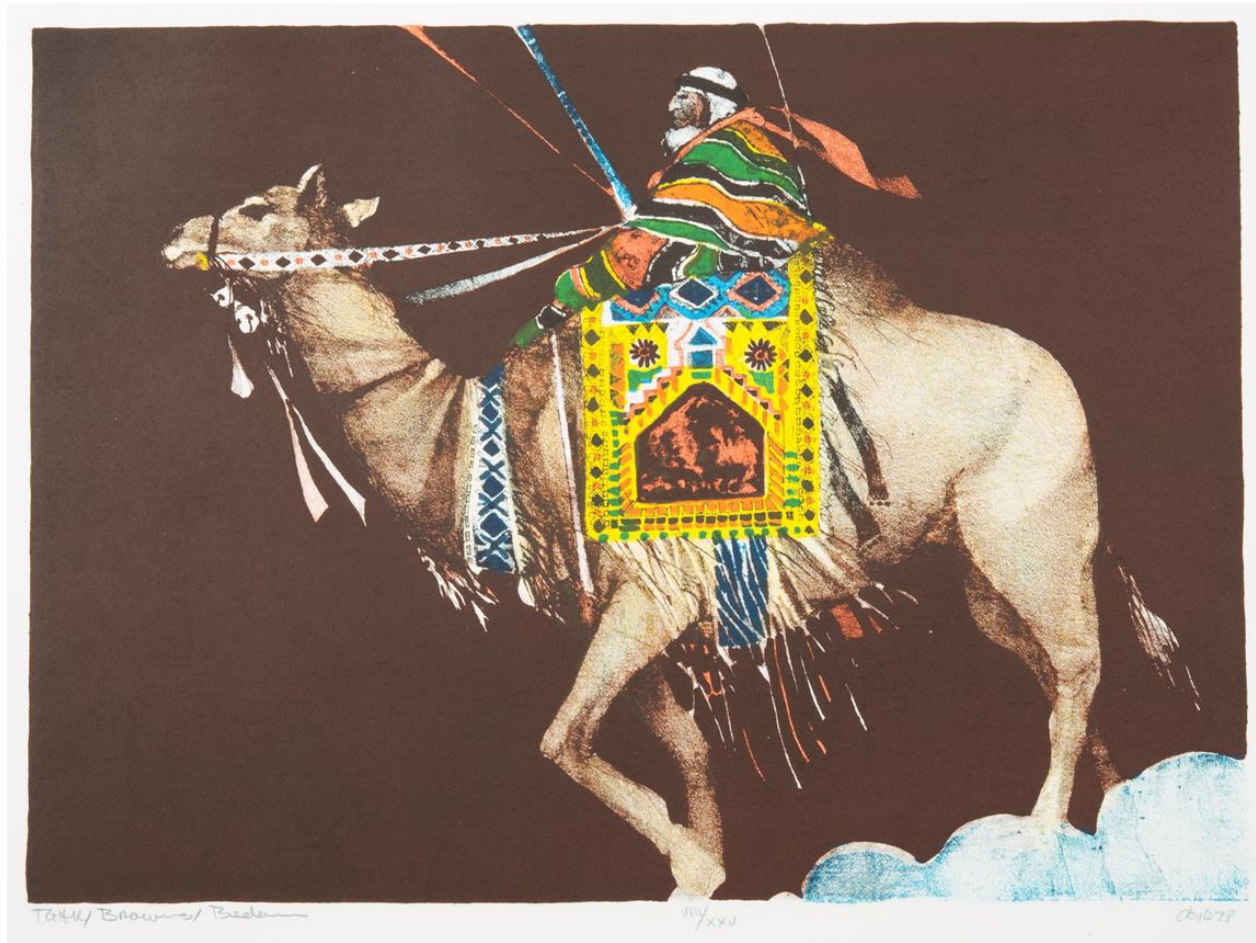


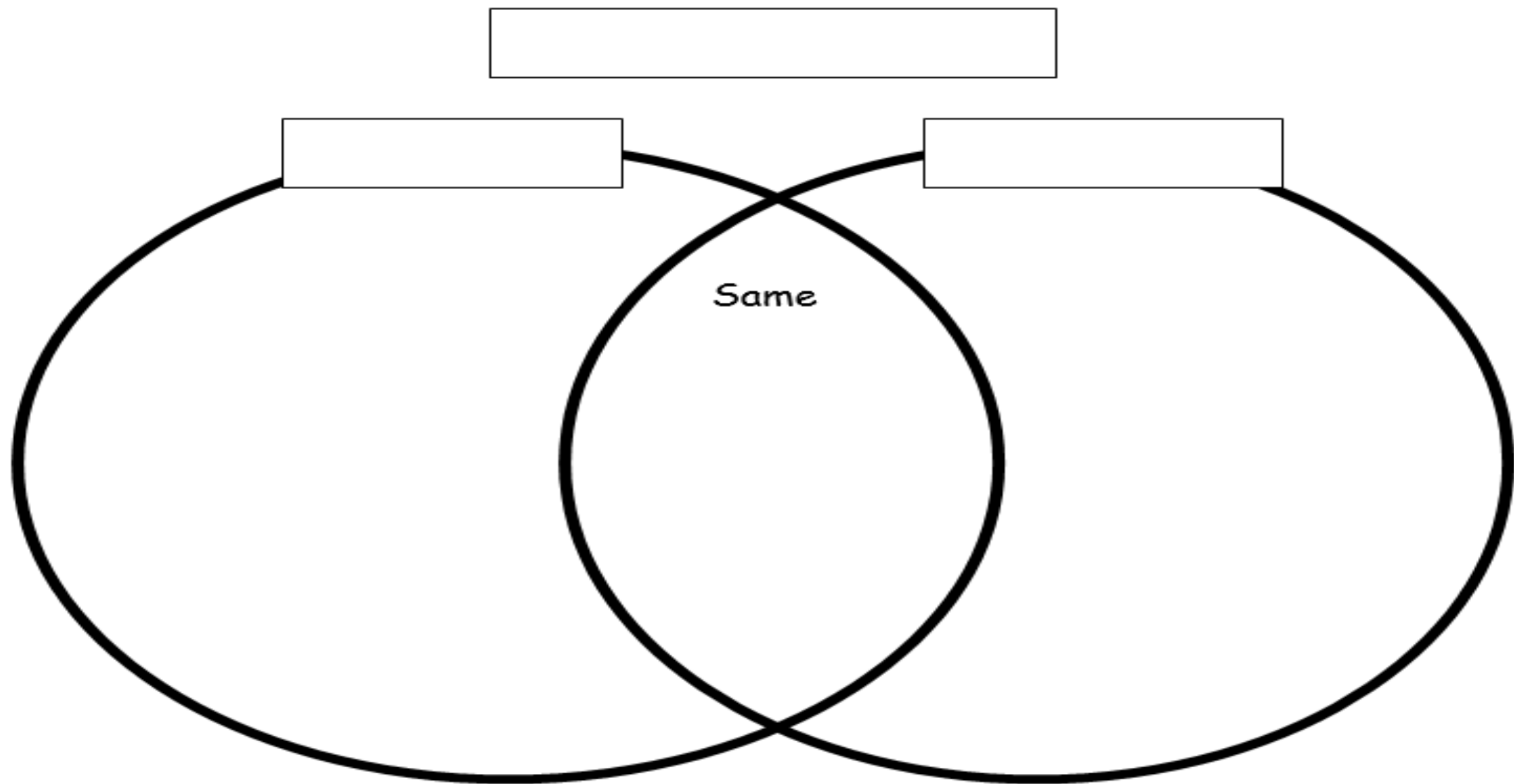
## ARTSmart: Camels



### Compare and Contrast

Use the Venn Diagram that follows to list how these camels are different and the same.





