

Nguzu Nguzu

Guided Reading



Standard Three

Reprinted in 2004 with assistance from the New Zealand Agency for International Development (NZAID).



First edition 1999

Published in 1998 by the Curriculum Development Centre
P.O. Box G27, Honiara, Solomon Islands.



Copyright © Ministry of Education and Human Resources Development 1999

All rights reserved. Any parts of the book may be copied, reproduced or adapted to meet the local needs, without permission from the authors, provided that parts reproduced are distributed free for educational purposes only. Written permission should be obtained from the Curriculum Development Centre, if the book is reproduced to make a profit.

ISBN: 982-371-026-0

The production of this Teacher's Resource Book was funded by the Solomon Islands Government with assistance from the British Department For International Development and The World Bank.



Notes about guided reading

What is guided reading?

Guided reading is not the same as shared reading.

In guided reading, the teacher helps the children to read the text for themselves.

This helps the children to become independent readers.

In guided reading, all the children have their own book.

The children study words, spelling, grammar and punctuation.



Grouping

Guided reading lessons are most effective if they are done with small groups of six or seven children.

Children can be grouped into ability groups according to the results of running record tests.

Unit 6 in the Primary English In-service Course book tells teachers how to do running records.

A list of all the guided reading groups should be put up in the classroom. This will save time when organising groups for each lesson.

The groups can be given names such as colours, birds or fish.

In guided reading lessons the teacher can help each ability group.

Teachers will find it easy to assess individual children's development and progress in reading through guided reading.

When can I do guided reading?

Teachers can do guided reading at any time of the day.

It does not have to be in an English lesson but can be any lesson when the rest of the children are working quietly and do not need the teacher's attention.

This may be during a maths or handwriting lesson for example.

Children must be taught not to interrupt the guided reading group and to work quietly without the supervision of the teacher.

Teachers should plan to do a guided reading lesson for fifteen or twenty minutes with each group once or twice a week.

Each child should have their own copy of the Nguzu Nguzu Guided Reading book during guided reading lessons.

There should be some follow-up activities after the guided reading lesson.

How do I do guided reading?



Guided reading lessons do not have to be done only during English lessons. They can be done during maths or handwriting lessons as well.

The teacher can work with a guided reading group while the rest of the class are working quietly and do not need the teacher's attention.

Stage 1. Setting the scene

The teacher works with one guided reading group. The teacher introduces the story through discussion about the title, pictures and what the children think the story is going to be about.



The teacher encourages good participation from the children in the group by asking them open-ended questions. Children are encouraged to express what they think or how they feel.

Stage 2. Guiding the children through the text



The teacher reads the story slowly, sentence by sentence, to allow the children to follow the words in their own text.



After reading the story, the teacher asks questions about the story and asks the children to look for certain words. This will show the teacher how well the children have understood the story.



After discussing the story with the children, the teacher must encourage the children to read the story by themselves or in pairs.

Stage 3. Following on

When the children have spent enough time reading through the story, they are ready for a follow-up activity. There should be a follow-up activity for every guided reading lesson.

Teachers must create their own follow-up activities.
Teachers can adapt ideas from the Standard Two English Teacher's guide.
There are many different follow-up activities.



Story writing.



Drawing pictures.



Reading related books.

Nguzu Nguzu

Guided Reading

Standard Three

Contents

	page		page
Bina the Dolphin	2	An Angry Hen	36
The Household Friend	4	Why Sting Rays are Flat	38
Timi and Mae	6	Polly Goes to School	40
Inside Out	8	Birds	42
Missing Trixie	10	Joe's Hiccup	44
The Fisherman and the Moon	12	The Sailors	46
Men on the Moon	14	Rivers	48
A Basket of Eggs	16	The Rescue	50
Digging for Riches	18	A Butterfly's Life-cycle	52
The Arts Festival	20	Spiders	53
The Sleeping Giant	22	Why it Rains in the Mountains	54
The Wishing Pool	24	The First House	56
Turtles	26	The Nut Tree Sisters	58
Drying Ngali Nuts	28	Trees Everywhere	60
Grasshoppers	30	The King of the Sea	62
The Canoe Race	31	Fish	63
Kimo	32	Cyclone Warning	64
Fishing for Flying Fish	34		

Bina the Dolphin

Bina the dolphin was very proud.

“I can swim faster than anyone in the sea,” she sang.

