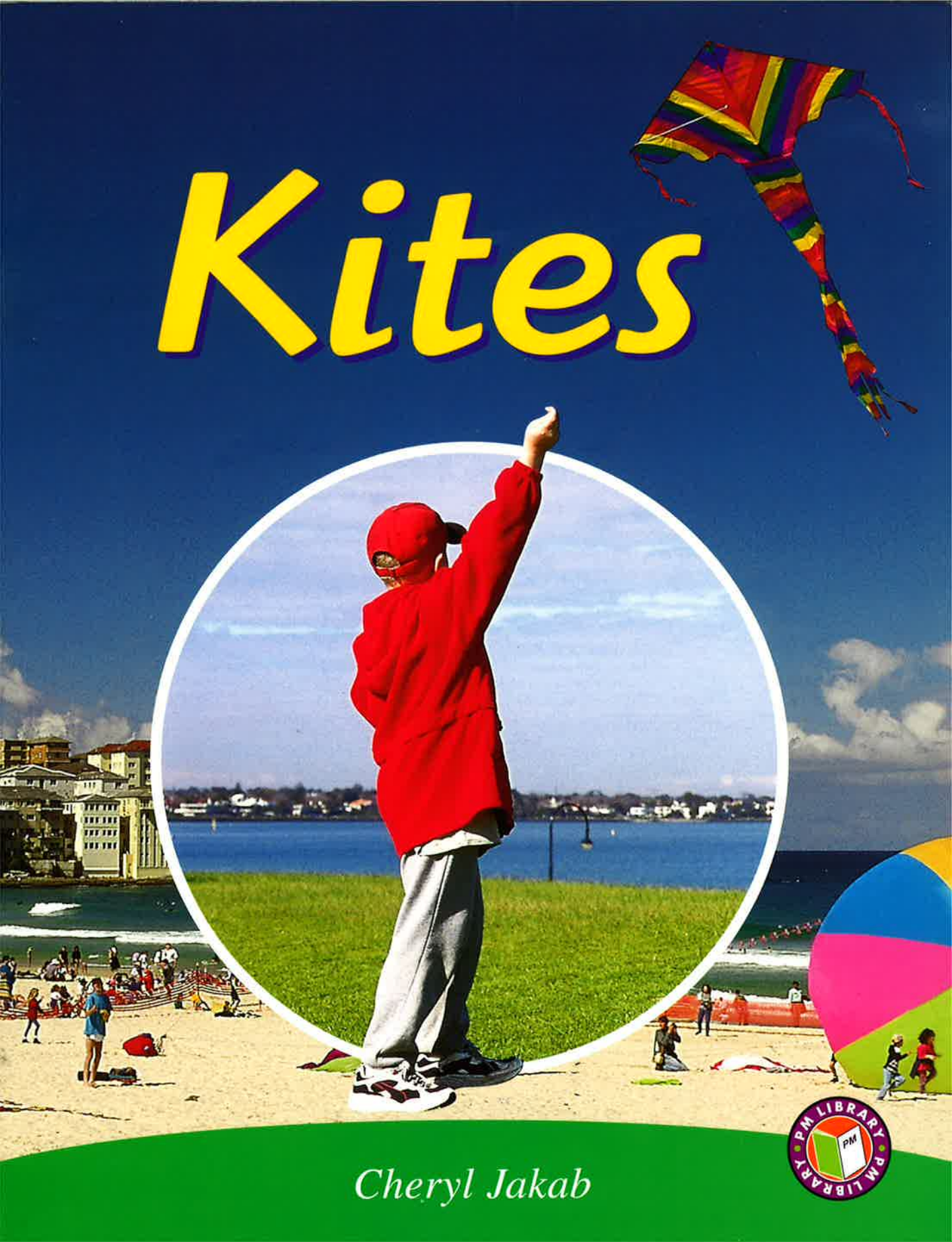
Kites



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Chapter 1

Fascinating flyers

Kites are fascinating flying machines. Each year, many kite festivals around the world celebrate the wonders of the kite.

It's easy to see why people love kites. It's a wonderful experience, feeling the wind in your hands and watching your kite skipping, dancing and diving through the air. When in flight, a kite feels more like a living thing than the simple collection of materials that it really is. Once you start flying kites, you may find it hard to stop.