## John Doyle

Born 1939, Chicago, Illinois

Died 2010, Burnsville, North Carolina

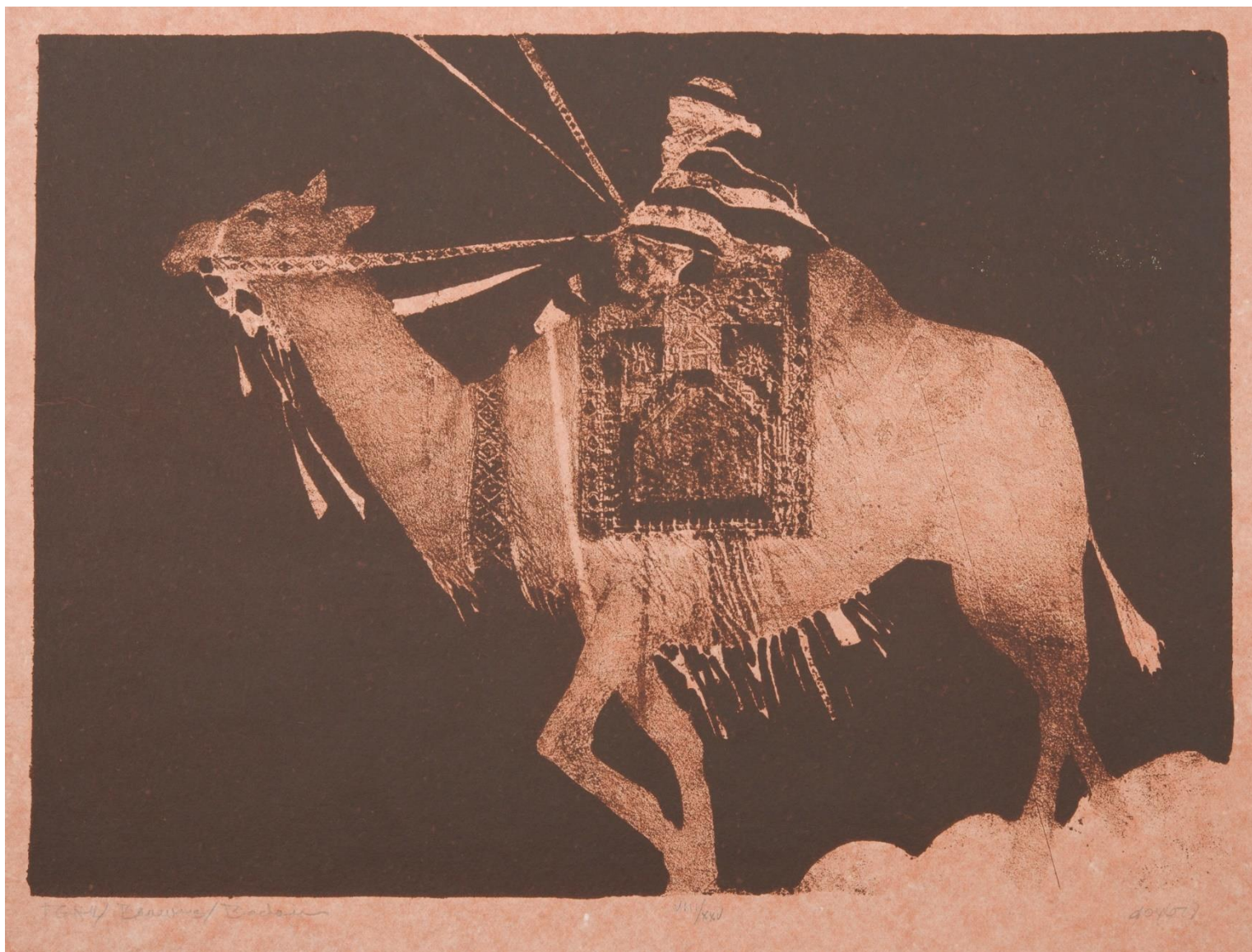
*Bedouin*, from the series *The Great Human Race*,  
1978

Lithograph

Gift of Phillip and Linda Energren, 2017.3fff

Doyle's multi-part suite of prints, *The Great Human Race*, is an anthropological presentation of world cultures and their contributions. He wrote of his camel-riding Bedouin, "The precursors of the Islamic Armies that spread the word of Allah throughout the Middle East, Africa and parts of Europe, were the nomadic warriors of the Arabian Desert, known as the [Bedouins]. These roving warriors' loyalties were to his clan and tribe and they had a fatalistic submission to their destiny." The Bedouin's mount, a camel, is often called "The Ship of the Desert." It played a key role in early trade along the Silk Road, carrying goods as well as people.





A second version of Doyle's *Bedouin* was printed with black ink on a pink paper.

*Bedouin*, from the series *The Great Human Race*, 1978

Lithograph

Gift of Phillip and Linda Energren,  
2017. 31



**Sven Birger Sandzén**

Born 1871, Blidsberg, Sweden

Died 1954, Lindsborg, Kansas

*Study of a Camel*, 1920

Lithograph

1984.26

Sandezén's camel, like Doyle's, is the single hump Dromedary (*Camelus dromedarius*) native to the deserts of the Arabian Peninsula. Contrary to common belief, camels do not store water in their humps; their humps contain fatty tissue that, when metabolized, will yield the animal a small amount of water.

# Camel Facts

## Camelids

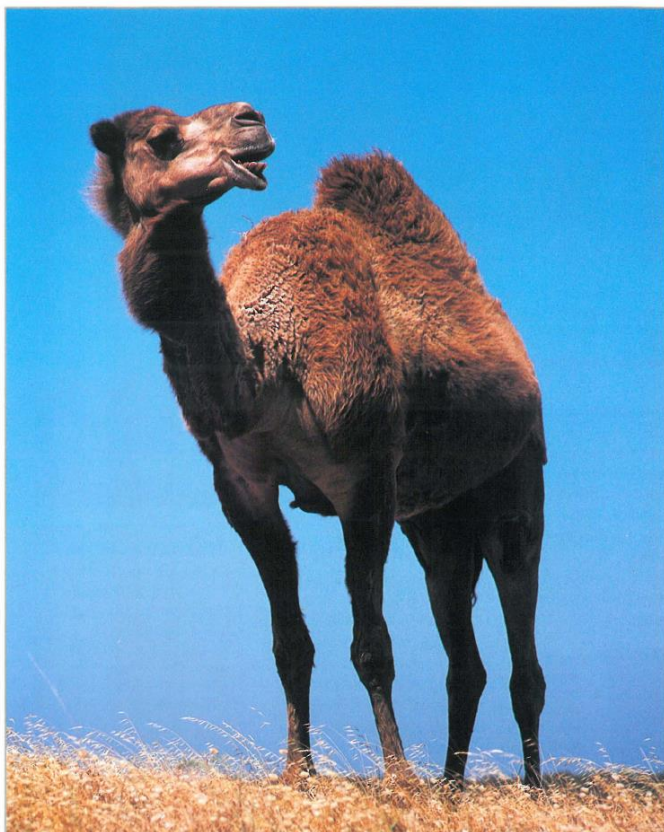
### DROMEDARY CAMEL

ORDER  
Artiodactyla

FAMILY  
Camelidae

GROUP 1: MAMMALS  
GENUS & SPECIES  
Camelus dromedarius

CARD 51



The dromedary camel has lived in the deserts of western Asia for thousands of years. Its single hump contains a reserve of fat, not water.

### KEY FACTS



**SIZES**  
Height: To shoulder, 6-7 ft. To hump, 6-8 ft.  
Length: Body, 7-11 ft. Tail, up to 2 ft.  
Weight: 1,000-1,500 lb.



**BREEDING**  
Sexual maturity: 5 years.  
Breeding season: Varies; timed for birth to coincide with maximum plant growth.  
Gestation: 370-440 days.  
No. of young: 1.



**LIFESTYLE**  
Habit: Forms groups of up to 30 animals.  
Diet: Any available vegetation.  
Lifespan: 17-50 years.



**RELATED SPECIES**  
There are 2 genera in the family Camelidae, both of which have 2 species. The only other species of camel is the two-humped Bactrian, *Camelus bactrianus*.



Original range of the dromedary camel.

#### DISTRIBUTION

Thought to have originated on the Arabian Peninsula. Present domesticated range extends from northern Africa and across central Asia to Mongolia and Australia.