“I’m the most graceful fish,” she boasted. “I’ve got a smooth shiny body. No one looks better than me.”



As Bina swam proudly on the waves one day, she bumped into something. She looked up to see an enormous whale looking down at her with big fierce eyes. Beside the whale, Bina was just a tiny speck in the sea.



“Is it true that you are the fastest swimmer in the sea?” the whale asked in a loud deep voice.

Bina shook with fright.

“No, you’re the fastest, Great Whale,” she said in a small voice.

“And who is the best looking fish in the ocean?” the whale asked, glaring at Bina.

“You are, Great Whale,” she replied in a shaky voice.

The whale stared at Bina. Then it flicked its mighty tail and swam away.

Bina heard laughter. She turned around and saw all the fish laughing and pointing at her.

Bina swam away in shame.

The Household Friend

There are geckos in every house.

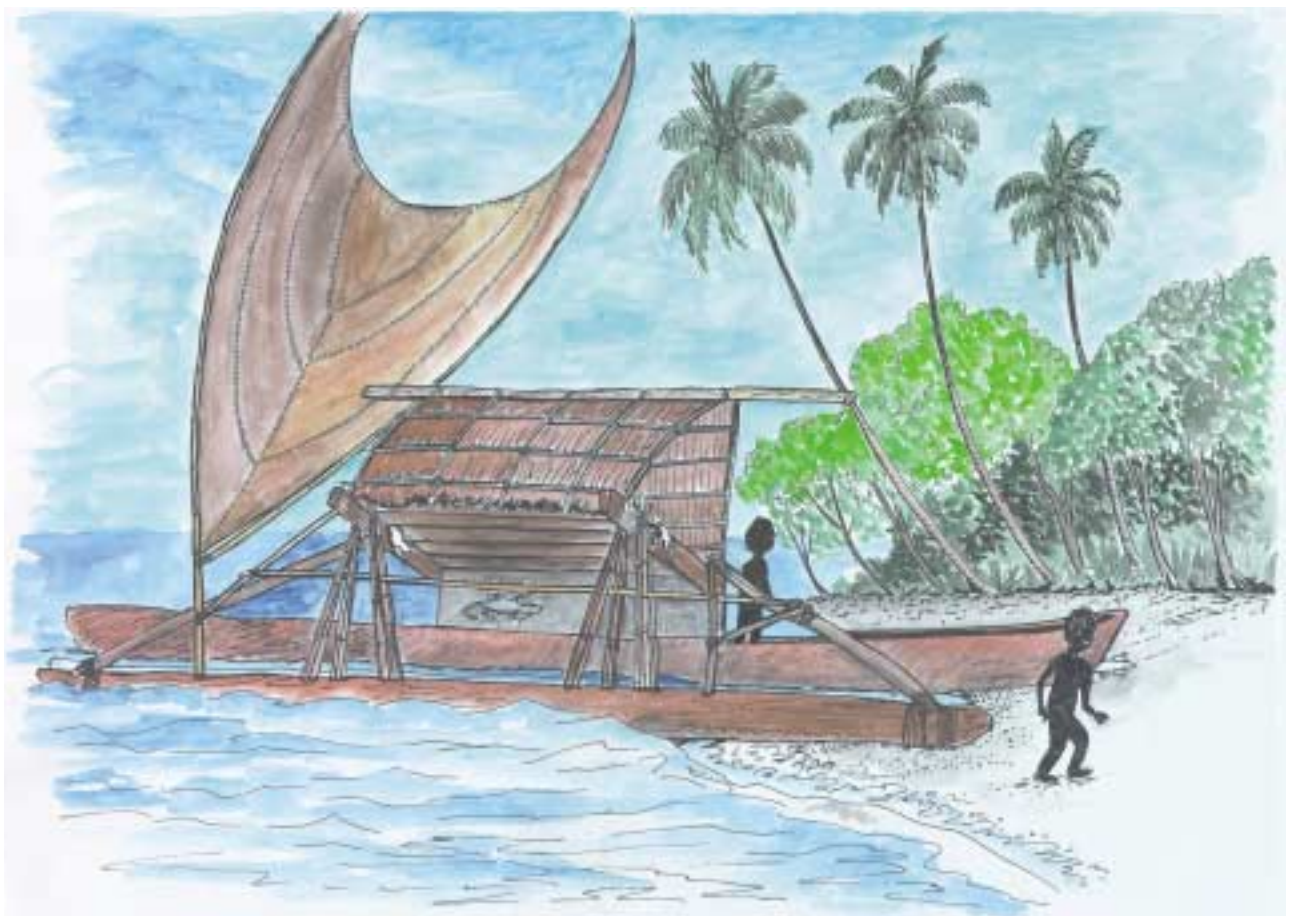
There are geckos in the classrooms and canoe sheds.

