

WHERE DO PEOPLE LIVE UNDER THE GROUND?



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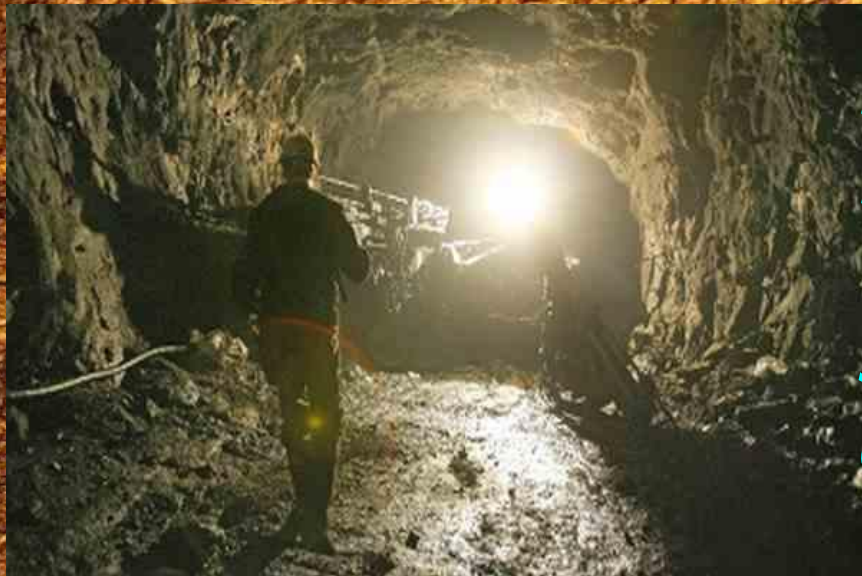
One place where people live under the ground is a small town called Coober Pedy. Coober Pedy is in the Outback of south Australia.

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Coober Pedy is famous for opals. Opals are beautiful white stones. People put opals in jewelry. The early Coober Pedy dugouts were indeed the holes that had been dug in search for opal. Later opal mining was back breaking manual labour, so the earliest Coober Pedy homes were no bigger than they absolutely needed to be.

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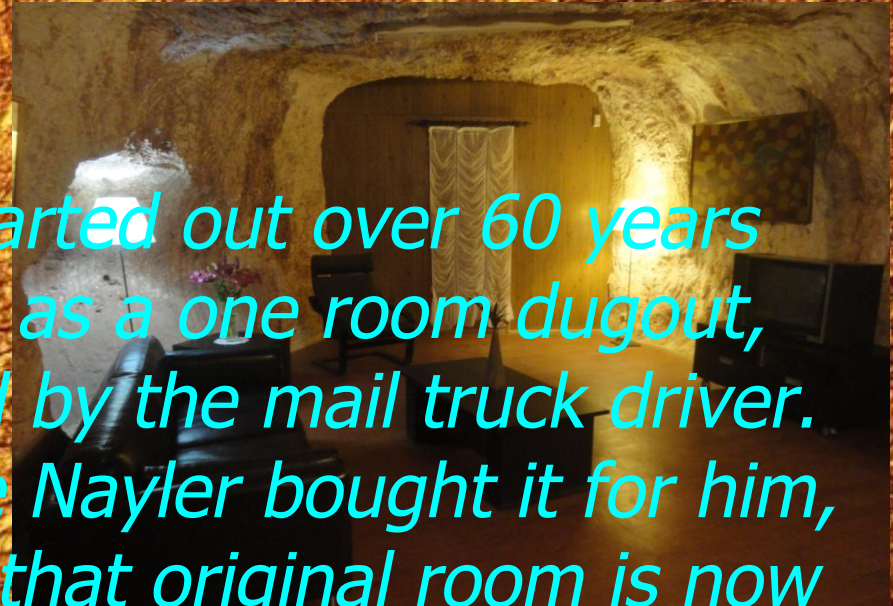


Most of the people in Coober Pedy are miners. They look for gold or special stones. Miners discovered opals in Coober Pedy in 1915.



