

# DESK • Scribe

Vol. 1, Issue 2

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Cover art by Hazel, Tzohi, Taj, and Dylan





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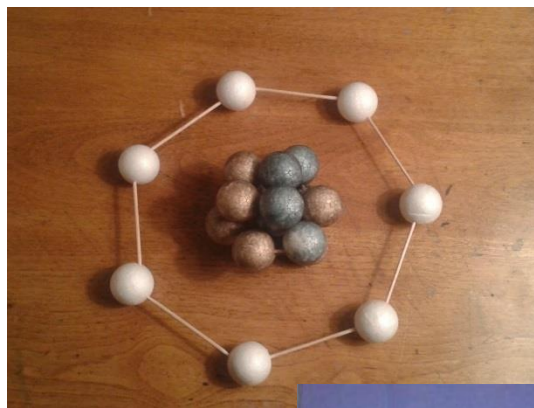
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## Letter from the Editor

Hey readers! Welcome to volume one, issue two of DESK•Scribe! Thank you all for showing your enthusiasm and support for this project by sending in your work. It makes me really happy to see so many amazing submissions coming in – I'm not exaggerating when I say that I love every single one of them!

The first issue of DESK•Scribe had a great response – DESK teachers and the principal loved it, and it was featured in school district 8's newsletter. I can't thank you enough for submitting your work in order to make this possible.

In this issue, you'll find even more awesome pieces by DESK students. Among them is the colourful and beautiful Egypt map featured on the cover, by four siblings. This large project is hanging on the wall in the DESK library, and if you are in Nelson, I would encourage you to go in to have a look at it, as the partial images of it featured here (see page 28) don't do it justice! Also included in the Visual Arts section of this issue is an informative visual report on the Komodo dragon by Cohen (page 26), and a detailed medieval Lego project by Caleb (page 30).

The writing section is also filled with outstanding examples of student talent. There you'll find (among other pieces) a descriptive essay on chickens by Bella (page 6), several excellent short stories (pages 10-12), and a beautiful, moving interview with an elderly First Nations lady by Maia (pages 16-18).

Enjoy the magazine!

