand miles) long! It was finally finished in 1368.

Was many misted in 1500.

The Chinese were the first to invent the compass, using a material called *lodestone*. The difference from today's compasses is that they pointed south.

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© John Good

China is a huge country, with two very long rivers, the *Yangtze* (the third longest river in the world) and the *Huang He* or Yellow River. The western part of China is very mountainous, but the eastern region is flat and used for growing rice, tea and many other crops.

The greatest man in China to explore the seas was Admiral Zheng He, who sailed as far as Malaysia, India, Persia and Africa. He died in 1435, which was 57 years before Christopher Columbus crossed the Atlantic (with ships only one-third the size of Zheng He's ships). In the 15th century, the Chinese stopped making voyages of discovery, just as Europeans were starting.

#### ADMIRAL ZHENG HE

Try this acrostic—all the clues you need to complete it are on these two pages! When you have found all eleven words going across, find the hidden word going down!

going across, find the hidden word going dow	n!
To make fireworks, you need what?	China's greatest admiral was called He.
A very famous and valuable type of pottery.	
	China's longest river (and the third longest in the world) is called the
Over 2,000 years ago, building work began on the Great?	
	To make paper, you might use bits of rag and tree
The first actually pointed south.	The Chinese
By 105AD, the Chinese knew how to make a really important	invented this to use with their paper.
writing material.	To tell the time, the Chinese invented a water
To make silk, you need to	







# ALADDIN'S HIDDEN MESSAGE

Cross out all the words from the list below when you find them in the grid. The letters you are left with will spell out Aladdin's message to you.



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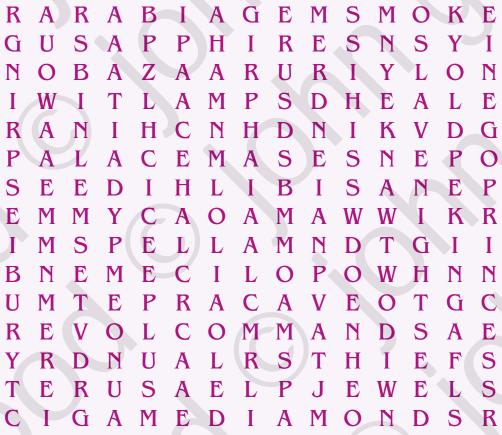
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**ABANAZAR** 我 CARPET **DIAMONDS** 听 HIDE 到 LAUNDRY **OLD PEKING** 闪 **POLICEMEN RUB THE LAMP** SPELL

WISH

**ALADDIN** CAVE **EMPEROR JEWELS** LOVE **OPEN SESAME PRINCESS** SAPPHIRES THIEF

**ARABIA** CHINA GEMS KIND MAGIC **PALACE** RING SLAVE WIDOW TWANKEY

BAZAAR **COMMAND** GENIE LAMP **NIGHTS PLEASURE** RUBIES SMOKE

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### COLOUR ME IN!

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Here's a picture of Aladdin and the Genie for you to colour in!

蒙 濛 蒙 濛 的 敞 的 岗 4 0 上我听 崗 (M) 上 我 闪 聽 电 到 如千 e @ 閃 電 丑 如 ठठठठठ 丑 個 头 醜 里 的 小 秋 丑 我 頭 听 裏 到 的 闪 电

從

# \*DOT to DOT!

When his nefarious schemes are discovered, Abanazar usually tries to get away by changing shape.

Can you find out what he has transformed into by joining up the dots?

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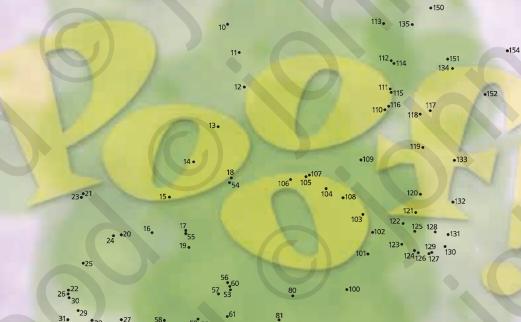
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# THE NOT-SO-GREAT WALL OF CHINA

蒙蒙的

This piece of the Great Wall of China has fallen down, and Wishee Washee has to put it back together again! Can you tell him which bits go where, and also which bit doesn't belong in the Wall at all?