*At that time, many miners lived in simple holes under the ground. Aboriginal people laughed at them. They called the area *kupa piti*. That means «white man in a hole» in their language.*

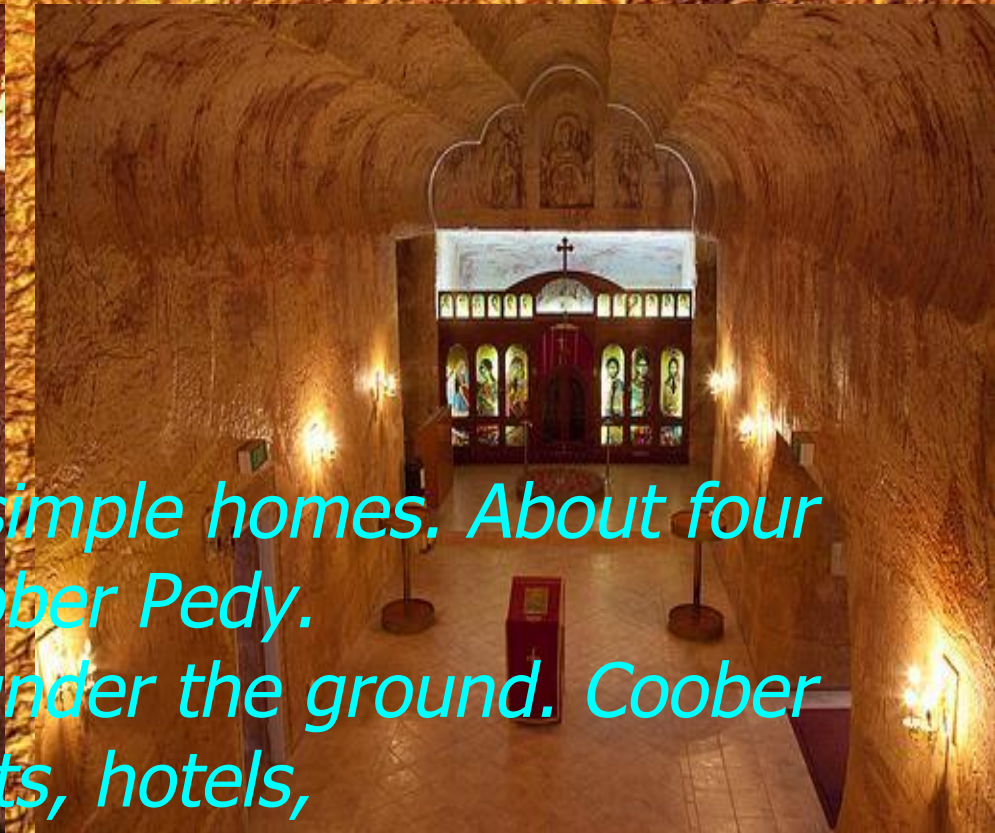
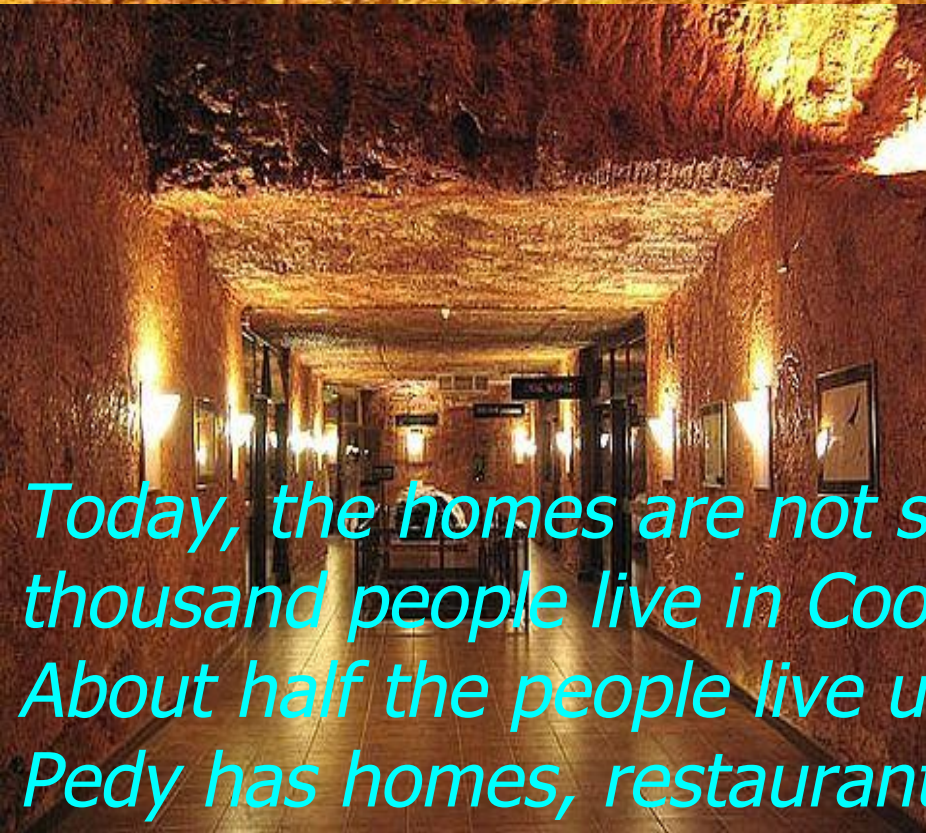
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It started out over 60 years ago, as a one room dugout, used by the mail truck driver. Faye Nayler bought it for him, and that original room is now the kitchen.

