



# THE STORY OF OUR ISLANDS

Year 4



## T

tabu	holy or forbidden
tapa	kind of cloth made by beating fibres from a tree together
tin	silver-coloured metal
tool	something you use for doing some kinds of work. An axe is a tool.
trade	to buy and sell things, to exchange things (see exchange)
trader	a person who buys and sells things
traditional	something that has been done in the same way for a very long time
tunic	dress that has straight sides and no sleeves
tusk	a large curved tooth

## U

## V

volcano	mountain with an opening at the top. Sometimes gases, rocks and very hot liquids burst out of it.
---------	--

## W

warrior	someone who fights
weave, wove	to make cloth by weaving the threads in and out
weapon	something you use to fight with or to kill with when you go hunting. A spear is a weapon.

## X

## Y

## Z

# The Story of Our Islands

## Year 4



Ministry of Education  
Port Vila  
Republic of Vanuatu  
1997

pottery	pots made of clay; the place where pots are made
priest	a man who teaches people about their religion
Q	
R	
raft	pieces of wood or bamboo tied together to float and carry people or things across the water
reef	a large area of coral near the surface of the sea
religion	what people believe about a god or gods
S	
settle	to start to live in a place
shadow	the dark shape of something when it blocks out the light
shield	something a soldier carries to protect his body when he is fighting (see soldier)
silk	soft shiny cloth made from the threads a silkworm spins
silver	a white shining metal
sled	something flat that people put things on and drag over the ground to move them, like a cart without wheels (see cart)
slit-drum	a kind of drum that has a slit or long hole carved in it (see drum, gong)
soldier	a man whose work is to fight
sorcery	witchcraft, magic used in a bad way
spirit	the soul of a dead person which some people think comes to visit them when they are alive. Things as well as people can have spirits.
steam	the cloud of gas that water changes into when it is boiled

First published 1997

Prepared by the Ministry of Education under the auspices of the Primary and Secondary Education Project with support from the World Bank (Credit 1964-VAN).

© Ministry of Education

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted, in any form or any means, without prior permission from the publisher.

Written by Susan Baereleo  
Illustrated by David Tovovur

Acknowledgments:

The author is grateful to Ralph Regenvanu, Director of the Vanuatu Cultural Centre, for his comments on the text. The custom story on page 73 was transcribed from an audiotape from the VNCHSS collection.

Use has been made of a limited amount of material from a publication also entitled *The Story of Our Islands*, which was produced in 1969 by the British Education Office, Port Vila, from material collected by J. Kennedy.

## L

lava very hot melted rock that runs out of a volcano

limestone a rock that is made out of coral

## M

magic the power to do things that no-one can explain

map a picture that shows you where to go

melt to make something soft and runny by heating it

migrate to leave your own country to live in another country

migration when people leave their country to go and live in another country

mirror looking glass

## N

nakamal men's meeting house

nasara ceremonial or dancing ground

## O

ocean a very large area of salt water. There are two very big oceans, the Atlantic Ocean and the Pacific Ocean.

ornament something you put on to make yourself look nice. A necklace is an ornament.

## P

plate a plate-shaped part. The surface of the earth is made up of a number of plates.

plough tool a farmer uses for digging up the ground before he plants seeds

polyp body of the coral animal

pot something people made to hold things. They cooked in pots, they carried things in pots, they stored things in pots.

# Contents

Chapter 1. The Origins of the Earth .....	9
The earth and the sun .....	9
North, East, South, West.....	10
Sunshine and shadows .....	11
The earth long ago .....	15
Plants and animals .....	17
Chapter 2. The Islands of Vanuatu .....	21
The names of our islands .....	21
How the islands came .....	23
More about volcanoes .....	25
Volcanoes and earth tremors in Vanuatu .....	27
Stories of volcanoes in Vanuatu .....	30
Coral reefs .....	35
Chapter 3. People on the Earth .....	40
People begin to live on the earth.....	40
People make tools and use fire .....	42
People learn about plants and animals .....	46
People live together in villages .....	48
People find out about metals .....	52
People live around the world .....	53



Chapter 4. People in the Pacific .....	57
People settle in Australia and New Guinea .....	57
People move to south-east Asia .....	59
The Melanesians .....	61
The Micronesians .....	65
The Polynesians .....	67
How do we know? .....	70
Chapter 5. People in Vanuatu .....	72
People settle in Vanuatu .....	72
How can we find out about our past? .....	75
Stories from the past .....	78
What did our villages look like? .....	81
What did the houses look like? .....	85
What did people wear? .....	88
What did people do every day? .....	93
Our customs and culture .....	100
The Vanuatu Cultural Centre .....	105
Word List .....	107

explore	to look around a place you have never seen before and find out what is there
extinct	dead a long time ago. A dinosaur is an extinct animal; all the dinosaurs died a long time ago. There are none left now. A volcano is extinct when it has not erupted for a very long time and is no longer hot.
F	
fibre	the stringy parts inside a plant stem or a tree trunk
flint	a special kind of stone. When you hit a flint with another stone, a flame comes.
Fossil	an animal or plant which lived a long time ago and has become as hard as rock
G	
gas	gas is light like air. There are different kinds of gas.
gold	a yellow metal which is hard to find
gong	something you hit to make a noise (see: drum)
H	
helmet	a hat a soldier wears to protect his head when he is fighting (see: soldier)
hut	a small house
I	
ice	water that is frozen so it is hard
idea	a thought or picture that comes into your mind
iron	a heavy metal used to make tools
island	a small piece of land with water all round it
J	
K	

ceremony	something you do to mark an important event
clay	thick sticky soil that you can use for making pots (see: pot, pottery)
cloak	a piece of cloth that fastens at the neck to wrap round the body
cocoon	the case that covers an immature insect. A silk worm's cocoon is the case that covers the silkworm young before it turns into a moth.
continent	a very big piece of land. There are seven continents on the earth.
copper	a bright orange metal
crop	plants the farmer grows to eat or sell
crust	the outside of something. We call the outside of the earth the crust.
culture	the whole way of life of a people
custom	things we have always done the same way
<b>D</b>	
descendant	someone related to you who will live after you
dinosaur	an animal like a huge lizard that lived millions of years ago
dormant	sleeping. A volcano is dormant if it has not been erupting recently.
drum	a musical instrument that makes a big noise when you hit it (see: gong, slit-drum)
<b>E</b>	
earth	the planet we live on. Another name for the world.
environment	everything around you in your daily life
erupt	to burst out. A volcano erupts.
exchange	to give one thing and get another thing in return (see: trade)

## Introduction for the teacher

You are about to start Book One of *The Story of our Islands*. We hope you will enjoy using it with your class. A book entitled *The Story of our Islands* was first produced nearly 30 years ago. It has now been re-written to meet the requirements of the Social Science curriculum within the framework of the Unified Primary Curriculum Overview adopted in 1991.

### Teaching history in the primary school

The Unified Curriculum Overview states as one of its general aims that:  
*Social Science in the primary school should enable children to develop an understanding of the past, present and future of the nation and the Pacific Region.*

In order for us all to understand the present and prepare for the future, we must go back to our roots in the past, and study the events and experiences that have helped to make us what we are today. It is hoped that the books of *The Story of our Islands* will help our children to do this.

History, the story of the past, is introduced as a subject in the Social Science curriculum in Year 4. A copy of the outline of the units for Years 4 to 6 of the syllabus can be found in *Our Communities, Social Science Teachers Handbook, Years 1 - 6*.

### The books

There is a separate book of *The Story of our Islands* for each of Years 4, 5 and 6. The first book introduces the children to the origins of the earth and the first people, and takes the story up to the settlement of our country and the traditional life of our people. The second book covers the period between the discovery of the Pacific islands by European explorers and the establishment of the condominium government of the New Hebrides. The final book tells the story of Vanuatu as an independent nation.

### The organisation of the lessons

The history curriculum is covered in 9 units with a total of 12 topics over Years 4 to 6. Each chapter of *The Story of our Islands* introduces material for one topic. The chapters are divided into sections to correspond with the number of lessons allowed for each unit. Each lesson is expected to last about 30 minutes, and there are three lessons timetabled for each week.

### Reading the book

The teaching of the lessons will require careful planning. There is no need for each section of the textbook to be read in the same way. Make use of the different kinds of reading skills the children have already developed. Sometimes an individual may be asked to read aloud. Sometimes the children may read silently to enjoy a story or to search for information. Sometimes you may decide that you yourself will read aloud to the children. Sometimes you may prefer to introduce the material to the children in your own words, rather than by reading what is written in the book. It will make the work more interesting if you use a variety of approaches.

### Using the illustrations

The illustrations have been carefully prepared to help the children's learning. Take time to look at them and discuss them. You will need a globe or a world map for some sections of the book.

### Doing the activities

At the end of each section an activity has been suggested. This is intended, firstly, to reinforce the children's knowledge and understanding of the section and, secondly, to provide a record in their exercise books of what they have just studied. It is not necessary or appropriate for the children to be made to copy out passages from the book into their exercise books.

You may find that some of the activities that are suggested, particularly if they involve making things, are too long for your social science lesson. When you plan your week's work you may like to include these activities in your art lesson instead.

### Using the contents page and the word list

A list of contents is provided at the beginning of the book, and a word list at the end. Show the children how to use them and encourage them to do so. This will help them develop independent learning skills.

## Word list

### A

aboriginal	there in the beginning. The aboriginal people in Australia were the first people to live there.
active	doing things. A volcano is active when it is erupting. (see: erupting)
ancestor	someone related to you who lived a long time ago
archaeologist	someone who finds out about the past by digging the ground and studying the old things he finds there
artefact	Something special that someone has made. Artefacts from the past are kept in the museum.
atoll	a ring of coral islands with a lagoon in the middle

### B

beam	a piece of wood that goes along your roof to hold up the thatch or tiles
belief	something you think is true
bracelet	an ornament that you wear around your wrist (see: ornament)
bronze	a brown metal made by mixing tin and copper

### C

cart	a box on wheels, made to carry things or people. It is pulled along by a man or an animal.
carve	to shape something by cutting it with a knife
carving	something that has been carved
cattle	cows and bulls
cave	a big hole in a rock

The Director of the Cultural Centre, Ralph Regenvanu, says:

*"The Cultural Centre has four sections. They are:*

- *the Vanuatu National Cultural and Historic Sites Survey*
- *the National Museum*
- *the National Library*
- *the National Film and Sound Unit*

*You read about the first one on page 76. There are 55 men and 25 women all over Vanuatu who are fieldworkers for the Cultural Centre. They help to find out about the customs and history of their own islands.*

*The people who work in the National Museum collect and take care of artefacts. The word **artefact** means something special that someone has made. You can visit the Museum in Port Vila and see many things that people long ago made and used.*

*The people who work in the National Library collect and take care of all the books that people have written about Vanuatu. You can go to the library and read the books.*

*The people who work in the National Film and Sound Unit collect and take care of all the films and tapes that people have made about Vanuatu. You can watch the films and listen to the tapes."*

In this way the Cultural Centre is putting together records of our history and customs, our stories, music and languages. Our descendants will be able to read the books, watch the films, listen to the cassettes and look at the artefacts. Although our way of life is changing, the history and culture of our islands will not be lost or forgotten.

## How to teach Chapter 5

Chapter 5 of this book is rather different from the other chapters. It covers a very big topic, the traditional life of our people before the early explorers arrived and before our history began to be written down. The eight sections of this chapter are intended to be covered over twelve lessons.

What is written in the chapter covers the topic in only a general way, with specific examples from different islands. Time has been allowed for you and your children to develop each theme in relation to the children's own community and to make it relevant to their own situation. You will need to prepare this chapter well in advance, in order to make full use of the older people in the community. They can supplement your own knowledge by telling custom stories, talking about traditional culture and answering the children's questions.

## The next book

When you have completed this book, the children will be ready to go on to Year 5 and the second book of *The Story of our Islands*.

Long ago, all the people believed that their world was full of spirits. The spirits of their ancestors were there with them, and there were spirits in the different things around them. The spirits were an important part of their lives and the people tried to control them by using magic. They used magic to make the yams grow, to make the rain come, to control the wind. They used magic to make someone fall in love. They used magic to try and make a man with a bad illness get well again. Sometimes people used magic against their enemies. Magic could be used for good things and bad things too. All the time people had to remember the spirits and try not to disturb them or make them angry.

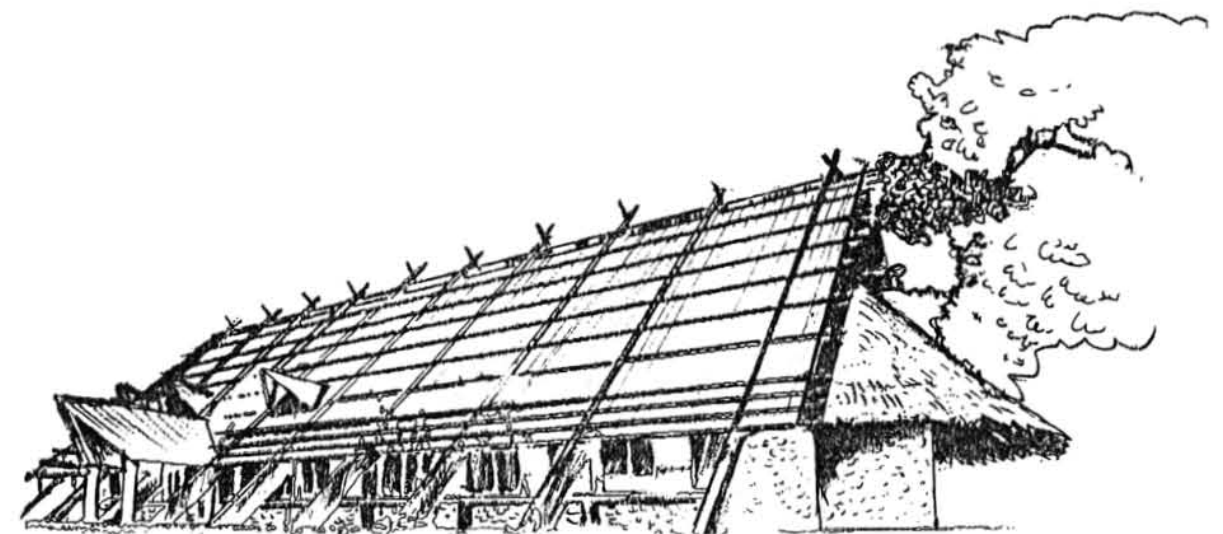
The people's beliefs and the customs and ceremonies that went with them were a very important part of their daily lives.

#### Things to do

Invite your chief to talk to you. Ask him to tell you how he became a chief. Ask him to talk to you about any custom ceremonies that still take place today.

#### The Vanuatu Cultural Centre

The people who work at the Vanuatu Cultural Centre have a very important job. This is to make sure that our culture is not lost.





Custom ceremonies were a very important part of the lives of everyone. There was a custom ceremony for every stage of life. We have seen that there were custom ceremonies for moving from one grade to another and for taking a bride. There was also an important custom ceremony when a young boy was circumcised. There were other ceremonies to mark the seasons of the year. The time of the yam harvest was one time when ceremonies took place.

There were other big ceremonies when a man died. Again, the customs were different on different islands.

On parts of Malakula the dead body was placed high up in a special house. Later, a life-size model of the dead man was made.

On North Pentecost the body was wrapped in a special mat, placed on the ground, not buried in a hole, and covered with stones.



In every place people came together to take part in important ceremonies and to eat together for several days. We still follow this custom today when families and friends come together on certain days after someone has died.

In some places as well as a system of grades there were also secret societies that a man could join. After a severe test he became a member and learned the secrets of the society. He learned how to make the special masks and how to dance the special dances. Sometimes the society had its own special magic or sorcery. The new member learned this too.



## Chapter 1

# The origins of our earth

## The earth and the sun

We live on the earth. The earth is big and round. There are many countries on the earth. Our country is Vanuatu. England is another country, France is another country. They are both a long way from Vanuatu. Do you know the names of any more countries?

The Earth



Millions of kilometres away is the sun

The sun is very big and round. It is many millions of kilometres away. It is very, very hot and shines on the earth. It is nearly 100 million kilometres away but it makes the earth warm. It shines in the daytime. It gives us light and makes us warm.

Dark Light



Night time Day time



The sun's rays bring light and make us warm.

The sun does not move around the earth. The earth moves round; it turns round all the time. In the day time we look towards the sun and the sun makes us warm. Then the earth turns round and it is night time. It turns away from the sun and at night it is dark and cool. The earth moves from west to east.

The earth does not stay still; it turns round. We cannot feel it moving, but it is moving. It takes 24 hours to turn round. It turns round once a day.

Also in the sky is the moon. It moves round the earth.



### Things to do

1. Copy this into your book and fill in the spaces.

It does not move. It is the \_\_\_\_\_.

People live on it. It is the \_\_\_\_\_.

It turns round once a day. It is the \_\_\_\_\_.

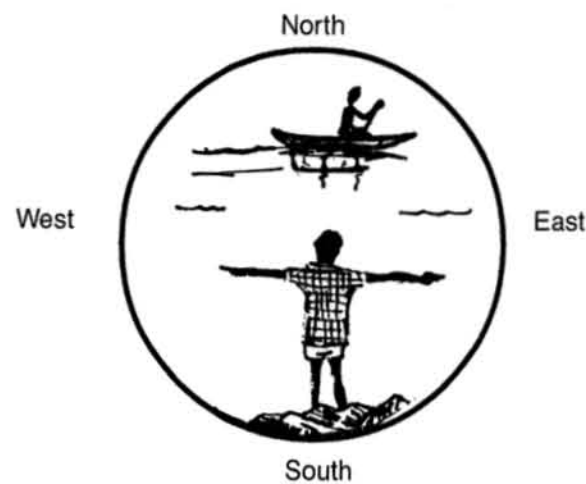
It makes us warm. It is the \_\_\_\_\_.

We live on the \_\_\_\_\_.

It is many, many kilometres away from the \_\_\_\_\_.

It is day time when we face the \_\_\_\_\_.

### North, South, East, West



Here is Kalpor.

Kalpor is pointing to the east with his right hand. That is where the sun rises.

He is pointing to the west with his left hand. That is where the sun sets.

Kalpor is looking at the oceans. The ocean is north of him.

Behind Kalpor is a rock. The rock is south of him.

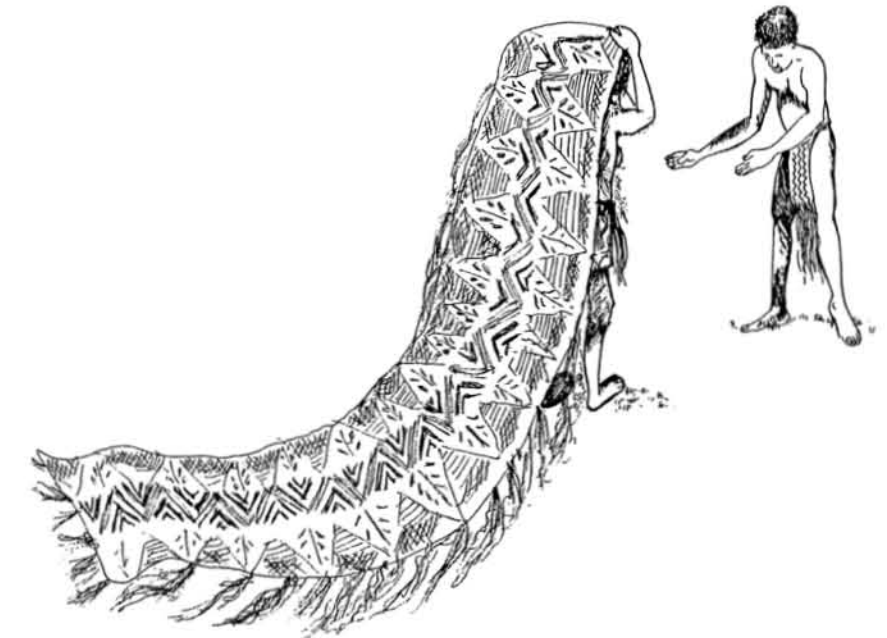
In front of Kalpor is a canoe. It is on the sea. The canoe is going east. It is going away from the west.