#### CONSERVATION

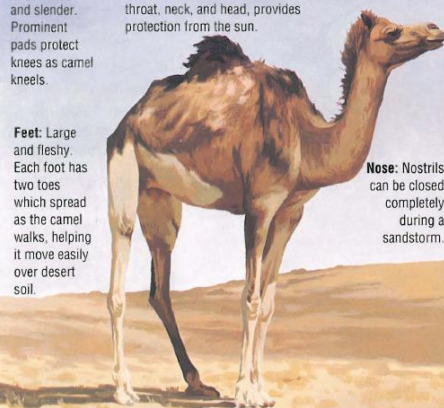
The dromedary camel thrives as a domesticated animal and in a semiwild state. It has probably not existed as a wild species for several hundred years.

### FEATURES OF THE DROMEDARY CAMEL

**Legs:** Long and slender. Prominent pads protect knees as camel kneels.

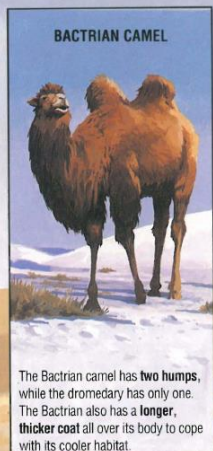
**Feet:** Large and fleshy. Each foot has two toes which spread as the camel walks, helping it move easily over desert soil.

**Hair:** Fine, woolly hair on hump, throat, neck, and head, provides protection from the sun.



**Nose:** Nostrils can be closed completely during a sandstorm.

### BACTRIAN CAMEL



The Bactrian camel has two humps, while the dromedary has only one. The Bactrian also has a longer, thicker coat all over its body to cope with its cooler habitat.

# BACTRIAN CAMEL

BioExpedition.com

Scientific name:  
*Camelus bactrianus*.  
*Camelus ferus*

\* *Camelus ferus* is used for wild Bactrian camels while *Camelus bactrianus* is used for the domesticated ones.

### Diet:

Leaves  
Seeds, Stems,  
Tree bark.

Height: (2.13 m)  
7ft (humps to legs)

Age of sexual maturity:  
3-5 years.

Weight: (300-1000 kg)  
660-2,200lb

Lifespan:  
50 years in the wild.

Distribution:  
Mongolia  
China  
Siberia

### Habitat:

Mountains  
Stony plains,  
Desert dunes.

Population:  
Less than 1,000  
individuals  
in the wild but nearly  
two million domesticated



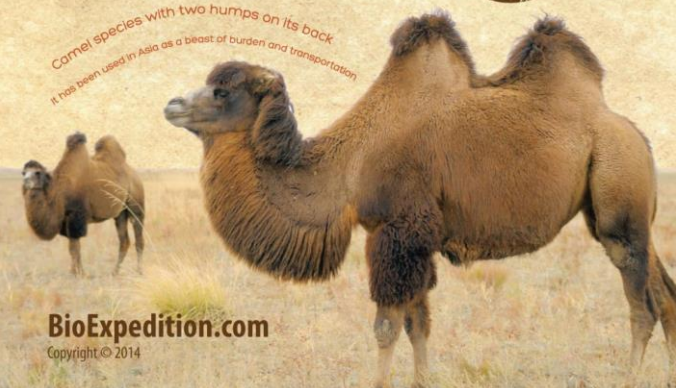
Predators:  
Grey Wolf.

Threats:  
Habitat loss,  
Poaching.



\* Conservation Status for  
Wild Bactrian camel  
(*Camelus ferus*)

Camel species with two humps on its back  
It has been used in Asia as a beast of burden and transportation

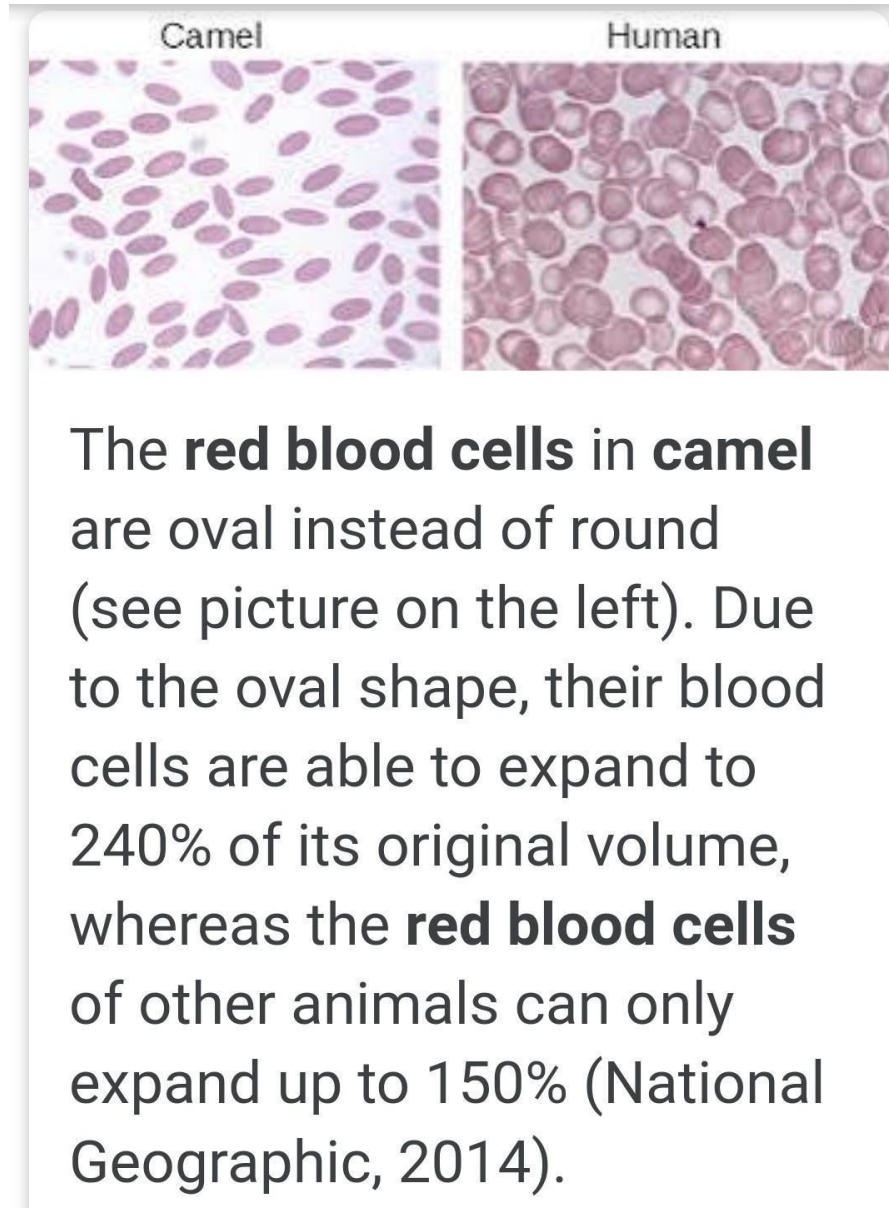


BioExpedition.com

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# How does a camel store water?

A camel can survive seven days without water, but not because they are carrying large reserves inside their humps. They're able to avoid dehydration that would kill most other animals, thanks in large part to oval-shaped red blood cells (vs. the standard circular variety). If there's any body part that excels at retaining water, the award goes to the camel's kidneys and intestines. These organs are so efficient that a camel's urine comes out thick as syrup and their feces is so dry, it can fuel fires!



# What's inside a Camel's hump?

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oyM\\_AXN\\_QNI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oyM_AXN_QNI)



A camel's hump doesn't contain water or bone... it's fat. And each hump can store up to 36 kilograms of fat that can sustain the camel for weeks or even months without food. The fat is incredibly nutritious and people are starting to use it in cooking for its health benefits. But the camel didn't actually get its hump in the desert. In fact, Camels originated in the Canadian Arctic millions of years ago. And they used their fatty humps to survive long winters.

# LLAMAS, ALPACAS, VICUÑAS, AND GUANACOS

The llama, the guanaco, and the alpaca are all camelids and are native to the Andes Mountains in South America. The only wild species is the guanaco (lower left) and is a protected species. The alpaca and the llama are domesticated. The guanaco is found in the grasslands of the Andes Mountains. The llama is used as a pack animal (upper right) and both the llama and alpaca bred for their wool. The vicuña (lower right) is also a camelid and lives on the plains below the Andes.



## Adaptations of the Camelids (Camels, Llamas, Alpacas and Vicunas)

Long eyelashes and thin, slit nostrils that can close to protect them from blowing sand.

