

The artisans who meticulously carve this Nativity work on these carvings outside all day and then lock their wares in a metal box at night. Because theft is so prevalent, someone guards the metal box all night to ensure the goods are not stolen.



The Blue Men: Abandoned by God

Tuaregs are sometimes called blue men of the desert, but their tribal name Tuareg literally means “abandoned by God.” They wear turbans and veils over their faces to protect themselves from the blowing sand.

The indigo used to dye the turbans and veils often fades, turning the wearer’s skin blue. Tuaregs are also noted for beautiful artwork incorporated into items of metal, leather, wood, and stone. Craftsmanship is passed down from generation to generation.

The Tuaregs were once rich and powerful people, controlling the camel caravans and salt trade across the Sahara Desert. Today, the region and people suffer from the severe drought, famine, and changing trade patterns that occurred more

than 30 years ago. Many of the men carve the Tuareg Soapstone Nativities for WorldCraftsSM and other items to earn money for basic needs.

WorldCrafts works with the Tuaregs and 60 other talented artisan groups in 37 countries around the world. You will find many stories like this in the WorldCrafts catalog and at our Web site: www.WorldCraftsVillage.com. The WorldCrafts ministry of WMU[®] gives artisans around the globe a chance for a better life.



WorldCraftsSM
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5 *Five Ways You Can Be Involved*

1. Host a WorldCrafts event at your home or church to learn more about the countries and artisans. Event planning kits are available.
2. Make ministries come to life by including WorldCrafts recipes, products, and stories in your weekly programs. These are available in the catalog and on the Web site.
3. Create awareness of people groups around the world by purchasing handcrafts for friends or family.
4. Donate to the Jackson/Reese Endowment, established to help further the WorldCrafts ministry.
5. Visit the WorldCrafts Web site, and pray for the featured artisan group of the month.