



**Egypt: Ancient land, modern problems**

■ **Land:** About the size of Texas, mostly desert, with population concentrated along Nile River.

■ **People:** 54 million; 90% Sunni Moslem, 10% Christian and Jewish; Literacy rate, 44%; life expectancy, 60 years.

■ **Economy:** Per person GNP \$700 (Kuwait's was \$10,500); one of the largest cotton producers; tourism, agriculture and petroleum products are major money earners.

■ **Recent history:** Part of Ottoman Empire from 1500's to late 1800's; British control for first half of 20th century. A 1952 coup put Abdul Nasser, father of modern Egypt, in power. His stand on Arab unity and ties with Soviet Union concerned Western powers.

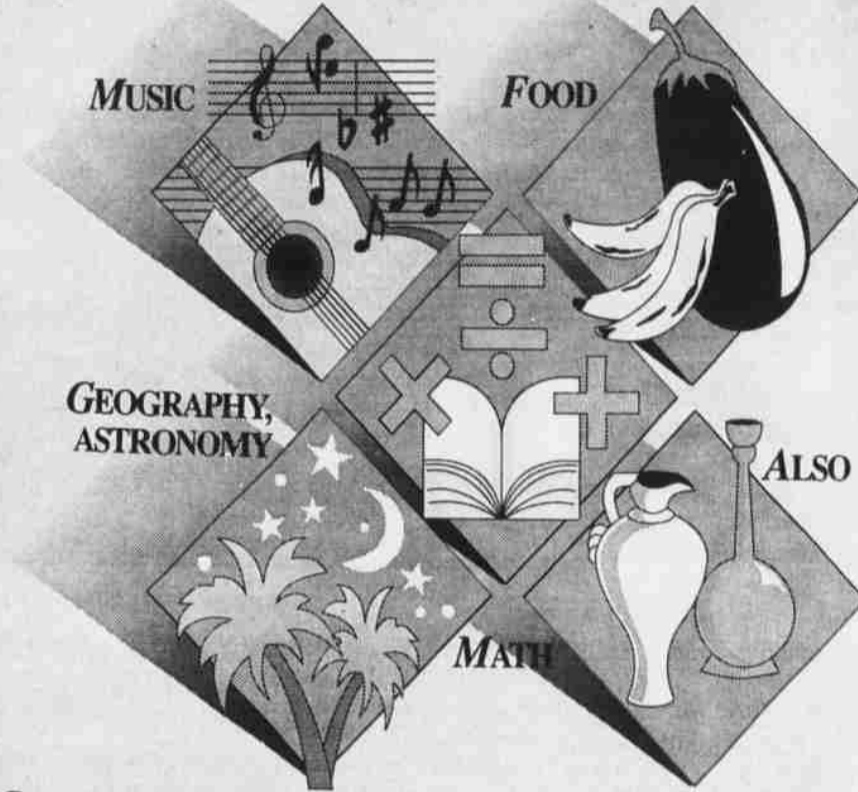
After a series of wars with Israel, the Camp David treaty was signed in 1978. Most Arab nations rejected Egypt for making peace with Israel.

Now, President Mubarak works for a Mideast peace plan for Palestinians, Lebanon.

■ **Military:** Army, 320,000; air force, 30,000; navy, 18,000.

# MIDDLE EAST

## Influences on U.S. life



If you've eaten a strawberry or played the guitar, you've been touched by the Middle East more than you think. Many words, concepts and objects in American life have come from that region. Here are a few:



Lute, guitar, tambourine



Introduced Hindu numeral system to the West; introduced India's concept of zero; developed algebra, fractions, positive and negative signs; trigonometry



Established longitude, latitude; first explored speed of sound and light; Egyptian astronomer in year 150 cataloged more than 1,000 stars