濛

濛

的

山

从 蒙蒙的 山 岗 上我 听 到 闪 电如 千个丑 小 £ 头 里的 秋 我 听 到 闪

电

## LOOKING FOR THE LAMP

That awful Abanazar has imprisoned Aladdin in this cave to find the magic lamp. Can you tell which trail leads to the lamp?



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# SILLY SUDOKU!

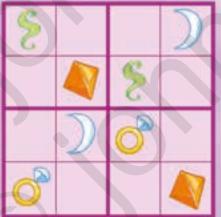
hen he was trapped in Abanazar's cave, Aladdin found some old, dusty parchments, covered with grids. Each grid had drawings of different items on them.

Aladdin soon worked out that they were puzzles. Here is one of the first ones he did. The grid below is made up of 16 squares, divided into four smaller boxes of four squares each.

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The idea is to fill it so that every row and column of the large grid and every smaller  $2 \times 2$  box contains each of the four different shaped items. Can you solve it?

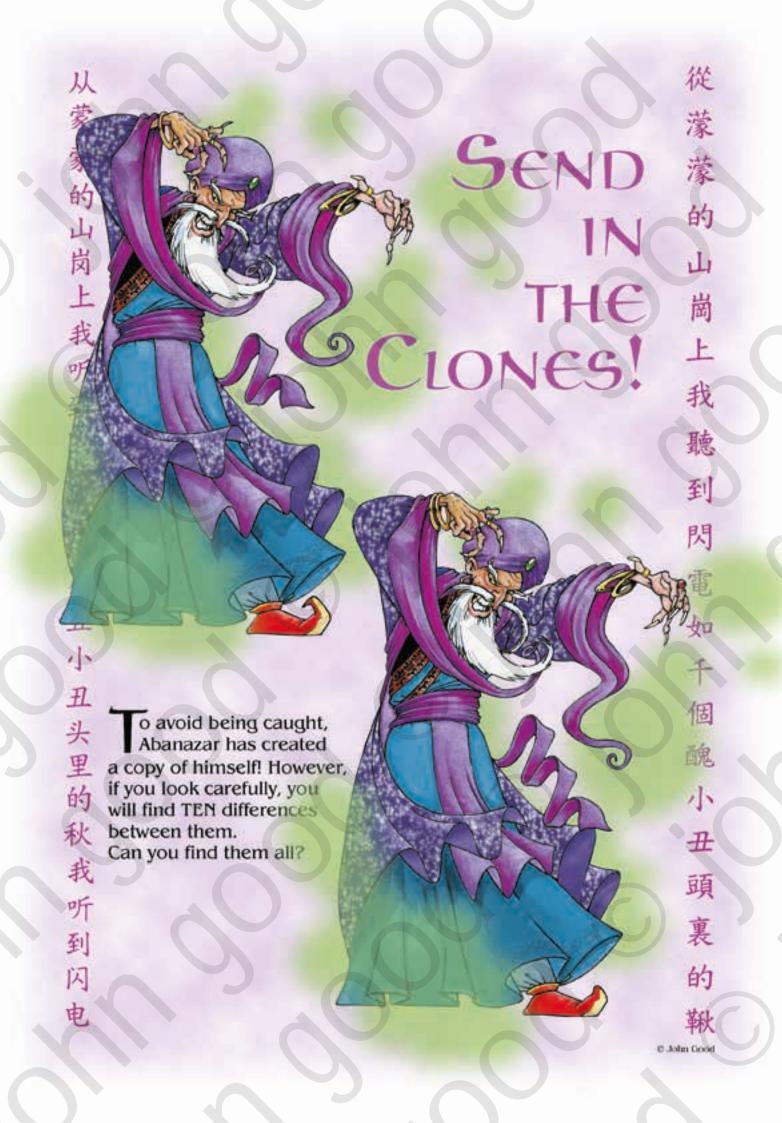


He found harder puzzles too—an extra two items in a bigger grid, so that each row, column and box has six squares. See if you can do this one!





