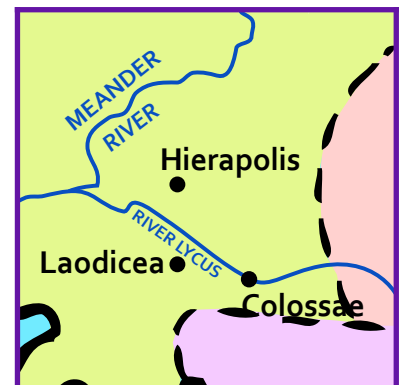


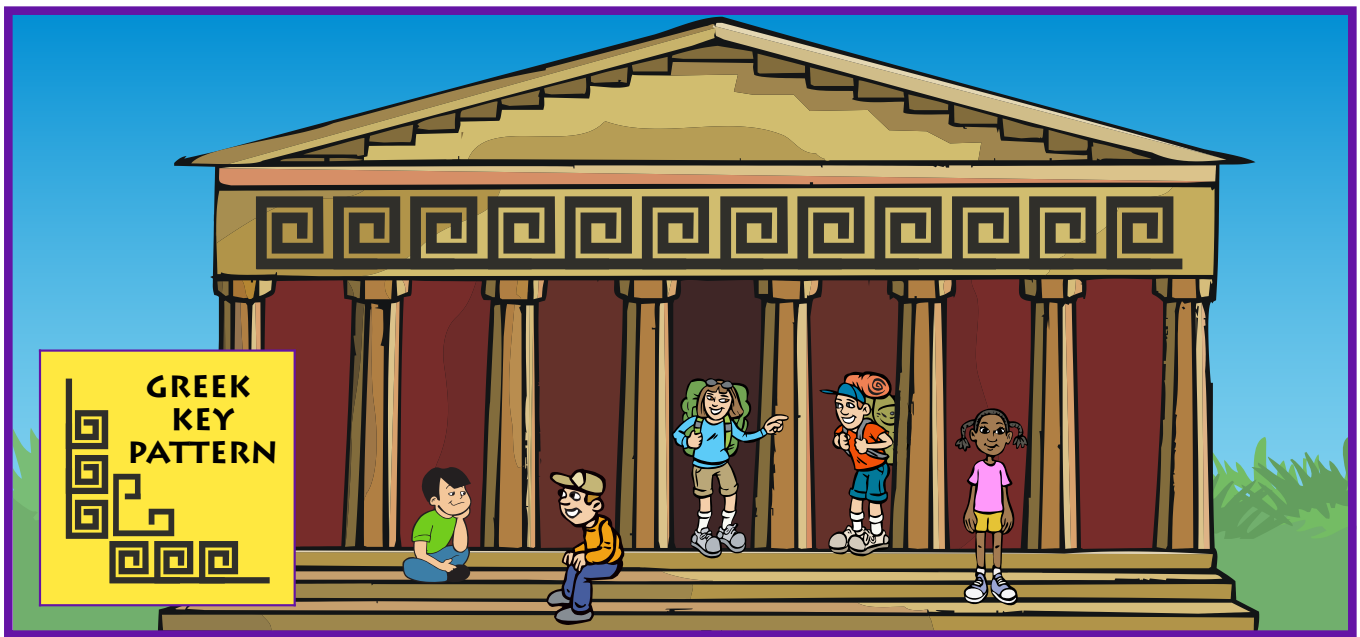
# Tour of the Holy Lands - Meander River



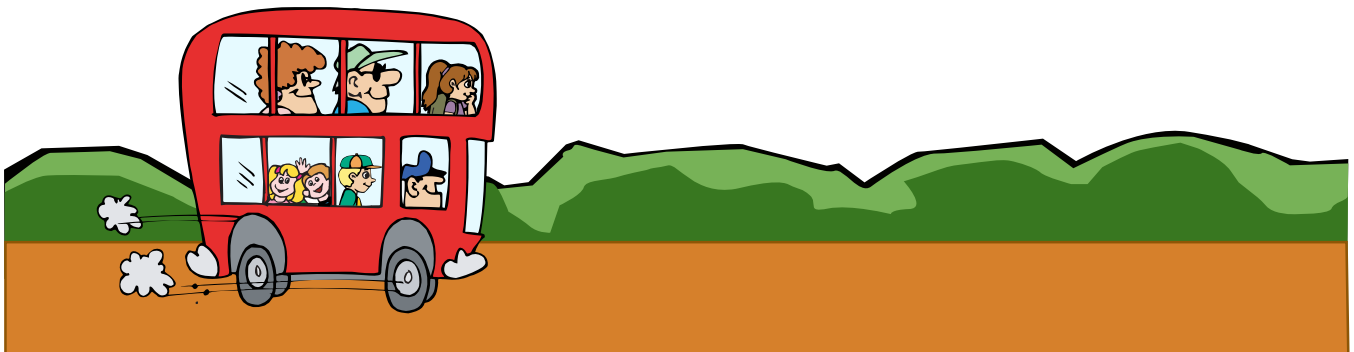
We're going to visit the third (and last) church that Paul wrote to in this area -- Laodicea. But before we get there, we'll make a couple of stops on the banks of the Meander River (Mee-an' der).