The home you see today was built over ten years, by hand, using only picks and shovels, by Faye and two of her lady friends.

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Today, the homes are not simple homes. About four thousand people live in Coober Pedy. About half the people live under the ground. Coober Pedy has homes, restaurants, hotels, and churches. It is like other towns. But the people don't have a view. A new underground house with five rooms costs 25,000\$. Some homes have swimming pools!

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The people of Coober Pedy live underground for different reasons. One reason is there are no trees. The last tree died in 1971. People need wood to build houses.

One of the characteristics of Cappadocia is having plenty of underground cities. It's known that there are more than a hundred of underground settlements in the region and many of them are not open for visits.

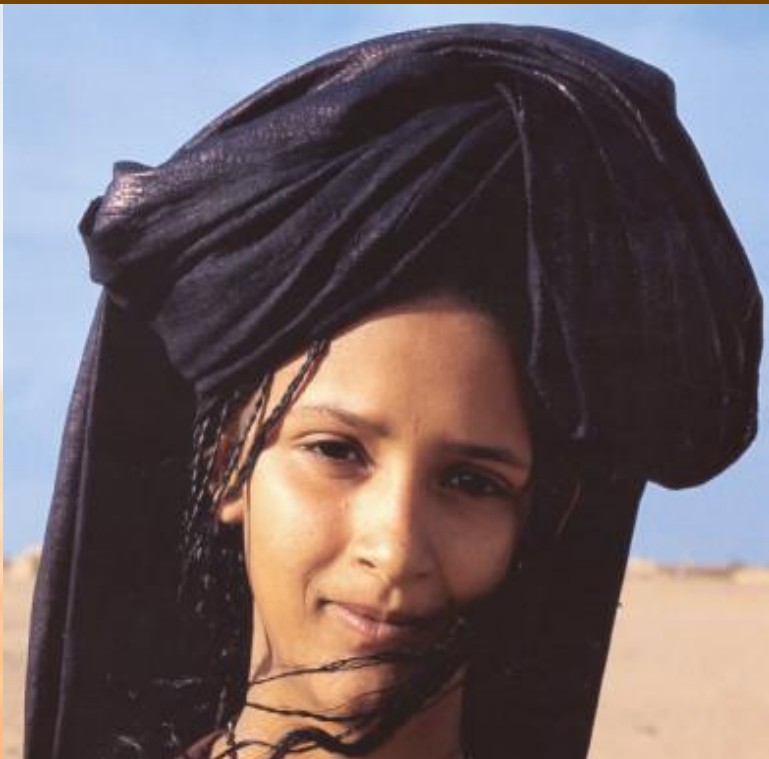


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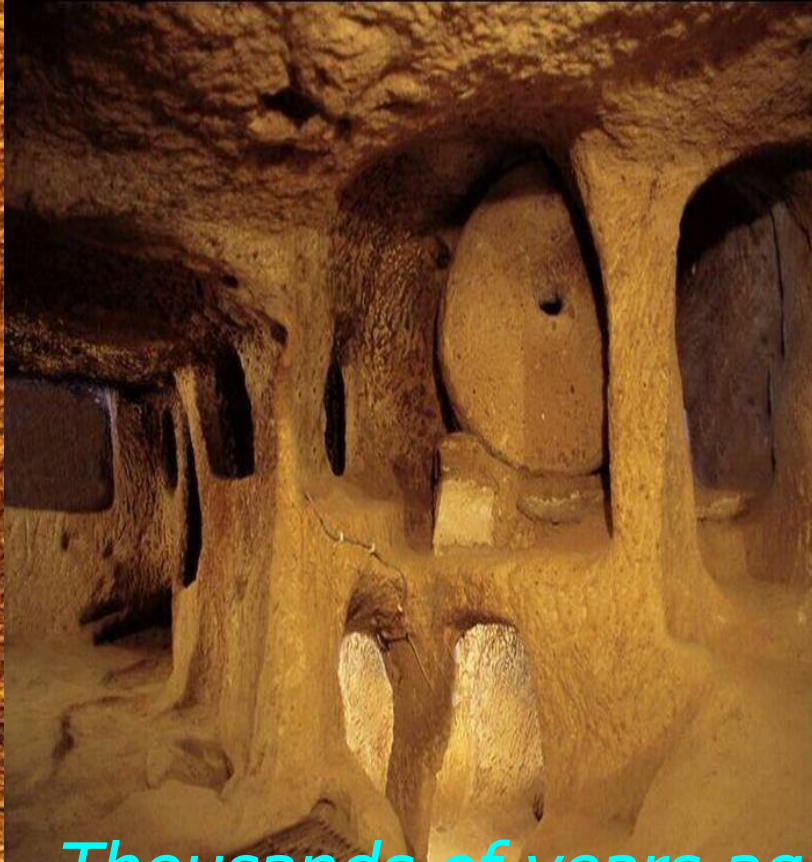
People also live under the ground in the Sahara Desert in south Tunisia. It is very hot and there are no trees.

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The people in Sahara Desert are called Berbers. The Berbers dig deep holes in the ground. Many houses have two or three floors, but they are simple. Air and light come through an open hole. There are about seven hundred of such holes.

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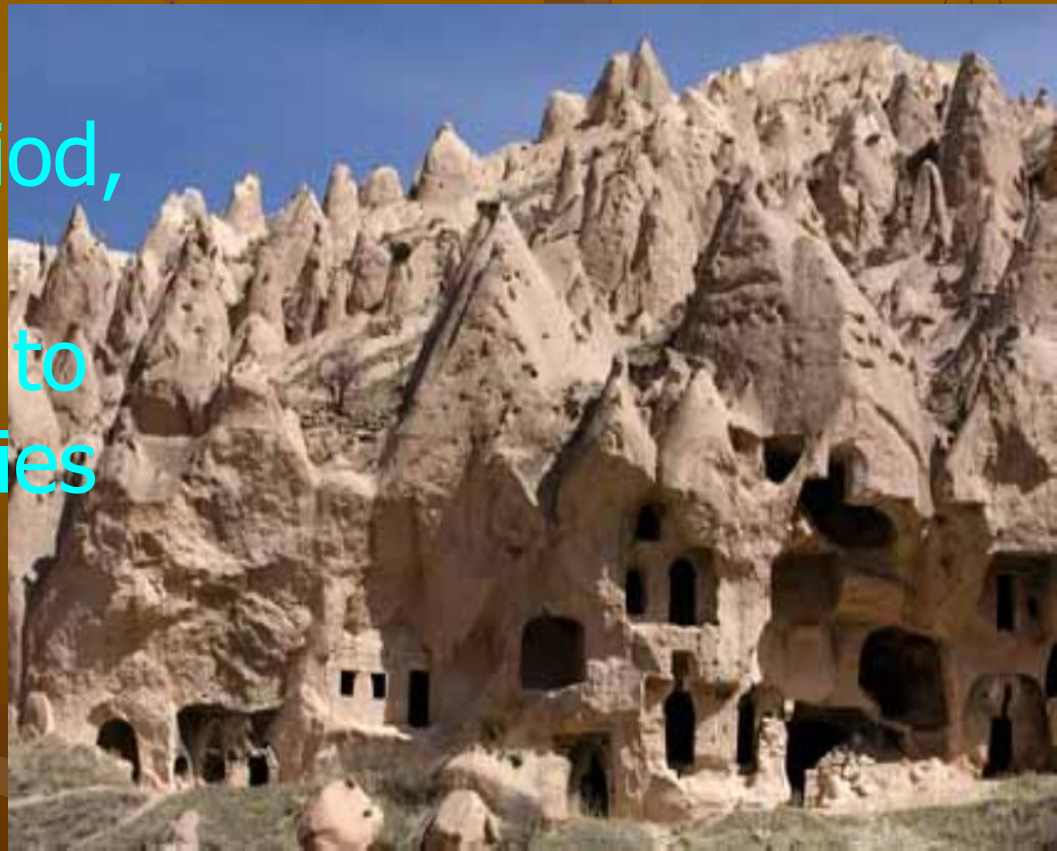
Thousands of years ago, people hid underground in Cappadocia, Turkey. People still live there today. It is a beautiful place with favourable weather.