An extremely long large intestine (colon) for reabsorbing water.

Fat-filled humps will break down to supply them with the energy (and moisture) they need to survive long treks in the desert.

Long, muscular legs for walking.

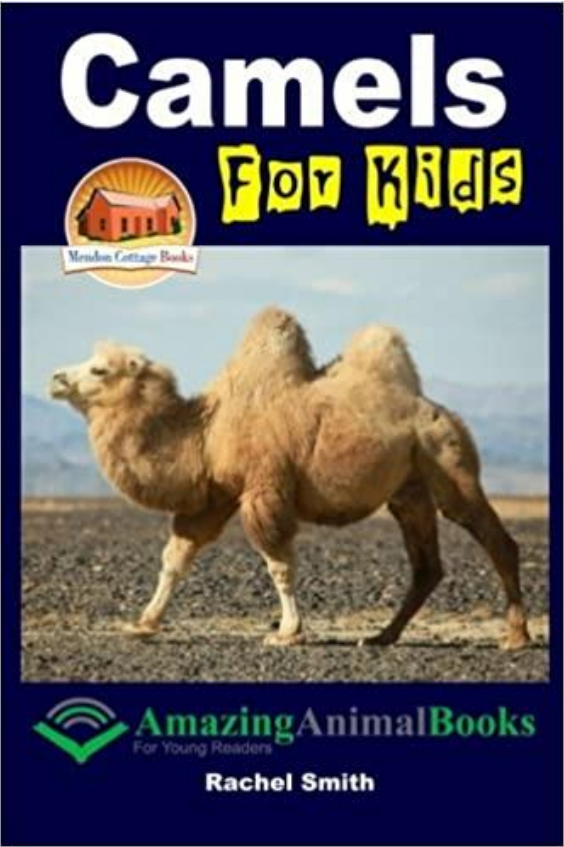
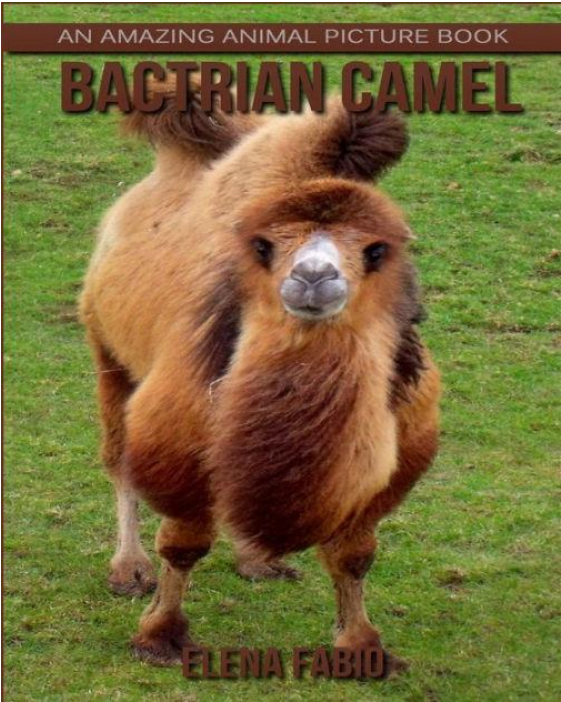
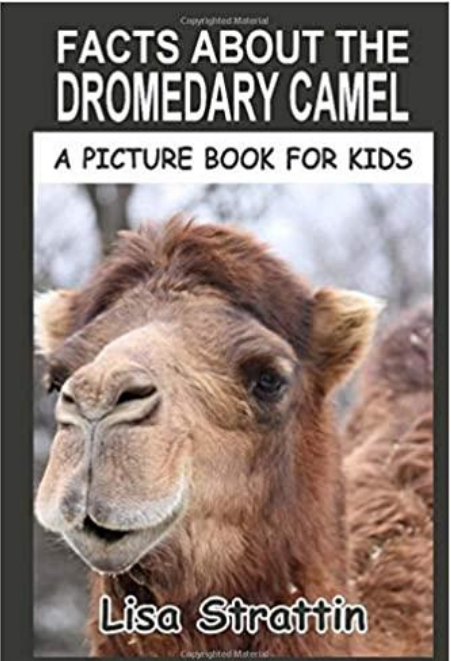
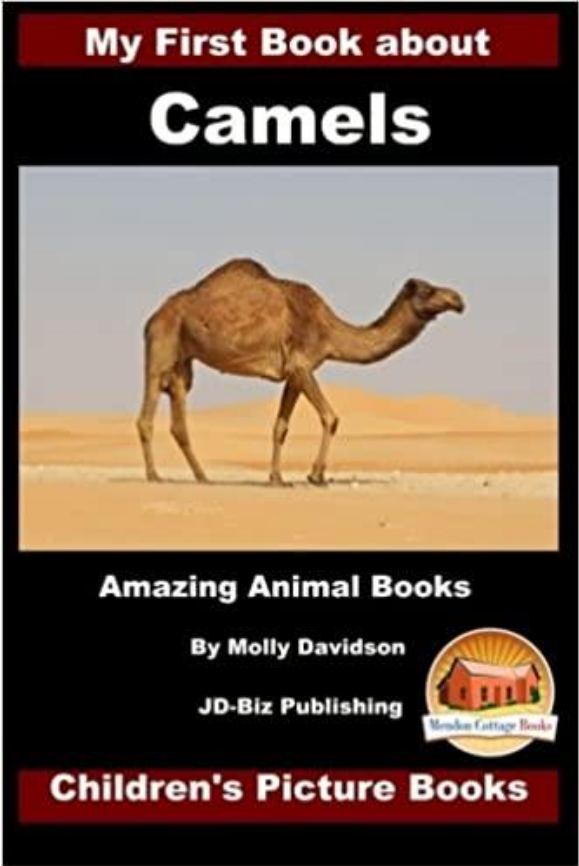
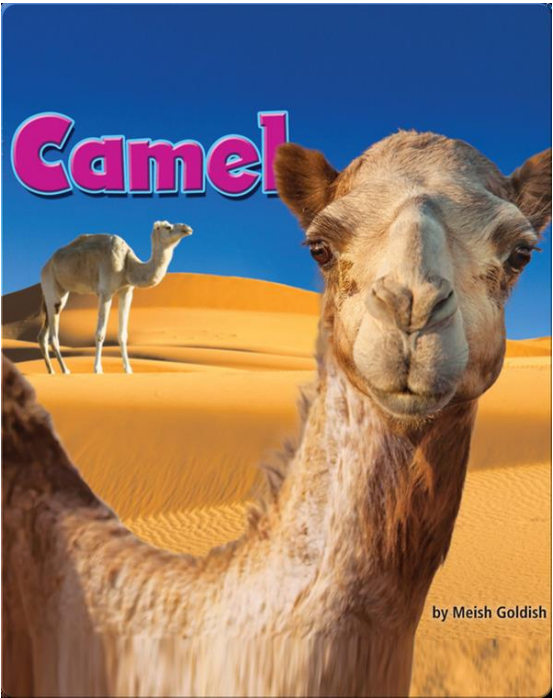
Wide, padded feet allow walking on rocks and hot sand.