Abigail Cole, editor

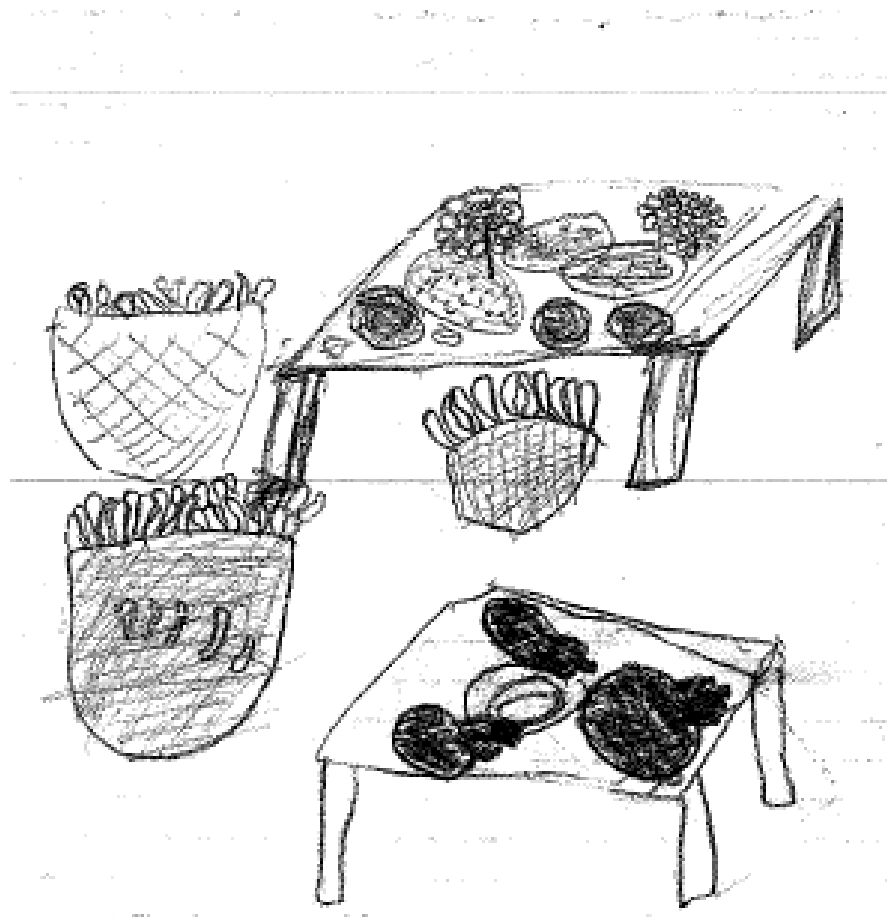
# Writing

Writing is an extreme privilege but it's  
also a gift. It's a gift to yourself and  
it's a gift of giving a story to someone.  
Amy Tan

- paragraph –

### Food in Ancient Egypt – by Dylan

In ancient Egypt people ate wheat or barley, bread, fruit, vegetables and meat like goat, pork, birds, fish and beef for special occasions. They also eat beans, lentils, peas, radishes, garlic, grapes, figs, dates, and pomegranates.





- essay-

## Chickens – by Bella



Boy chickens are roosters. Girls are hens. Roosters crow, and have big combs, and fancy feathers. Hens lay one egg a day.

Baby chickens are called chicks. They hatch from eggs after 21 days. Chicks look like monsters when they are inside the egg. Eggs are good to eat, but not when chicks are inside.

If an egg sinks in water, it's good. If it floats, it's bad.

Chickens can fly. They flap you with their wings. That means put them down.

Crows, skunks and foxes like to eat chickens.

Chickens need food and water or they will die.

- essay -

Based on the following poem:

### January

The fox drags its wounded belly  
Over the snow, the crimson seeds  
Of blood burst with a mild explosion,  
Soft as excrement, bold as roses.

Over the snow that feels no pity,  
Whose white hands can give no healing,  
The fox drags its wounded belly.

- by R. S. Thomas

### January, by R. S. Thomas – by Abigail

A good poem should not only create a striking image in the mind of the reader, but should leave an impression on them as deep as the footprints in a blanket of new snow. One outstanding example of a poem that does this is January, by R. S. Thomas.

From the first line of this poem, a distinct image and mood are cast over the reader. We are made to see a badly wounded fox making its way over an expanse of merciless snow, leaving behind it a trail of crimson drops of blood.

Compassionate readers will feel sorry for the fox, as it is utterly alone, with no one and nothing to nurse it back to health. The snow which the fox is trekking through is described as feeling no pity, and having white hands which can give no healing. This employment of personification effectively adds to the feeling of hopelessness and loneliness which the poem creates. Also well-executed is the author's description of the drops of blood which fall from the fox's belly: '*soft as excrement, bold as roses*'. This creates an image as vivid as the words used to create it.

While reading this poem, I strongly felt a number of emotions; most dominant was pity for the fox and desire to give it the healing which it needs. I could see the endless snow, the fox making its way through its depths, hanging its heavy head, stretching behind it a barely noticeable trail of dainty footprints and dark drops of blood. I think the poem might also be describing a bigger picture. The fox could be any one of the many people who are desperately struggling just to survive another day, and the snow being the world, the people around them who see their need but feel no pity, and do not try to help, whether because they can't or they simply don't want to. But the poem guarantees that life will go on, in all its coldness, with or without these neglected humans.

The mood and message of this poem are very strongly and masterfully conveyed. It is the mark of a good writer to be able to impact his readers so greatly, even in a poem, such as January, which consists of only seven lines.

- poetry -

### Majesty – by Abigail

When I'm happy, I am  
a Majestic eagle  
Outlined against fierce blue sky as I  
Soar above the world.  
Squinting down at doll-like people  
Overwhelmed with gladness  
That I am not like them.