In town there are geckos in the factories and offices.

There are large and small geckos, brown geckos and white geckos.

Geckos are friendly and harmless. They came to our islands many years ago.

When people travelled from Asia to the Pacific, the geckos hid inside their baskets, clothes and canoes.



Geckos have special feet which keep them stuck to the ceiling and walls.

They can walk upside-down making funny “*click, click, click*” noises.

During the day, they hide in cupboards, under the tables and inside boxes.

They hide from cats, dogs and children.

At night they like to stay near lights where they can catch small insects.
Geckos are tiny but they are helpful animals.
They eat harmful insects like mosquitoes and flies.



Timi and Mae



Timi and Mae were good friends. They lived on an island called Marata.

Timi was blind but he had strong legs.

Mae was lame and couldn't walk, but he could see things very well.

One day Mae said, "I'm tired of eating potatoes and cabbage."

"We could get prawns for dinner," Timi suggested.

"That's a good idea," replied Mae, "but the stream is far away."

Timi thought for a while.

"I know!" he said at last. "I will be your legs and you will be my eyes."

Mae was confused at first. Then he understood.

"Oh! You're very clever," he laughed happily.



Timi carried Mae on his back. Mae showed him where to go. When they reached the stream, Mae saw many prawns in a small pool. Timi jumped into the pool with a net. Mae directed Timi to where the prawns were. Timi followed his friend's directions and caught many prawns. He also caught some fish. Soon their bag was full. That evening Mae cooked dinner while his friend rested. They had a delicious meal of prawns and fish.

Inside out

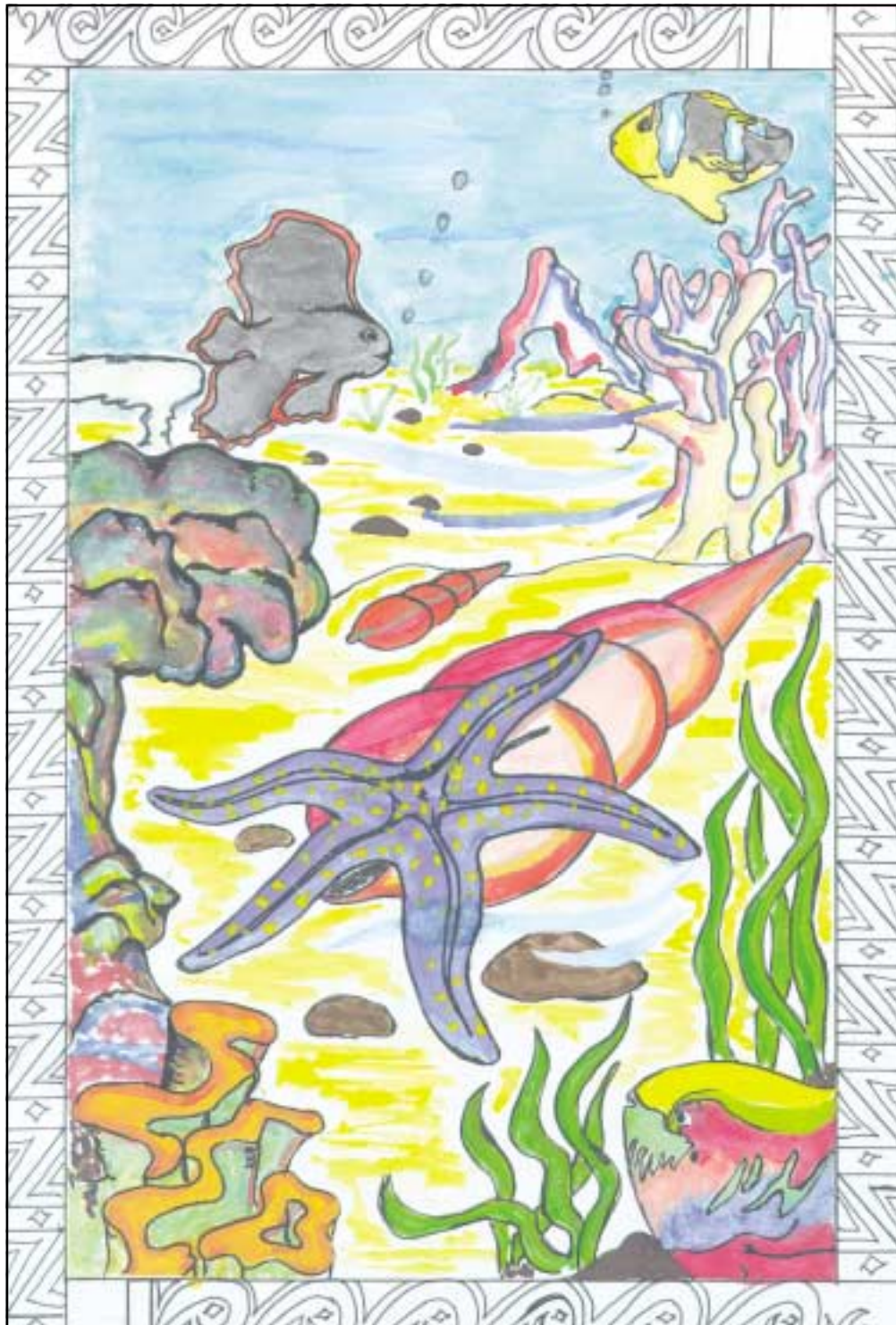
A starfish is a very strange and interesting animal. It has eyes and feet on its arms. A starfish has five arms. Underneath each arm there are hundreds of tiny tubes. The tubes are the animal's feet.