Here it is! Look how long and wiggly the river is. And what a good name they have given it: "Meander." If you had a dictionary in your pocket, it would define "meander" with words such as winding, bending, twisting, curving, all of which certainly describe this river. In fact, the English got their word "meander" from this river's name.





"Meander" is also the word used to describe a border design on Greek buildings, Greek statues, Greek mosaics, Greek pottery, Greek jewelry and Greek fabric. The Meander, with all its variations, is also called the "Greek Key," as if it was discovered in Greece; but other countries claim it as their design, too. Now that you have seen it here, you will be able to point it out as we continue our travels.



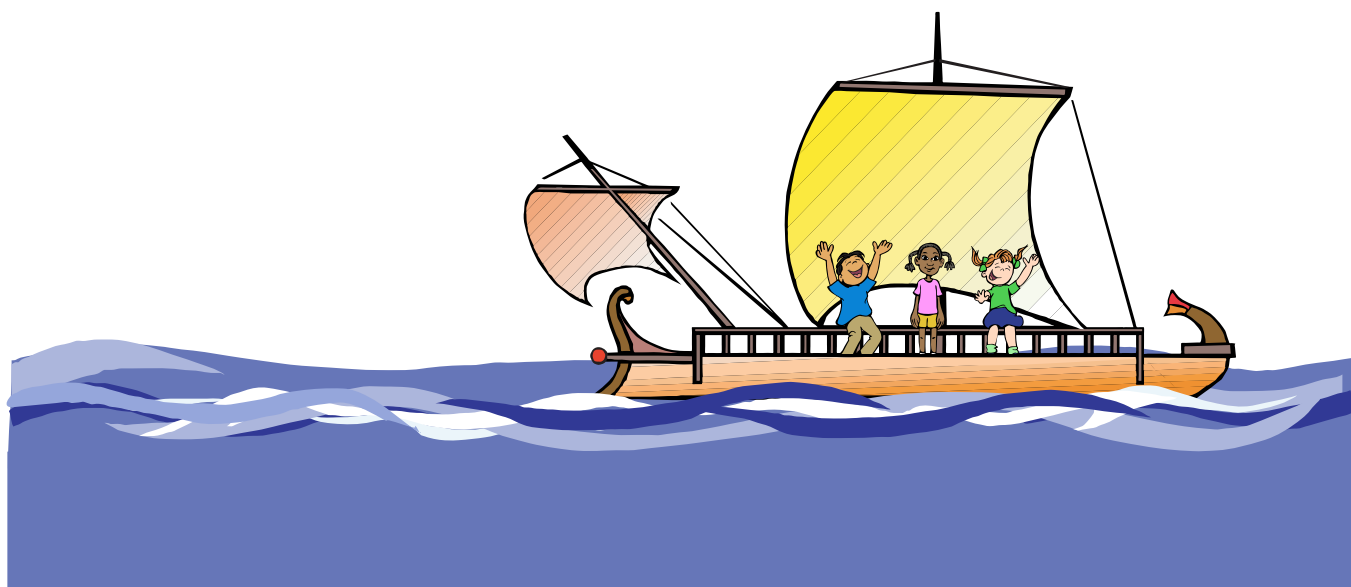


For centuries, farmers have been taking their products to sell along the banks of the Meander. You have probably noticed both fresh fruits and dried fruits being sold out of wooden carts in this country. Count how many fruit carts you see as we drive along the river today.





In some places, the Meander River is as deep as it is wide. Frequently, it overflows its banks. It also pushes earth along as it flows. As a result, the path of the river changes. In fact, where the river meets the sea, it deposits so much earth that islands have joined with the mainland. If we sailed on this winding river, it would take us out to the Aegean Sea (Ih-jee' uhn). If we continued sailing west, we would land on the Isle of Patmos (Pat'mohs).





The Isle of Patmos is too far away for us to visit this summer. Before we head on to Laodicea, let's take a lunch break here at the edge of the Meander River. Some of us can share what we've brought of sandwich fixings, water and snacks. And the rest of us can share some of those delicious fruits we bought up the river at our last stop. Have you tried the pomegranates yet? This is also a good time to catch up on our note-taking, look at each other's pictures, and soak up some of this Asia Minor (Turkey) sunshine that Paul must have enjoyed so many years ago.