Where is your right hand pointing. Kalpor? My right hand is pointing east.

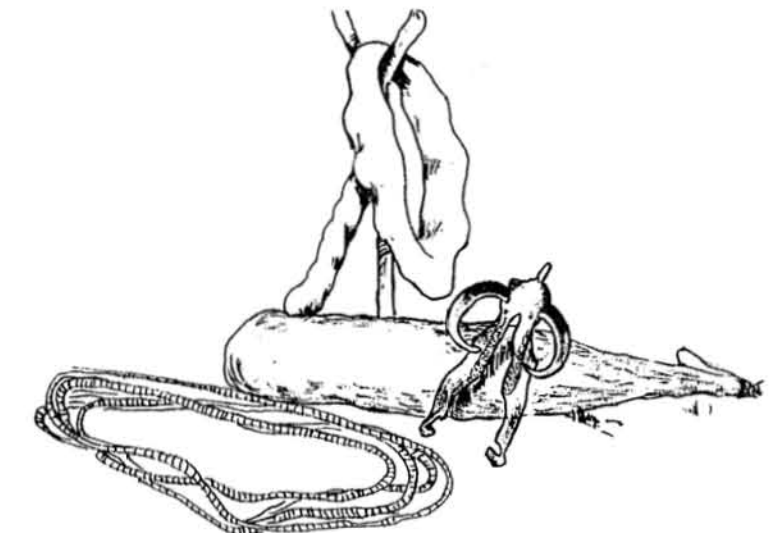
Where is your left hand pointing. Kalpor? My left hand is pointing west.

What are you looking at, Kalpor? I am looking at the canoe in

The family of the man had to pay something to the family of the bride before he could marry her. We call this payment the bride price. In many communities today we still pay bride prices. Sometimes today we use our paper money, Vatu. In the old days, there were different ways of paying the bride price. In many of the northern islands people gave pigs and special mats.



The Small Nambas people gave a pig's jaw with rounded tusks fixed to a special kind of yam. On Erromango they used stones. The stones have a hole in them. In other places they used shell money.



When a man had gone up through all the grades, he was recognized as a very important man. There was a system of grades for women too. It was not so long or complicated as that for men.

On other islands the position of chief was hereditary. This means that when a chief died his son usually became the next chief. This happened in some parts of the central and southern islands of Vanuatu.

On other islands a man became a chief because he had shown that he was very brave and that he was a good leader.

Long ago there was often fighting between villages. There were ways of making peace too. The best way of making peace was to exchange gifts. The two villages had to go on exchanging gifts if they wanted to remain at peace. If they did not go on exchanging gifts they were not friends any more. They became enemies. Today the important custom ceremony of the Toka on Tanna continues this custom. The people from many villages come together to share food and to join in dancing and singing together.



A lasting way of making peace with a nearby village was by exchanging women. Marriage became an important ceremony. Today many young men can choose the woman they want to marry. Before, the chief or the family chose a bride for a young man. The man often married a woman from another village to bring peace to their two villages. In some places, if a man did not work hard, his chief did not find a bride for him. He did not marry.

the north. Where is it going? It is going east.

Where is it coming from? It is coming from the west.

### Things to do

1. How to learn where north, south, east and west are.  
Go outside and stand in a line. Point with your right hand to where the sun rises. Say "The sun rises in the east."  
Point with your left hand to where the sun goes down. You are pointing west.  
Now look to the north. Where is your left hand pointing?  
Tell us something which you can see in the north. \_\_\_\_\_  
Name something that you can see to the east of you. \_\_\_\_\_  
Name something that is to the west. \_\_\_\_\_  
Name a place to the south. \_\_\_\_\_  
Where does the sun set? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Go back to the classroom.  
Draw a big circle in your book.  
In the circle draw a canoe going west.  
Draw an island to the north of it.  
Draw a coconut tree south of it.  
Draw a fish in the west.  
Write the words *north, east, south and west* in their right places.  
Colour the picture.

### Sunshine and shadows

What is a shadow?

A shadow comes when the sun is shining on something. The sun shines on a tree or a house or a man. It cannot shine on the ground because the tree or house or man is blocking the light. It shines all round, but the shape of the tree, the house or the man shows on the ground as a dark shape. This is a shadow.



In the early morning it is still dark. Then it begins to get light. The birds in the bush start to sing. The roosters crow. We wake up. We see the sun coming up from behind the hill or beyond the sea. We say the sun is rising. It rises in the east.



Where do you see the sun rising at home?

What do you do at sunrise?

Look at your shadow. Is it long or short?

All morning we see the sun climbing up in the sky. In the middle of the day the sun is high in the sky above our heads.

In other places the chief did not rule by himself. The important men of the community made decisions together. The chief could not give orders by himself.

In most places the chief was not the only important man in the village. There were other high men too. Some of them had special skills. Some were good at leading the people when they went to war. Some were good at making magic. Some were good at leading dances.

The people of different islands had their own ways of choosing chiefs or high men.

On most of the islands in the north of Vanuatu men became chiefs through the custom of killing pigs. To become a high man, a man had to go through several grades or steps. To move to a higher grade he killed some pigs at a special ceremony. The number and value of the pigs went up at each grade. A pig whose tusks had grown into complete circles was more valuable than one whose tusks had not been allowed to grow. To make the pig's tusk in its lower jaw grow round, its owner took out the tooth in the jaw above it.



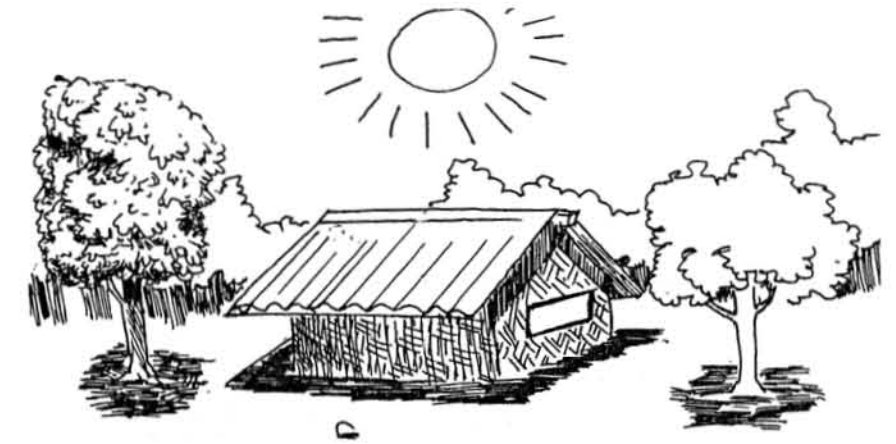


## Customs and culture

Before the missionaries came to Vanuatu, each group of people followed its own customs and traditions. The culture in one place was different from the culture in another place. Some things however were similar.

In every community there was a chief. Sometimes the chief ruled by himself and everybody had to listen to him and do what he said. He ruled over his people. He made rules for them to follow. He punished them when they did not obey his rules. Sometimes the punishments were very severe.

He organized the life and the activities of the village. He called the people together and told them what to do. Someone beat a drum or blew a shell to bring the people together. The people in some parts of Vanuatu used an upright drum, the people in others used drums that lay on the ground, some used both. They used drums to send messages to other places too. You could hear the sound a long way away.



What do you do at midday?

Can you see your shadow now?

As the sun goes on moving across the sky it is not so high.

In the evening it turns orange or red and starts to go down behind the hill or the sea. It is sunset. The birds that have been busy all day go to sleep. The flying foxes begin to wake up and look for fruit in the trees. The owls go hunting. The cicadas make a noise.



What do you do at sunset?

Look at your shadow. Is it long or short now?

When the sun disappears behind the hill or the sea it is dark. Now the night is beginning and we will soon be going to sleep.

It is night time in Vanuatu. The sun is not shining here. It is shining on the other side of the world. It is shining on countries like England and France, which are far away from Vanuatu. In Vanuatu we are going to sleep. In England and France the children are waking up and getting ready to go to school.

In the day time the sun is always there to give us light and to keep us warm. On stormy days when there are black clouds and the rain is falling, the sun is still there, giving us light and keeping us warm. It is still there but we cannot see it.

Remember, we say the sun is rising, the sun is moving across the sky, the sun is setting. But the sun is not really moving, it is the earth that is turning round.

#### Things to do

Draw three pictures:

Draw the sun rising. Draw yourself at sunrise. What are you doing?

Draw the sun high in the sky. Draw yourself at midday. What are you doing?

Draw the sun setting. Draw yourself at sunset. What are you doing?

#### Note to the teacher

The best way to watch the movement of the sun is to watch the movement of its shadow.

Get a straight stick or a pole about 2 metres long. Set it up on a level piece of ground. Make sure that the pole is upright. In the early morning the sun is low in the east. (It may not be exactly east, but a little north or south of east.)

The pole makes a long shadow pointing more or less to the west. As the sun climbs higher the shadow becomes shorter. The shadow is shortest about mid-day. After mid-day the shadow grows longer and points towards the east. Go out after each lesson. Find where the shadow is and mark the end with a short stick.

A little before mid-day watch the shadow carefully. Find when it is shortest and then put a small stick in the ground at the end of the shadow. Draw a line on the ground from the stick to the pole and continue it on the other side of the pole. Make the line about 2 metres long on each side of the pole. Mark the line in some way (for example by putting a row of stones or by cutting the grass) so that you can always see it. **This line points to North and South.** Mark the north end with the letter N and the south end with the letter S. Notice how the shadow changes.

Does it stay the same size?

Does it stay in the same place?

People sometimes journeyed long distances to trade or take shelter during hurricanes or earthquakes. The people from Tanna traded with the people from the Loyalty Islands. People came all the way from Tonga to Tongoa to get kava. The people from the Banks Islands had a special arrangement with the people from the small island of Tikopia in the Solomons. They travelled to the Banks Islands and stayed there when their island was hit by bad cyclones.

Life in our villages long ago was hard work for everybody. Each group had its own tasks. Everybody was busy, the men, the women and the children.

#### Things to do

1. When the white men came, people could buy tools made of metal. Before that, people made their own tools out of wood or stone, bone or shell. How did they do things then?

Ask some old people in your community to tell you the answers to some questions. Here are ten questions. You will be able to think of some more. There are questions for the boys to ask and questions for the girls to ask.

#### Boys' questions

1. How did our ancestors cut down trees?
2. How did they clean kava and grind it?
3. How did they make canoes?
4. What did they use when they went hunting and fishing?
5. How did they carve their slit drums?

#### Girls' questions

1. How did our ancestors plant their vegetables and harvest them?
2. How did they peel yams and taro and cut them into pieces for cooking?
3. How did they grate vegetables to make laplap?
4. How did they grate coconut?
5. How did they carry water to the village?

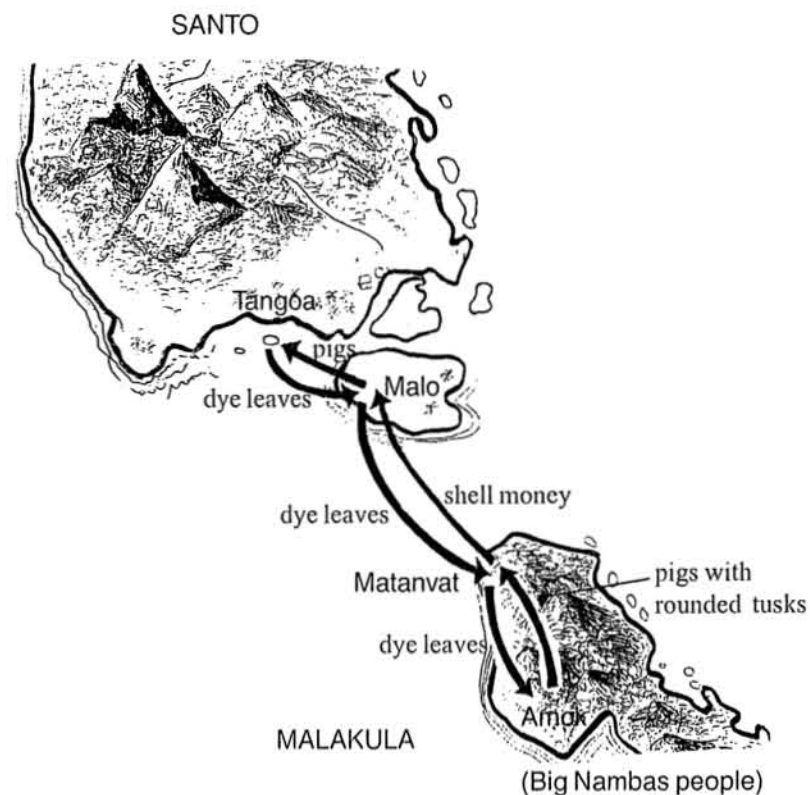
Do people do any of these things the same way today? Can you do them?

2. Find out the names of the months of the year in your own language. What do they mean?

All the year round there were other jobs to do in the village. The men went fishing. The women gathered shellfish. The women looked after the children. They looked after the pigs.

People did not always stay at home in their village. Sometimes the men went to trade with another friendly village or with an island far away. They took something they had and gave it in exchange for something they needed but did not have in their own area.

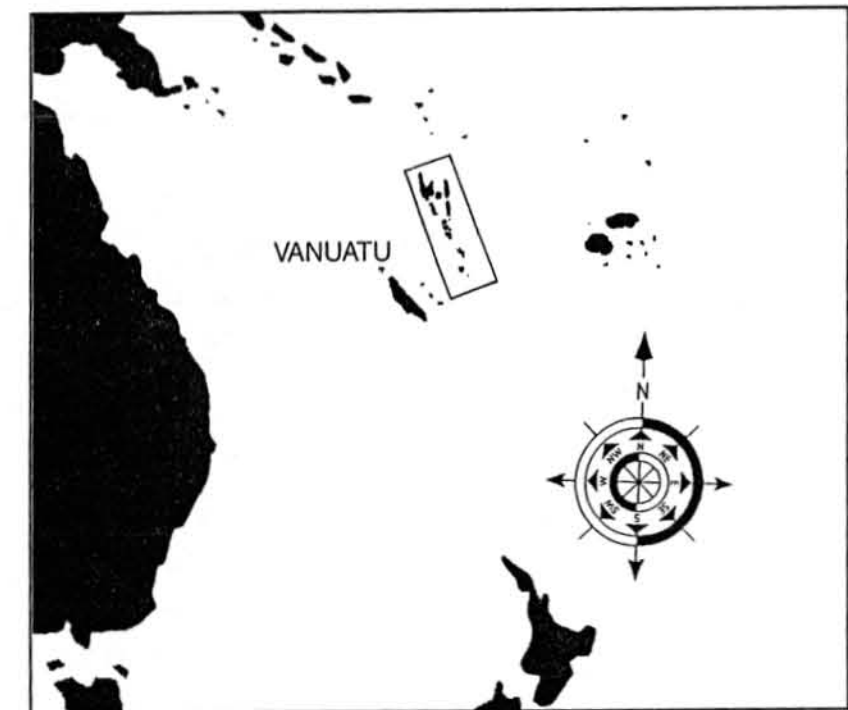
The Big Nambas men made the reddish-purple dye for their nambas from a special kind of leaf. It grew only on Tangoa, the small island off the south coast of Santo. They did not go to Tangoa themselves. People on Tangoa gave the special leaves to people on Malo. In exchange the people on Malo gave them the pigs they wanted. Then the people from Malo gave the leaves to people from the village of Matanvat on Malakula. In exchange the Matanvat people gave them the shell money they wanted. Then the Matanvat people gave the leaves to the Big Nambas people so that they could dye their nambas. In exchange the Big Nambas people gave to the people of Matanvat the pigs with rounded tusks that they wanted.



## The earth long ago

Many, many years ago the earth was very hot. No one could live on the earth and nothing could grow there because it was so hot. As it went on moving round and round it turned into the shape of a ball. Then the outside of the earth began to cool down but the inside is still very, very hot.

When the earth began to cool down the land and sea came. There are big lands and small lands, there are big seas and small seas. The big seas are called oceans. Can you see the sea near your village? Sometime it is blue and green, sometimes it is grey. This is an ocean. It is called the Pacific Ocean. The Pacific Ocean is the biggest ocean in the world. It is bigger than all the land in the world put together. Vanuatu is in the Pacific Ocean. What other countries are there in the Pacific Ocean?



There is another big ocean. It is at the other side of the world from Vanuatu. It is called the Atlantic Ocean. Find the Pacific Ocean and the Atlantic Ocean on the globe or the world map.



On the earth there are big lands and small pieces of land. The big lands are called continents. Small pieces of land are islands. An island has sea all around it.



This is an island. The sea is all around it. Many islands together make a group of islands. Vanuatu is a group of islands. The Solomon Islands are another group of islands. New Caledonia is a group of islands too.

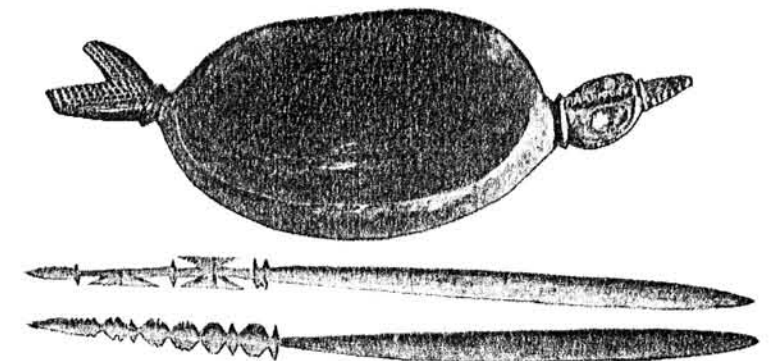
Vanuatu is not far from Australia. Australia is a very big land. It is a continent. Asia is another very big land. It is a continent too. The other continents are Africa, Europe, South America, North America and Antarctica. Find the continents on your globe or world map.

### Things to do

- Here is a riddle for you.  
What am I?  
I am a small piece of land  
The sea is all around me.  
People live on me.  
They build houses and make gardens.  
What am I?  
Can you make up another riddle about the earth?
- Complete these sentences in your exercise book.  
My name is \_\_\_\_\_.  
I live in \_\_\_\_\_.  
Vanuatu is a \_\_\_\_\_ of islands.  
The island I live on is called \_\_\_\_\_.  
My country is in the \_\_\_\_\_ Ocean.  
It is not far away from \_\_\_\_\_.  
Australia is a small \_\_\_\_\_.