從 JOIN THE DOTS! 蒙的 h-oh! That wicked Abanazar has changed himself into something terrible! Join up the dots to find out what he has turned himself into. 的 山 岗 Ц 我 •21 27 听 到 33 . . 31 闪 .32 47 电 +48 到 11 ·130 如 49 51 -132 10. 閃 128 -131 127. •54 .59 電 .56 126. •133 .98 Ŧ 如 125.0134 124. 74 •135 .99 100 . 123\*\*136 •101 66. 102 +137 個 .80 68 71 •103 122 醜 里的 •121 70 82 \*105 -139 \*84 \*107 120 108 140 111. 秋 118 1 -116 •119 頣 113 •117 •115 的 电 鞦 Colorn Good



从 的 山 岗 我 听 闪 电 如 丑 FL 头 里 的

#### WISHEE WASHING WONDERFUL WASHING WORDSEARCHU

Washing things out! Can you find all the words they may read backwards, forwards, up, down and even diagonally! When you have found all the words, there will be some letters left over, which will spell something out. Can you find out what it says?

REDWOP PAOS SSSRESUOR PHESSE R K C E R E T 1 D UNDE RP 1 Y L ARBUURE LOVSE AOR GHIT 5 SABN LN K ERGENTRO YTUMBLEDRY

TROUSERS CAP SKIRT TIE IRON

FARRIC SOFTENER VEST

SPIN DRYER LAUNDERETT

KNICKERS SOCKS

WATER TIGHTS

LINEN BASKET SHORTS

WASHING MACHINE DETERGENT

UNDERPANTS TUMBLE DRYE

DRY CLEANING SOAP POWDE

VEST SLIP
LAUNDERETTE SHIRT
SOCKS BRA
TIGHTS BLOUSE
SHORTS STARCH
DETERGENT DRESS
TUMBLE DRYER ROBE
SOAP POWDER

丑頭裏的鞦

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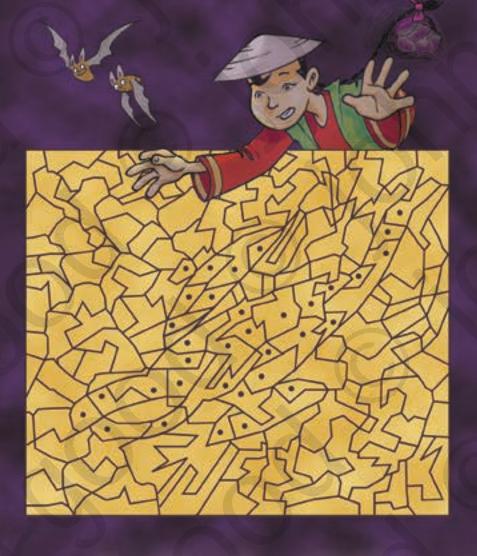
小

從 从 CUNNING 蒙 濛 蒙的 CODEWORDS! 的 山 Joth Abanazar and Aladdin know that the magic 岗 words to open the mouth of the secret cave are Ш 'OPEN SESAME'! However, only one of these codes is the right one, as they've all been jumbled up! 崗 Can you help them find it? 我 上 听 NESSA MEPPO! OS SEE MEESA! 我 到 闪 聽 电 到 如 MEANO SEE ENO SPAM! POSES! 電 NESPO SEMAM! 如 1 個 ONE PAS SEMO! 醜 小 秋 丑 我 頭 听 裏 到 闪 的 电 鞦 to John Good

从 蒙 蒙的 山岗 上 北 听 丑 闪 电

# ROOTING THROUGHTHE RUBBLE!

Abanazar. Whilst scrambling around in the dark, he finds something buried in the rubble. What is it? Colour in the areas with dots in them and find out what Aladdin has found!



