FACT SHEET · AGES 7–11

All about Marrakech

Acorn & Ink

Marrakech (also spelled Marrakesh) is the fourth-largest city in Morocco and one of its four imperial cities. It was founded nearly a thousand years ago. Its old town, the medina, is wrapped in red-orange walls that give it the nickname “the Red City”.

The medina is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, full of narrow streets, souks, palaces, gardens and mosques. At its heart is Jemaa el-Fnaa, a huge square where storytellers, musicians and acrobats perform. The city sits north of the Atlas Mountains, with long, hot, dry summers and short, mild winters.

Quick facts

Country	Morocco
Nickname	The Red City
Founded	about 1070
People	about 1 million (2024)
Languages	Arabic, Amazigh, French
City walls	about 19 km
July high	about 38 °C
UNESCO	medina listed 1985

Key words

medina: the old walled part of a city

souk: a market with lots of small stalls

riad: a house built around a garden courtyard

minaret: a tall tower on a mosque

tagine: a slow-cooked meal and its clay pot

haggling: bargaining to agree a price

Fun facts

Storks on the palace
White storks nest on top of the ruined El Badi Palace walls.

Tins into lanterns
Metalworkers make candle holders from old sardine tins.

200 towers
The red city walls have 200 towers and 20 gates.

Head of the shop
That is what the spice mix ras el hanout means.

Bargain!
Haggling over the price is still a big part of shopping in the souks.

Sunshine city
Marrakech gets more than 3,250 hours of sunshine a year.

My favourite fact is…

Facts: Wikipedia “Marrakesh” (CC BY-SA 4.0), National Geographic and others · our own words

Sheet MRK-MID-FACT-43517

TOPIC SHEET · AGES 7–11

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Marrakech: the Red City

Use the words in the box to fill the gaps. Each word is used once.

Name _____ Date _____ Score _____ / 10

Word bank

Atlas **blue** **mint** **price** **Red** **souk** **square** **storks** **tagine** **towers**

1. The city walls have 20 gates and 200 _____.
2. White _____ nest on top of the old palace walls.
3. Haggling means agreeing a _____ with the seller.
4. In winter you can see the snowy _____ Mountains from the city.
5. A _____ is a meal cooked slowly in a clay pot with the same name.
6. People call it the _____ City because of the colour of its walls.
7. A market in Marrakech is called a _____.
8. Jemaa el-Fnaa is a huge _____ where storytellers and acrobats perform.
9. The Majorelle Garden has a bright _____ building.
10. People often drink sweet green tea with fresh _____.

TOPIC SHEET · AGES 7–11

Marrakech: the Red City

Acorn & Ink

Read each sentence. Circle True or False.

Name _____ **Date** _____ **Score** _____ / 8

1. A riad is a kind of boat. True False
2. Marrakech is the capital city of Morocco. True False
3. Many names for Morocco come from the name Marrakech. True False
4. The Menara Gardens were made in 1957. True False
5. The medina is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. True False
6. The old walls stretch for about 19 kilometres. True False
7. The Koutoubia minaret is the tallest in the city. True False
8. Marrakech has long, cold, rainy summers. True False

TOPIC SHEET · AGES 7–11

Marrakech word match

Acorn & Ink

Write the letter of the right meaning in each box.

Name _____ Date _____ Score _____ / 7

☐	**ramparts**	**A**	a slow-cooked meal and its clay pot
☐	**haggling**	**B**	the old walled part of a city
☐	**tagine**	**C**	a market with lots of small stalls
☐	**souk**	**D**	a house built around a garden courtyard
☐	**riad**	**E**	a tall tower on a mosque
☐	**medina**	**F**	strong walls that protect a city
☐	**minaret**	**G**	bargaining to agree a price

TOPIC SHEET · AGES 7–11

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Marrakech mini quiz

Fill the gaps using the word bank, then circle True or False.

Name _____ Date _____ Score _____ / 10

Word bank Atlas blue medina minaret souk square

1. In winter you can see the snowy _____ Mountains from the city.
2. A market in Marrakech is called a _____.
3. The old walled part of the city is called the _____.
4. The Majorelle Garden has a bright _____ building.
5. The tall tower of the Koutoubia Mosque is called a _____.
6. Jemaa el-Fnaa is a huge _____ where storytellers and acrobats perform.

True or false?