Between the months of November and February there was not much work to do in the garden. There was a lot of rain. The men used the time to repair or build houses or to make canoes and other things they needed. They made carvings for the front of their canoes and they made canoe balers. They carved dishes and combs. They made bows and arrows and spears for fishing and hunting. They made them for fighting too. They made clubs for fighting and for pig killing. They made tools for working in the garden and the village. The women had time to weave mats and baskets or to make more grass skirts.



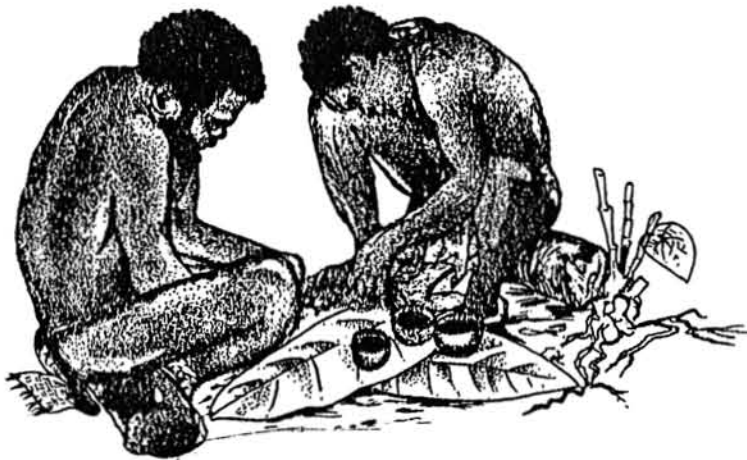
People usually had vegetables for their meal. On special occasions they made laplap before they went to the gardens. When they came home in the evenings it was cooked and ready to be eaten.

Sometimes the people ate shellfish or fish, small birds or flying foxes. They kept pigs for ceremonial occasions. They gathered nuts and fruit and different sorts of green leaves from the bush.

They used salt to make their food taste nice. They collected sea water in bamboo and sprinkled a few drops over what they were cooking. The container of salt water lasted a long time.

When they were thirsty they drank water or coconut juice.

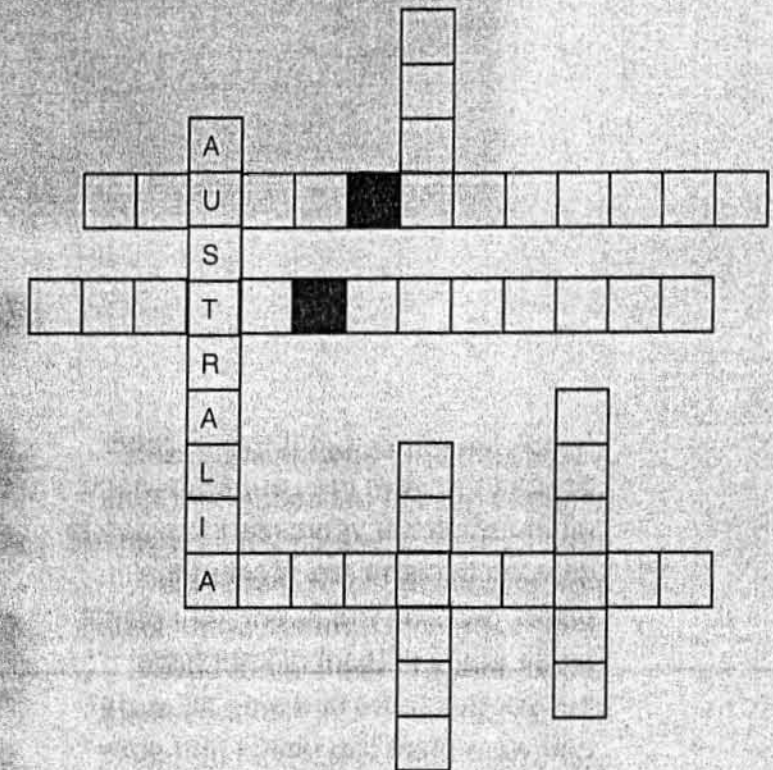
In the evenings the men sat together in the nakamal. In a few places in Vanuatu they drank kava. They sat for a long time talking together and enjoying the effects of the kava.



When it was night time it was time to sleep. In some places the men usually slept in one house. They did not stay with their wives and families. The women and the girls slept in different houses with the babies and little boys. When the boys were older, they left their mother's house. They went to live in a separate house. They began to learn to be men. The chief and the high men of the village taught them. The grandmothers and mothers taught their girls.

Long ago, people did not have beds or mattresses or blankets. They slept on leaves or mats on the floor. They covered themselves with mats to keep warm. They went to sleep quickly. They did not have lamps or torches. They used the light of the fire. When they wanted to go somewhere they made a bundle of reeds. They lighted the bundle and used it as a torch.

3. Copy these squares into your book. Count them carefully.  
(If your teacher has some squared paper from an old maths book, he or she may be able to give you a small piece to do this.)  
Fill in the names of the continents. One is done for you.



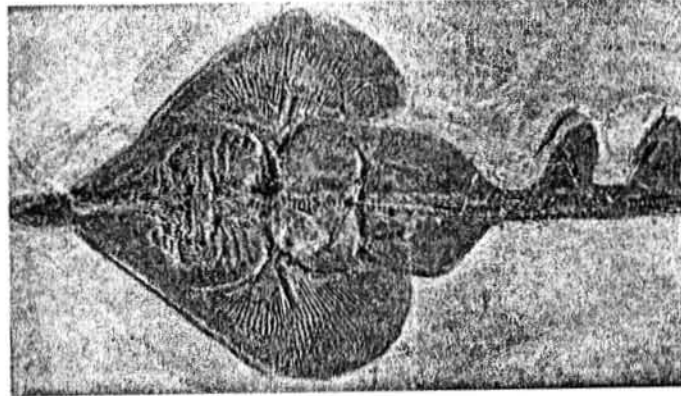
## Plants and animals

When the land and the sea had covered the earth and the earth was cool, plants and animals could live and grow there. The first plants and animals were very different from most of the plants and animals on the earth today.

We know what some of them looked like because they became fossils. Millions of years ago when they died the mud covered them. After a long time the mud became very hard. It turned into stone. Now we can find the shapes of these plants and animals in the rocks. We call them fossils. We can look at them and learn about the plants and animals of long ago.







A very long time ago the first plants began to grow in the sea. After many more millions of years plants began to grow on the land too. Most of the plants were very different from plants today. Many of them did not have leaves. But some of them had leaves and were more like plants that grow today. Tree ferns were plants that grew a very long time ago. Tree ferns grow today in New Zealand and on the Pacific islands. We have tree ferns in Vanuatu. Sometimes we call them black palms.



The next plants to grow on the earth came when the land was very wet. They were called horsetails. Horsetails grow in some countries today. Long ago they were as tall as very big trees; now they are little plants.

Sometimes they cooked their food in pots made of clay. About 2,500 years ago people who had just come to Efate and the Shepherd Islands started making a special kind of pottery. They decorated each pot by cutting patterns into the clay and by adding patterns of extra clay to its surface. This kind of pottery was called Mangaasi pottery. Soon people everywhere in Vanuatu used pottery like this.



About 800 years ago most people stopped making this kind of pottery, but you can still find bits of Mangaasi pots buried in the ground. On Malakula people went on making pottery until white people came. Today only people on the west coast of Santo still make and use their traditional pots.



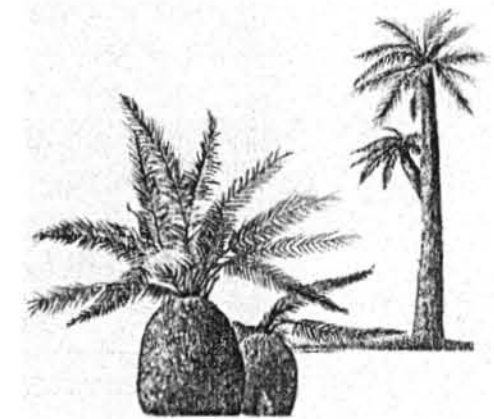


In the evening they cooked their vegetables. In some parts of Vanuatu the women did all the cooking, in others the men cooked for themselves in their nakamal.

Sometimes they cooked their food in stones. They wrapped it in leaves as we do now. Sometimes they roasted vegetables in the fire. Sometimes they cooked their food in a piece of bamboo.



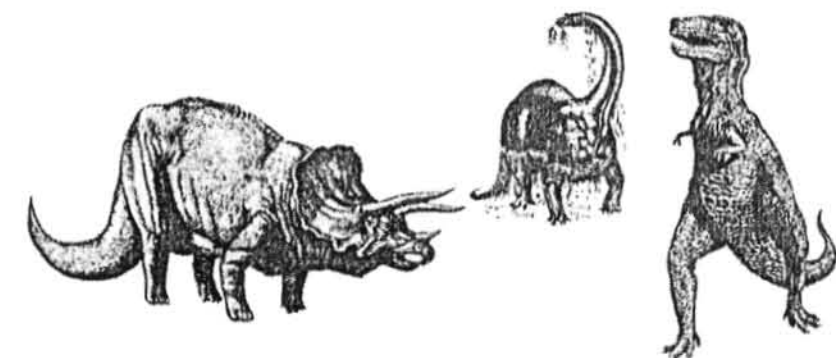
After millions of years the earth became drier and different plants grew. They were the first plants to have seeds. Now nearly all plants have seeds. Some of the first plants with seeds were cycads. They were like palm trees with very thick stems. Cycads grow in Vanuatu today. Namele is a kind of cycad.



The first plants lived in the sea. The first animals lived there too. Some were like the sea worms, shellfish and other animals that live in the sea today.

Many millions of years later the first fish appeared. Then animals began to live in the sea and on the land. We call them amphibians. They spent some parts of their lives in the water and some parts on the land.

After a long time there were insects on the earth. Many of them looked like the insects we see today, but they were bigger. There were reptiles too. Some of them were very very big. We call them dinosaurs. The word means terrible lizard.



After a long time there were no more dinosaurs. By then the first mammals and birds were alive. Millions of years later the first men lived on earth.

Many of the kinds of animals and plants that lived long ago do not live now. We say they are extinct. Dinosaurs are extinct. Some other animals are extinct. Once a very big bird lived in New Zealand. It was 3 times as tall as a man. It did not fly; it ran along the ground. It was called a moa. There are no moas in New Zealand today. They are extinct.



#### Things to do

- Draw a picture of the earth long ago.
- Draw some rocks at the back of your picture.
- Draw some water in the front of your picture.
- Draw some cycads near the water.
- Draw a dinosaur in the water. Which dinosaur goes in the water?
- Draw two dinosaurs on the land.
- Write some sentences about your picture.

#### What did people do every day?

Long ago, before the white man came, people were busy all day. Their most important work was to grow and gather their food.

During the day they all worked in the gardens. They spent all day there. They looked after their yams and taro. They grew sugarcane and bananas. The women did most of the work. The men helped with the heavy jobs and planted and looked after their kava plants.



When it was nearly evening, they walked back to the village. The women carried the vegetables and the firewood. They sometimes used baskets made of coconut leaves to carry their food. The men carried weapons to protect the women. Sometimes their enemies from a nearby village attacked them.



In custom ceremonies in the north of Vanuatu people wore special headdresses and masks. They made them with the materials around them. They used fibres and sticks and leaves. They modelled masks with black palm fibres mixed with breadfruit juices. They decorated their masks or headdresses with feathers or leaves or pieces of shell. They coloured them with paint made from different kinds of soil or plants.

When people made their headdresses or masks for custom ceremonies, they did not tell anybody how they made them. It was a secret. After the ceremony they usually destroyed them.



Malakula mask, N. Pentecost headdress, Banks Islands headdress

#### Things to do

1. Ask your teacher to invite a woman and a man from your village to talk to the girls and boys in your class about their custom dress.
2. Learn how to make your custom dress, or, if you are not able to do this, make a necklace out of bush materials.

## Chapter 2

# The islands of Vanuatu

We know about the sun and the earth. We know how plants and animals began to live on the earth. Now we can learn about Vanuatu and the Pacific Islands.

## The names of our islands

First we must learn the names of the islands in Vanuatu. On the next page there is a map. It is a map of our country. It is a group of islands called **Vanuatu**.

There are eleven big islands. Two of them are very big. There are many small islands.

Say the names of the big islands. Start from the top of the page. This is the north of the map.

Their names are  
Espiritu Santo (Santo), Malakula, Maewo, Pentecost, Ambrym, Epi, Efate, Erromango, Tanna and Aneityum.

Can you find the two big islands?  
Santo and Malakula are the biggest.

Some of the smaller islands are  
Malo, Paama, Emae, Tongoa, Aniwa and Futuna.

There are many more small islands.

Some islands in Vanuatu are grouped together.

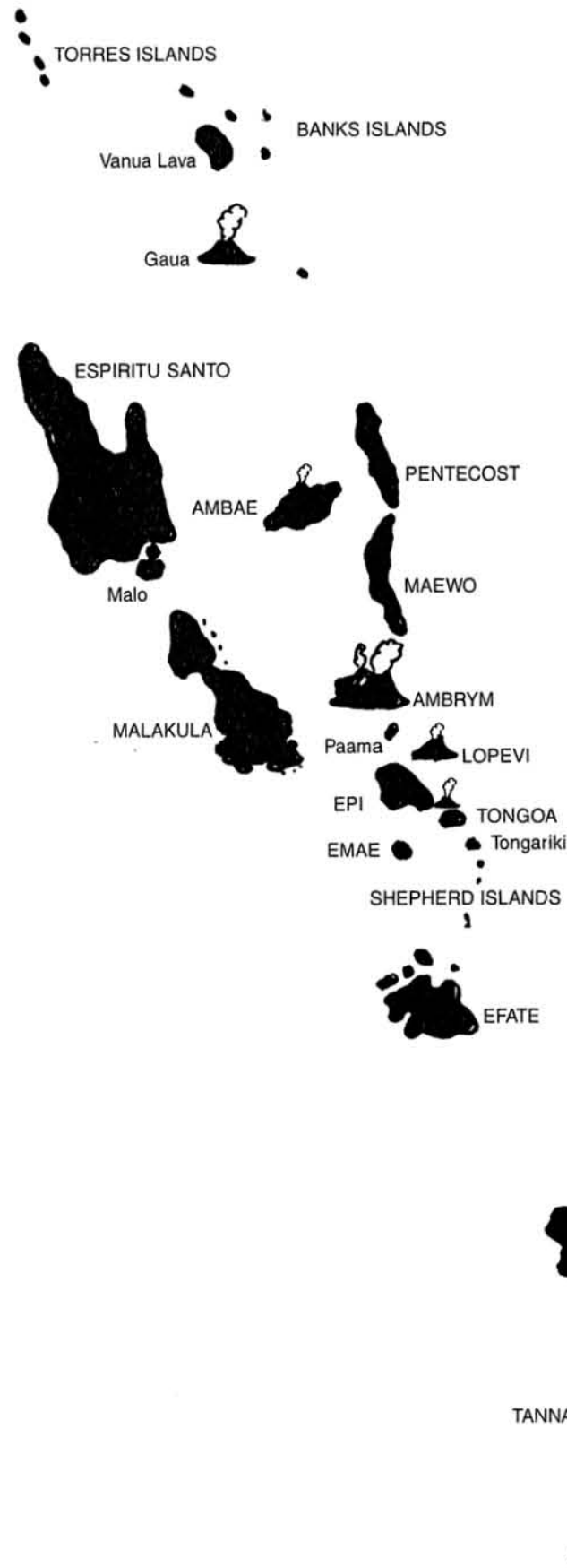
Look in the north and find the Torres Islands. There are several very small islands in the Torres group. Can you see them?

The Banks Islands are another group of islands. The names of two of them are written on the map. Read their names.

In the centre of Vanuatu is another group of small islands. This is the Shepherd Group. Tongariki and Emae are in this group. There are other small islands in this group too.



## REPUBLIC OF VANUATU



Pacific Ocean



Sometimes a man made a hole in his nose between the nostrils or in his ear lobe. He put a piece of bone, coral or bamboo through the hole. Women wore nose and ear ornaments too.



People arranged their hair in different ways. Some men from Tanna grew their hair long and twisted or plaited it. It looked like the dreadlocks or "rasta" that some young people have today.



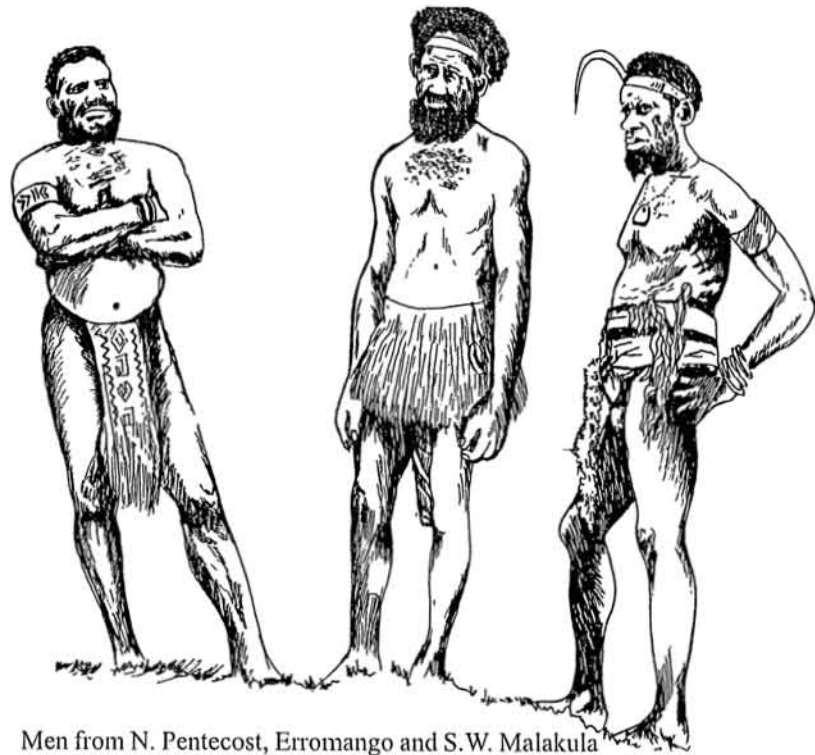
In the south-west of Malakula, they thought that people with long heads looked beautiful. They thought that they were clever. To make their baby grow up with a long head, they wrapped matting round the baby's head and tied it on tightly. It did not hurt the baby. They did it when the baby was little and the bones in his head were still soft.

In the north of Malakula the Big Nambas women wore head coverings made of pandanus. They coloured them dark red. They looked like very long hair.



In some islands in the north of Vanuatu people used to tattoo their skins. They pricked their skin with something sharp to make a pattern. Then they put the juice of a plant on it, so that the pattern stayed. Here is a picture of a woman from the Banks Islands with a tattoo on her back.

The men from South Pentecost, Ambrym and Malakula wore nambas. The men from Tafea wore nambas too. A nambas was made with a long piece of cloth or a leaf. The man wrapped it round and round his penis and tucked the end into a belt made of bark or woven from leaves.



Men from N. Pentecost, Erromango and S.W. Malakula

People liked to wear ornaments. Sometimes the ornaments showed that the man who wore it was important. A chief or a high man wore the rounded tusk of a pig on a string round his neck. People wore ornaments to make themselves look beautiful too. They wore necklaces or armbands or anklets. They made them from the things they found round about them. They used turtle shell or large shells from the sea. They used pig's tusks. They carved beads from shell, wood, stone or bone.