©Sheri Amsel

[www.exploringnature.org](http://www.exploringnature.org)



Learn more about camels



# Additional Camels from the BMA collection



**John Steuart Curry**

*Circus Camel Sketch*, ca. 1932

Crayon on paper

KSU, Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of  
Art, bequest of Kathleen G. Curry,  
2002.1230



**Herschel C. Logan**

*Study for Pharaoh*, 1923

Graphite on paper

KSU, Marianna Kistler Beach

Museum of Art, gift of Peggy

L. Sondergard & Samuel H.

Logan, 2019.47

*Man on Camel by Columns*,  
1923

Woodcut block

KSU, Marianna Kistler Beach

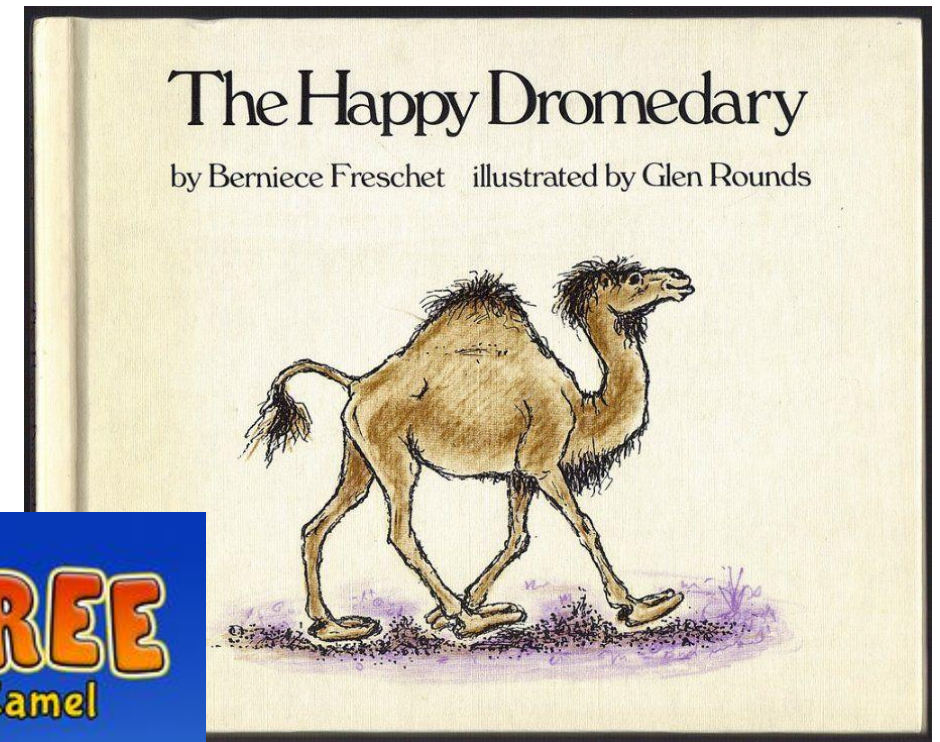
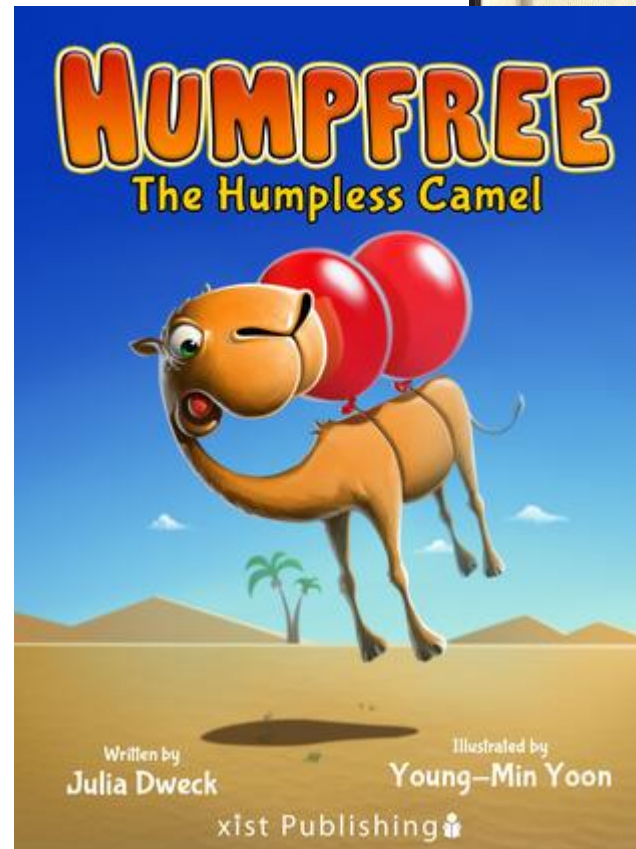
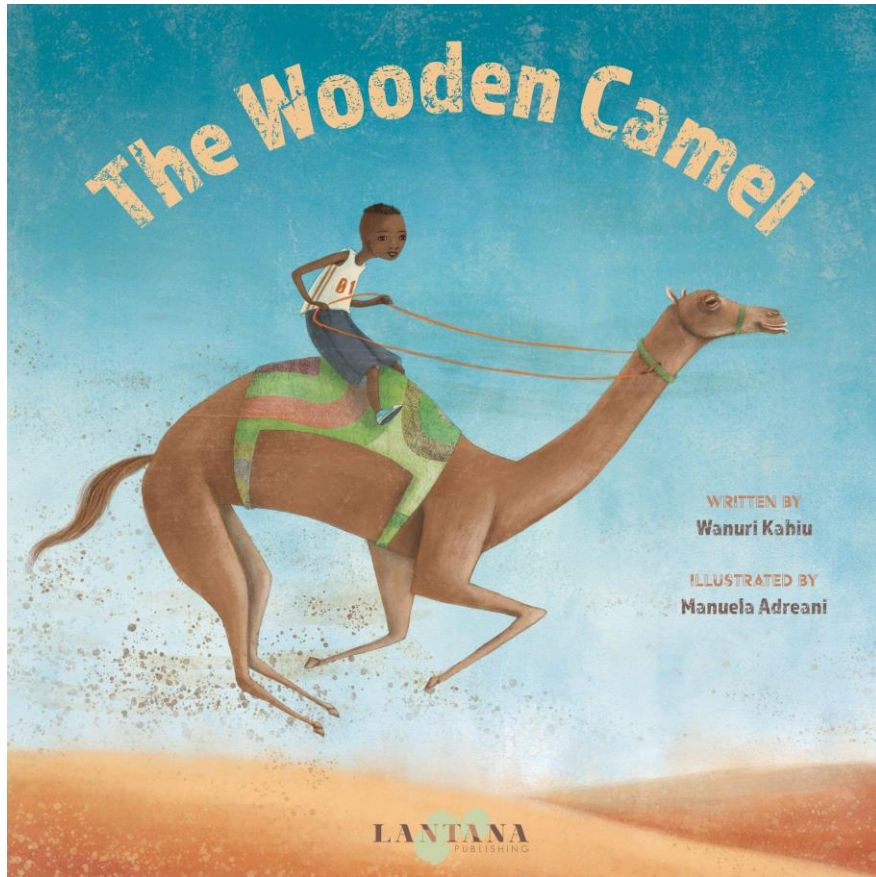
Museum of Art, gift of Peggy

