

# Armenia for Kids

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Apricot and Walnut Publishing, LLC



*To my husband and our children*

*To my niece and nephews*

*To children of the Armenian Diaspora*

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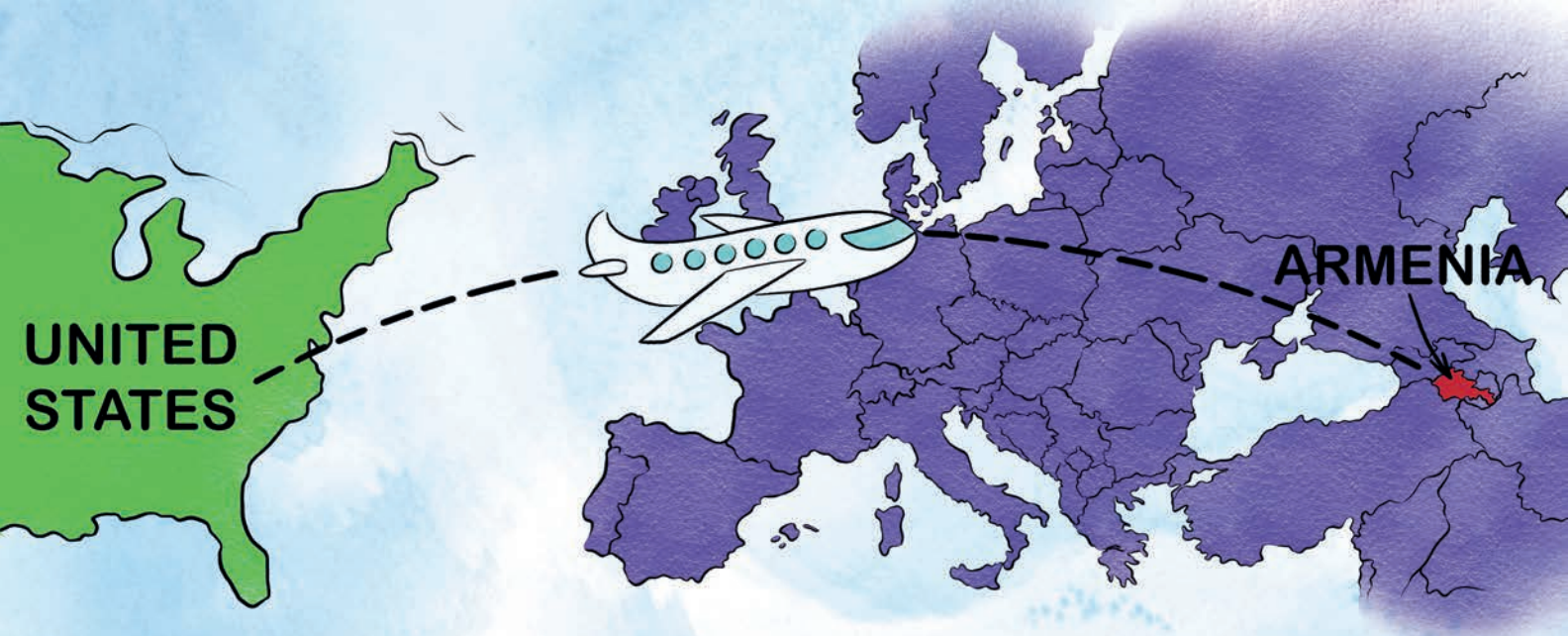
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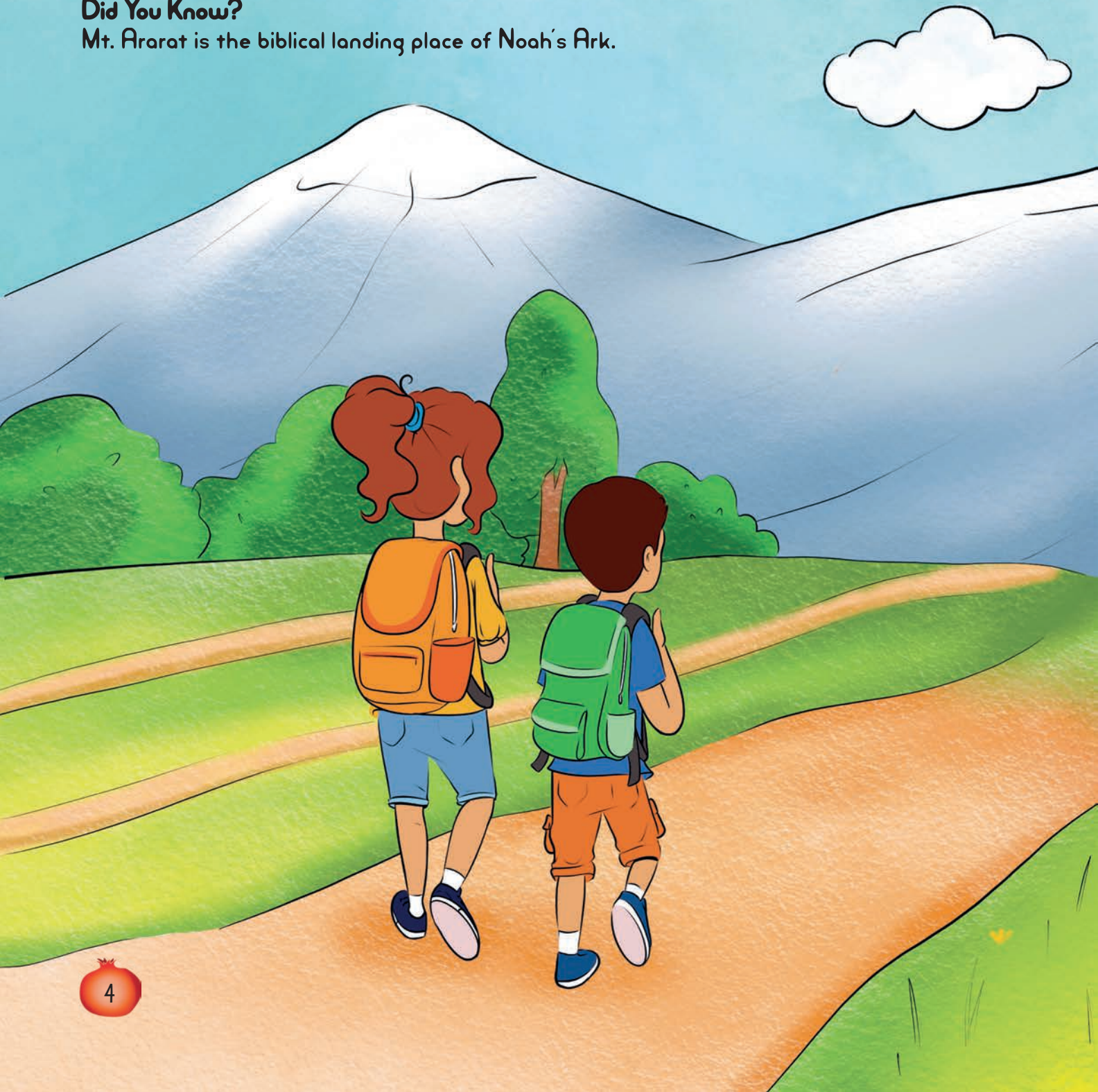