Getting started with kites is easy. But learning about them takes much longer than you might expect.

What do you know about kites?





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Chapter 2

Kite tales

No one knows exactly when the first kite was invented. But there are many 'kite tales' that give us hints about their history. Kites have a long history in Asia and the Pacific. People from the islands in the Pacific have used kites to help with fishing since ancient times.

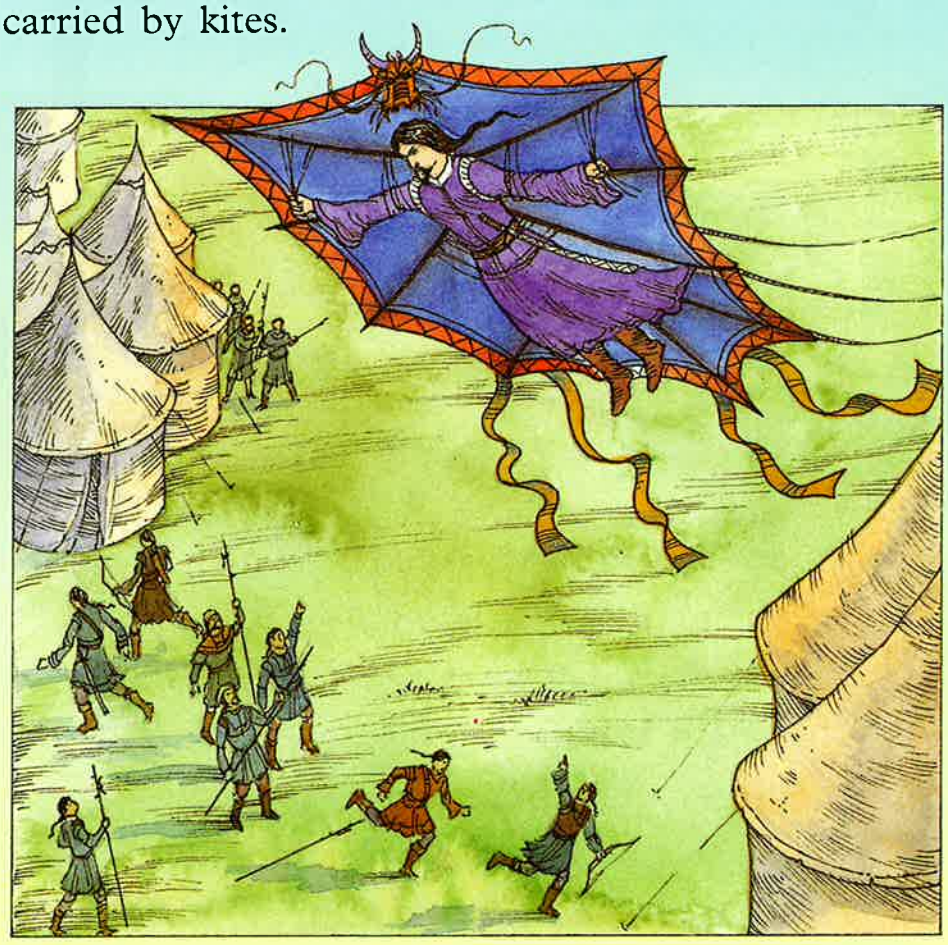


This kite is made out of a palm leaf. It was used as a sail for the boat.



China is widely accepted as the original home of the kite. Over 2000 years ago, the Chinese were making and flying amazing kites. It is said that the Chinese general Huan Theng used a kite to defeat his enemy in 202 BC.

One report suggests that the general was tied to a kite and flown over the enemy camp. He then scared off the enemy by shouting threats at them. Some old Chinese and Japanese prints show warriors being carried by kites.



Chinese kites were originally made out of silk and bamboo.

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Kites have also performed some important functions in technology. They have helped scientists perform experiments.



Guglielmo Marconi

In 1901, the inventor of the wireless **telegraph**, Guglielmo Marconi, used a kite to help him 'launch' wireless broadcasting. He did this by using a kite to support an antenna in Newfoundland, North America. The antenna received a signal that came across the ocean from Europe.