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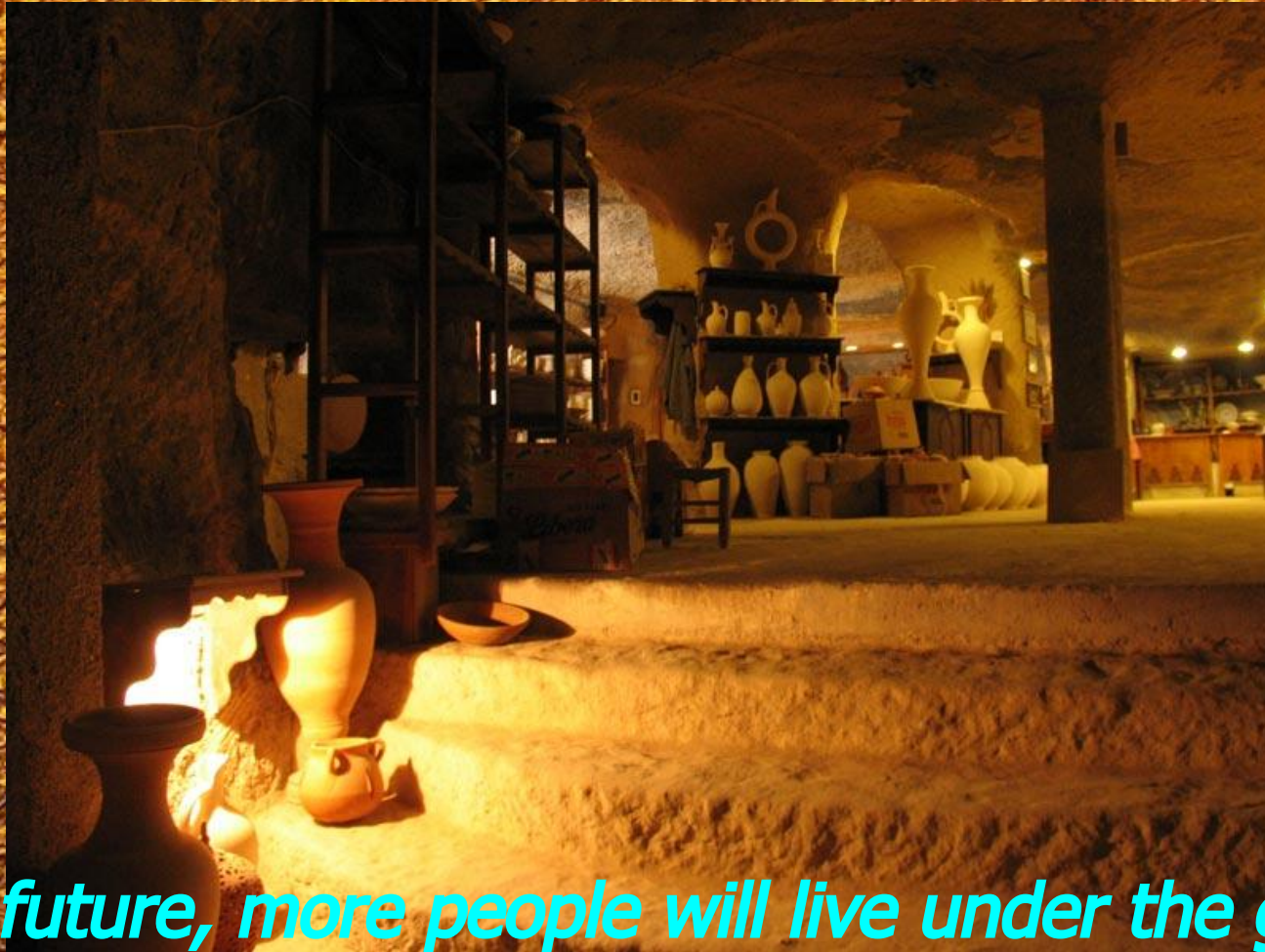


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The underground cities, which are guessed to be used since the Bronze Age, used to be settlements mostly in Byzantine period, doubtless. In this period, increasing invasions forced local residents to build underground cities for protection and religious purposes



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In the future, more people will live under the ground. They have different reasons.

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Japan has a lot of people and a little land. Japan wants to build a city under the ground. The name of the city will be Alice City. About 100,000 people will live there. It will have offices, hotels, sport centers, and theatres.

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Underground cities are very interesting, of course. But can people live with no sun and no sky?