All the beauty in the world  
is Mine to keep  
As I swoop through  
The colours that only I can see  
And dance  
In the sky's liquid gold.



- poetry -

## Poems About The Snow Goose – by Sejah

### Haiku:

crooked old man  
painting beauty all alone  
One child understands

### Couplet:

He likes to paint,  
in his lighthouse so quaint  
And when disaster strikes,  
away goes the man that nobody likes  
Sailing dangerous waters in a tiny boat,  
carrying so many rescued men, it will barely float  
And when he dies,  
down comes a snow-white bird from the smoking skies  
Only one person mourns his death,  
Back at the lighthouse, a girl named Frith.



### Diamanté:

Alone  
Solitary, Solo  
Lonesome, no companions  
Unaided, Single handed, accompanied, helped  
Side by side  
cooperating collaborating  
Together

### Cinquain:

Painting  
Beautiful Birds  
Looking Happy, content  
Appearing on the canvas  
Sketching



- short story -

## Vancouver Canucks – by Tijs

One day my hockey coach's wife signed my hockey team up to try and win the prize to go play between the first and second intermission with the Canucks. She actually won the prize.

I was so excited on Saturday morning when we drove to Castlegar to meet up with my hockey team and get on the bus. The bus was massive and had 4 TVs in it. It also had a bathroom and extremely comfortable seats. My team and I watched Despicable Me, and played games on the way to Vancouver to let the time fly by. When we got to the hotel everybody unloaded the bus, and strolled inside to check in to the rooms. We stayed there for about two hours and then a bus picked us up and drove us to Rogers Arena. It was a game between the Canucks and the Flames.

A lady helped us to the dressing room, and we dropped off our bags, walked to the ice and watched the warm up of the Canucks it was so cool to watch.

With only 30 minutes left til game time, we got dressed and had the TV on to watch the first period. Two seconds in, there was a line brawl.

After twenty minutes we walked to the entrance to watch the rest of the first period.

When it was our turn to get on, I looked in the stands and there were a lot of people. I was super excited but nervous at the same time. I was scared to fall on the ice in front of all those fans.

We didn't get to meet any Canucks but we did get to meet the Mascot Fin.

The time flew by and the score remained 0 to 0, so my team walked back into the dressing room and got undressed. Then Fin walked into the dressing room. We thanked Fin and the helpers for helping us to get on the ice and put our bags in the hallway.

Our team was guided to where our parents were sitting and we watched the rest of the hockey game from in the stands.

Starting the second period it was 0 to 0, but then Calgary scored first.

The Canucks scored to tie the hockey game with 15 minutes left in the second period.

By the end of regulation it was 2 to 2 tie, in overtime Brad Richerdson of the Vancouver Canucks rung one off the post.

It turned out to go to a shootout.

The final score was 3 to 2 for the Canucks because Chris Higgins scored the game winner. It was the first time they won in a long time.

As we headed back to the bus we grabbed our bags and drove to the hotel.

Lowie and I strolled over to my friend Jackson's room for a bit and then watched some TV with my sister and fell asleep.

During the next morning we had breakfast and packed our bags and went to the bus.

The bus left at 10 O clock, and drove back home.

By the time the bus arrived back in Castlegar it was 6 O clock so we ate in Castlegar and came home.

This is a experience that I will never forget in my whole life.



- short story -

### My Fishing Story – by Jasper

Today I went fishing with my Uncle and my Grandpa. It was right in the morning and the sun was rising. It was pretty orange on the blue sky. It was so quiet you could hear the waves on the lake.

We saw the eagle flying around us. He was trying to get our fish out of our boat. The eagle was a very big bird. He had large wings that were brown and white. His head was white, and he had a yellow, short beak and short legs with sharp claws that he used to perch on a branch.