### Things to do

Here are some sentences. The beginnings are on the left side of the page. The ends are on the right side of the page. The beginnings are not opposite the ends. Join the beginning and the end of each sentence with a line. The first one has been done for you.

Efate is an island	•	are in the north.
Santo is	•	in the Banks Group.
The Torres Islands	•	a very big island.
There are eleven	•	is in the south.
Ambae is	•	in Vanuatu.
Another very big island is	•	between Santo and Maewo.
Aneityum	•	big islands.
Gaua is	•	small islands.
There are many	•	Malekula.

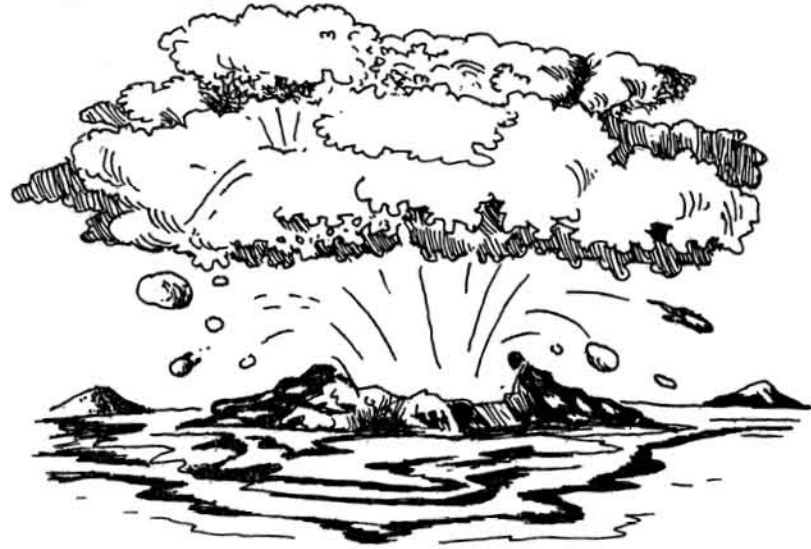
### How the islands came

Now you will learn how these islands appeared. You will learn what they were like many thousands of years ago. The islands have not always been green and pleasant places, with gardens and flowers, coconut plantations and the bush around them.

Long, long ago, when the big lands of the earth were already there, there were no islands in the Pacific Ocean. There was only the sea. Our islands of Vanuatu, and the other islands in the Pacific, came later. They were made when the ground moved under the sea. Many of them were made by volcanoes which erupted under the sea. You will understand how this happened when we learn about volcanoes. The volcanoes pushed up out of the sea. Very slowly they grew cool. Then coral started to grow at their edges. As the coral died, the dead coral made coral reefs around the volcanoes. All the islands in Vanuatu developed from old volcanoes and old coral reefs.


The first islands to appear were Santo, Malakula and the islands in the Torres Group. They came a very long time ago. They are the oldest islands in Vanuatu. Much later Maewo and Pentecost came up out of the sea. A long time after that all the other islands came. The islands of the Province of Tafea, of Efate and the Shepherds, Epi, Ambrym and Paama, Ambae and the Banks all came during the last 2 million years.

The movements of the earth have not stopped. Our islands go on changing. Sometimes we even have a new island. A few years ago, a new island came up out of the sea between Tongoa and Epi.



There is a new volcano under the sea near Erromango. Maybe one day that will come up out of the sea and be a new island.

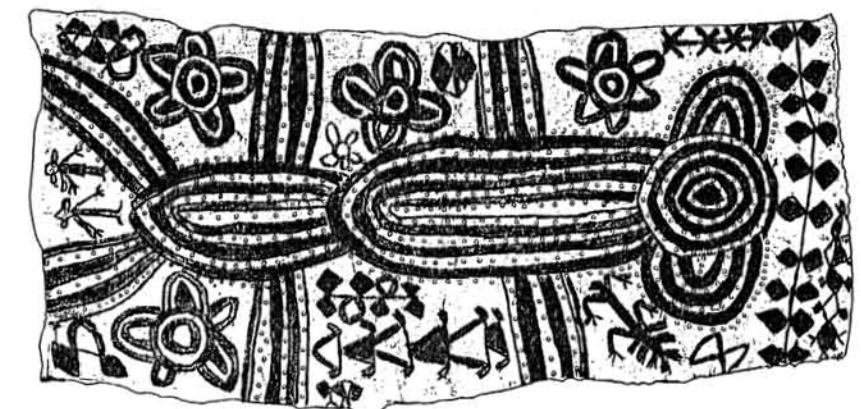
#### Things to do

1. Look at the map of Vanuatu carefully. Can you find your island on the map? Is there a volcano on your island? Perhaps you can see one on another island.
2. On the map find the islands of Tanna, Ambrym, Ambae, Gaua in the Banks Islands and Lopevi. Next to these islands you can see this little drawing . This sign is put on the map to tell you that these islands have active volcanoes. You can tell they are still active because smoke and fire often come out of the top of them. The smoke and fire make the volcano very hot. Sometimes the volcano is so hot that it lights up the sky at night with a red glow. It looks very beautiful. In the day time there is often a cloud of smoke over the top of the volcano.



Women from Tanna, Santo and Ambae

In some places women wore another kind of skirt. They made their skirts from tapa cloth. They made them with fibres from the banyan tree. In Vanuatu people stopped making and wearing tapa a long time ago. Now an artist from Erromango is beginning to make it again. The people of Polynesia still make tapa cloth. They make it from the bark of a different kind of tree. They beat the fibres together to make big pieces of tapa. Then they print patterns on them.



An old tapa cloth from Erromango

The men on Maewo, Ambae and most of Pentecost wore mats too. They put them on a different way from the women. In some other places men wore skirts.



## What did people wear?

Most of us know something about what our ancestors wore. In some places, people still wear their traditional clothing. They wear it to work in the garden or in the village. They wear traditional clothes in some villages on South Pentecost, Malakula, Santo and Tanna.

In other places people wear their traditional clothing only when they take part in custom dances or ceremonies. They wear modern clothes at other times.

Do you remember reading about the clothes that the early people in the world wore? In cold places people wore animal skins with fur to keep themselves warm. They wove cloth from wool or plant fibres. In the Pacific islands, it was hot. People did not need warm clothes. There were no big animals to provide skins. There were no sheep to provide wool. The people on our islands used what they could find in their own environment. They took materials from the bush to make their clothes. Sometimes they got what they needed from another island. Most of the time they got them from near their own villages. People in Vanuatu developed different ways of dressing. They used different materials.

In most places women did not cover the top half of their bodies. They usually covered only the bottom half.

On the islands of Maewo, Ambae and most of Pentecost the women wore mats. They wove them from pandanus. Afterwards they made a special dark red dye from roots and printed patterns on their mats.

On other islands the women wore skirts. They made their skirts from leaves or fibres. The people in some parts of Santo tied leaves in bunches and used them as skirts. The people of Malakula made their skirts from the fibres of the banana stem. The people of Tanna made their skirts with fibres taken from inside the bark of the burao tree. If you go to Tanna today, you can see the burao fibres for the grass skirts drying on the rocks. The women soak the fibres in salt water to make them soft.

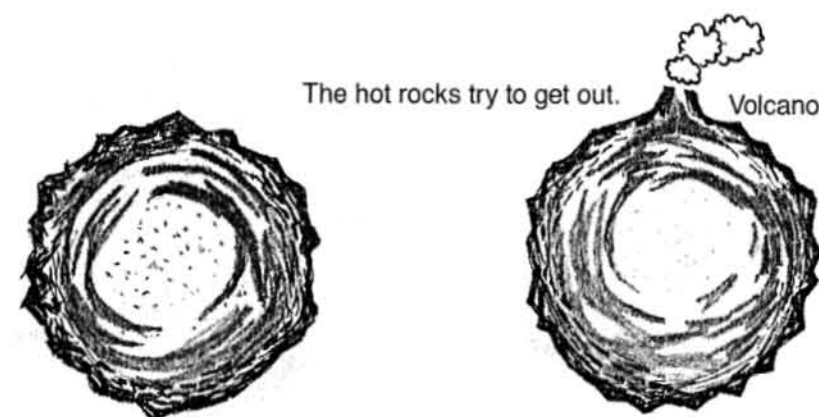
3. Answer these questions in sentences in your book.  
What is the name of our island?  
Is there a volcano on our island?  
Is there a dead volcano or an active volcano on our island?
4. Draw a volcano in your book and underneath write  
*This is a volcano.*

## More about volcanoes

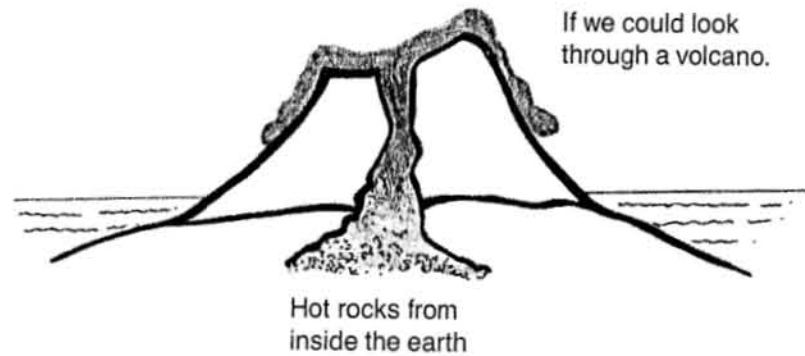
Here are some pictures that tell you more about volcanoes. They show what it would look like if you could see through a volcano.

You have learnt that inside the earth it is very hot. It is so hot that the rocks melt. There is a special name for this red hot melted rock. We call it lava. As well as the hot rock there are hot gases inside the earth. All the time they are trying to get out.

The outside of the earth is cool. We call the outside of the earth the crust. We call the outside of bread the crust too. The crust of the bread is hard, but the inside is soft. It is the same with the earth. The crust is hard, but the inside is soft. It is made of melted rock and gas. People have discovered that the outside of the earth is not all one piece. It is made up of huge pieces called plates. The plates fit together like the pieces of an enormous jigsaw puzzle. The plates are not fixed together. Sometimes they move. They move together or they move away from each other. They slide past each other. We cannot see the plates; they are under the ground and the oceans. Where the plates meet, the surface of the earth is very thin.



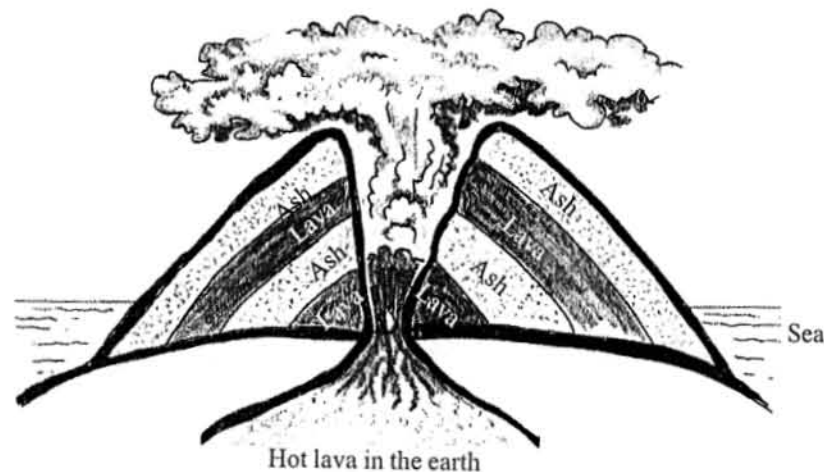
Where the crust of the earth is thin, big cracks appear. When this happens the lava and gases pour out. We call this an eruption. Sometimes the lava is forced out of the mouth of the volcano very violently. At other times it rises up through the mouth of the volcano slowly. Then it flows down the sides.



### Sea

Stones and very fine hot ashes are thrown into the air. The hot ashes fall thickly on the lava as it flows down the side of the volcano. When the lava is hot it flows like water. When it cools down it becomes as hard as rock. Steam comes out of the top of the volcano too and falls like rain.

The next time there is an eruption, the new lava flows out onto the old ashes. Then the ash which has been thrown into the air falls onto the lava. So every time there is an eruption a new layer of ash and a new layer of lava are made. In this way the ash and lava build up to make a volcano.



People used different materials to make their houses.

They made the thatch from the leaves of sago palm, coconut, pandanus or sugar cane. The thatch was often very thick. The houses of the Big Nambas people on Malakula still have very thick thatches. They can last for a very long time. A long time ago, people did not always have one house for sleeping in and one house for cooking in. They used the same house. The smoke from the fire went up into the thatch. It made it strong. It killed the insects in it.

They made the ends of the houses and the walls, if they had walls, with bamboo, reeds, sago palm trunks or leaves. Sometimes they made them with stones. They used vines or bush ropes to tie the posts and the beams of the house together, and to tie the leaves on. Sometimes the posts and the end of the ridge poles were decorated with carving.



end beam carving

The people who built their houses long ago were very skilled. Nowadays many people have forgotten how to make their houses in the old ways.

### Things to do

1. Is anyone building a traditional house in your village? Go and watch him working.
2. Work in groups. Build a model house. Make it like the traditional houses in your village. Use only the materials the people in your village used to make their houses long ago.

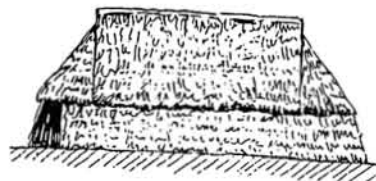
Here are some pictures of houses long ago. Are any of them like yours?



Vanua Lava



Amok, Malakula



One kind of house from Santo



Another kind of house from Santo



Lelepa, Efate



Tanna

### Things to do

Work in groups. Make a model of a volcano (out of papier mâché, clay, sand etc.)

### Volcanoes and earth tremors in Vanuatu

A long time ago most of our islands were just volcanoes. Nothing could grow because the land was so hot. Then gradually the land cooled down. Plants began to grow on the islands. They grew from the seeds which had floated there on the sea. They grew from seeds which the birds had dropped. Gradually after many years the forest grew. Now the forest is thick and covers all the hills and mountains.



There are still volcanoes in Vanuatu. Some volcanoes are active, some volcanoes are dormant, some volcanoes are extinct.

When we say a volcano is active, we mean that it is still erupting. The volcanoes on Tanna, Ambrym, Lopevi, Gaua and Ambae are active volcanoes.

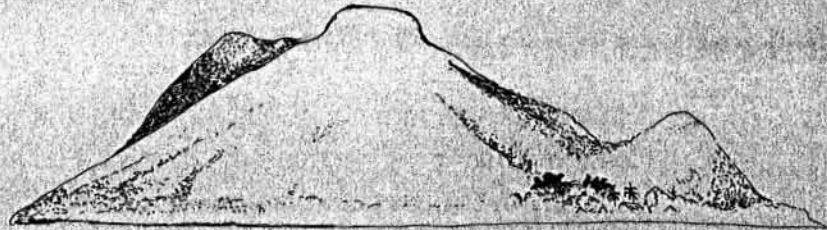
Dormant means sleeping. When we say a volcano is dormant, we mean that it has not erupted for a very long time but it may still erupt sometime. The Ambae volcano was dormant for a long time. Now it has become active again.

When we say a volcano is extinct, we mean that it is dead. It stopped erupting a very long time ago. Many of the islands in Vanuatu are shaped like volcanoes. Look at the shape of the hills on the islands of Nguna and Emau. Now plants grow all over them but once they were volcanoes. They were the volcanoes that made the island long ago. They are extinct volcanoes. You can see many hills in Vanuatu which were once volcanoes.



### Things to do

(If your school has a photocopier or a spirit duplicator, your teacher will be able to make a copy of this for you.)



Do this with a friend.

Here are 12 words about volcanoes. Can you find them in the word square? One has been done for you.

VOLCANO	GAS	CRUST	SMOKE
PLATE	LAVA	ACTIVE	ASH
DORMANT	CRATER	EXTINCT	ERUPT

L	A	V	A	C	L	Y	M	R	D
K	C	D	S	Z	A	G	B	N	O
P	T	O	H	C	R	A	T	E	R
S	I	L	P	X	E	S	E	G	M
E	V	O	L	C	A	N	O	P	A
K	E	T	A	F	I	P	G	E	N
O	E	X	T	I	N	C	T	R	T
M	O	Q	E	H	R	A	N	U	V
S	P	R	L	A	N	S	O	P	L
P	T	I	Z	C	R	U	S	T	I

5 words go across.

6 words go down.

1 word goes up. It goes up from a volcano too!

Can you remember what the words mean?

### Houses long ago

What kind of house do you live in today? What kind of houses did the people of your village live in long ago?

In many places people do not make their houses now as the people did before. The old people in the village will still remember the old kind of houses.

We know that the houses that the people built a long time ago were not all the same. People in one place built one kind of house. People in another place built another kind of house.

The houses had different shapes. In most houses the floor was the shape of a rectangle. Sometimes it was curved at one end, sometimes it was curved at both ends. In some houses on Tanna the floor was the shape of a circle.

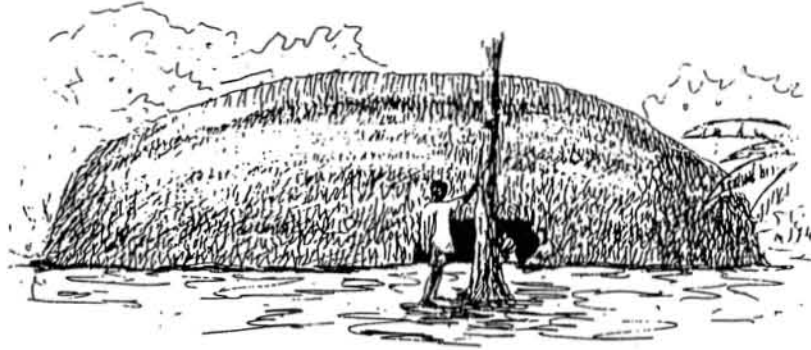


In most houses the roofs came down almost to the ground. Some houses had walls below the roof. Sometimes the roofs were straight. Sometimes they were curved. Look at these pictures. They show the shape of the roof looking at it from the end of the house.



The houses did not have windows. They had an entrance in the end. Sometimes it was very low. People had to bend down to get inside. Sometimes the people put a wall across the entrance to keep out the pigs. They had to step over this to get inside.

In some villages people built a special cyclone shelter. They made it very strong. They could all shelter there when a cyclone came. Here is a cyclone shelter from Ifira Island.



### Things to do

Prepare some questions you would like to ask about your village.

*Is your village an old village. Has it been there a long time?*

*Does it have an old nasara?*

*Is it used now?*

You can think of some more questions.

Your teacher will invite someone from your village to talk about the history of your village. He will be able to answer your questions. He will be able to show you the old parts of your village.

Afterwards, draw a picture or write about what he has told you.

### Earth tremors

We have learnt that the earth is very, very hot inside. It is so hot that the rocks melt.

Sometimes the hot lava inside the earth moves about. When this happens the crust of the earth moves too. We have all felt this. When the ground moves we call it an earth tremor or an earthquake.

Some earth tremors are very strong. You can see the ground and trees moving. Houses shake and things often fall off shelves and break. Sometimes a whole island can move. In 1965 there was a bad earthquake on the island of Malakula. The north west part of Malakula rose up one metre out of the sea.