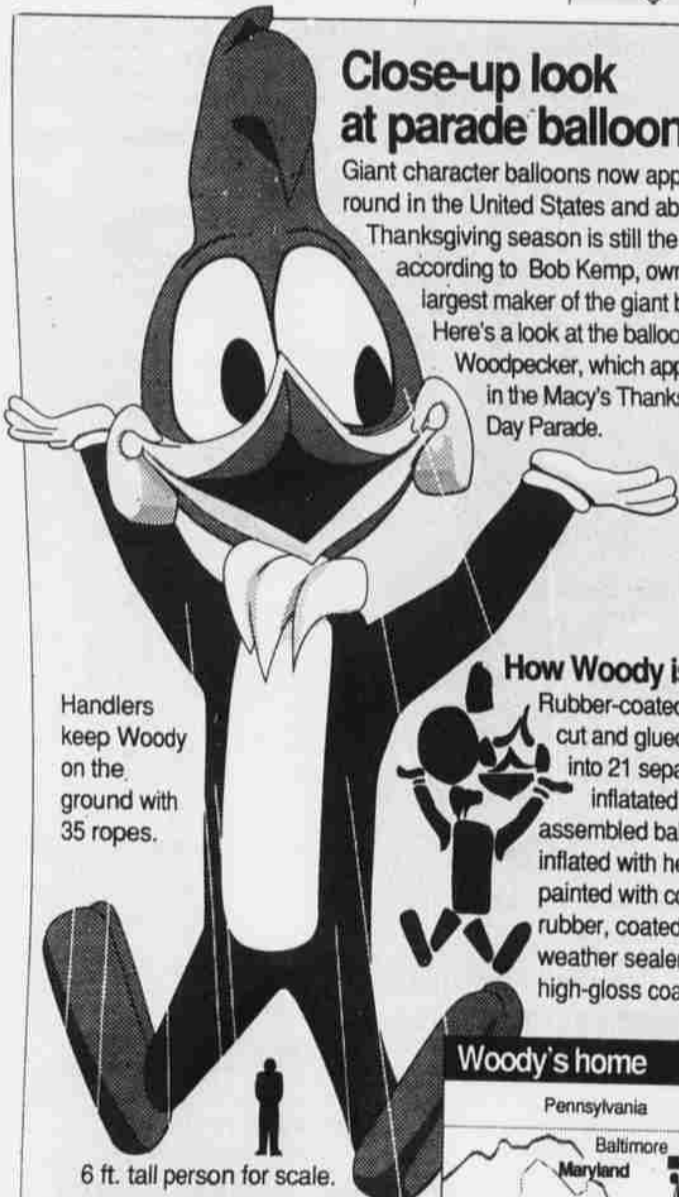
Apricots, artichokes, asparagus, bananas, cherries, dates, eggplants, figs, grapefruit, lemons, oranges, pomegranates, scallions, spinach, strawberries



Introduced Europe to cotton, muslin, satin, rugs, tapestries, metal wares, ceramics, perfumes, banking practices of checks, receipts, letters of credit

### Close-up look at parade balloons

Giant character balloons now appear year-round in the United States and abroad, but Thanksgiving season is still the busiest, according to Bob Kemp, owner of the largest maker of the giant balloons. Here's a look at the balloon Woody Woodpecker, which appears in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.



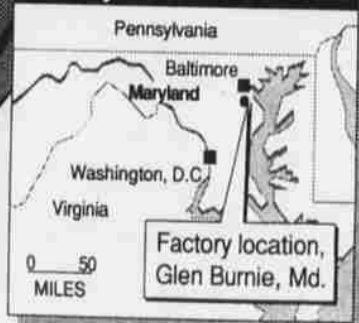
Handlers keep Woody on the ground with 35 ropes.

#### How Woody is made

Rubber-coated nylon is cut and glued together into 21 separately inflated parts. The assembled balloon is inflated with helium and painted with colored liquid rubber, coated with a weather sealer and a final high-gloss coating.



#### Woody's home



6 ft. tall person for scale.

#### Statistics

- Age: 8 years (built in 1982)
- Time to build: 5 months
- Approx. cost: \$100,000
- Height: 75 ft.
- Volume: 8,000-10,000 cu. ft.

SOURCE: Kemp Balloons Inc.

### Comp-U-Diet



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