- short story -

### Tinkerbell Gets Stuck – by Elena

Once upon a time there was a fairy named Tinkerbell, her best friends were named Daisy and Joe. Tink and her friends lived in the trees. She and her friends had magic wands. One day Tink was flying alone and checked out a hole in a tree and she got stuck.

Tink was trapped. She remembered she left her magic wand at home. Daisy and Joe knocked on Tink's door but she was not home. So they went, looked for her, and found her stuck in a tree. They had their magic wands. They got her out. She said thank you and they lived happily ever after.

- slideshow -

## Travel Presentation – by Caleb

### Travel Presentation

We are going to Halifax everyone. We will start in Vancouver, and we will be travelling by train. There will be lots to see on the trip, lots on the train and in Halifax. The things you can see in Halifax and surrounding area are the Halifax Public Gardens, Citadel Hill, Chocolate Lake, the Trans Canada Trail, and many more things. I chose Halifax because it is so beautiful there.

## Map Of Canada

### Legend

>(Blue Line)-  
Route we  
take  
>Bolder  
Cities-  
Capital Cities  
>Non- Bolder  
Cities- Major  
Cities



## Time it Will Take

Vancouver- Saskatoon: 1day & 12hrs. Jan.17, 2014

Saskatoon- Toronto: 1 days & 9hrs. Jan.18, 2014

Toronto- Montreal: 5hrs & 22min. Jan.19, 2014

Montreal- Quebec City: 3hrs & 22min. Jan.19, 2014

Quebec- Halifax: 6hrs & 15min. Jan.19, 2014

<u>City</u>	<u>Climate</u>	<u>Vegetation</u>	<u>Economic Activity</u>
<u>Vancouver</u>	Slightly humid, temperate climate, very wet.	Lush forests- trees, and undergrowth, and gardens can hold semi-tropical plants, some will have banana trees and a cedar at the same time. Lots of moss.	Vancouver has a large shipping industry, lumber, fishing, and lots of industry altogether.
<u>Halifax</u>	Humid, lots of precipitation, they get lots of wind.	Black spruce, balsam fur, red maple, fox-berry, lots of moss.	Large fishing industry, lots of shipping industry, lumber, and lots of industry altogether.



## Topography Of the Two Cities

The topography of Vancouver is very hilly, but very gradual hills. Halifax on the other hand is much flatter than Vancouver.

## The End



See Ya  
Later

ADO'S  
AMIGOS

## Interview With a Beautiful Soul – by Maia

We briefly discussed how we wanted this interview to go, what subjects we would be focusing on, and what the interviewee was comfortable with discussing. I offered to meet said interviewee wherever they wanted, they invited me for lunch. I arrived at a beautiful farm and was greeted by an elder women with a polite head nod she invited me into her home. (For this interview she asked to remain anonymous.) We sat down at a beautiful wood table with a pot of tea. Brief small talk was inevitable. I learnt very quickly that she had two children who had both ventured out into the city, she misses them dearly. She poured some tea for both I and she and then we settled in for a discussion about the more difficult things in life.

So, did you grow up in a first nation's community?

*I grew up in a first nation's community, yes.*

How was that?

*It was amazing. It is what I know and I loved it. I learnt a lot about people and the world through my elders and my experiences.*

Can we talk a little bit about your experiences growing up?

*Yes, my experiences were plentiful; I grew up with the earth. I grew up acknowledging all living parts of this world and how they breathe life together. Of course it was not all love and peace. There are people who did not and still do not believe we are one with them. That was a sad thing to learn when you are a child.*

How old were you when you realized race was a serious issue and that some people would not be so caring toward you and your people?

*I noticed it very early on in my life; I believe I would have been around 6 when I first noticed not everyone looked at my family with care. Sometimes when we left the community to go into the 'big city' we would get stares from people, they did not look friendly. At such a young age I didn't realize why they looked at us like that. I didn't understand why some people didn't believe in all of us breathing together and coexisting in harmony. Of course that was a different time then it is now.*

How do you feel about the laws and/or policies in Canada, do you feel any are discriminative towards you or your people?