### Tsunamis

Sometimes, when there is an earth tremor under the sea, it makes very big waves come. They are called tsunami. They can cause a lot of damage. In 1997 there was an earthquake in the Solomon Islands. A tsunami from this earthquake hit the Torres Islands and Ureparapara. It swept several houses on Tegua and Ureparapara away into the sea and caused a landslide on Ureparapara.



### Things to do

Imagine there is a very big earthquake on your island. The part of the island where you live comes up two metres. What does it look like now? What happens to your village? What happens to the reef and the sea near you?

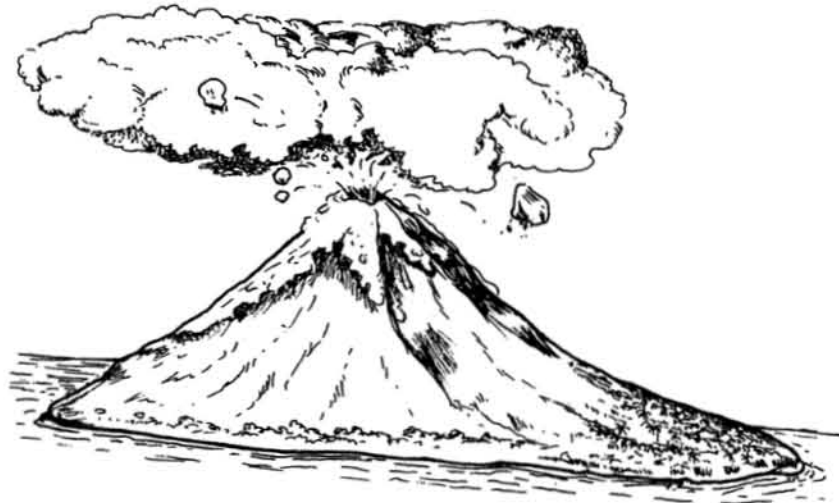
Talk about this in groups. Then tell the rest of your class what you think. Can you draw a picture to show your friends?

## Stories of volcanoes in Vanuatu

It can be very dangerous when a volcano erupts. The lava flows in a stream from the top of the volcano and from cracks in the sides. It is so hot that it destroys everything in its path. Look at your map again and find the islands of Vanuatu which have volcanoes. Here are some stories about them.

### Lopevi

Point to Lopevi. Once there were villages on Lopevi. Now no one lives there because it is so dangerous. The volcano is always rumbling and sounds very angry. Recently it has been very active and ashes and cinders have spoilt the gardens.



Many people used to live on Lopevi. Now they have left their homes and their gardens and they live and work on Epi nearby. The people of Paama know when Lopevi is active. The wind blows hot ash and fine dust across from the Lopevi volcano to their island. Their gardens have been damaged too.

Look carefully at this picture. It shows part of a nasara on Vao about 50 years ago. Vao is a small island off the north-west coast of Malakula.

Can you see the drums? Look at the man in front of them. See how tall the drums are. Look at the stone tables. There were used for killing pigs during custom ceremonies. Sometimes people had special carvings or statues made from tree-fern or wood on their nasara. Sometimes there was a special stone or a group of stones.



Sometimes there were special plants growing. There were namele trees, there were plants with coloured leaves. These plants are still used in custom ceremonies today.

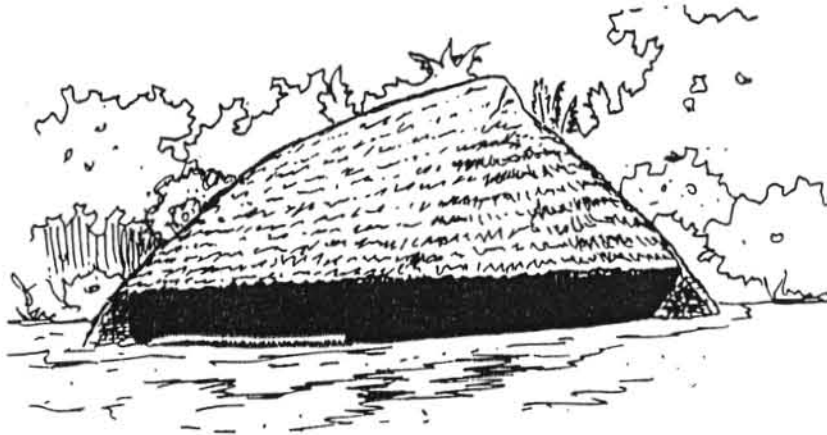
In some villages there were other important buildings. Sometimes a village had a sacred house or an ancestral house. Here is a picture of one from the Banks Islands.





Look at these pictures of nakamals from long ago.

This one is from Tongariki.



This picture shows the end of a nakamal in the Banks Islands. Look at the decorated posts.



Here is a picture of a nakamal from Ambrym.



In some places the people did not build a nakamal building. They used the area under a big banyan tree as their nakamal. On Tanna today the men drink kava under a banyan tree.

## Ambrym

Volcanoes may be strong and beautiful when they light up the sky at night, but when they erupt they can be very frightening and destroy villages and gardens, as this story about Ambrym tells. Find Ambrym on the map.

Once, about fifty years ago, there was a mission hospital on the island. All around were high hills covered with trees and creepers.

In the middle of Ambrym were two active volcanoes called Mount Marum and Mount Benbow. They had been active for a very long time. Captain Cook saw them over 200 years ago. Because the eruptions were small, the villagers did not worry.

But in December 1913 the ground suddenly began to shake. The hospital and the villages rocked. The people said, "Ambrym is dancing." Great holes opened in the ground and lava rushed out. A thick black cloud came up. It spread in all directions. Ash and hot stones began to fall on Ambrym and the islands close to Ambrym.

In the evening, the air cleared. The people in the villages could see six new volcanoes, with fire shooting up out of them. Hot lava ran down the side of the mountain towards the sea. When the lava reached the sea there was an enormous noise. Great clouds of steam rose into the air. The sea was covered with dead fish and burnt branches floating on the surface. The people from the villages were terrified. They hurried to the coast.





The people at the hospital thought they were safe. Then they saw some new volcanoes. They were erupting along a line that came straight to the hospital. The people took the sick people and made their way quickly to the coast. A short time afterwards they saw the hospital disappear. A new volcano erupted near it.

Luckily people from nearby islands saw the smoke and flames. They knew what was happening. They bravely took their boats to Ambrym. They rescued 3000 people and took them to the nearby islands of Epi, Paama and Malekula. The people had no homes and no gardens now. The chiefs of these islands joined together to help them.

Many days later the volcanoes died down. People went back to see what had happened. The island had changed completely. Many villages were destroyed. They were hidden under a thick cover of lava. The mission hospital had disappeared completely. A great lake covered all the grounds of the mission. Over the place where the hospital had been, there were more than 20 metres of water. The lake is still there today but the hospital has gone for ever. At Craig Cove on the west coast of Ambrym you can still see where the lava stretched down to the sea.

After a long time, the ground cooled. The Ambrym people were able to go back to their island to build their houses and make their gardens again.

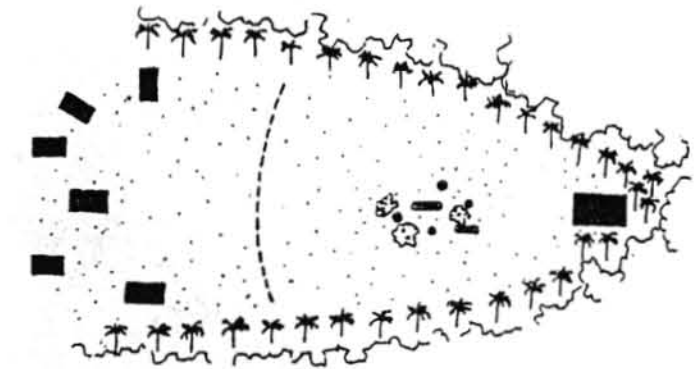
There were other eruptions on Ambrym in 1929 and 1946. They destroyed some mission stations and villages. Then the volcano erupted again in 1950. The people of Mele Village on Efate gave new homes near their village to about 400 people from Ambrym. They called their new village Mele Maat.

## What did our villages look like?

We know that the villages of long ago were small. They did not have many houses. There were not many families in each community.

The most important places in the village were the nakamal (the men's meeting house) and the nasara (the ceremonial ground). The family houses were arranged around them. There were fences or stone walls round the houses to keep the pigs out. Sometimes there was a fence round the village to protect the people from their enemies. There were gardens nearby.

This is the plan of a village of South West Malakula. It shows what the village looked like a long time ago. Other villages had other plans.



Can you see the nakamal on the right?

Can you see the houses people lived in on the left?

In the middle there was a fence made of reeds. It separated the houses from the nasara. You can see the place for the slit-drums and the special plants in the middle of the nasara. Four of the drums are upright, two of them are lying along the ground.

Garanger listened to their stories too. He found Ti Tongoa Liseiriki's grave. He found the large pieces of stone. He found the circle of shells. He found the body of the chief with his three pigs' tusks. He found the bodies of his people. It was just as the custom stories said.

#### Things to do

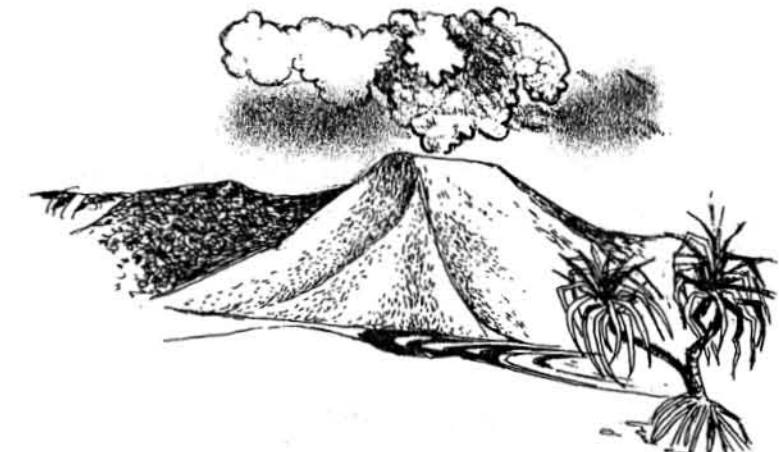
Choose a custom story from your island that talks about a famous man who lived long ago. Make a class book about it.

You will each do one page of the book. Your teacher will help you write one sentence of the story on the page. You will make the picture that will go with the sentence. Each page will have a sentence and a picture.

Put the book in your book corner for everybody to read.

#### Tanna

The volcano on Tanna is called Mount Yasur. It is a very famous volcano. Many tourists from overseas come to see it. It is one of the easiest volcanoes in the world to visit. You can climb up to the top and look right down inside.



But it is not always safe. One day in 1995 a man from Tanna took some tourists up the volcano. He got hit by a very big piece of burning lava and died. Now there are rules to follow if you want to visit the volcano.

The last time there was a very big eruption on Tanna was in 1878. When Yasur erupted then, the south east end of the island was lifted up. Big ships could not get into Port Resolution any more.

#### Ambae

On the top of Ambae there are three beautiful lakes. They are part of what was once a very big volcano. The lakes looked very quiet. The people thought they were safe. But in 1995 the water in Lake Manaro started to boil. Clouds of steam rose into the air. The volcano was not dormant any longer. It had become active again.



Scientists who study the volcano think there may soon be a very big eruption. If this happens, all the people of Ambae will have to go away very quickly to somewhere safe.

## Gaua

Gaua is an island in the Banks Group. It also has an active volcano called Mount Garet. The last time the volcano erupted was in 1965. A volcano on Vanua Lava erupted at the same time. Some people thought the volcano was going to erupt again in 1973. The government moved the people to another island. The volcano did not erupt, but it was a long time before the people went back home to Gaua. here is a very big lake at the top of Mount Garet. It is the biggest lake in Vanuatu.



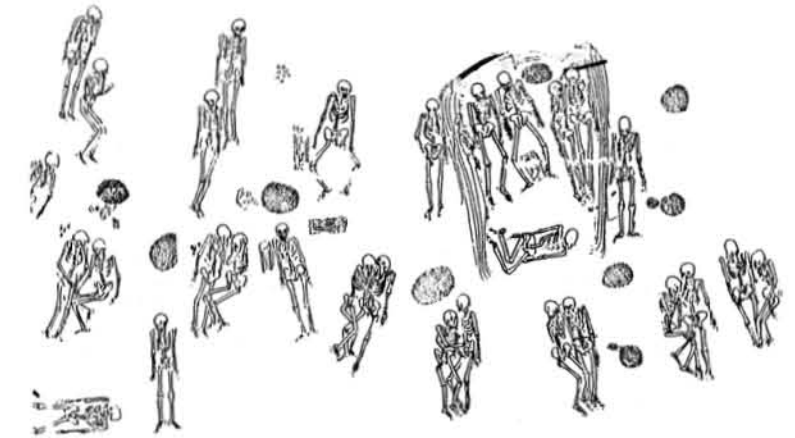
## Kuwae

You will not find this name on your map. It is an old name. Once there was a big island where Tongoa and some of the Shepherd Islands are now. About 500 years ago there was a very big eruption. There were strong earthquakes too. The falling stones and smoke killed many people. Other people died in the fires that burnt the forests. It was such a big eruption that people in other countries far away felt it.

The water from the sea poured into the island and the volcano went down. Kuwae disappeared and in its place were the smaller islands of Tongoa, Ewose, Valea, Buninga and Tongariki.

People in Tongoa and the Shepherds still tell custom stories about the eruption on the island of Kuwae, and of a man who lived there. He did not die when the volcano erupted. He lived and became a very great chief. His name was Ti Tongoa Liseiriki.

Retoka. He found the place where many people were buried, just as the custom story described.



We know about another important chief. He was alive when the big volcano on the old island of Kuwae erupted. We have already read about him. He was called Ti Tongoa Liseiriki. People still tell stories about him. They say he wore three circular pigs' tusks when the people buried him. They say that they buried him with his wives and many of his men. They say that the people covered their grave with large pieces of stone that they had cut. They say that they put a large circle of big shells round the grave.





From the things that are left we can learn something but not everything about our ancestors. We cannot find all our old villages. Sometimes people have gone on building in the same place. We cannot find the old things there any more. Some villages have disappeared under the sea. Some places are buried in the bush and are hard to find. But what we can find can teach us about our ancestors.

So we can find out about our past from studying our languages, from listening to stories and from finding things that people used long ago. If we use all these different ways of finding out about the past together, we can begin to understand the way of life of our ancestors.

### Stories from the past

Do you know any custom stories about people from your island who lived long ago? Here are two stories. They are each about a famous chief. An archaeologist used the old stories as a guide and found things under the ground that show the stories were true.

Once there was a very famous and powerful chief called Roy Mata. He lived about 400 years ago. He ruled over the people of the Shepherd Islands and round the coasts of Efate. People can tell many stories about him. He brought peace to his area. Every five years the different groups of people from his area came together to keep the peace. They exchanged gifts and made a big feast. They handed all their weapons to the chief to show that they did not want to fight.

When Roy Mata died, the people took his body to Retoka Island, an island near Efate which we sometimes call Hat Island.



They buried him there with members of his family and with a man and a woman from each of the groups of people that he had ruled. They had agreed to be buried with him.

An archaeologist called Jose Garanger heard the stories about Roy Mata. He decided to look for his body. He dug on

Fortunately when volcanoes erupt it is not always so frightening. Usually volcanoes are active for only a little while. Stones and ash shoot out from the top. There is often a cloud over the great hole of the volcano, which we call the crater. Then the volcano is quiet again for a while. It may be quiet for a few months or it may be quiet for many years.

### Things to do

1. Do the old people in your family know any stories about volcanoes? Ask them, then tell the story to your class.
2. Work in groups and talk about these questions.

Imagine a volcano suddenly starts to erupt near your village.

Can you escape by sea to another island? Where is the safest place to go to? What will you take with you?

Make up a little play about this and do it for the rest of the class to see.

### Coral reefs

Some of our islands are made only by volcanoes but parts of others are made of coral.

Find out how the beaches round the islands were made. Look at the colour of the sand. If it is black then the sand has come from a volcano. The beaches on Paama, and Ambrym are black. If it



is white then the sand comes from coral which has grown round the sides of the volcano. The reefs which surround our islands are made of coral. It is important to know about coral because a large part of Vanuatu is made of old, dead coral.

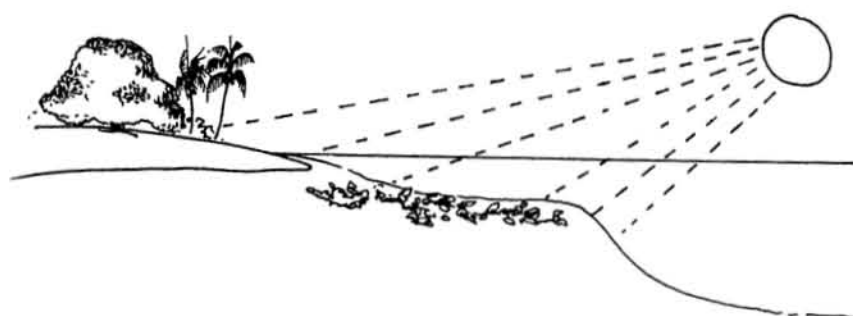
How can you tell that the reef is there?



The water is a different colour. There is only a little water over the reef. It is pale blue or green. Beyond the reef the sea is dark blue. The water is very deep. Sometimes when the tide is low we can see the reef. People go out to find the shell fish which live there.

We also know that the reef is there because sometimes ships and boats are wrecked on it. Boats have to find deep water between the reefs if they want to come near the shore. The water inside the reef is shallow and very calm. In the deep sea beyond, the sea is often rough and big waves break on the edge of the reefs.

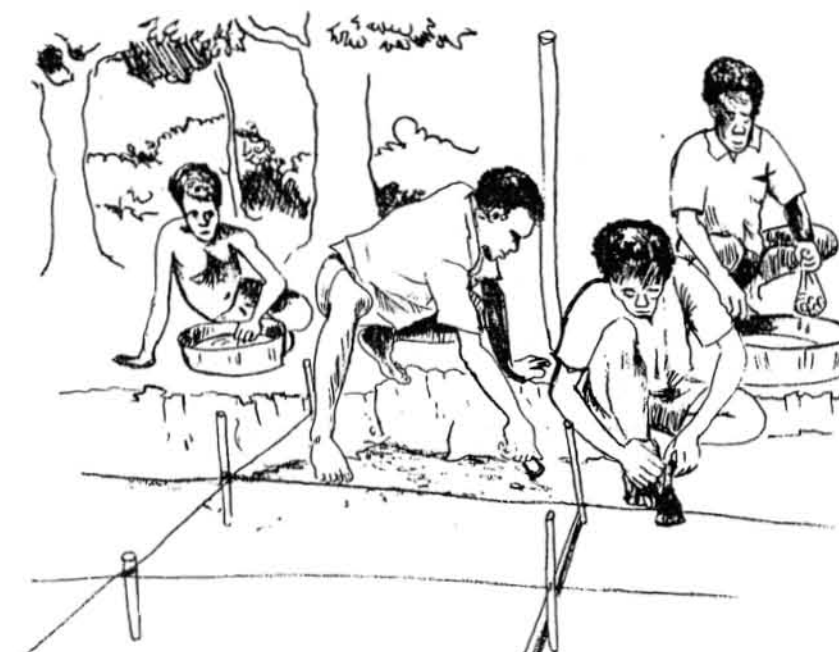
Live coral is often very colourful. Sometimes you can see it waving like little flowers when you swim under the sea. Coral is made up of tiny animals called polyps. They like to live in warm water. Because they like warm water they grow round most of the islands in the Pacific Ocean. Coral needs sunlight to live. It grows only where the sea is shallow and the sun warms the water. Where the sea is very deep the coral will not grow. It is too dark and deep for the sun to reach it.