7. A riad is a kind of boat. True False
8. The medina is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. True False
9. Marrakech has long, cold, rainy summers. True False
10. The Menara Gardens were made in 1957. True False

WORD SEARCH · MEDIUM · MEDIUM

Marrakech

Acorn & Ink

Find each word and tick it off. The words go across, down and diagonally.

Name _____ Date _____ Found _____ / 12

m	b	q	e	j	w	t	s	g	m	g
a	t	v	w	v	m	e	p	e	i	a
j	m	q	i	o	e	a	i	m	n	r
o	a	t	l	a	s	r	c	e	t	d
r	t	r	m	b	t	m	e	d	m	e
e	w	x	v	y	s	p	s	i	o	n
l	a	j	u	v	o	a	j	n	r	s
l	l	r	j	d	u	l	f	a	o	l
e	l	l	c	q	k	a	h	e	c	b
s	s	d	k	j	s	c	c	u	c	g
s	t	o	r	k	s	e	x	o	o	y

- ☐ Atlas
- ☐ gardens
- ☐ Majorelle
- ☐ medina
- ☐ mint
- ☐ Morocco
- ☐ palace
- ☐ souk
- ☐ spices
- ☐ storks
- ☐ tea
- ☐ walls

COLOUR BY SUM · TIMES TABLES

What's the mystery picture?

Acorn & Ink

Work out each sum. Find the answer in the key and colour the square that colour.

14 dark blue 15 yellow 21 red 30 orange

36 black 42 leave white

7 × 2	2 × 7	2 × 7	2 × 7	7 × 2	2 × 7	9 × 4	4 × 9	2 × 7	2 × 7	2 × 7	7 × 2	6 × 7	2 × 7
7 × 2	7 × 6	7 × 2	7 × 2	2 × 7	7 × 2	9 × 4	4 × 9	2 × 7	7 × 2	7 × 2	7 × 2	2 × 7	2 × 7
2 × 7	7 × 2	2 × 7	2 × 7	7 × 2	7 × 2	3 × 5	5 × 3	7 × 2	7 × 2	2 × 7	2 × 7	2 × 7	2 × 7
2 × 7	7 × 2	7 × 2	7 × 2	2 × 7	5 × 3	5 × 3	3 × 5	3 × 5	2 × 7	7 × 2	2 × 7	7 × 2	2 × 7
2 × 7	7 × 2	7 × 2	7 × 2	5 × 3	5 × 3	7 × 3	7 × 3	3 × 5	5 × 3	7 × 2	2 × 7	7 × 2	7 × 2
2 × 7	2 × 7	2 × 7	3 × 5	3 × 5	5 × 3	5 × 3	5 × 3	5 × 3	3 × 5	5 × 3	7 × 2	2 × 7	7 × 2
7 × 2	7 × 2	2 × 7	5 × 3	10 × 3	5 × 6	5 × 3	3 × 5	5 × 6	3 × 10	5 × 3	2 × 7	2 × 7	2 × 7
2 × 7	3 × 10	7 × 2	3 × 5	6 × 5	3 × 7	5 × 3	3 × 5	3 × 7	6 × 5	5 × 3	2 × 7	10 × 3	7 × 2
7 × 2	2 × 7	7 × 2	3 × 5	10 × 3	5 × 6	5 × 3	3 × 5	3 × 10	6 × 5	3 × 5	7 × 2	2 × 7	7 × 2
2 × 7	10 × 3	7 × 2	5 × 3	10 × 3	3 × 7	5 × 3	5 × 3	3 × 7	5 × 6	5 × 3	7 × 2	5 × 6	2 × 7
2 × 7	2 × 7	2 × 7	3 × 5	5 × 6	5 × 6	5 × 3	5 × 3	10 × 3	6 × 5	3 × 5	2 × 7	2 × 7	2 × 7
2 × 7	7 × 2	7 × 2	3 × 5	3 × 5	3 × 5	3 × 5	5 × 3	3 × 5	5 × 3	3 × 5	2 × 7	2 × 7	7 × 2
7 × 2	7 × 2	7 × 2	7 × 2	5 × 3	5 × 3	7 × 3	7 × 3	5 × 3	5 × 3	7 × 2	7 × 2	2 × 7	7 × 2
7 × 2	7 × 6	2 × 7	7 × 2	2 × 7	5 × 3	5 × 3	5 × 3	5 × 3	2 × 7	7 × 2	7 × 2	7 × 2	7 × 2
2 × 7	2 × 7	2 × 7	2 × 7	2 × 7	2 × 7	5 × 3	5 × 3	7 × 2	2 × 7	7 × 2	7 × 2	6 × 7	2 × 7
7 × 2	7 × 2	7 × 2	7 × 2	2 × 7	7 × 2	3 × 5	5 × 3	7 × 2	7 × 2	7 × 2	7 × 2	2 × 7	2 × 7

ANSWERS · TOPIC SHEET · AGES 7–11

Acorn & Ink

Marrakech: the Red City

Answers are shown in red.