*I don't want to get too much into politics. But I can acknowledge that it is better than it used to be. Although people's opinions have progressed, it isn't perfect. I don't know if it ever will be perfect.*

If you could change how you grew up would you?

*Why? So I could grow up with your western privilege. No. I love how I was raised and I would never make anyone change how they see the world. How I grew up, it's what I know and I wouldn't change that for anything. My culture and my values are what make me who I am. I would never change that.*

How can we help preserve your culture without destroying it?

*Help us, by acknowledging our existence. That's all, say 'yes' I see you there and I am going to let you live your lives in peace. That's all we want from you.*

How much of our western culture has leaked into your community?

*There isn't anything wrong with the western culture. But it's not our culture, and when you decide that it's your way or no one's way. It's confusing, because that's not how we were raised. We were raised to acknowledge everyone's existence as equal. For the most part we have kept the parts of western culture we desire and have shut out the ones we don't.*

What advice would you give children growing up with the stigma of racism following them around?

*Understand that just because some people believe you are not worthy does not mean everyone does. Don't let it affect how you see the world. They are part of a minority of people who believe this. You are part of a majority of people who believe in equality.*

Did you handle it that well?

*No, Never. (She did not want to talk anymore on the subject)*

What advice would you give to someone who hasn't had that experience but wants to stop other people from ever experiencing it again?



*Recognize it's a problem and understand that keeping quiet on the issue is not going to help matters. You may feel that you can't cause an impact on the issue because you haven't experienced such things. But the more people speaking out the better off we are at changing everyone's mind.*

Thank you so much for your time, this was an incredible experience and I learnt a lot.

*Oh no need to thank me, it's a privilege to have beautiful young minds asking for my story.*

She offered me food and more tea, we chatted briefly about lighter subjects before I departed from her beautiful home. It was an amazing experience and I couldn't have asked for a better interview.

- response to last issue's writing prompt –

Lucy – by Soleil

Lucy was not a typical 6-year-old girl. Everyone had always talked about her as though she was an alien fungus growing under the bathroom sink, and she behaved no different. When she was little, nothing could ever please her. Not candy, nor pretty dresses, nor a new puppy or kitten. She would only scowl and shove it away, telling her parents to get it away from her. She was just too stubborn, obstinate and inflexible in the worst of scenarios that interfered with her happiness. Lucy wouldn't even find the joyfulness of playing outside or taking a walk into town. It was usually because she said the sun was too bright, the road was too dirty or the grass was too itchy and uncomfortable to her feet. While the other children were playing in the garden and having fun, she would sit by the old wooden fence and pout until they were all called in for supper. Also, unlike the other children, she was terrified of dolls and old toys. She couldn't even look at a Raggedy Ann doll and not immediately dash to her room and slam the door. As for all her other toys, well, she just really wasn't a very imaginative kid. Her parents really did try, but there was nothing they could ever find or to turn little Lucy's frown, upside down.

## Writing Prompt!

**Try writing to music.** Put on your favourite song, and write a poem or other short piece while listening to it. Take inspiration from the lyrics and the melody, and don't worry too much about editing. When the song ends, stop writing! You can do this as many times as you like, to the same song or different ones. When you have a piece you're happy with, send it in to DESK•Scribe to be featured in the next issue. Include your name, the name of your piece, and, if you want to, the song you listened to while you wrote.

# Visual Arts

Creativity is allowing yourself to make mistakes. Art is knowing which ones to keep.