The spots on the tips of each arm are its eyes. The starfish cannot see clearly with its strange eyes. It can only see light and darkness.

Starfish do not lay eggs like other fish. When one of its arms breaks off, the broken arm will form a baby starfish.



This animal eats all kinds of small sea shells. Some starfish don't eat with their mouth. When they find a shell, they crawl on top of it. Then they open their stomach and the shellfish goes straight in. So a starfish might not know what its food tastes like.



Missing Trixie

Alice lived on a beautiful island near Gizo in Western Province. She and her little brother Alick had a cat called Trixie. Every morning, Alice hugged her brother and Trixie before paddling to school in her canoe. When Alice came home in the afternoons, they all played on the beach.



One morning, Alice called for Trixie before she left for school. She called and called but there was no sign of the cat. Alice was so worried about Trixie that she forgot all about going to school. They looked everywhere in the house and everywhere outside, but there was no Trixie. Alice felt like crying. Maybe a dog had hurt Trixie.

The children sat on the beach and stared sadly at the sea.

“Look!” shouted Alick, pointing out to sea. Alice looked to where her brother was pointing. She saw an old basket floating in the sea, and inside the basket was Trixie. “Oh Trixie, you naughty cat,” she laughed as she waded out and fetched her.

Alice was happy that Trixie was safe, but she was going to be late for school!