L. Sondergard & Samuel H.

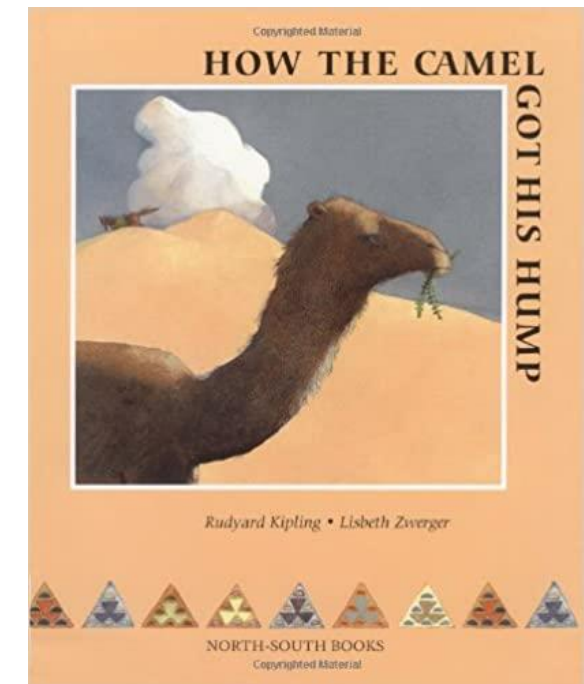
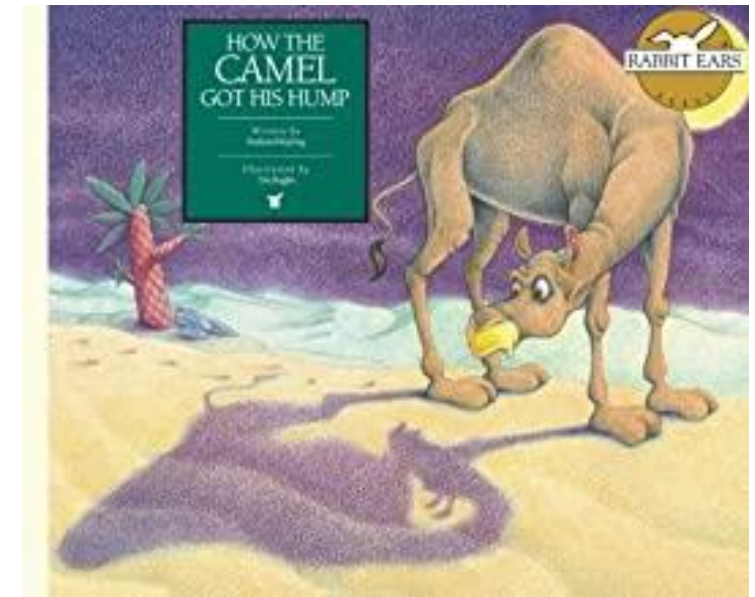
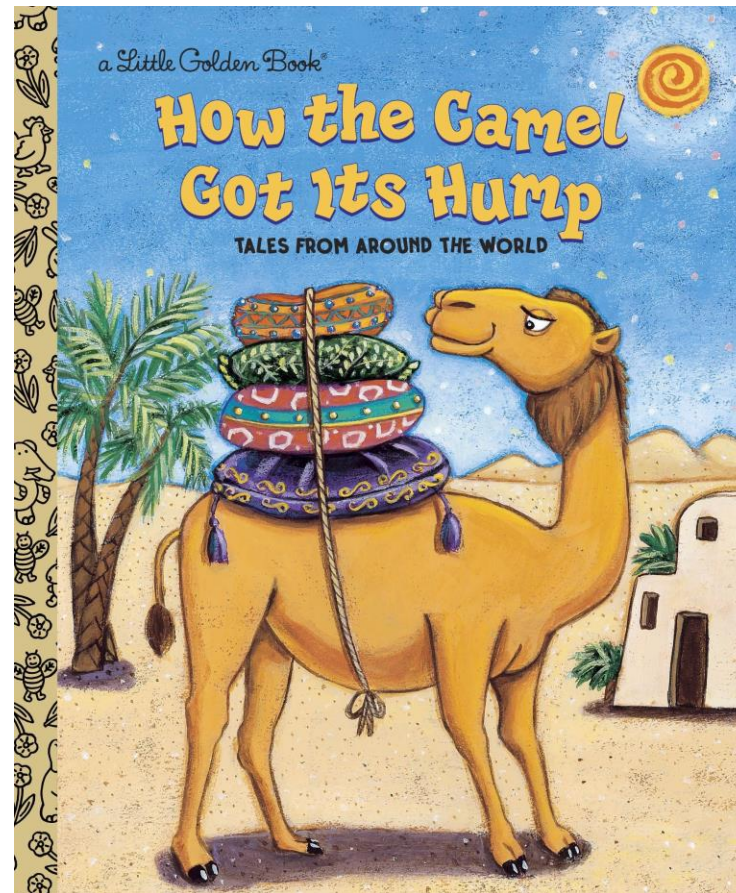
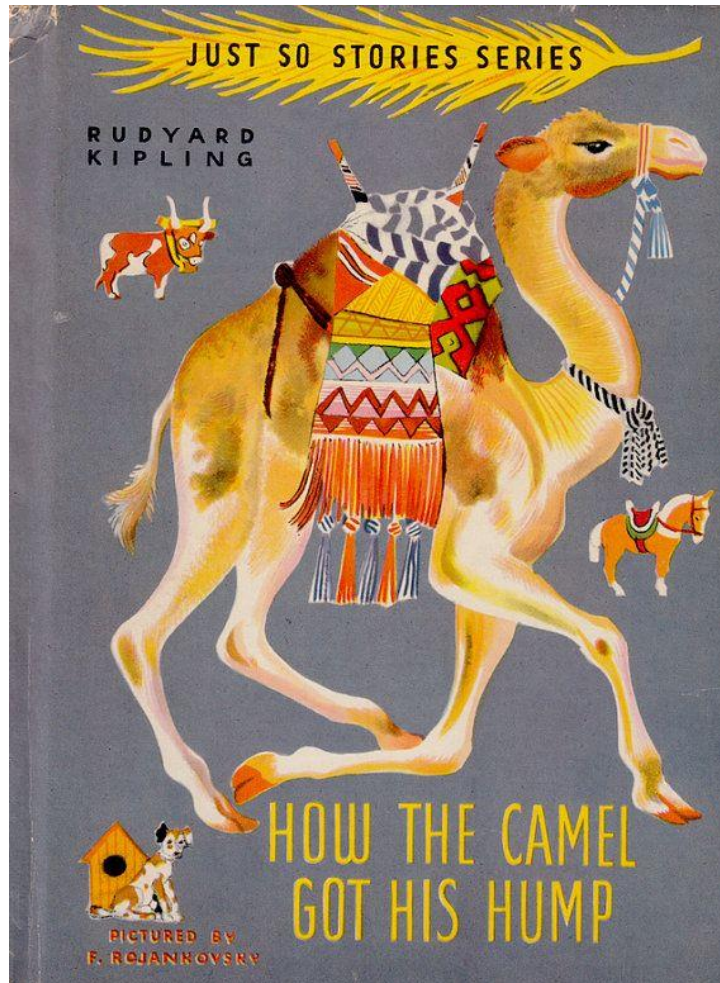
Logan, 2018.133

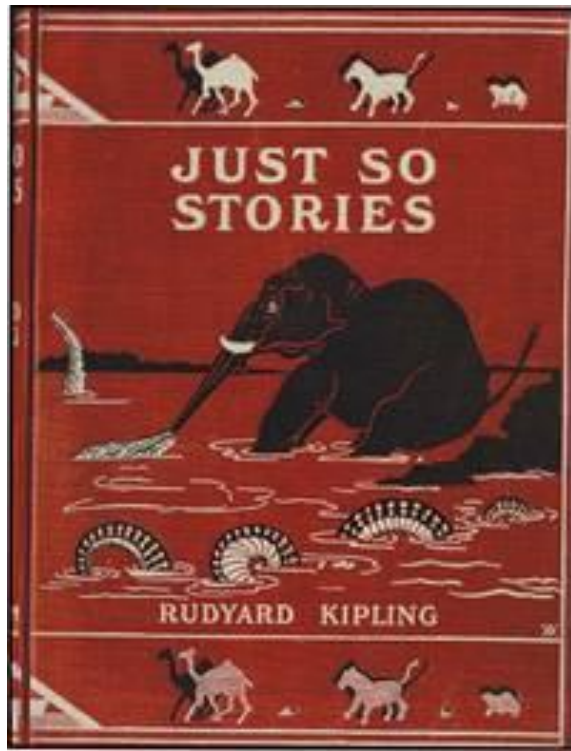


# Picture Books

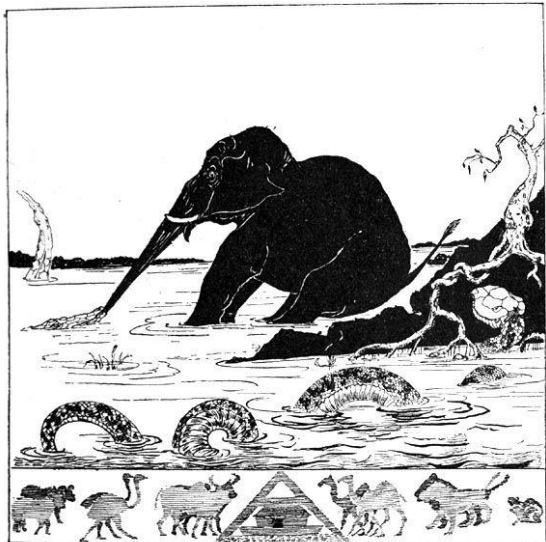


Rudyard Kipling wrote the *Just So Stories* for children. One is “How the Camel Got its Hump.”





Kipling made the woodcuts for his original edition, published in 1902.