Scott Adams





An Egyptian Temple –

by Tzohi

pencil crayons

Ancient Egypt –

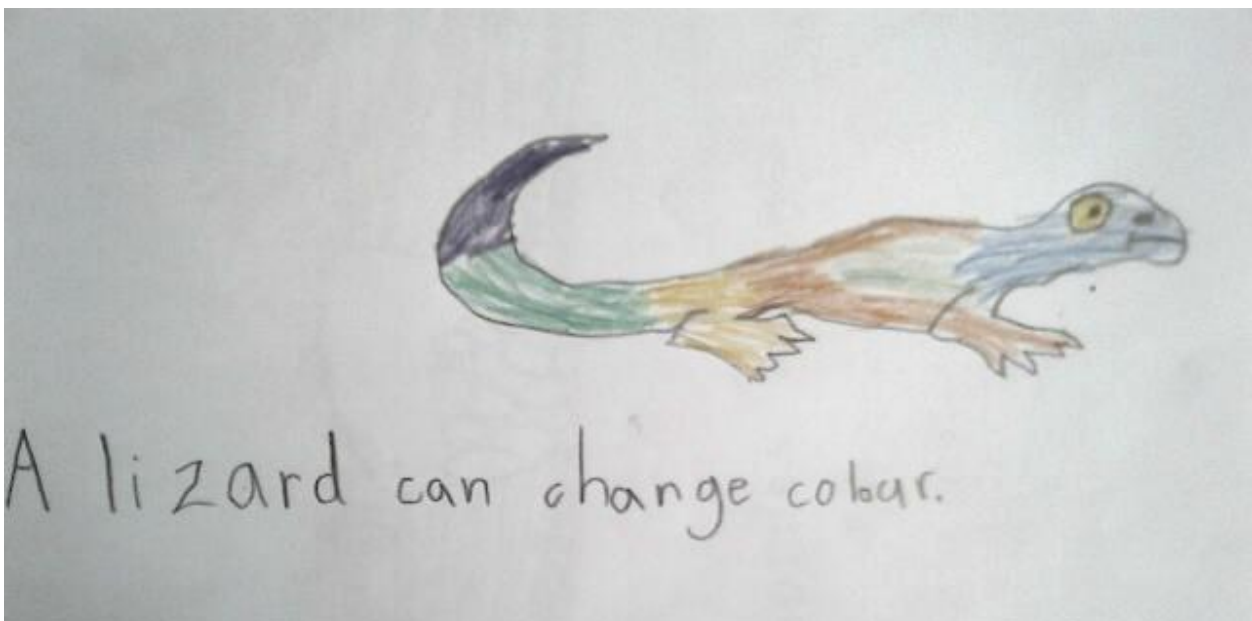
by Taj

pencil crayons





Pig & Lizard –  
by Cohen





Horton Hatches an Egg –

by Bella

marker

Snake – by Ethan

pencil





Bear – by Eilidh  
marker



Cave Diorama  
– by Creigh  
papier-mâché



# KOMODO DRAGON

Latin name: Komodo dragon  
 - Called the largest monitor lizard by locals  
 - Komodo monitor



## Diet

juvenile komodos  
 water buffalo  
 deer  
 pigs  
 wild horses  
 tackle their prey, then rip belly  
 Kill prey with saliva: blood poisoning  
 can eat 80% of body weight  
 eat as little as once a month

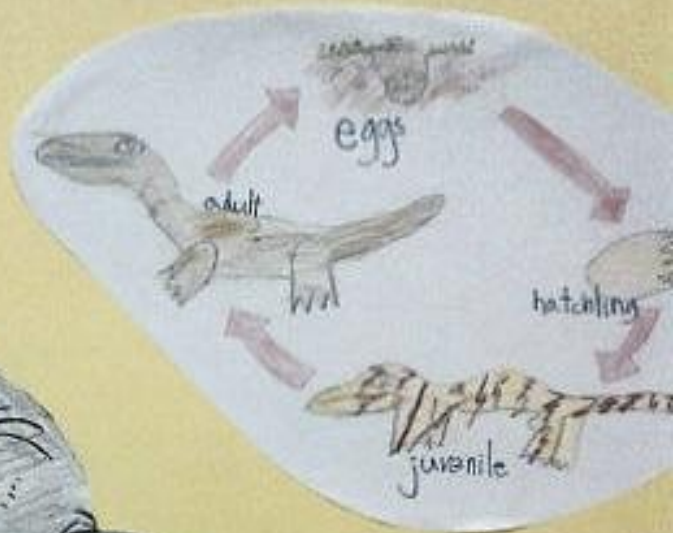
## Endangered

only predator is man  
 loss of habitat  
 poaching  
 only 4,000-5,000 left

## Bibliography

http://www.komodo.com/...  
 http://www.komodo.com/...  
 http://www.komodo.com/...  
 http://www.komodo.com/...  
 http://www.komodo.com/...