As it grows, each coral polyp builds a hard wall of lime around itself. The coral polyps all live together on the rocks and all their little walls join together too.

Coral needs warmth and light from the sun.

When the coral polyps die their bodies are gradually washed away, but the little walls they lived in stay behind on the rock. Then more coral grows up on top of the old dead coral.



They find their tools made of shell, bone or stone. Then they know how people used to make things.

They find the places where they left their rubbish. The people threw away the bones or shells of the animals they ate. Archaeologists can look at them and tell us what they were. Archaeologists have found pieces of pots on rubbish tips. They have found shell necklaces too.

They have even found places where people were buried long ago. We will be reading about a famous burial place on the next page.

They have found the places where our ancestors made their gardens. They can tell us how they made their gardens long ago.

Some of the things that we find we can put in a special machine called a radio carbon dating machine. This machine can tell us how old the things are. Then we know when the people who used these things were alive.

Today we cannot find many of the things people used a long time ago. Things people made from plants, such as roofs or fencing posts, baskets or the clothes people wore, rot and disappear.

on the sand or ground or sang songs when they told the stories. This helped people remember them.

People today know stories about the lives of their ancestors who lived hundreds of years ago. Sometimes the stories change as many people repeat them, but they still tell us something about our past.

We can look at some of the places that people used long ago. We can still see some of their things there today. We can see their ceremonial grounds or nasara, with their old stones and gongs. We can see the caves that the people lived in. We can look at the carvings or drawings in the caves or on the rocks.



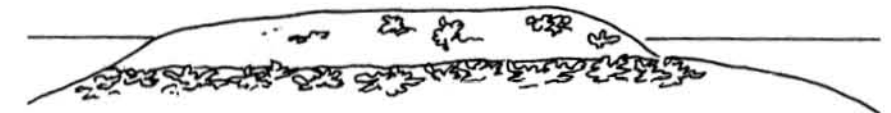
A cave painting on Lelepa

The Cultural Centre in Port Vila is responsible for making a list of all our special places. We call these special or tabu places "cultural and historical sites". The people from the Cultural Centre go and see the special places. They put them on their map, they take photographs and they record on cassettes the stories that the old people tell them about the places.



There are people called archaeologists who help too. They find out about the past. They look at our old places. They dig down under the ground in the places where people lived before. The things they find show us how the early people on the islands lived.

Slowly, after many, many years, the walls of millions and millions of dead coral polyps build up to form the reef. As more coral dies the reef gets higher and higher. It comes up above the surface of the sea. Sticks and branches get caught up on it. After a time seeds are dropped on the reef by birds or float there on the sea. The reef is now a tiny island.



The island of Aniwa is a coral island. It does not have an old volcano like other islands. It is just coral. There are some small islands off the coast of Malekula that are made like this too. You can see them very clearly if you fly over them.

We know that many islands were volcanoes in the beginning. When the volcanoes became cool, coral began to grow in the shallow water along the edges of these islands. Now there are reefs round most of our islands.

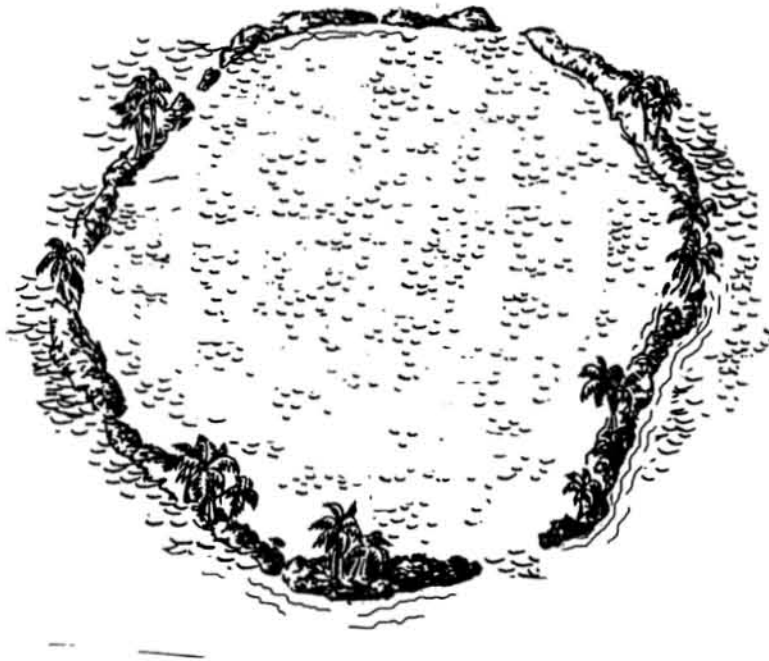


A long time ago, movements of the earth lifted some of the reefs up out of the sea. Now they are not in the sea any longer; they form part of our islands. We call these old reefs that are now rocks limestone. Can you find any limestone on your island?

In some other parts of the Pacific Ocean there are volcanoes like the ones in Vanuatu. The islands there have high hills in the middle. They are made of old, dead volcanoes.

In other places in the Pacific there are no volcanoes. The islands there are made only of coral. They are low and flat.

Some of these very small islands are called atolls. In the middle of them is a shallow lagoon. In the beginning there was not a lagoon. There was an island made from a volcano. Coral grew up round it. Then the volcano sank back into the sea. The coral grew up again to make a ring of small islands. In the middle, where the volcano had been, there is now a lagoon.



Some of the coral islands and atolls are so low that when the sea is rough the waves go right over the tops of the islands. There is not much soil on these islands and only coconut trees and pandanus grow. The people are very good at fishing because most of their food has to come from the sea. Most of the islands in Kiribati and Tuvalu are like this.

## How can we find out about our past?

Our ancestors could not read or write. They did not write books about themselves for us to read. We must find out about them in different ways.

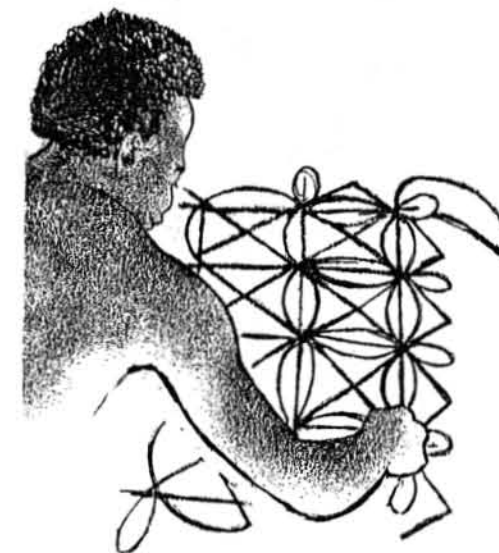
We have talked about one way already. We can study people's languages. The languages show us where people came from. They can show us the people who came to Vanuatu at much the same time. We have about 110 different languages in Vanuatu. Some of them are spoken by many people, others are spoken by only a few.

As we have learnt, all our languages belong to the same big family of languages. But some of our languages are very like each other. Some are not very like each other.

What is the name of your language? Can you understand what people say in another language that is similar to your language?

The languages of North Pentecost and East Ambae are very like each other. They are similar to the languages some people speak on Efate and the Shepherds Islands too. The languages of the islands which were settled by Polynesian people are very alike too. The languages of Central and South Pentecost are similar to the languages of Ambrym.

Another way of learning about our past is by listening to the stories that people tell. Today we can read stories in our books.



Before there were books, people had to remember important things. Old people told young people the important things in their lives. They told them the stories that their grandfathers told them too. The young people remembered the stories. When they were old, they told these stories to their own grandchildren. They sometimes drew patterns



very large lizard with great big eyes led them. The lizard said "Takatakatak" whenever they did anything wrong. When it did not say anything, they knew what they had done was right.

Some time afterwards, they had first one child, then another. One day, when the boys had grown big, the mother and father decided to go to the garden. They told their boys, "If you are thirsty, take away the stone and drink some water from the spring. But do not forget to put the stone back."

They went off to the garden and the boys stayed at home. Soon they felt thirsty. They drank some water from the stream, but they forgot to put the stone back. The spring water began to bubble up. It bubbled so fiercely that the boys' parents heard it from the garden. They saw water rushing everywhere. They hurried home. Their house had gone but the boys were safe.

They took them up to a high mountain. Then they pointed to a place and called out, "Go and stay over there!" They called out to another place, "Go and stay over there." They called out to many, many places, and the places moved and became islands.

This all happened because the boys did not obey their parents. When they did not put the stone back over the spring, the water spread out to many different places. In the same way the land, which had been one big land, spread out to become many different islands.

#### Things to do

Draw or paint a picture of the custom story.

#### Things to do

Copy this into your book. Fill in the words in the spaces.

All the islands of the Pacific have come up out of the s \_\_\_\_\_.  
Most of the islands of Vanuatu were once v \_\_\_\_\_. Some of our  
islands are made of c \_\_\_\_\_ too. A r \_\_\_\_\_ grows round  
most of our islands. Some islands are made of only c \_\_\_\_\_. It  
grows near the surface because it needs s \_\_\_\_\_ to live. When  
the r \_\_\_\_\_ gets high, it comes up out of the s \_\_\_\_\_. It  
becomes an island.

In some islands there was first a v \_\_\_\_\_ with a r \_\_\_\_\_  
around it. Then the v \_\_\_\_\_ went down into the s \_\_\_\_\_  
again. Now there is a ring of small c \_\_\_\_\_ islands round a  
l \_\_\_\_\_ where the v \_\_\_\_\_ was before. We call these islands  
a \_\_\_\_\_.



## Chapter 3

# People on the earth

### People begin to live on the earth

We have learnt how the earth came. We have learnt about the land and the sea, the first plants and animals. We have learnt about our islands and how they came. Now we will learn about the first people.

At first there were no people on the earth. There were the first plants and the first animals. Then, many millions of years later, the first people appeared. We think that the first people lived on the earth about two million years ago.

The first people could not do most of the things we can do today. We think that they had no language; they could not use words to talk like we can. They did not walk upright as you and I do.

There were not many of these first people. They lived only in south and east Africa. We know what they looked like. People have found their bones in South Africa and Tanzania. Look on a world map or a globe and find these countries.

Very slowly, over thousands of years, people began to learn to do more things. One group of these early people have a special name. They are called *Homo Sapiens*. *Homo* is a word for man and *sapiens* is another word for knowing or wise. They began to think of new ways to do things. All the people who live in the world have come from this group.

At first these early people lived only in the forests of Africa and parts of Asia and eastern Europe. It was warm there. In other parts of the world there was a lot of ice. People could not live there; it was too cold. There were no people in western Europe, in America or in Australia. There were no people in the Pacific Islands.

The early people lived very simple lives. They spent most of their time finding enough food to stay alive. They did not have time to do other things. In the summer, when it was warm, the



The Melanesians came with yams and taro, pigs and fowls. They did not need to move around to get their food. They built houses and lived in small communities. Over the years they developed their own customs and culture. They developed their own ways of doing things.

Then, much later, as we have seen, some Polynesians came westwards into Melanesia and settled on some of our small islands. The people who live on Futuna and Aniwa, on Ifira and at Mele, and on part of Emae, are all descendants of the Polynesians who came here.

We all want to know how our island began and where our people came from. Many people have custom stories to explain these things. Here is a story from the island of Malo.

### A custom story from Malo

A long time ago there was a big nakatambol tree. It stood at the head of the lagoon we call Malapasi, at a place called Sulea. A big vine climbed up the nakatambol tree and spread all over its branches.

One day, a ripe fruit fell down from the tree and split in half. One half fell to the right of the root, the other fell to the left of the root. The one on the right became the man, the one on the left became the woman. They stayed there beside the root, but they did not see each other.

One day, both of them came out at the same time and looked around. Now they met each other for the first time. From that time on, they stayed together. They walked about together. A

## Chapter 5

# People in Vanuatu

### People settle in Vanuatu

We know that most of the people in Vanuatu today are Melanesians.

There were people on the island of Malo a very long time ago. They lived on the coast. They cleared the bush by the coast. They planted gardens. They grew yams and taro. They kept pigs and fowls. They took nuts from the bush and shells from the reef. They were good fishermen too. They did not go far from the coast.

They made pottery too. In Vanuatu today there are only two places where people still make pottery. They are on the west coast of Santo. Long ago, pottery was made everywhere. We call the old pottery from Malo Lapita pottery and we call the early people Lapita people. Lapita pottery has been found on other islands in Vanuatu too, on Erromango, North Malakula and Efate.

After the Lapita people had lived on the coasts of our islands for a long time, some of them left Vanuatu and sailed in their canoes to Fiji. They took their Lapita pottery with them. Their descendants are the Polynesians.

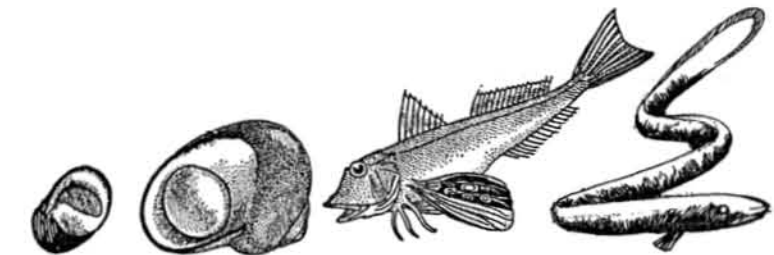
The first Melanesians to come to our islands were probably much smaller than the people today. They settled on all the islands of Vanuatu. They did not arrive at one time. They came in small groups over a very long time. At first they lived in caves. You can see some of the caves on Lelepa and Efate. You can see some on Tanna and Aneityum too. There are caves on many of our islands. Some of the caves were very big. At Bethel village on Tanna there is a cave that is about sixteen metres long and three and a half metres wide.



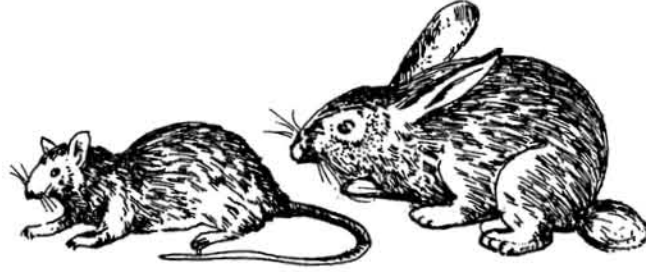
plants grew. The people ate leaves and flowers. In the winter, when it was cold, the plants did not grow new leaves, they did not have flowers. The people ate fruit, seeds and nuts. They used sticks to dig up roots. They did not grow their own food. They did not know how to plant things. They ate what they could find growing in the forest.



They found food in the water too. They took shellfish and fish from the small rivers and the seashore. They did not go fishing in the deep sea. They did not know how to make boats or canoes.



They caught small animals and birds in the forest. They threw stones or sticks at them. They took them with their hands. It was hard for them to catch big animals. The animals attacked them or killed them. They did not cook the fish or the animals or the birds. They did not know how to use fire to cook.



Early people did not sleep in houses or villages. They had to move around all the time. They went from one place to another in the forest to find their food. At night they slept in caves to keep themselves warm and safe from big animals.

#### Things to do

Draw a picture of some early people getting their food. Remember

They did not wear clothes.

They used only sticks and stones for hunting.

They did not cook their food.

They slept in caves.

Write

*The first people did not cook their food. They ate plants from the forest.*

*They hunted for small animals from the forest and fish and shellfish from the small rivers and seashore.*

### People begin to make tools and use fire

After many, many years people began to learn more things. They learned to make simple weapons and tools. Weapons are things we make to fight with. Tools are things we make to help us to do things. People made their weapons and tools from stone. We call this time the Old Stone Age.

They used a hard stone called flint to bang against another stone. They broke bits off the stone and changed its shape. They made axes to hold in their hands. They did not make handles for their axes.

Look at these words. Are some of them the same or similar to words that mean the same in your language?

English	two	five	eye	eat	drink	dig	mosquito
Bahasa Indonesia	dua	lima	mata	makan	minum	gali	nyamuk
Raga (North Pentecost)	rua	lima	mataku	gani	mwinu	geli	namu
Tangoa (South Santo)	moruwa	mollima	mataku	gangani	inu	geli	mohi
Paama	elu	elim	metak	ani	muni	ili	anam
Nguna	dua	lima	namatangu	gani	munu	kili	namu
Whitesands (Tanna)	kaiu	karilem	namtak	un	amnum	il	mumwang
Fijian	rua	lima	mataqu	kana	gunu	kelia	namu
Samoaan	lua	lima	mata	kai	inu	eli	namu
Your language							

#### Things to do

Answer these questions. Write the answers in sentences in your books.

1. What does Melanesia mean?
2. What does Micronesia mean?
3. What does Polynesia mean?
4. Write the name of one country in Melanesia.
5. Write the name of one country in Micronesia.
6. Write the name of one country in Polynesia.
7. Where did all the people from Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia come from?



## How do we know about the first people in the Pacific?

We have read the story of how people came to the islands of the Pacific. They did not come all at the same time. They came in small groups and spread out across the Pacific over thousands of years. Many were lost at sea. The Pacific Ocean is very big. The islands are very small. But some landed on the islands. They were the first Melanesians, the first Micronesians and the first Polynesians. They all came in the beginning from Southeast Asia. Over the years they began to develop their own different ways of life and their own culture.

How do we know about the first people? They did not know how to read or write. We cannot read their stories of their early journeys. But we can look at the languages we speak in the Pacific today.

In Vanuatu we have many languages. In the Solomon Islands they have many languages too. The languages we speak today are very different from one another. We cannot understand each others' languages.

In Micronesia there are different languages too.

In Polynesia the languages on the different islands are not so different from each other. Polynesian people have not been living on all their different islands for so long. Their languages have not changed so much.

Our languages all sound different. But some of our words and some of the ways we put our words together to make sentences are similar. They are not the same, but they are nearly the same. They belong to the same big family of languages.

The languages of Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia come from the same family. The languages of Indonesia, the Philippines, of parts of Malaysia and of parts of the mainland of Asia come from the same family of languages too. Long, long ago our ancestors all spoke the same language.