The Fisherman and the Moon

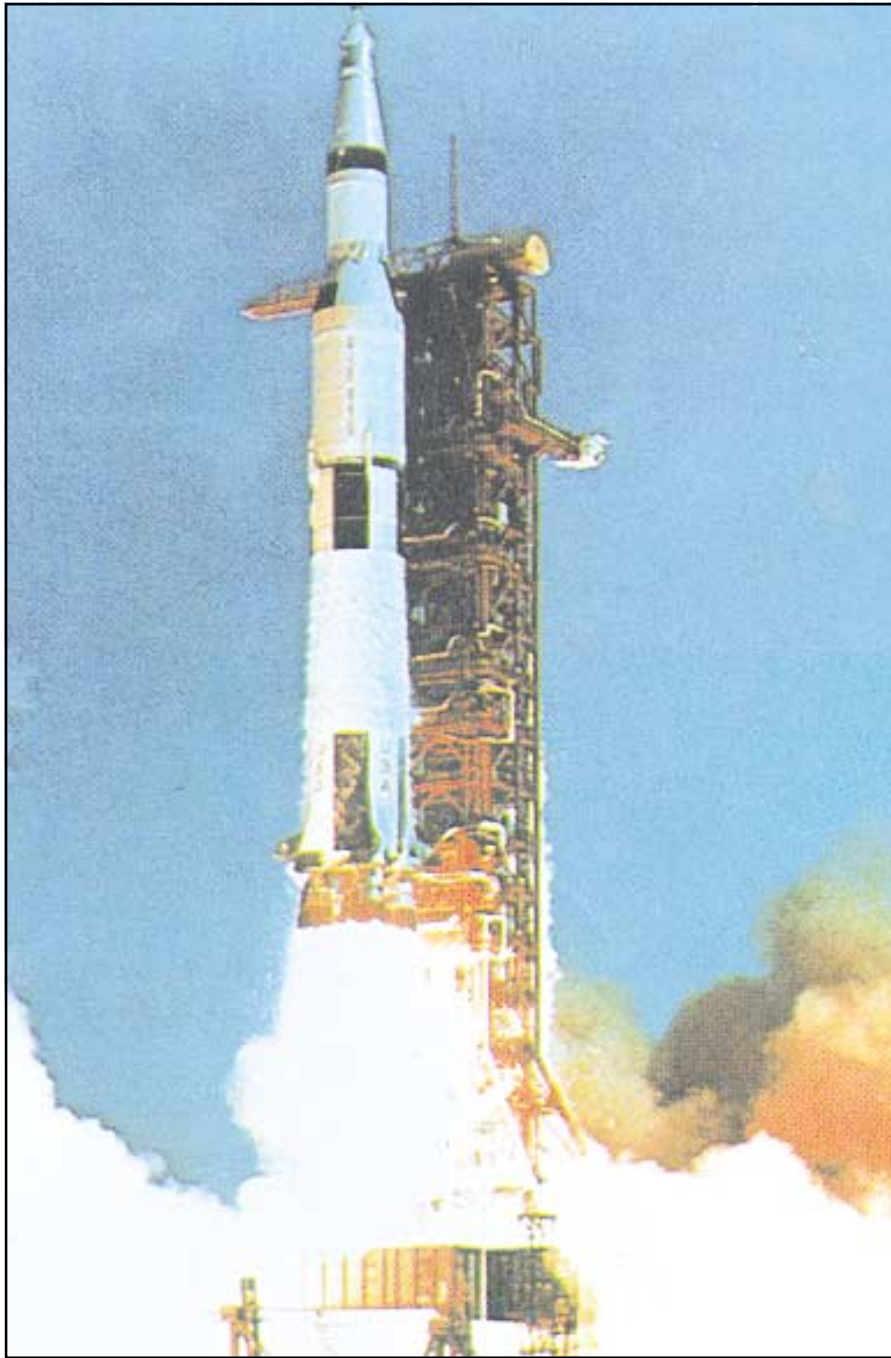
Once upon a time, there was an old fisherman who lived in a village near the sea. One night, he felt thirsty. He got out of bed and went to get a drink from the well. As he lowered a bucket into the well, he couldn't believe what he saw. At the bottom of the well, he could see the moon lying in the water. "My goodness," said the old fisherman, "if I don't get the moon out, it will be the end of the world!"





He ran back to his house and found a big hook and fishing line. He quickly tied the hook to the line and lowered it down the well. When the hook reached the bottom, the fisherman began to pull. The hook got stuck under a big stone. The fisherman pulled and pulled. He pulled with all his strength. Suddenly, the hook moved the stone. It flew right out of the well and the fisherman fell flat on his back. "Thank goodness!" he said when he saw the moon in the sky. "It was very hard work, but I have put the moon back where it belongs."

Men on the Moon



In 1969, American scientists built a spacecraft that would fly to the moon. They called it Apollo 11. Three astronauts were chosen to fly in the spacecraft. They were Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin and Mike Collins. On 16th July they began their journey. A huge rocket carried Apollo 11 into space. When the spacecraft was close to the moon, Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin climbed into the small Lunar Module. This was the part of the spacecraft that would land on the moon. Mike Collins stayed behind in the Command Module.



When their craft landed on the moon, Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin climbed out. They were the first men to stand on the moon. They wore special space suits. The two men walked around and collected moon rocks to take back to Earth. After three hours, they climbed back into the Lunar Module. The three astronauts returned to Earth and landed in the Pacific Ocean on 24th July.

A Basket of Eggs

Eva lived with her parents at the end of a big village. Her father kept chickens and it was Eva's job to collect the eggs every morning. Her mother sold the eggs at the market. With the money she bought food and other things for the house.