## Life Cycle



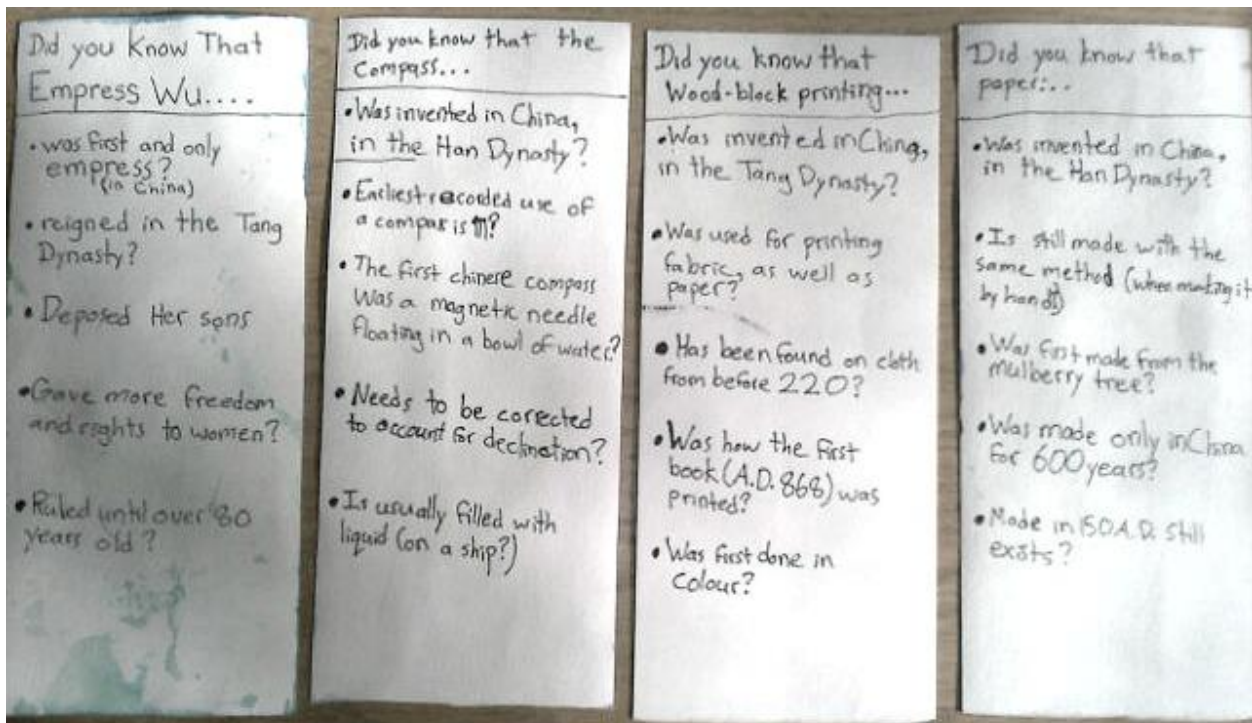
## Reproduction

males fight for female  
 the winner mates with female  
 May-August  
 in September female lays a  
 clutch of 15-30 eggs on nest in  
 the ground  
 eggs hatch after 8 months  
 hatchlings crawl out of ground into  
 tree  
 mature to adult in 3-5 years  
 live up to 50 years



