



A tell is an Arabic word for "hill". A tell is a gently sloping hill which looks as if it has been cut off flat on the top. Inside the tell are several layers. Each layer has the ruins of an ancient town which was built at this place.

Once the town was full of busy people, living and working. But later this town was left empty. Perhaps the people went away because of sickness. Perhaps enemies came and drove them away or destroyed them. After the people left, the houses and walls began to crumble and fall. Sand may have drifted in to cover part of the remains of the old town.

After many years other people came. These new people needed to find a place to build their homes. This place where the old village had been was a little higher than the ground around it. It seemed a bit safer. As you stood here you could look down and see all around. So these people built their homes on top of the first village. They too

TURN CARD OVER

worked and lived here.

This is the way the tell grew. Layer after layer was added. That is why it looks like a sloping hill.

In some tells in Israel as many as 20 layers have been found. There are about 400 tells in Israel.

The tells are valuable because here we can learn a great deal about the different people who lived at this place.

Look in the Golden Atlas to see a picture of a tell with 14 layers.