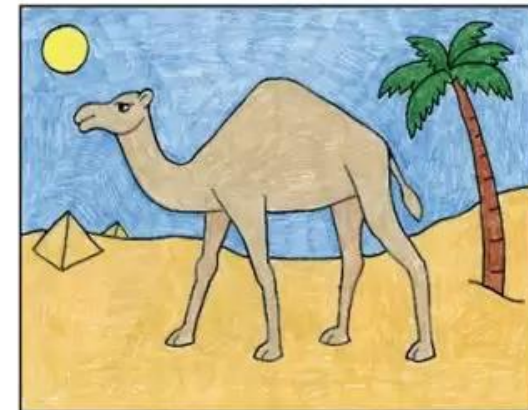
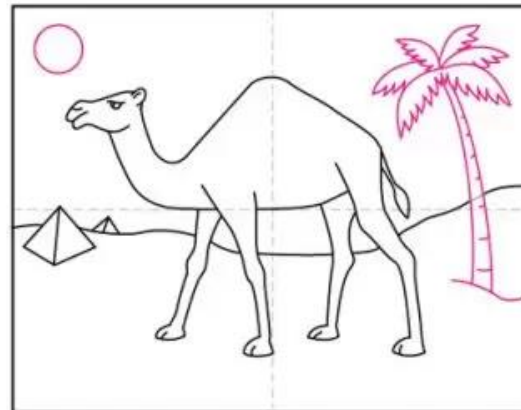
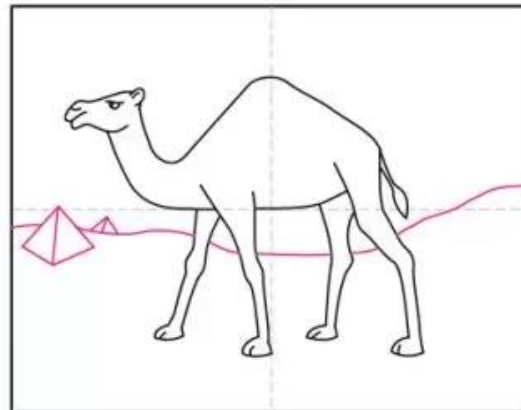
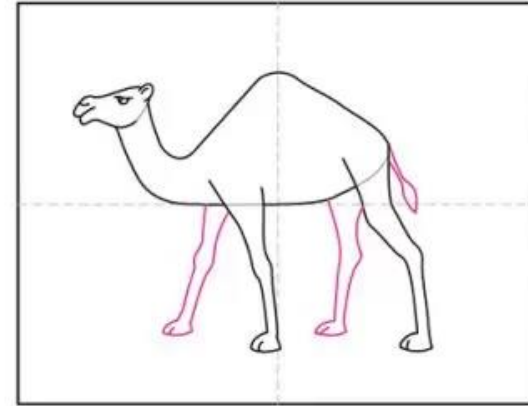
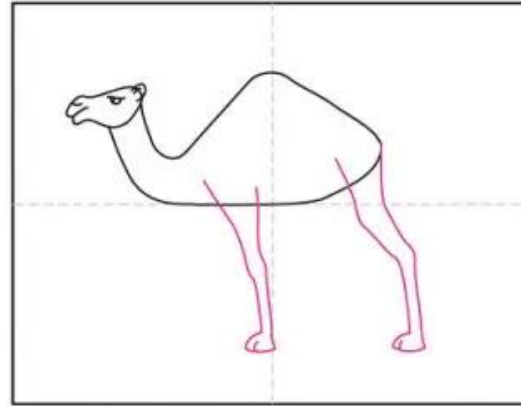
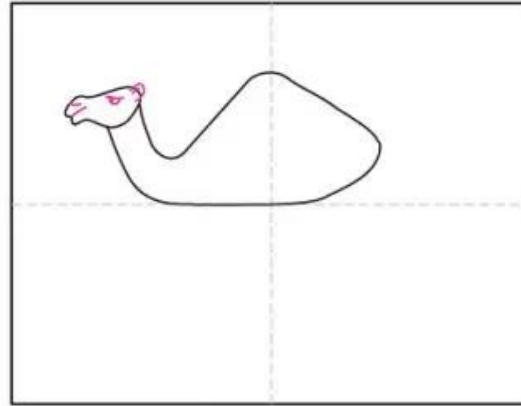
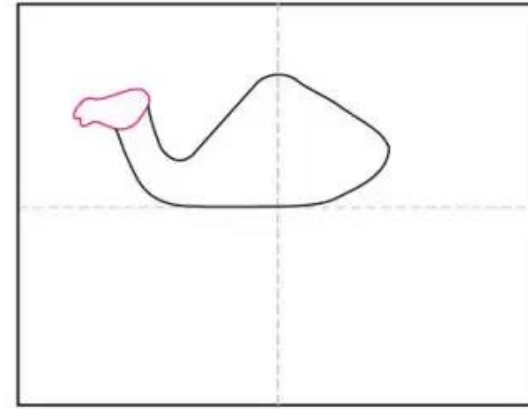
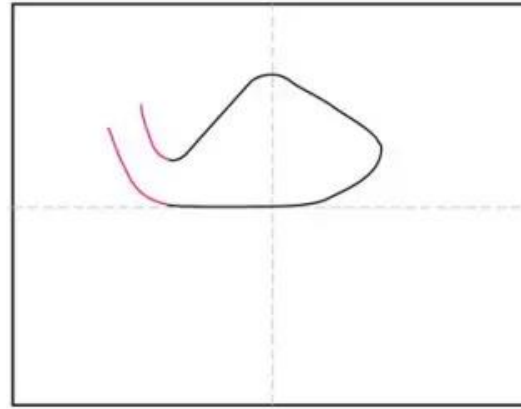
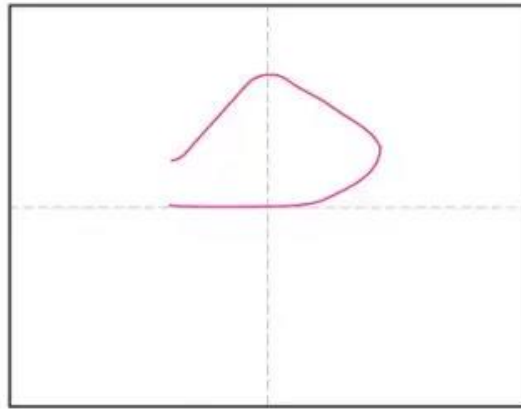
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3US8O3F7IGM>

To watch *How the Camel Got his Hump*

# Art Projects

You can easily alter this to create a Bactrian Camel. Don't forget to add the extra hair on the neck and legs.

P.S. that extra hair is great for a Bactrian camel that lives in a colder climate. A Dromedary would get too hot!