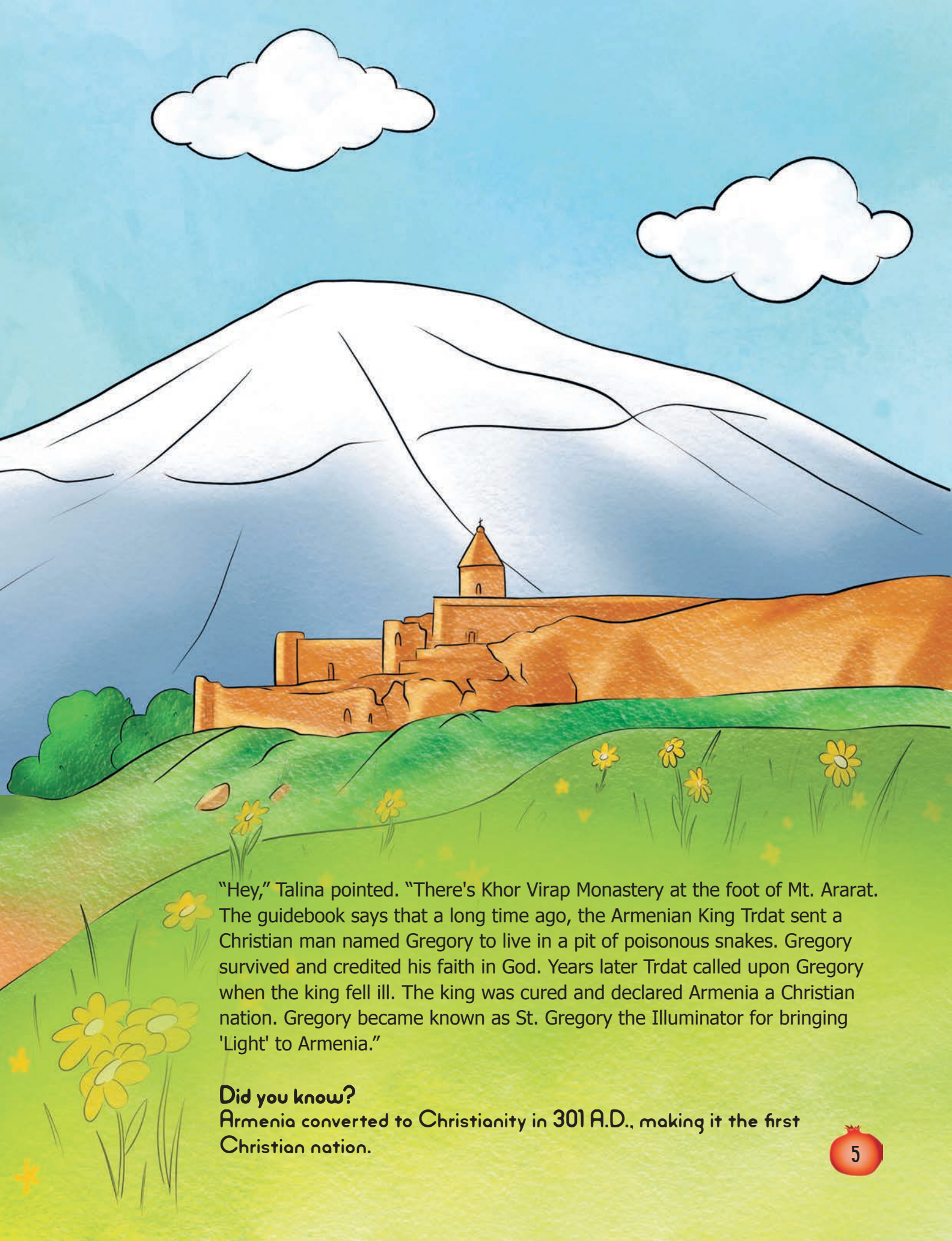
"Hi, I'm Talina, and this is my brother Mark. We're visiting Armenia! Come explore with us!"