C John Good

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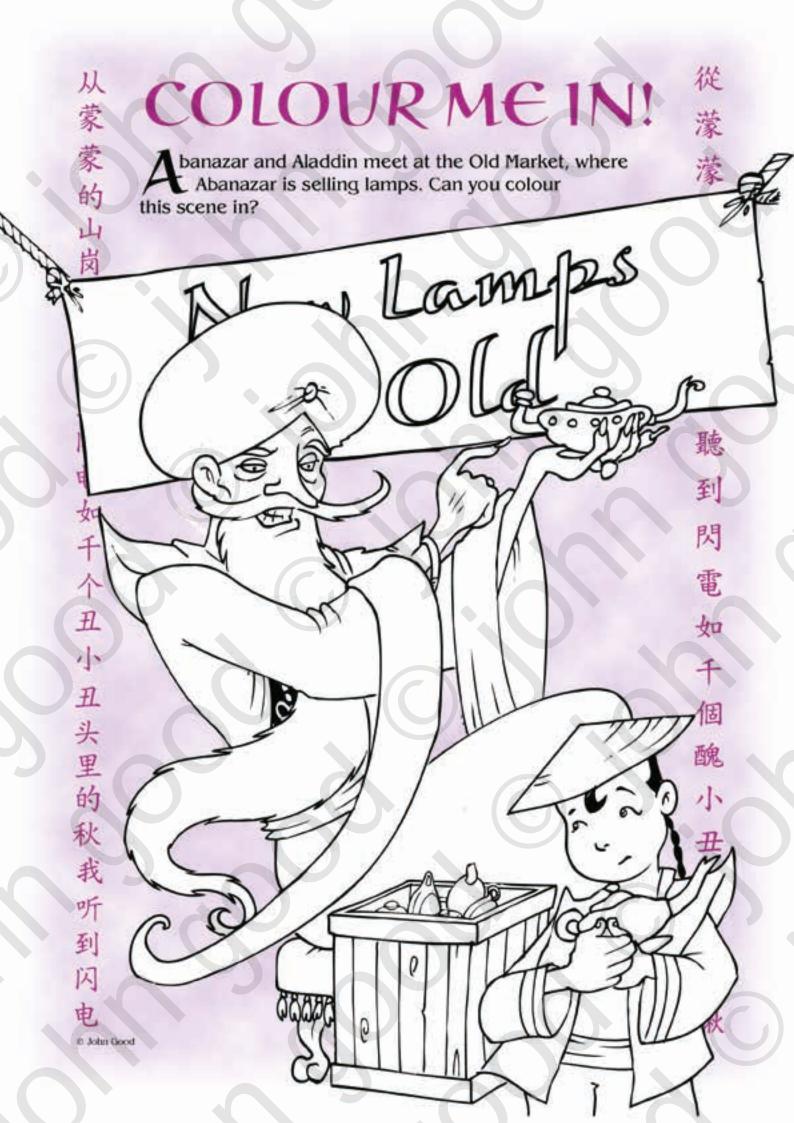
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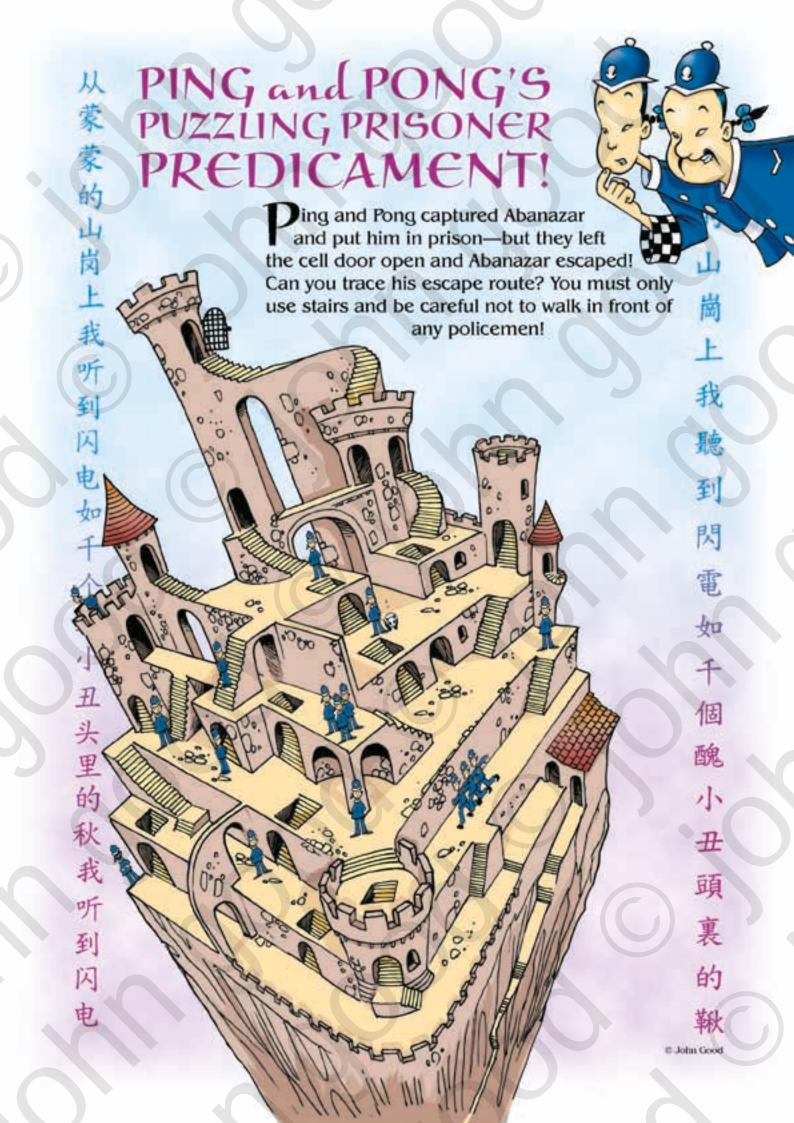
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# ANSWERS