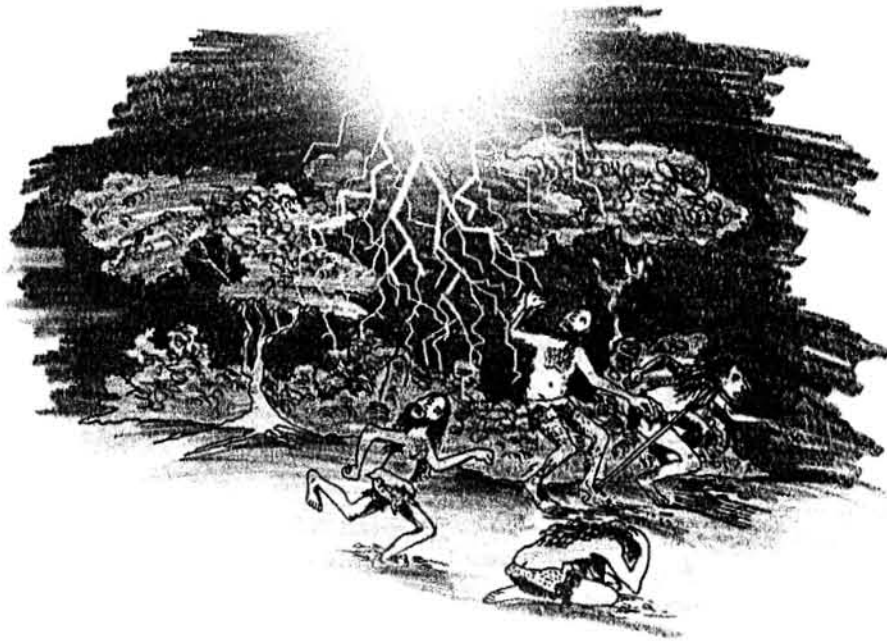


They used them for cutting up the animals they killed. They cut the skins off the animals. They wore the skins to keep themselves warm in cold weather. They used them to cut sticks to make spears. They used them to cut branches to make huts.

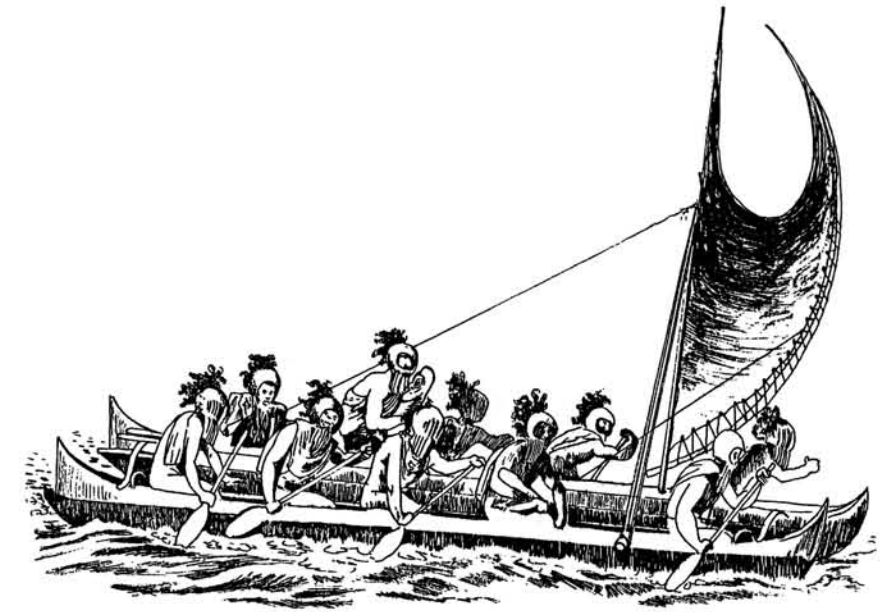
Bears and wolves attacked the people, but now they used weapons to defend themselves. They used spears and stones to kill animals that were bigger and stronger than themselves. Now they had more food.



About this time people discovered fire. At first they were probably frightened by fire. They saw lightning in the sky and they saw how it could set fire to the forest.



But then people found that fire was useful. They took it to their caves and huts and kept it burning night and day. Later they discovered how to make new fire by rubbing two pieces of wood together. People in Vanuatu still make fire like this today. In some parts of the world men make fire by striking two pieces of flint together. Flint is a special stone which makes a small spark when pieces of it are banged together.



The Polynesians were great sailors. They were great warriors too. They had strong rulers. They went on very long voyages far across the ocean in their big canoes. Their canoes sometimes carried 200 people with all their food crops and animals. They discovered and settled the last islands in the Pacific.

#### Things to do

Imagine you are a Polynesian man or woman of long ago. You are getting ready to leave your island. You are going to go a long way across the ocean. You are going to make a home in a new land. Draw pictures of the things you will take with you in your canoe. Remember, you can take only the things you can find or make on your own island.

About a thousand years later, Polynesians set out across the ocean in their big canoes. They settled on the Marquesas Islands in the east. During the next few hundred years Polynesian sailors and explorers discovered the other island groups of Polynesia.

People from the Marquesas Islands went to the Society Islands and Tahiti. They went far away to the north, to Hawaii. They went far away to the east, to Easter Island.



Statues from Easter Island



People from Tonga and Samoa went to Tuvalu. People from Samoa and Tahiti went to the Cook Islands. People from the Society Islands went all the way across the sea to New Zealand. It was cold there. It was not like the other Polynesian islands. The crops the Maori people had taken with them would not grow well. They had to look for different kinds of food in the bush. They had to change their way of life to fit their new country. But they kept their Polynesian culture and language.

A Maori carving

Some Polynesian voyagers even came back to the places their ancestors had left long ago. Some of them made their homes on some of the small islands in western Melanesia. Many of them settled in Fiji. Today the customs and culture of Fiji are both Polynesian and Melanesian.



A Polynesian from the Solomon Islands

Slowly men learned to use fire for many things. They used fire to keep animals away. They used it to keep themselves warm. They used it to give them light when it was dark. They used it to burn the bush. Fire made wood hard. People made spears of wood and hardened the points in the fire. They killed bigger animals and fish. They ate some food that had fallen in the fire. They found it was easier to eat the food. It was softer. It tasted better too. So they began to cook some of their food.

Now they did not have to spend so long hunting. They began to talk together. They had ideas about the things around them. They worshipped the sun or the rain or the important things in nature around them. They used magic to help their hunting. In some places they painted pictures in their caves. They made pictures of the animals they hunted. We can still see these pictures today.



The life of the people was changing a lot. They could defend themselves from bigger animals; they did not always get killed. They could catch the animals and have more food. They could keep warm in winter. They were beginning to learn how to use the world around them. More people stayed alive longer. The number of people in the world began to grow. They began to move to other places in the world.



### Things to do

Draw a picture of Old Stone Age people. Some men are hunting a wild pig. A woman is cooking the food over a fire. Another woman is cleaning a skin to make clothes.

#### Remember

The men used spears or stones to kill animals.

The people did not have cooking pots.

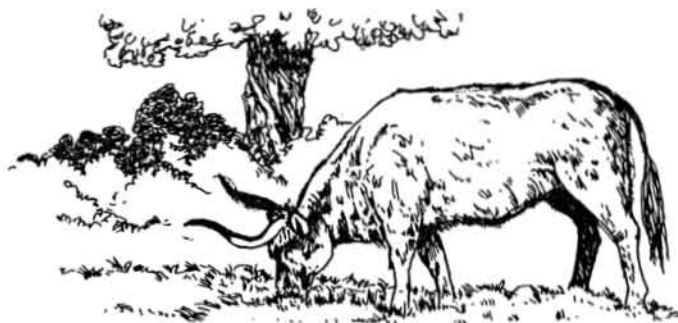
#### Write

*Old Stone Age people made tools and weapons with stone.  
They used fire.*

## People learn about plants and animals

People began to discover new things to do. They changed their world to make life easier for themselves. They burned down trees and shrubs to make a clearing. The grass grew well in the new clearing. Shrubs with nuts and berries grew round the clearing. Wild cattle came to eat the grass. They did not have to go away to find more food. They stayed near the clearing. The people did not have to hunt in the forests for the cattle. They could stay in one place too. The cattle and the people stayed there until the grass was finished.

Slowly people began to look after the wild animals and to make them tame. People tamed cattle, sheep and goats, dogs and cats, horses and pigs. They used some animals for food. They used some animals for carrying things. They used some animals for their skins or their hair. They used some animals to help them hunt. The animals were tame. They were not frightened of the people. They stayed near them.



### Things to do

Imagine you are a girl or boy from the forests high up on a big island of Southeast Asia. You have left your home there to find a new home across the sea. You have been travelling for a long time with your family in your sailing canoe. Now you have landed on a small coral atoll in Micronesia.

Write a short story. Describe your new island. Describe your feelings about it. Start your story like this.

*We have been sailing across the ocean in our canoe for many weeks.  
Today we have landed on an island. I am very \_\_\_\_\_. Our new island is \_\_\_\_\_.*

## The Polynesians

The Polynesians were the other group of people to settle in the Pacific Islands. Polynesia means many islands. Polynesian people have lighter skins than Melanesians. They have long straight black hair. They live now on many islands in a large part of the Pacific. It is shaped like a triangle. One corner of the triangle is in the south, near the islands of New Zealand. Another corner is in the east, near Easter Island. The third corner is in the north, near the islands of Hawaii. Inside this very big triangle are the islands of Polynesia. Look at the map and find them.

We think the ancestors of the Polynesians came into the Pacific the same way as the Melanesians. They went to the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. They went to Fiji. They went to Tonga and then to Samoa. This is where the Polynesian culture began.



A Samoan village

islands of the Marshall group and of Kiribati. They discovered the tiny islands of Guam and Palau too. Look at the map and find these islands.

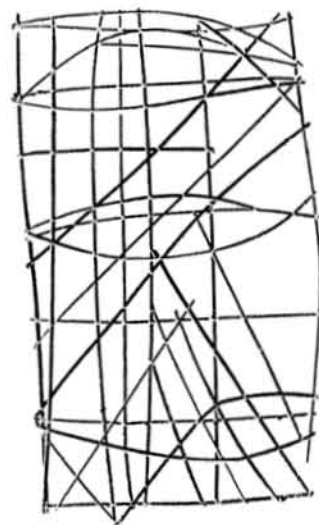
Most of the islands of Micronesia are coral atolls, but there are some volcanic islands too. On the volcanic islands people could make their gardens. They grew taro and yam, breadfruit and pandanus. The people on the small islands did not have much food. They caught fish from the sea. They could not grow vegetables.

The people on the atolls made beautiful mats and shell ornaments. They made other beautiful things too. They took them across the sea to the volcanic islands. They traded them for the food they wanted. They came back to their atolls with the food.



The Micronesians were very good sailors. They were clever at building their canoes and sailing them. Sometimes they sailed hundreds of kilometres on their trading journeys. We know that some people from Micronesia went back to Southeast Asia to trade.

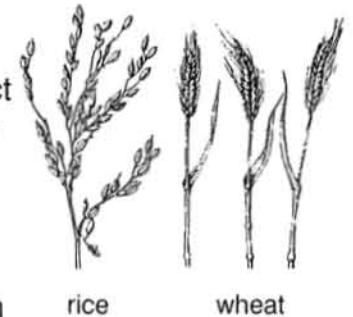
Micronesian people have brown skins and black hair. Their hair is straight or wavy. They look more like the people of Southeast Asia than the Melanesians do.



navigation chart

People learned new things about plants too. Some kinds of grass seeds were better to eat than others. At first they picked the good seeds to eat when they found them. Next they started to carry them with them to eat when they went to new places. Then they started dropping the seed on the ground when they made a new clearing. New plants grew up. Now people had learnt to plant seeds.

They learned more about planting seeds. They learned to look after the new plants. They learned how to collect the seeds when they were ready. They learned to crush them with a stone to make flour. They learned to make bread. The wheat and the rice we use today are kinds of grass that early man learned to grow.



In other parts of the world where it was hot and wet people learned how to plant root crops. Before, they had to go into the forest to look for taro and yam plants and other roots that they could eat. Now they planted them near their houses. They took the plants with them when they went to new places. Many years later, when the first people came to the Pacific, they brought their root crops with them on their canoes. This is why we eat yams and taro today.

It was easier for people to grow crops for food and to keep animals near their homes. It was harder to wander in the bush looking for food. People began to stay in one place. They started to become farmers.

### Things to do

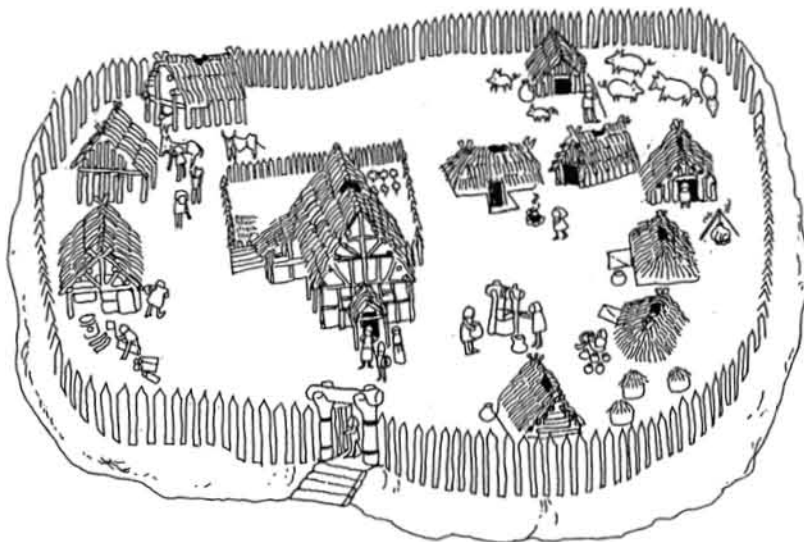
Draw a picture of men planting crops.

Write

*People learned how to keep animals and grow plants. They did not have to look for their food in the forests. They became farmers.*

### People live together in villages

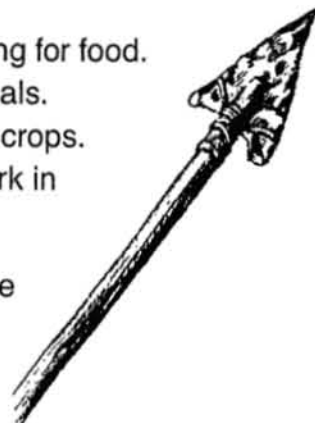
Now people built houses and fences. Families built their houses near each other. They lived in villages.



They learned to use the things around them more. They used things from the ground and from the forest. They used rocks and stones. They used clay from the ground. They used trees and plants. They used the bones and skins of the animals they killed.

They did not need to spend all day looking for food. Sometimes people looked after the animals. Sometimes people looked after the food crops. Sometimes people did other kinds of work in the village.

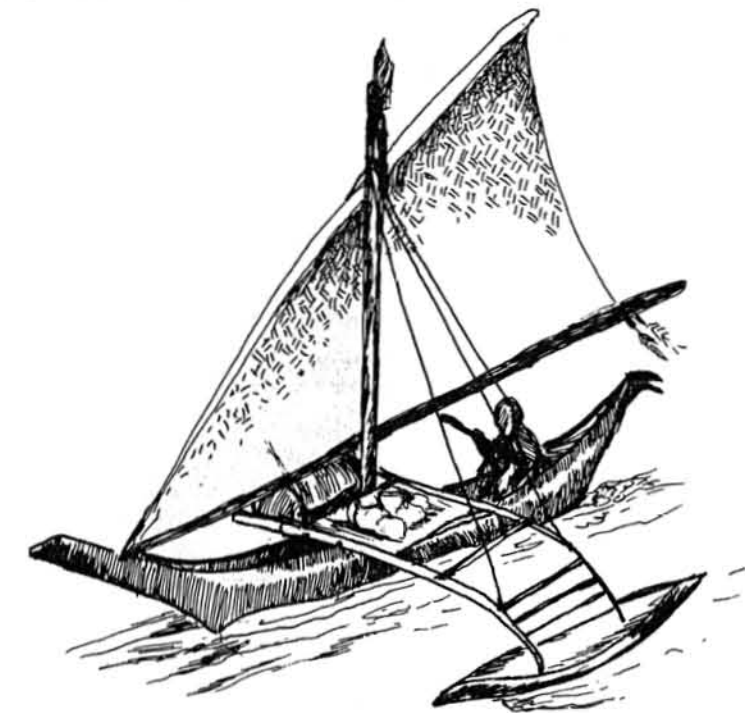
Some people used stone. They made axe heads, spear and arrow heads, and



### The Micronesians

Other people sailed away from Southeast Asia too. They went away at much the same time. They did not go south. They did not follow the chain of big islands of Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. They went east out into the Pacific Ocean.

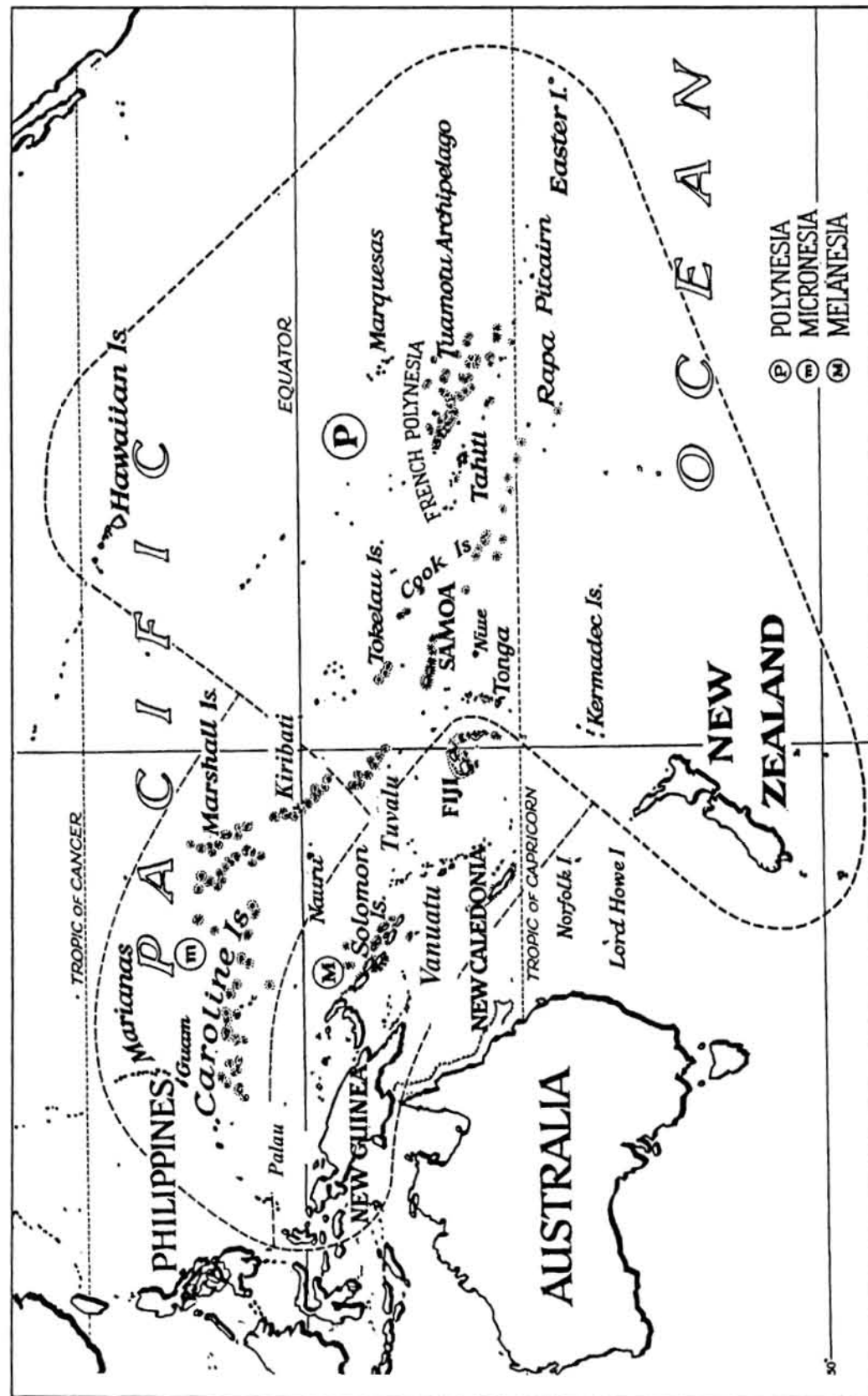
Some of them landed on tiny islands in the ocean. They landed on the islands of the Mariana and Caroline groups. These islands are in the western part of the large area of the Pacific Ocean that we call Micronesia.