On Eva's birthday, her father gave her a big basket of eggs. "Sell these eggs at the market, my dear," he said. "Buy anything you like with the money." Eva was very excited. She washed quickly and changed into a clean dress. When she was ready, she put the basket of eggs on her head and set off for the market.

On the way she began dreaming about the things she would buy. “I’ll buy lots of pretty dresses,” she thought with a smile, “and some colourful ribbons for my hair.” Eva was so busy thinking of how she would look in a new dress that she did not see the stone in the middle of the road. She tripped on the stone and the basket fell from her head.



When she saw the broken eggs lying on the road, Eva began to cry. She walked home sadly. Now she would have no money to buy the pretty things she had been day-dreaming about.

Digging for Riches



Baba was the poorest man in his village. He was also the laziest.

“I had a dream last night,” his wife told him one morning. “A magic eagle told me that there is a basket of money buried in the ground behind our house.”

Baba was very excited. He took a spade and started to dig.

For many days, he dug and dug, but there was nothing in the ground.

“There’s no money here!” he said angrily.

“Maybe it’s deep down in the ground,” his wife said. “If you plant some corn, it might bring up the money.”



So Baba planted corn and looked after it well. Each day he looked under the leaves for money, but there was none.

Soon the corn had fruit, but still there was no money.

Baba was very cross. He went into his room and shut the door.

Baba's wife collected all the corn and took it to sell at the market.

When she came home in the evening she had a lot of money.

Baba was still angry. His wife put the money in a basket.

"Look Baba, here is the money," she said. "I sold all the corn at the market."

Baba laughed. "Now I know how to get rich," he said.

Baba worked hard in his garden and became the richest man in the village.

The Arts Festival

In July, 1998 the first Melanesian Arts and Cultural Festival was held in Honiara. Men and women from Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu, Fiji, New Caledonia and all the different Solomon Island Provinces came to sing and dance.



Many people came to the Festival village to watch the dancing and listen to the drums and the panpipes. Some of the dances were fast and exciting.



The dancers and warriors wore traditional costumes made from leaves, feathers, grass, shells and tapa. Some of them carried spears and bows. They travelled around Honiara in trucks to perform their songs and dances in different parts of the town.



The festival lasted for five days. When it was over, everyone hoped there would be another Arts Festival soon.

The Sleeping Giant

“The ground is moving!” little Angela cried as she jumped into her grandfather’s arms. She held on tightly as he carried her to the playing field.

She watched with horror as a huge banyan tree swayed as if it would fall and water shot up into the air from a broken pipe.

She could see her big brother and all the village people running towards the playing field. After a few minutes the shaking stopped.



“What happened Grandfather?” she whispered. “What made the ground move?” Grandfather hugged her. “It’s the giant sleeping under the ground. When he turns in his sleep, the ground shakes,” he said.



Angela called to her brother. "Pati, a sleeping giant shook the ground."

Pati looked at his sister and smiled.

"That was an earthquake," he said. "My teacher told us that it is caused by huge rocks moving against each other under the ground."

Angela thought for a while.

"Why did everyone run out to the playing field?" she asked.

"That's because earthquakes can be dangerous," her brother replied. "They can make houses and trees fall. It is safer in an open area such as the playing field."

Angela shivered as they walked back to their house.

"I don't like earthquakes," she said.

The Wishing Pool

Hiva was a little rat and she was always wishing for things.

“I wish I had a smooth body,” she said when she saw a lizard.

“Oh! I wish I had many feet,” she said when a centipede crawled past.

When a tortoise came along she said, “I wish I had a shell on my back.”

The tortoise smiled at Hiva. “Why don’t you go to the wishing pool at the bottom of the waterfall?” she said.

Hiva hadn't thought of this. She couldn't wait to get there and ran off down the hill before the tortoise could say another word.



Hiva looked into the wishing pool. “What should I wish for?” she wondered.

Then she saw a parrot sitting on a tree.

“I wish I had wings like a parrot,” she whispered. In just a few seconds a pair of wings grew on Hiva's back.

“Look! I’ve got wings!” she shouted to every animal she met.



Hiva did not notice that it was getting dark. Then she heard her mother calling.

“Here I am Mother,” Hiva said when she reached home.

