

Kids' KOrner

One capital is not enough in some of world's nations

WASHINGTON — What's the capital of Mauritania? Bolivia? Bangladesh? South Africa? Suriname? The Netherlands?

Think carefully. For more than 160 of the world's countries, there is only one right answer. Only in a handful of places are two answers correct.

Bolivia, for example. La Paz, 12,000 feet up in the Andes, is its better-known capital city, the highest in the world. But it is often not the five-letter capital of Bolivia that creators of crossword puzzles are seeking. That's Sucre, the country's legal capital and seat of the Supreme Court.

On world maps, a star, the cartographer's symbol for capital, appears beside the names of both cities. La Paz, which is more accessible, overtook Sucre as the commercial and financial center after Bolivia achieved independence, and it has been the country's de facto capital since the late 19th century.

But as the original capital, Sucre has maintained its status. "It's rooted in the foundation of Bolivia. For historical and patriotic reasons, Sucre will keep its position," a government official explained.

Not Two, But Three

South Africa has not just two capitals, but three. Pretoria, in the north, is the executive, administrative capital. Cape Town, at the southern tip, is the legislative capital. Bloemfontein, in between, is the judicial capital.

For six months each year, the prime minister, the ministers of all government departments, and a host of other officials in Pretoria pack up and move more than 1,000 miles south while Parliament is in session in Cape Town. The South African government had to build a

village there to house the civil servants.

Split capitals cause headaches for representatives of foreign governments as well.

"Picture the difficulties if the capital of the United States were in Washington for six months and in Des Moines, Iowa, for six months," said Jerry Rose, administrative counselor of the U.S. Embassy in Pretoria, who oversees the annual migration of its staff to Cape Town.

"We have to maintain completely outfitted residences in each city for the ambassador, deputy chief of mission, and the political officer. It's the only dual American embassy that I know of, and it's expensive," he said.

Capital Compromise

South Africa has had all three capitals since 1910. The two former Boer republics and the principal British colony each had wanted its capital chosen capital of the new union. The compromise: Keep all three, each with a specific function.

In neighboring Swaziland, the situation is somewhat similar. Mountainous Mbabane was the capital-city choice of the former British colonial administrators because it was free of the malaria prevalent at lower altitudes.

When Swaziland gained independence in 1968, Mbabane continued as capital. But traditional Swazis consider Lobamba — the home of the Queen Mother and royal family, the seat of Parliament, and the site of national festivals — the country's capital. When Parliament meets, government officials in Mbabane travel down the mountain to Lobamba, just 10 miles away.

Dual capitals have sometimes been the means of settling disputes when rival cities or territories

have developed into nations. When Libya was created in 1952, Tripoli and Benghazi were designated co-capitals. The seat of government switched back and forth between the two cities every two years until Tripoli eventually emerged as the sole capital.

Tales of two capitals get more complicated in Europe and the Middle East. When asked the capital of the Netherlands, any number of people, including a few at the U.S. State Department, respond: The Hague. It seems logical enough — the Queen lives there, the parliament meets there, and all national government offices and embassies are based there.

In Name Only

But Amsterdam is the only official capital of the country. "No, everything's done at The Hague," a Dutch Embassy staff member in Washington said. "Come to think of it, I'm not sure why Amsterdam should be the capital."

About 40 miles apart, the two cities trace their origins to the 13th century. The Hauge's Gravenhage in Dutch — was originally a hunting lodge for the counts of Holland. In the 16th century, to settle power struggles among the lords of rival cities, The Hague — not officially a city — was selected as the seat of government.

But by the 17th century the port of Amsterdam, home of the prosperous Dutch East India Company, was the most powerful city and capital of Holland.

Who decides where a capital should be? Countries usually choose their own. But Israel's choice, Jerusalem, is not recognized by the United Nations, the United States, or numerous other Western powers. The embassies of all countries except

Costa Rica and El Salvador are located in Tel Aviv.

Some, including the U.S. Embassy, have been there from the beginning, since the state of Israel was created in 1948 and the provisional capital was Tel Aviv. The U.N. plan for the partition of Palestine, made moot by war between Arabs and Jews in 1948, treated Jerusalem as an international zone.

Instead, Jerusalem wound up a

divided city, with Israel claiming West Jerusalem. In late 1949, the Israeli capital was moved there. But because of possible diplomatic objections, the prime minister and foreign minister continued to operate from Tel Aviv. In 1953, all ministries were moved.

After the Six-day War of 1967, victorious Israel unilaterally drew the municipal boundaries of a new Jerusalem, Israel's "eternal and

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KEEPING COOL

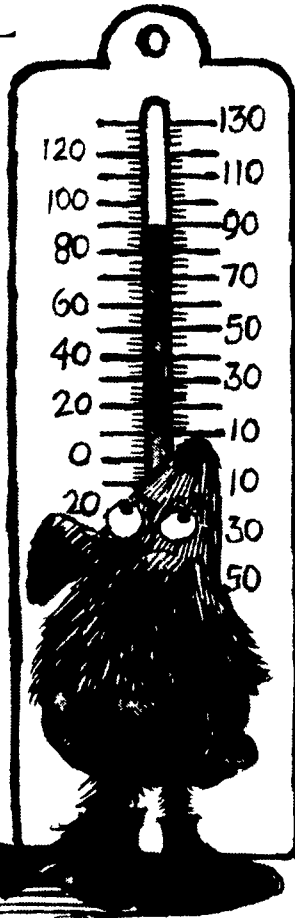
Whew! It's hot and getting hotter. You may beat the heat with air conditioning. But how do animals keep cool?