Micronesia means tiny islands. There are thousands and thousands of islands in this part of the Pacific. The area of the ocean in Micronesia is as big as the very big country of the United States of America. But the islands are very small. If we moved the islands together into one place, they would make an island only as big as the island of Santo. Santo is a small island. In the area of Micronesia there is a lot of sea and very little land.

A long time after people began living on the islands of western Micronesia, some people went out across the ocean. They settled on the islands of eastern Micronesia. They found the

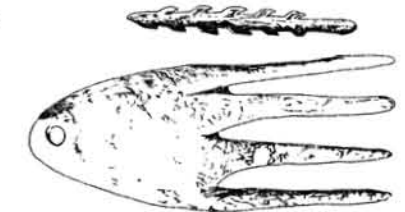




knives. They made wooden handles for them. Because they could make better tools now, we call this time the New Stone Age.

They used wood to make their houses and things for their houses. They used wood to make tools for farming too.

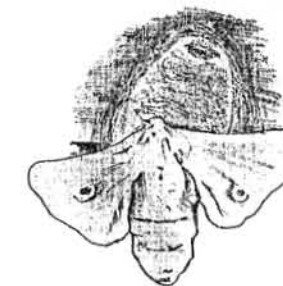
Some people used bone and horn. They made needles and fishhooks, they made tools for the house and for farming.



Some people used clay. They made pots. They used them to cook food and to store seeds. They used them to carry water.

Some people used grasses and sticks to make baskets. They used them for storing things and for carrying things.

Some people used the hair from their animals to make cloth. They did not need to kill the animals. They cut the wool from the sheep and used it to make warm cloth. They used plants to make cloth too. Some plants had long stems. They took the fibres



from the stems. They twisted many hairs or fibres together to make thread. In some places they took thread too from the silkworm. The silkworm is the cocoon of a small insect called a silk moth. The cocoon is covered in a very long thread.



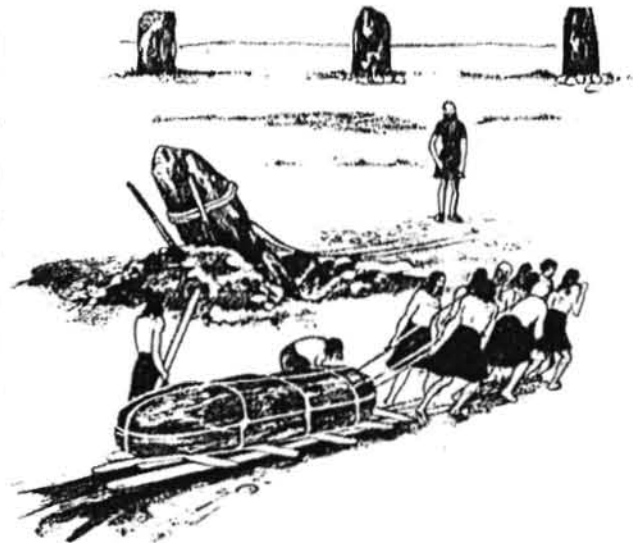
Then they learned to weave the threads together to make cloth. They found colours in plants. They boiled roots, leaves or bark with the cloth to make the cloth different colours. Now they wore animals skins and furs only when it was cold. When it was warm they wore tunics or cloaks of woven cloth.

People learned how to move heavy things from one place to another.



They used fire and stone tools to make a boat from a tree trunk. Sometimes they used skin to cover sticks to make a boat. Sometimes they used the bark of a tree. Now they could travel on the water.

They used a sled or rollers to pull heavy rocks or tree trunks a long way along the ground. They found out how to make very big stones stand up too. Look at the picture. How did they do this?



Much later still, People learned how to make wheels. They made carts. They could move things easily. They followed the easiest way to get from one place to another. Soon the easiest way became a track. Other people used the track. Soon there were tracks between the villages.

the valleys away from the coast. They began to live up the sides of the hills. Melanesian people began to live in very different kinds of places.

Over many years the language of each group of people changed. Their customs changed. The people in each group began to look alike. They began to look different from the people in other groups. Now we have many groups of people in Melanesia. Each group has its own language and customs. But they still belong to the same family of people, the Melanesians, and their languages belong to the same family of languages.



Melanesians from New Caledonia, the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu

### Things to do

Work in a group of about six. Prepare a play.

You are in a canoe. You have just arrived on an island in Melanesia. What do you do? Remember to talk as you perform your play.

We call the area where they settled Melanesia. Melanesia means black islands. We call the people who live there Melanians. Melanians have dark skins and their hair is tightly curled.

Melanesia was the first part of the Pacific to be settled. Many of the islands of Melanesia are big islands. They are close to each other. People did not have to travel too far in the open sea to get from one island to the next.

When they reached an island they stayed there. They built a shelter with branches from the trees on the island or they found a cave. There were coconuts and fish to eat. They carried taro and yams with them in their canoes. They took pigs, chickens and dogs too. They were the kinds of food they had eaten in their old homes in Asia. Now they could eat them in their new homes far away across the sea.

By the end of the migrations, people were living on most of the islands of Melanesia. There have been people on the islands of Melanesia for over three thousand years now. They settled in small groups in villages. They did not often see any people from another place. They were separated from other people on their island. There was thick bush, there were high mountains, there were swamps.

Each time a new group of people arrived, the ones who were there before moved further inland. Some of these people who were there before were the Papuan people, others were groups of Melanians who had arrived earlier. People began to live in



People began to move long distances on the land and on the water.



### Things to do

Draw a picture of a village. People are doing different things. One is looking after the pigs. One is working in the garden. One is making a basket. One is sewing a tunic. Two are making a boat.

Write

*In the New Stone Age people lived in villages. They could do many different things.*



## People find out about metals

As people learned how to use fire, they discovered something else. In some parts of the world they found special rocks. They found out that there was metal in the rocks. They learned how to make the rocks very hot in the fire. The metal melted. They took it from the rock. They took copper, tin, gold and silver. They made beautiful bracelets and necklaces for themselves. They made dishes and mirrors. They could not make good weapons or tools with these metals. They were too soft.



Then they learned to mix tin and copper together to make bronze. Bronze was harder. They used it to make knives and spearheads. They used it to make shields and helmets to protect them when they were fighting.



Then they learned to make iron. Iron is a very strong metal. It is hard to get it from the rocks. They used it to make strong tools and weapons. We call the time when they first started making iron the Iron Age.

When people used iron, their lives changed very much.



People found rocks with iron in them in only some parts of the world. Where there was no metal, people went on using stone and wood, bone and shell. In Vanuatu the rocks do not have iron in them. We buy iron tools from overseas. In a few parts of the world people still use stone tools. People in the Highlands of Papua New Guinea make and use their own stone tools.

## The Melanesians

Much later, some of the people left Southeast Asia. They sailed past the big islands. They reached New Guinea. Some of them went on to the Solomon Islands. They went to Fiji. They went to New Caledonia. They came here to Vanuatu.

They did not come all at one time. They left Asia in many small groups. We use the word migration when we talk about people moving from one place to another. The migrations of these small groups took place over several hundred years. Gradually over this long period of time they made their new homes in the islands they reached.

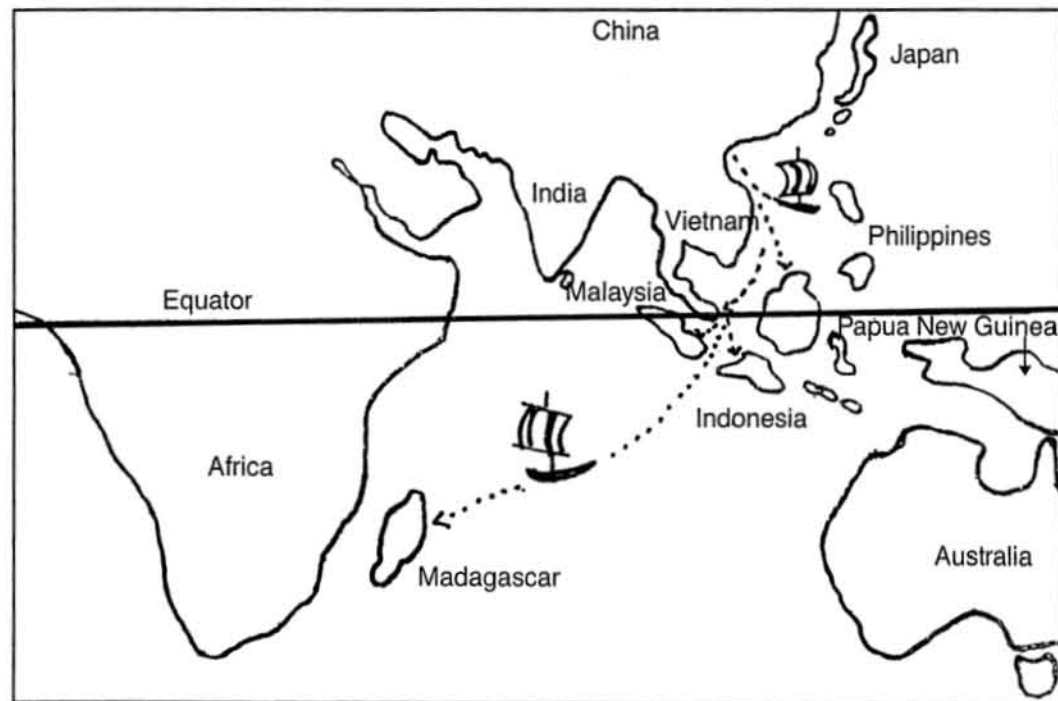
We do not know why they left their old homes in Southeast Asia and came across the sea. We do not think they planned to explore the Pacific and settle in new homes. Maybe some had to leave their old homes because of fighting. Maybe there were too many people, so they did not have enough food. Maybe they were pushed out of their old homes by new groups of people coming from China. Maybe they were out at sea when there was a storm. The wind blew their canoes away and carried them to a new place. Once they reached the islands, they could not get home.



the Philippines, Malaysia and Vietnam. We call this part of the world Southeast Asia, and the people there the Indonesian group of people. The people from China took their New Stone Age culture with them to these places.

Some of the people from China or Southeast Asia even crossed the Indian Ocean and reached Madagascar. Madagascar is a large island off the coast of Africa.

Look at the map. Can you find these places?



### Things to do

Copy the map into your book. Name the countries.

### Things to do

Draw a picture. A woman is wearing a gold necklace. She is carrying a silver dish. A man is wearing a bronze helmet. He is carrying a bronze shield and a spear with an iron head.

Write

*When people found out how to use metals, their lives were easier than before.*

### People live around the world

By now, there were people living on all the big lands we call continents. When there was very cold weather, many parts of the world were covered with ice. The sea level went down. There was more land. It was easy for people to move across the land. They moved from Asia to America. They moved from Asia to Australia. Now there is sea between those places. Then there was land.

As people lived for a very long time in different places, they began to look very different too. Over thousands of years, their bodies changed as a result of the climate of the places they lived in and because of the kind of life they led. These are two of the reasons why people from different parts of the world look different today.

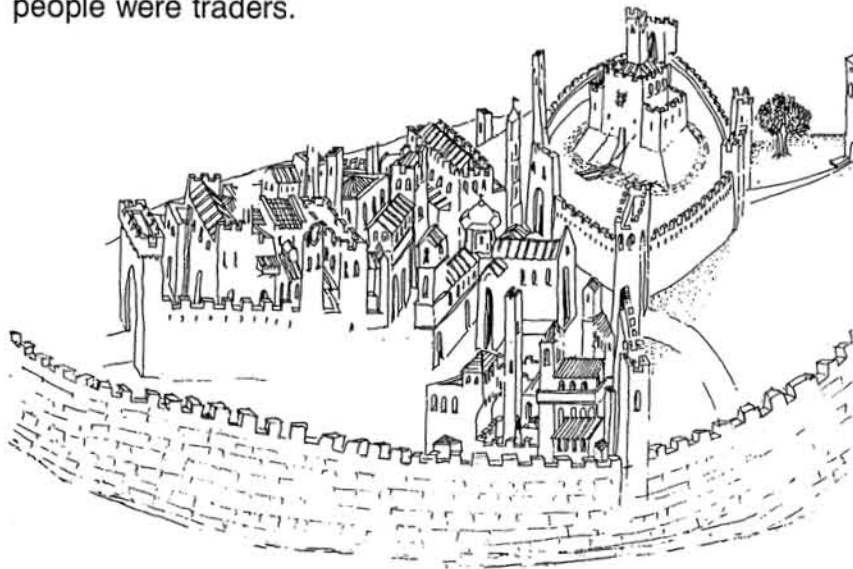
Some people are tall and thin, some people are short and fat. People from hot parts of the world have dark skins, people from Europe have lighter skins, people from Asia have yellow-coloured skins. Some groups of people have straight hair, some people have hair that is curly, some people have hair that is woolly. Hair can be different colours. Eyes can be different colours too. Some people in Europe have pointed noses, some people in Africa have broad noses. People from Asia and some parts of Europe and America have flat faces. Their noses do not stick out very much. They have a fold of skin in their eyelid to protect them from the very cold weather.



If you go to Vila, you will see people from many parts of the world. You will see how different they are. But they are all people and they all came from the early people we call *Homo sapiens*.

People in different parts of the world began to live different kinds of lives too. They spoke different languages. They had different houses. They made different things. They had different religions. They had different kinds of rulers. We say they had different cultures.

Now some people began to live in towns. The people in the villages looked after the animals and grew the crops. They sold food to the people in the towns. The people in the towns did different kinds of work. Some people built houses. They used stone or brick. The houses lasted a long time. Some were soldiers, some were priests and teachers. Some made things, some sold things. Some people worked for other people. Some people looked after the people; they made rules or laws. Some people were traders.



The Papuans look like the dark people called Negritos who live in the Philippine Islands and Malaysia today. They look like the people from the south of India too. Some people think the ancestors of the Papuans and the Negritos came from South India long ago.

#### Things to do

Work in a group. Use pieces of stick and bush rope. Make a model of a raft like those that people used long ago. Make some people for your raft. What can you use? Find some materials outside.

#### More people move to Southeast Asia

A very long time afterwards, people began to live on the small islands in the Pacific Ocean. The Pacific Islands were the last places in the world that people found for their homes. We think that they reached the islands about 3,600 years ago.

The story of where we came from begins in the big country of China.

Thousands of years ago, some people sailed away from their villages in the south of China. They were looking for homes in new countries. Some of their boats were lost in storms. But some of them reached the countries we now call Indonesia,



Thousands of years passed by and the level of the sea rose. Now there was sea between Australia and New Guinea. There was more sea between the islands of Indonesia. The Australian aboriginal people stayed in Australia. No more groups of early people came from over the sea to settle there. They have kept their Old Stone Age culture until today.



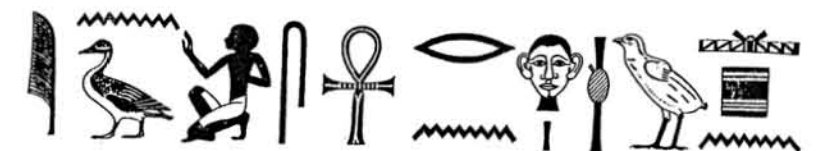
We call the early people who settled in Australia and New Guinea Australoids. These people travelled east from Asia to reach Australia. Some people think that some of these people travelled west from Asia too. They went to Africa.

The next people to travel over the sea to Papua New Guinea were very different. They made their homes along the coast. The people who were there first moved up into the bush. We call the new people Papuans. They spoke a different language from the Australoids. They looked very different too. They were short and dark. They were some of the darkest-skinned people in the world. Some of them reached the Solomon Islands too. Some people in the north of the Solomons today have very black skins. They are the descendants of the early Papuans who reached their islands between 5,000 and 10,000 years ago.



Traders carried things over very long distances. They were away from their own place for many weeks or months. They took things that the people in their town had or made to people far away. In return they brought back the things that they themselves did not have or make. Some of the most important things were metals, cloth and food. They wanted salt and spices to keep their food from going bad, and to make it taste nice. They carried news and ideas too as they travelled from place to place by sea or land.

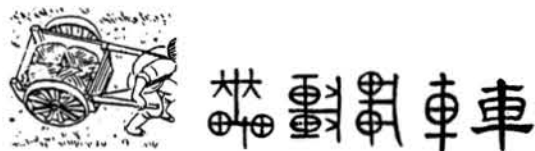
People learned to write. Long before, people in the Stone Age drew pictures in their caves. Now people learned to use pictures more to help them remember things or to tell things to other people. This was the beginning of writing. The people of Egypt long ago used a kind of picture writing. At first they wrote with sticks on wet clay. Then they discovered how to make a kind of paper with plants that grew by the River Nile.



This writing says

*It is my son who has made me come alive on this carved stone.*

The people in China also knew how to write. Their writing was different. They discovered how to make paper and print on it too.



This shows how Chinese writing changed from a picture to a sign. It is the word for cart. Look along the line from left to right. See how the word changes little by little over hundreds of years.

People learned to make maps and plans. They wrote numbers too.

At first, one man could talk to another man only when he was there with him. Now, he could write down what he wanted to say. People far away could read it.

When people learned new things they could write about them. Other people read what they wrote. They found out the new things too. People began to learn about medicine. They learned about the stars. They learned mathematics and science. They wrote down their beliefs and their ideas. Their thoughts spread round the world.

When people began to write, they could write down what happened in their lives. They did not have to remember everything. They did not have to tell their sons everything. Instead, they could write it for other people who came later to read. We call the written stories of how people lived before "history".

#### Things to do

1. Draw a picture. A man is writing. He is using a sharp stick on clay.  
Write  
*When people learned to write, it was the beginning of history.*
2. Now look at all the pictures you have drawn. There are six pictures. Together they tell the story of how people lived. They show how their lives changed over a very long time.

## Chapter 4

# People in the Pacific

We have read about the people who first lived on the earth. They were the people who lived on the big lands, the continents. They lived in Africa and Asia. They lived in Europe and America. Now we will read about the people who first came to Australia and the Pacific Islands.

In this chapter we shall be using two new words:

**Ancestors.** Our ancestors are our relatives, the members of our family or our people who lived a very long time ago. We have not seen our ancestors. They lived hundreds or thousands of years ago.

**Descendants.** Our descendants are our relatives, the members of our family or our people who will come after us, many years in the future. We will not see our descendants. They will live hundreds or thousands of years in the future.

We are the descendants of our ancestors.

## The first people settle in Australia and Papua New Guinea

We know that some people moved from Asia about 50,000 to 60,000 years ago. They went to live in Australia and the big island near it. Today this island is divided between the Indonesian Province of Irian Jaya and the nation of Papua New Guinea. They moved at the time we call the Ice Age. Large parts of the earth were covered with ice. The level of the sea went down. There was less sea. There was more land. Australia and New Guinea were one big land. People could travel on rafts from Indonesia to this land. They could see the land all the time from the sea.