Name _____ Date _____ Score _____ / 10

Word bank

Atlas **blue** **mint** **price** **Red** **souk** **square** **storks** **tagine** **towers**

1. The city walls have 20 gates and 200 **towers**.
2. White **storks** nest on top of the old palace walls.
3. Haggling means agreeing a **price** with the seller.
4. In winter you can see the snowy **Atlas** Mountains from the city.
5. A **tagine** is a meal cooked slowly in a clay pot with the same name.
6. People call it the **Red** City because of the colour of its walls.
7. A market in Marrakech is called a **souk**.
8. Jemaa el-Fnaa is a huge **square** where storytellers and acrobats perform.
9. The Majorelle Garden has a bright **blue** building.
10. People often drink sweet green tea with fresh **mint**.

ANSWERS · TOPIC SHEET · AGES 7–11

Marrakech: the Red City

Acorn & Ink

Answers are shown in red.

Name _____ Date _____ Score _____ / 8

1. A riad is a kind of boat. — True **False**
2. Marrakech is the capital city of Morocco. — True **False**
3. Many names for Morocco come from the name Marrakech. — **True** False
4. The Menara Gardens were made in 1957. — True **False**
5. The medina is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. — **True** False
6. The old walls stretch for about 19 kilometres. — **True** False
7. The Koutoubia minaret is the tallest in the city. — **True** False
8. Marrakech has long, cold, rainy summers. — True **False**

ANSWERS · TOPIC SHEET · AGES 7–11

Marrakech word match

Acorn & Ink

Answers are shown in red.

Name _____ Date _____ Score _____ / 7

F	**ramparts**	**A**	a slow-cooked meal and its clay pot
G	**haggling**	**B**	the old walled part of a city
A	**tagine**	**C**	a market with lots of small stalls
C	**souk**	**D**	a house built around a garden courtyard
D	**riad**	**E**	a tall tower on a mosque
B	**medina**	**F**	strong walls that protect a city
E	**minaret**	**G**	bargaining to agree a price

ANSWERS · TOPIC SHEET · AGES 7–11

Acorn & Ink

Marrakech mini quiz

Answers are shown in red.

Name _____ Date _____ Score _____ / 10

Word bank Atlas blue medina minaret souk square

1. In winter you can see the snowy **Atlas** Mountains from the city.
2. A market in Marrakech is called a **souk**.
3. The old walled part of the city is called the **medina**.
4. The Majorelle Garden has a bright **blue** building.
5. The tall tower of the Koutoubia Mosque is called a **minaret**.
6. Jemaa el-Fnaa is a huge **square** where storytellers and acrobats perform.

True or false?

7. A riad is a kind of boat. — True / **False**
8. The medina is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. — **True** / False
9. Marrakech has long, cold, rainy summers. — True / **False**
10. The Menara Gardens were made in 1957. — True / **False**

ANSWERS · WORD SEARCH · MEDIUM · MEDIUM

Marrakech

Acorn & Ink

The hidden words are shaded in red.

m	b	q	e	j	w	t	s	g	m	g
a	t	v	w	v	m	e	p	e	i	a
j	m	q	i	o	e	a	i	m	n	r
o	a	t	l	a	s	r	c	e	t	d
r	t	r	m	b	t	m	e	d	m	e
e	w	x	v	y	s	p	s	i	o	n
l	a	j	u	v	o	a	j	n	r	s
l	l	r	j	d	u	l	f	a	o	l
e	l	l	c	q	k	a	h	e	c	b
s	s	d	k	j	s	c	c	u	c	g
s	t	o	r	k	s	e	x	o	o	y

- [ ] Atlas
- [ ] gardens
- [ ] Majorelle
- [ ] medina
- [ ] mint
- [ ] Morocco
- [ ] palace
- [ ] souk
- [ ] spices
- [ ] storks
- [ ] tea
- [ ] walls

It's a Moroccan lantern!

Acorn & Ink

Here's how the finished picture looks.

14	dark blue	15	yellow	21	red
30	orange	36	black	42	leave white