A cat may find a shady spot and stretch out. The more it stretches, the more body heat it loses to the air.

A bird gets rid of body heat by spreading out its wings. It may also pant like a dog.

Pigs and rhinos keep their cool by wallowing in the mud.

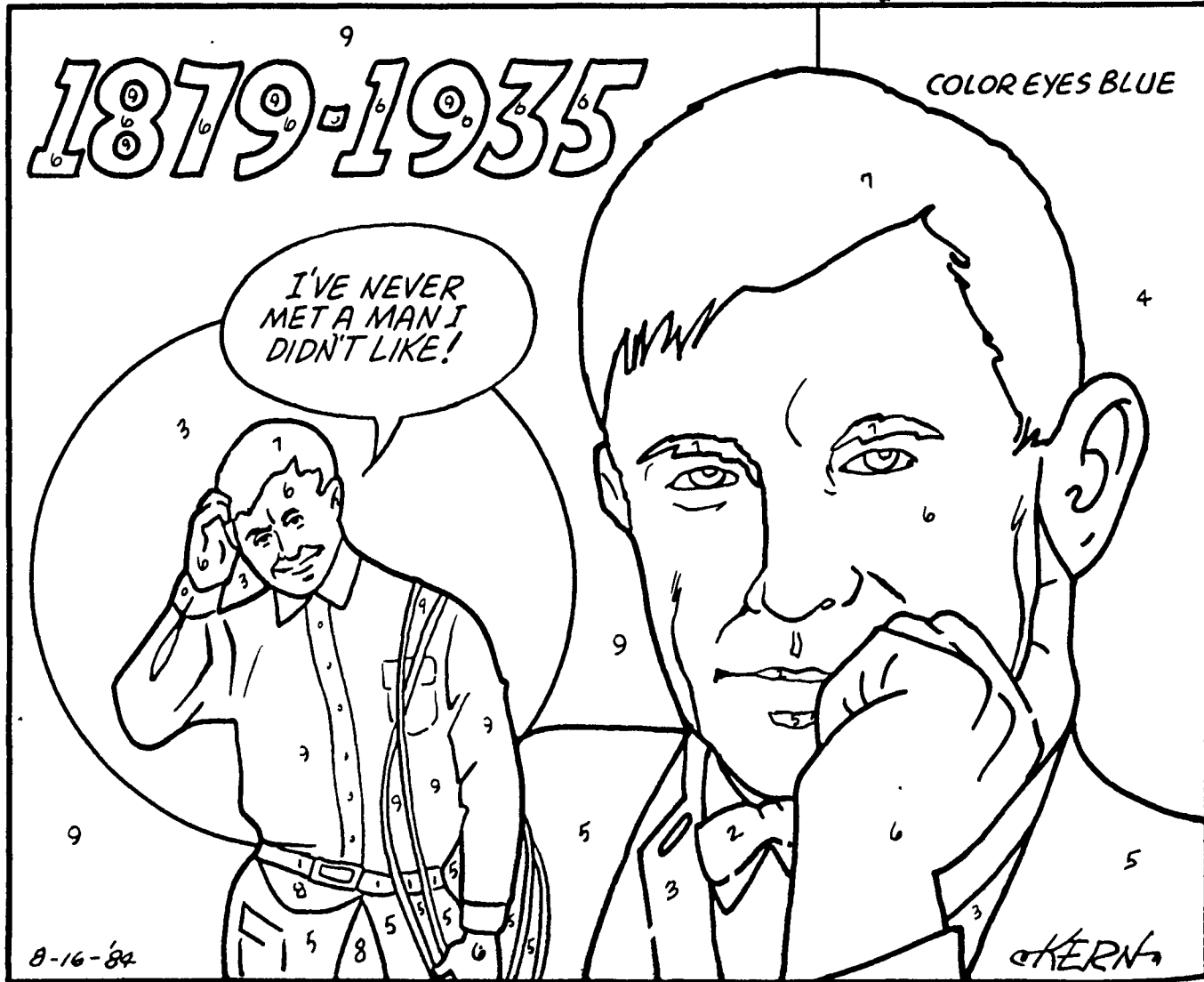
Elephants often do what many kids enjoy most on a hot day — they splash about in a pool of cool water.



COLOR THIS!

- | | |
|-----------|---------------|
| 1. BLACK | 6. PEACH |
| 2. RED | 7. DK GREY |
| 3. YELLOW | 8. LT. BROWN |
| 4. BLUE | 9. LT. BLUE |
| 5. BROWN | 10. LT. GREEN |

WILL ROGERS WAS ONE OF AMERICA'S GREAT HUMORISTS. A DELIGHTFUL ACTOR AND A TALENTED AUTHOR. HE WROTE NEWS COMMENTS WHICH WERE SYNDICATED TO MORE THAN 350 DAILY NEWS PAPERS. ROGERS WAS A NOTED PHILOSOPHER, USING HOMEY WITTICISMS WHILE PERFORMING ROPE TRICKS FOR AUDIENCES.



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