Bookmarks — by Sejah

watercolour, pen and ink





# Egypt Map -

by Hazel, Tzohi,  
Taj and Dylan



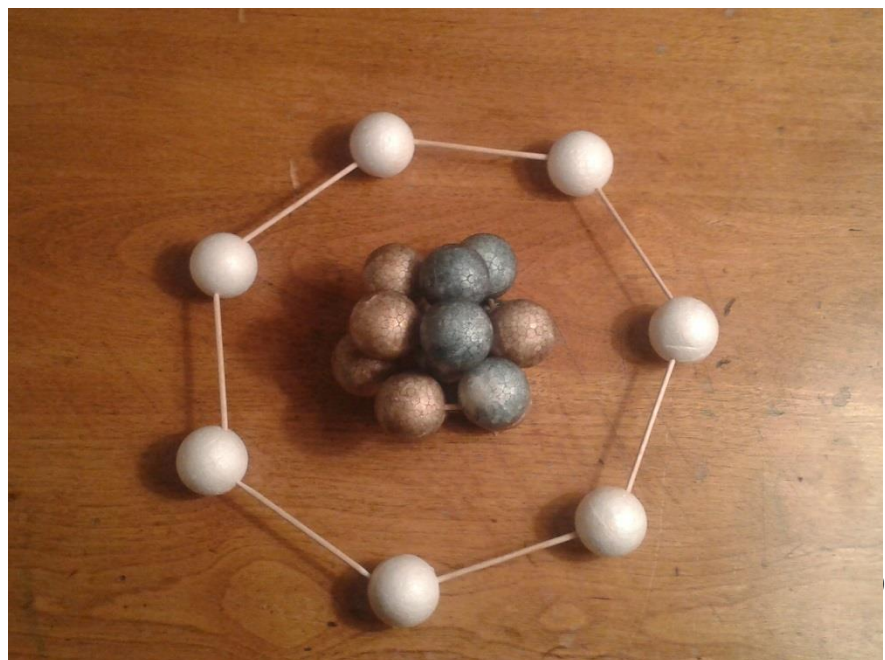


Donkey in  
Egypt -

by Hazel  
pencil crayon

Model Atom –

by Caleb  
sculpture







Lego Blacksmith Project – by Caleb





Response to Last Issue's Prompt

Water Lilies – by Abigail

India ink



Based on "Water Lillies" by Claude Monet



## Art Prompt!

**Draw your favourite movie or book.**

Pretend you're inside that fictional world, and picture your surroundings. Sketch a portrait of a character, paint a picture of a special scene, or create a sculpture of an important item. Put your own twist on it! When you're finished, scan or take a photo of your work and send it in to DESK•Scribe, along with the name of the book or movie it is based on.

## DESK•Scribe Submission Guidelines and Dates to Remember

The next issue of DESK•Scribe will be out on: **Wednesday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

The deadline for submissions for that issue is: **Friday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

Submission guidelines are as follows:

### Written Work

- All submissions must be 1000 words or fewer
- Include a title and your first name
- Use good spelling and grammar (though it doesn't have to be perfect)
- Feel free to include photos that go along with your written submissions
- No profanity

### Visual Work

- All submissions must be good quality (clear, good lighting, etc.)
- The format (for photos and scanned images) must be .jpeg or .png
- If you need help getting a good photo of your work, contact your teacher.
- Include a title, the medium you used (if artwork), and your first name
- If you want your image to be eligible for the cover, make sure it is of high quality. Also, cover images look the best if they are portrait rather than landscape, though this is not a requirement. Your permission will be asked before your work is featured on the cover.
- If your submission is a video, (must be on YouTube) send in the link for it
- Nothing inappropriate

*Email all submissions to Ms. Stephenson at [jstephenson@desk.bc.ca](mailto:jstephenson@desk.bc.ca) by Wednesday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2014 for inclusion in the June 4<sup>th</sup> issue of DESK•Scribe.*

**Thanks for contributing to DESK•Scribe!**

**See you in June! 😊**