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My foray into the Middle East

Fern EDEBOHLS (Australia)
Teacher in the Integrated
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Morocco was as close to the Middle East as I had ever been, and I had long wanted to see world-famous Petra, so when a friend asked if I was interested in visiting Egypt and Jordan this summer, I did not hesitate.

I loved the entire trip: the people, who ranged from joking Egyptians to warmly welcoming Jordanians; the food, with staples of pita bread, olives, cheese, falafel, and hummus, not to mention the mouth-watering sweets; and the historical sites, which remain astonishingly well preserved after thousands of years. Our trip began in Cairo, Egypt, and ended in Amman, Jordan. It took three weeks, during which we traveled on trains, jeeps, buses, donkeys, ferries, boats, camels and of course, on foot.



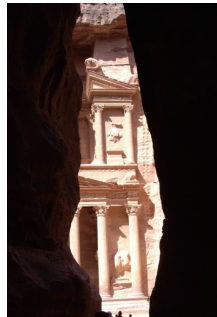
▲The Pyramids of Giza

We began with three days walking the streets of Cairo: through the Islamic area, the tourist bazaars, the old Coptic churches and the lively modern town. On the fourth day we went to the Pyramids of Giza – perhaps Egypt's most famous site. Yes, I did go into a pyramid and yes it was very hot, cramped and smelly. I loved it! It is amazing to think that they have been sitting there for over 4000 years.

Once we left Cairo, we headed south almost to the Sudanese border, traveling by train, boat and bus, and visiting impressive ancient temples and tombs along the way. Highlights include three days spent cruising down the Nile, the huge temples carved out of the mountainside in Abu Simbel, and a visit to the Valley of the Kings in Luxor, where Tutankhamen's impressive treasure was found. After taking in a lot of historical sites, we felt in need of some relaxation, and so we headed to the beach. A few days spent snorkeling and swimming in the Red Sea, and we were ready to venture into Jordan.

In Jordan I finally got to see my beloved Petra. It is truly impressive. We spent 8 hours in the hot desert heat walking up, down, through and around Petra and managed to see a tiny part of it. There are houses, temples, tombs, churches and more that were built and used 5000 years ago. It really is a window into the past, and the countryside is spectacular too.

Coming from Australia, where we learn about the past 200 years as ancient history, it was a shock to see beautiful structures in both Egypt and Jordan, built thousands of years ago and still standing today. People in ancient times achieved truly amazing things, without all of the technology that we have available today. Time and again I found myself gazing up at another spectacular building and wondering at what humans are capable of.



◀The treasury at Petra ▲Wadi Rum, Jordan



▲Edfu Temple

The first thing many people say when I tell them I visited Egypt and Jordan over the summer, is "Oh, lucky you, you can speak English". Yes, it's true, English is helpful. Airline staff, immigration officials and hotel staff do speak English. Not everyone does, though. I got by on a mixture of a little English, broken (very broken) Arabic, and gestures. I think the gesturing was the most effective. English is helpful, but do not let concern about your language skills stop you from exploring a new country. There are other ways to communicate and a friendly smile usually gets you halfway there. Every time I travel to a new country, I learn a lot about that country, but also a lot about what I am capable of when I put my mind to it. If you get the chance, do not hesitate to venture out and see what you can of the world. It really is amazing. 🇸🇰



Third Culture Kids

George PRUITT (USA)
Headmaster



▲Two children--one a TCK--at an international preschool.

Have you ever heard the term "third culture kids"? I had not until the headmaster of another international school serving on the same panel as me introduced me to the subject during a presentation at the small conference we were attending.

I was particularly interested in this topic because my own daughter easily qualifies as one of these kids. Her mother is Chinese and her father is American. Yet she has been born and raised in Japan and is attending a Japanese pre-school where all of her classmates are Japanese but where the mode of instruction is English. She frequently stays for long periods of time with relatives in China and America. At home, during the day, when she is alone with her

mother, she speaks Chinese. She is taught in English, but when the mothers and the other children go to a local park to play after school on most days, they speak to one another in Japanese. When her father returns from work in the evening, they interact in English. So who, exactly, is she? Ruther Hill Useem, the sociologist who coined this term in the 1960s, wrote that third culture kids (TCKs) have "spent a significant period of time in one or more culture(s) other than his or her own, thus integrating elements of those cultures and their own birth culture, into a third culture".