Hiva's mother stared at her. “This can't be Hiva. Hiva doesn't have wings,” she thought. She climbed up on a log and began calling for Hiva again.

Hiva was tired and hungry. She turned around and ran down the hill. When she reached the wishing pool, she looked into it.

“I wish I didn't have wings,” she whispered.

The wings disappeared and Hiva ran back to her mother.

“Where have you been?” her mother said crossly. “Can't you see that it's getting dark?”

Turtles



Turtles are reptiles and they live in the sea. They eat jellyfish, soft corals, seaweed, crabs, squids and fish.

There are six different kinds of sea turtles found in Solomon Islands.

The female turtles lay their eggs on land. They usually go back to where they hatched as baby turtles. Sometimes they travel a long way to where they want to lay their eggs. They dig holes in the sand using their back flippers. The turtle sits over the hole and lays eggs inside. Turtles can lay as many as one hundred and fifty eggs. The turtle covers the hole with sand and goes back into the sea.



After two months, the eggs hatch. They usually hatch at night.
The baby turtles crawl out of the sand and go straight into the sea.
The life of a baby turtle is not easy. Many of them are eaten by sharks, large fish and birds. Only a few grow into adults.
There are fewer and fewer turtles in the sea. People in our islands like to eat turtles and their eggs. They make necklaces, rings and earrings from turtle shell.
If people keep killing them, there will be no more turtles left in the sea.

Drying Ngali Nuts



Everyone has gone to bed early in Chubikopi village in Marovo lagoon. The next day will be very busy. In the morning, everyone will go to the ngali nut plantation to pick nuts. The nuts will be put in bags and baskets and the men will carry them back to the village. Everyone will help to break the shells. Then the nut kernels will be taken out to be dried. The children will collect firewood and long, red sinu leaves for the ovens.



The women will prepare the stone oven. The wood is burned until only the charcoals are left.

Then the women spread the sinu leaves over the charcoals.

On top they put the warm stones from the oven and the ngali nuts. Finally, the oven will be covered with dry banana leaves.

The next morning the oven is opened. The dried nuts are put in tins to be used for cooking.

Grasshoppers



Grasshoppers are coloured green or brown like the plants around them. So they are difficult to see and it is harder for birds to catch them.

They like to sit in the sun. The sunshine gives them energy, so they are lively and jump around on sunny days. On cooler days they stay close to the ground where it is warm.

Grasshoppers have large eyes but they cannot see very well.

They cannot close their eyes or move them from side to side like we do.

Grasshoppers do not have a voice, but make a sound by rubbing their leg against their wing.

The Canoe Race

At the Melanesian Arts and Cultural Festival in July, 1998, four tomoko from Western Province took part in a race.

The race began early in the morning and a big crowd gathered at Point Cruz wharf in Honiara to watch the start. As the four canoes lined up to begin the race, everything was quiet. Then the starter shouted, “Go!”

Suddenly there was splashing of paddles and cheering from the crowd as the canoes set off across the water.

The four tomoko raced to Lunga Point and back again. The first canoe to finish was called ‘Rarumana’. All the men in the canoes were very tired at the end of the race.



Kimo

Barry had a brown dog called Kimo. One of his ears stood up and the other flopped over.

Barry was very fond of his dog and took him everywhere.

Sometimes he pulled him along with a rope tied around his neck.

Sometimes he gave him a ride in a toy truck. Sometimes he washed him in a bucket of soapy water, which Kimo didn't like very much.

One day when Barry's mother came home, the house was very quiet.

Barry told her that Kimo had been missing since morning.