"Wow, look at that—it's Mt. Ararat!" Mark said, eyeing the mountain rising before them. "The guidebook says Mt. Ararat is a symbol of strength for Armenians," Talina said. "It was part of historic Armenia and can be seen from far and wide." She turned to Mark, "We saw the mountain when we landed, remember?" "Yes," replied Mark who added, "It's actually a dormant (sleeping) volcano."

### **Did You Know?**

**Mt. Ararat is the biblical landing place of Noah's Ark.**





"Hey," Talina pointed. "There's Khor Virap Monastery at the foot of Mt. Ararat. The guidebook says that a long time ago, the Armenian King Trdat sent a Christian man named Gregory to live in a pit of poisonous snakes. Gregory survived and credited his faith in God. Years later Trdat called upon Gregory when the king fell ill. The king was cured and declared Armenia a Christian nation. Gregory became known as St. Gregory the Illuminator for bringing 'Light' to Armenia."

**Did you know?**

Armenia converted to Christianity in 301 A.D., making it the first Christian nation.

The next day, the children visited a local school and joined them on a field trip to the Alphabet Park.

“Woah, look at those letters—they’re huge!” Mark exclaimed.

The teacher explained, “The stone Alphabet Park opened in 2005 in celebration of the 1600th birthday of the Armenian alphabet.\* Mesrob Mashtotz developed the Armenian alphabet when he wrote down what he saw in a vision.”





"Here's 'T' for my name," Talina said enthusiastically. "Where's 'M'?" Mark asked. "Over there," the teacher pointed. "Say 'banir!'" ('cheese!')

### Did you know?

Three letters were added in the 12th century to make 38 in all - 31 consonants and seven vowels.

\*Turn to p. 29 for the complete Armenian alphabet.

The next day, the children were invited to a chess class.

"Shakh yev mat!" ('Check mate!') Mark exclaimed.

"Good move," the teacher praised.

Armenia has many international champions. Chess may be a game of strategy and discipline, but for most it's a fun, national pastime.

**Did You know?**

In Armenia, chess is a class in school, like Math and Reading.

