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TOPRAK SAM GUVEN

Bio

Hi, my name is Toprak Sam Guven and I am a senior in high school attending Canyon Crest Academy in San Diego. Throughout the course of my high school career I had time to experience new things and find my passions. With this learning process I discovered many things about myself and developed new hobbies.

Firstly, I enjoy traveling as I have been to over 10 countries in a short span of time. The likes of Kenya, Turkey, and Switzerland are among some places I have visited. I love exploring new geographies and cultures. Next, I love building Legos. I actually have a Lego city in my garage in which my Dad and I constructed. I also love building model ships and to build on my fascination about ships I volunteer every Sunday at San Diego's Maritime Museum. Adding on to my travels, specifically Kenya and Turkey, I got the chance to build an education center for the Maasai tribe and explore my love for Archaeology.

In Kenya, a group of students and I traveled to Kenya over our school's spring break and got to build an education center with the help of the Maasai. We got this opportunity through my history teacher who is a part of My Chosen Vessels. My Chosen Vessels is a non-profit organization with the goal of helping the Maasai socially, economically, and physically. San Diego Sister Cities was took part in this project as well. After observing the Maasai culture and building many relationships on my first trip, I decided to visit the Maasai again. I was deeply influenced by their peace traditions which I thought could be implemented in Western society. I had the goal of interviewing one of my close Maasai friends and asking him about the Maasai's ancient peace traditions as I intended to eventually write a children's book and research paper about these traditions so the Maasai culture could be preserved and be spread throughout the world. After my conducting the interview and helping build traditional homes (Menyattas) for the Maasai, I returned home and started writing my book and paper. Here is the link to my book/paper(<https://mychosenvessels.org/toprak-guven/>).

Lastly, Archaeology is something that I desire to learn more about. As my parents are both of Turkish origin, I had the chance to visit Turkey most summers. During these visits, I traveled to over 8 ancient cities. These tours sparked my love for the profession of Archaeology. With this passion, I have conducted an interview with an Archaeologist, got the chance to meet excavation directors, created a website about these ancient cities(www.archeovoyage.com), and had the opportunity to work in an ancient city and a pre-historic Neolithic cave.