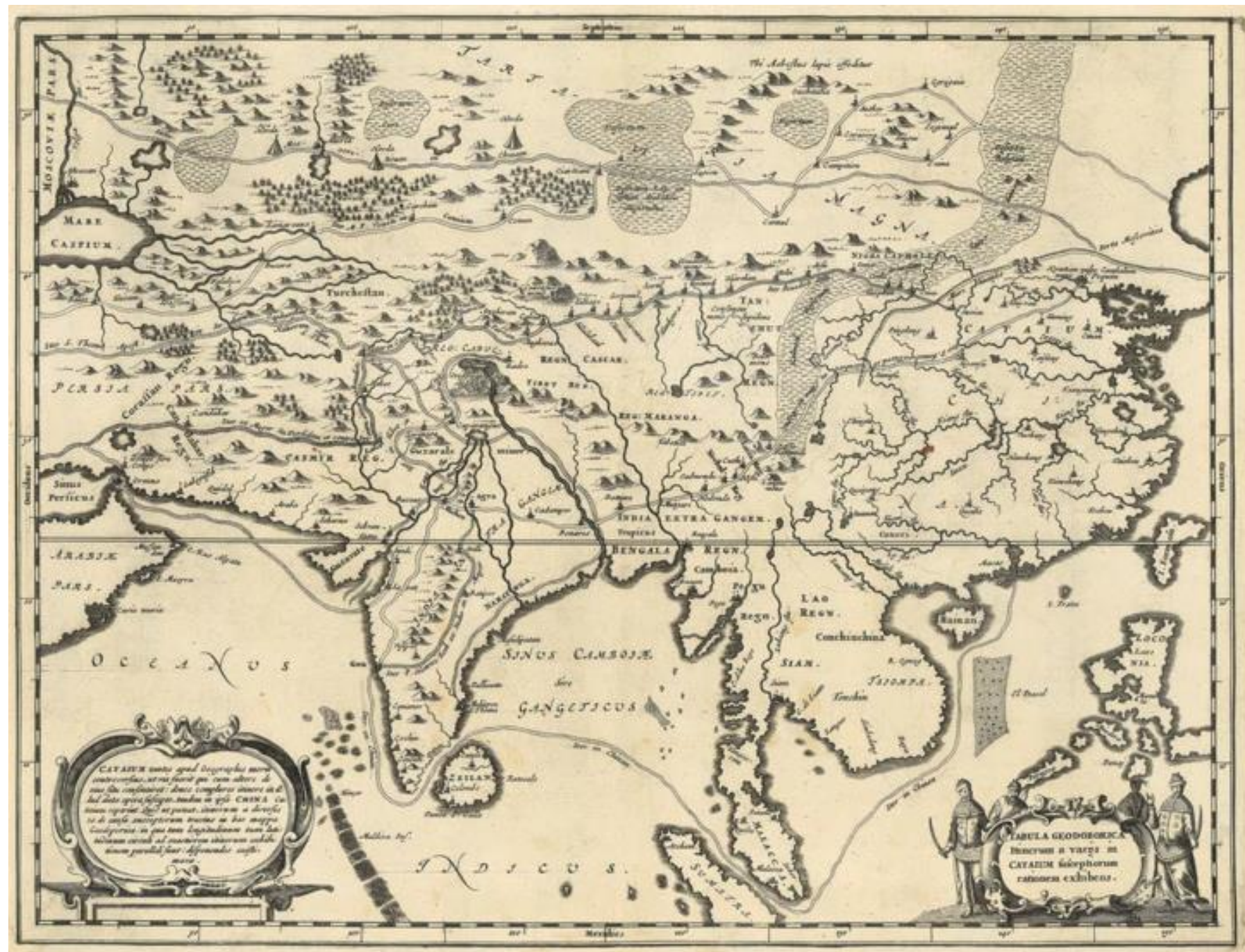


## Decorated Camels

Camels are often highly decorated – wearing colorful blankets and elaborate harnesses like John Doyle's print. Once you have figured out how to draw a camel, cut several out from brown or black paper and decorate them. You can create your own caravan.

Use colored paper, sequins, beads and colorful trims or string.

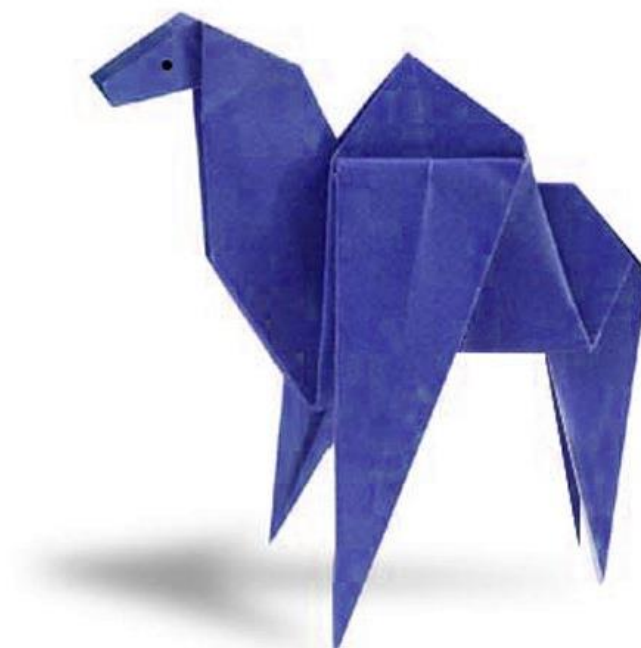
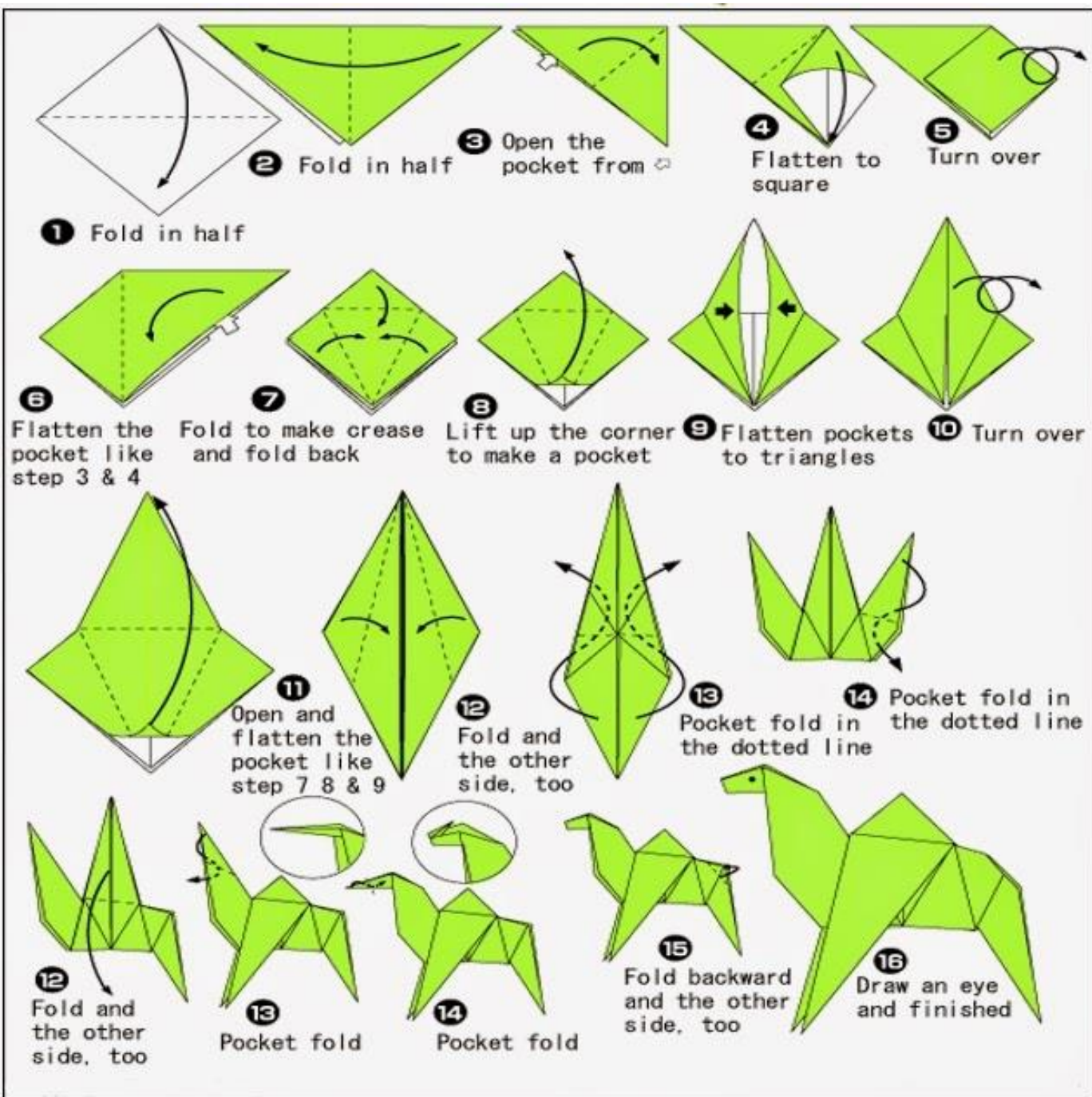




This is an old map of the Silk Road. Camels transported goods from China to Arabia and Europe. These included silks, spices, gold and other gems, and special foods.

You can color the map in. You could also add camels. Traders would have traded their Bactrian Camels for Dromedaries when they reached Arabia.

# Origami





Amira Rahim is an American abstract painter currently based in the United Arab Emirates. Her work is marked by distinct vibrant color use, and seeks to uplift and raise the energy of a space. American abstract artist abroad in the United Arab Emirates. Her work can be found in both private and public collections throughout the UAE and North America.

"My work revolves around the exploration of color and form to explore new ways of expressing emotions, energy, and occasionally, figures."