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DOT to DOT



Wang and Chang are the twins!

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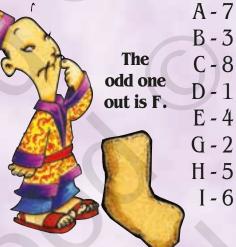
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NOT-SO-GREAT WALLOFCHINA



C-8 D-1 E-4

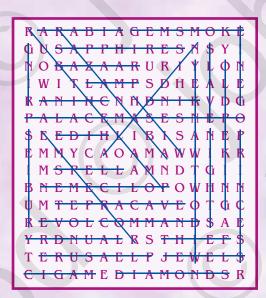


LOOKING FOR THE LAMP





ALADDIN'S HIDDEN MESSAGE



YOUR WISH IS MY COMMAND, O MASTER'

濛 濛 的 山 崗 我 聽 到 閃 電 如 7 個 醜 小 丑 頭

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# ANSWERS

PING and	PONGS
PUZZLINGI	PRISONER
PREDIC	AMENT!



CHINESE ACROSTIC

CUNNING CODEWORDS!

GUNPOWDER ZHENG PORCELAIN YANGTZE WALL BARK

COMPASS PRINTING PAPER CLOCK

SILKWORMS

蒙蒙的山 SILLY SuDoku! 岗 我 到 闪 电 如 千 个 丑 小 丑 头 里 的 SEE ENO 秋 SPAM! 我 听 到

從 濛 濛 的 山 崗 我 聽 到 閃 電 如 個 醜 小 丑 頭 裏 的

# ANSWERS

蒙蒙的 山岗

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WISHEE WASHEE'S WONDERFUL Washing WORDSEARCH!

SEND IN THE CLONES!

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NTSSSRESUORITA PHESSERDIRB ONETDETS KEINIYA RBUUREN 1 B 1 O V 5 C A O YRDTIGHT SRITEKSABNE ADETERGENTRO TUMBLEDR

THE CHINESE LAUNDRY

JOIN THE DOTS!

閃 ROOTING THROUGH THE RUBBLE! 如





SAY IT WITH SOCKS!

'Aladdin, hurry up and get more soap from Mr Wong, we've run out.'

电 如 千 个丑 小 丑 头 里 的 秋 我 听 到 闪 电