Moving from country to country often becomes an easy thing for most TCKs. However, many TCKs take years to readjust to their passport countries. They often suffer a reverse culture shock upon their return, and are constantly homesick for their adopted countries. Many TCKs simply don't know where they come from. Studies have consistently shown that TCKs get along better with one another than single culture kids from the same country.

Because TCKs have deep access to the norms, values and resources of two or more cultures, they tend to be independent and cosmopolitan, but they also often struggle with their identities and with the losses they have suffered in each move.

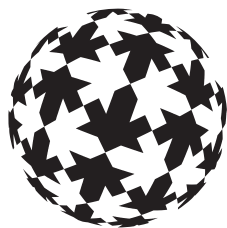
TCKs are four times more likely than non-TCKs to earn college degrees. Educators, doctors, the professions and self-employment are the most common jobs for TCKs once they have graduated. Few work for big business or the government. Divorce among TCKs is lower than among non-TCKs.

There are many different characteristics that impact the typical TCK. The bad news is that TCKs feel out

of sync with their peers and are more often prone to depression. The good news is that most of them feel like they can get along with just about anyone.

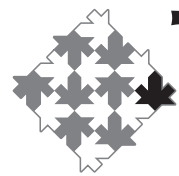
I will tell my daughter all about this when she gets a little older. In the meantime, if you have an interest in the subject, read Useem's wonderful and eye-opening book that introduced us to third culture children. 🇸🇰

CHOTTO CHAT



"Go and talk to the Native Faculties !"

In the kitchen room
from 3:30 to 5:00pm
Mon/Wed/Fri



▲第2回フロンティアカップ(小学生英語スピーチコンテスト)でモデルスピーチする国際生

[国境なき共同空間]

宇宙開発の幕開けは、1957年のソビエト連邦(現ロシア連邦)による世界初の人工衛星スプートニク1号と言えるだろう。その後の冷戦時代には、アメリカ合衆国とソビエト連邦が国家の威信をかけて宇宙開発の劇的な競争を繰り広げることになる。ソビエト連邦の崩壊による冷戦終結、そして、その後の世界経済の悪化によって、採算の取れない宇宙開発を取り巻く環境は、宇宙開発を行う各国の関係を「競争」から「協調」へと変化させていく。莫大な費用を必要とする宇宙開発事業はもはや単独の国で実施することは困難となったのである。ロナルド・レーガン米大統領によって打ち出された国際宇宙ステーション「フリーダム計画」は、冷戦時代における西側諸国の結束力を東側諸国へアピールするための政治的な側面が強かったが、その後、計画の目的を平和利用に修正し、1988年9月には政府間協定^[1]が締結され、国際協

力による宇宙開発事業の象徴である国際宇宙ステーション(ISS:International Space Station)の建設が2010年の完成を目指して本格的にスタートするに至った。これは人類の英知を集めた史上最も高価な国際プロジェクトであり、人類による深宇宙探究の道を拓くものとされている。

現在の国際宇宙ステーションの役割は主に「観測と実験」である。地上から約400キロはなれた地球周回軌道上を約90分で1周しながら、地球や宇宙の観測、微小重力環境を利用したさまざまな研究と実験を行う巨大な建造物で、それはサッカー場ほどの大きさである。近い将来に、国際宇宙ステーションの運用が本格的に始まれば、我々は宇宙空間を背景にした地球の姿や、共同生活を送るクルーたちをテレビで見ることが可能となってくる。これらの体験を通して、地球上の人間は、宇宙からの視点で自分自身を見つめ直

し、人生観や世界観を変えていくのかも知れない。いつしか世界の文化にも影響を与えていこう。

人類は見たことのない場所に行きたがるものだ。あらゆる面で好奇心が強く、宇宙への探究心を持つことはごく自然なことである。しかしながら、宇宙開発に巨額の資金を投じる以上、それなりの責任が求められる。地上の遥か上空では厳格なルールのもと、多国籍、多文化、多宗教のクルーたちが国境の存在しない小さな空間で社会を形成し、また地上から多数の関係者の協力を得ながら、ポジティブに困難に立ち向かう体制を整えている。日本を含む宇宙開発事業の参加国は国際協力のバイオニアとして、宇宙開発の平和利用を成功させる責任を負っている。🇸🇰

[1]アメリカ、ロシア、日本、カナダ、欧州宇宙機関(ESA)加盟11ヶ国の計15ヶ国による協定。正式名は「民生用国際宇宙基地のための協力に関するカナダ政府、欧州宇宙機関の加盟国政府、日本国政府、ロシア連邦政府及びアメリカ合衆国政府の間の協定」。