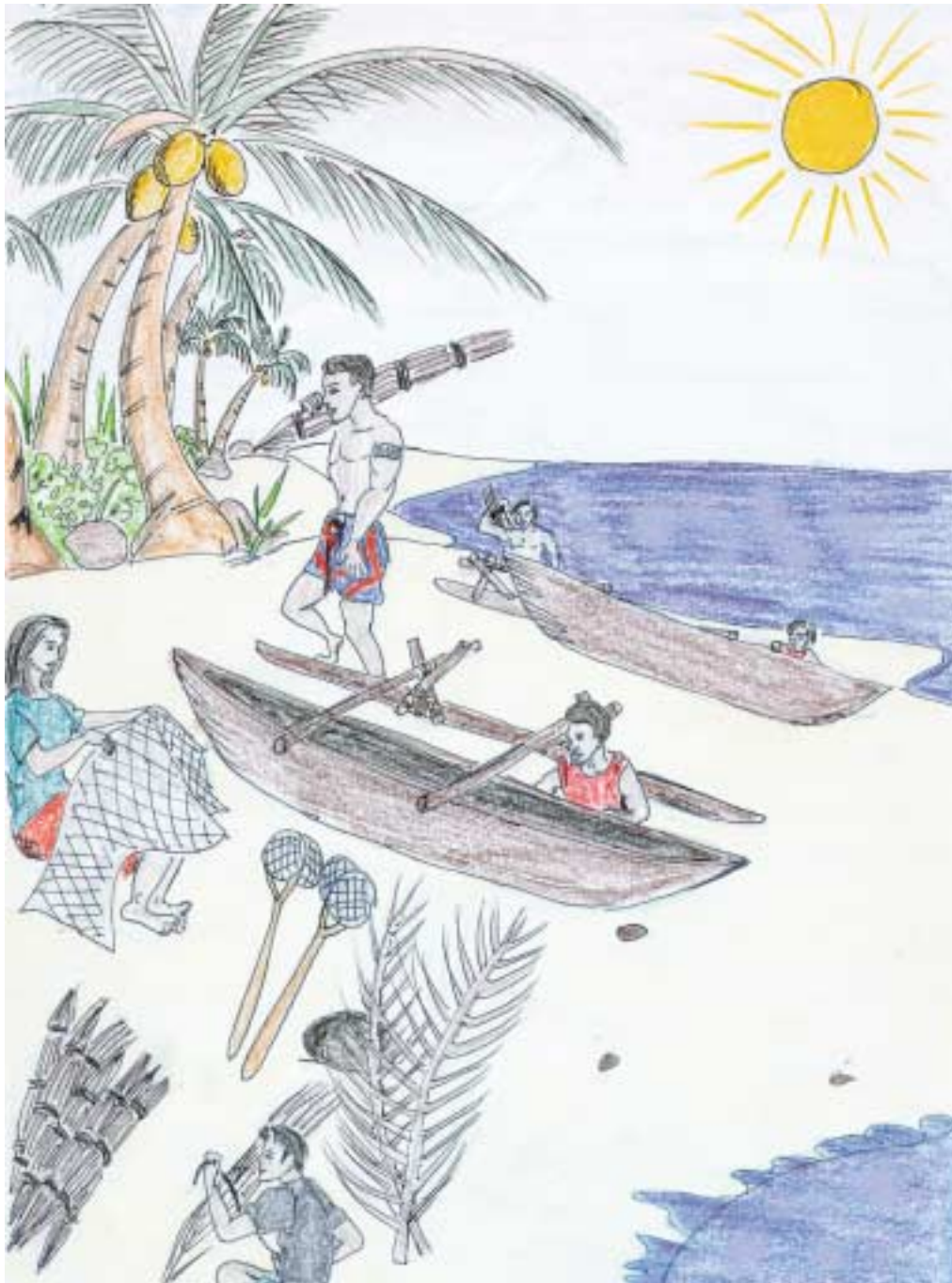
They looked everywhere but they couldn't find him. That night, Barry went to bed feeling very sad.





In the morning Barry and his parents began searching for Kimo again. They looked under the beds, in the cupboards, under the shelves and in the store room. Barry's father turned over a wooden crate behind the house. Something jumped out at him and he nearly fell over. It was Kimo! He had been playing with the crate and it turned over on top of him. Poor Kimo had been trapped.

Fishing for Flying Fish



It is August and everyone is getting ready for the flying fish season.

The season starts in August and lasts until December.

The men will be busy making outrigger canoes. The women will weave coconut leaf mats and sew them to the sides of the big canoes.

The old men of the village will be making nets from bush fibres. When the nets are finished they will fit them on to long wooden handles.

The children help to collect dry coconut leaves. These will be tied up into bundles to be used as torches.



The best time to catch flying fish is on a very dark night.

When the canoes go out to sea, some of the men will light torches and hold them up. The others will be ready with nets. The leader stands at the front of the biggest canoe with his net. He will sing a special song to the flying fish.

When the flying fish hear the song, they fly towards the canoes. The men will be waiting with their nets and try to catch as many fish as they can.

Everyone in the village will be happy. They will be eating delicious flying fish roasted on fires or cooked in stone ovens.

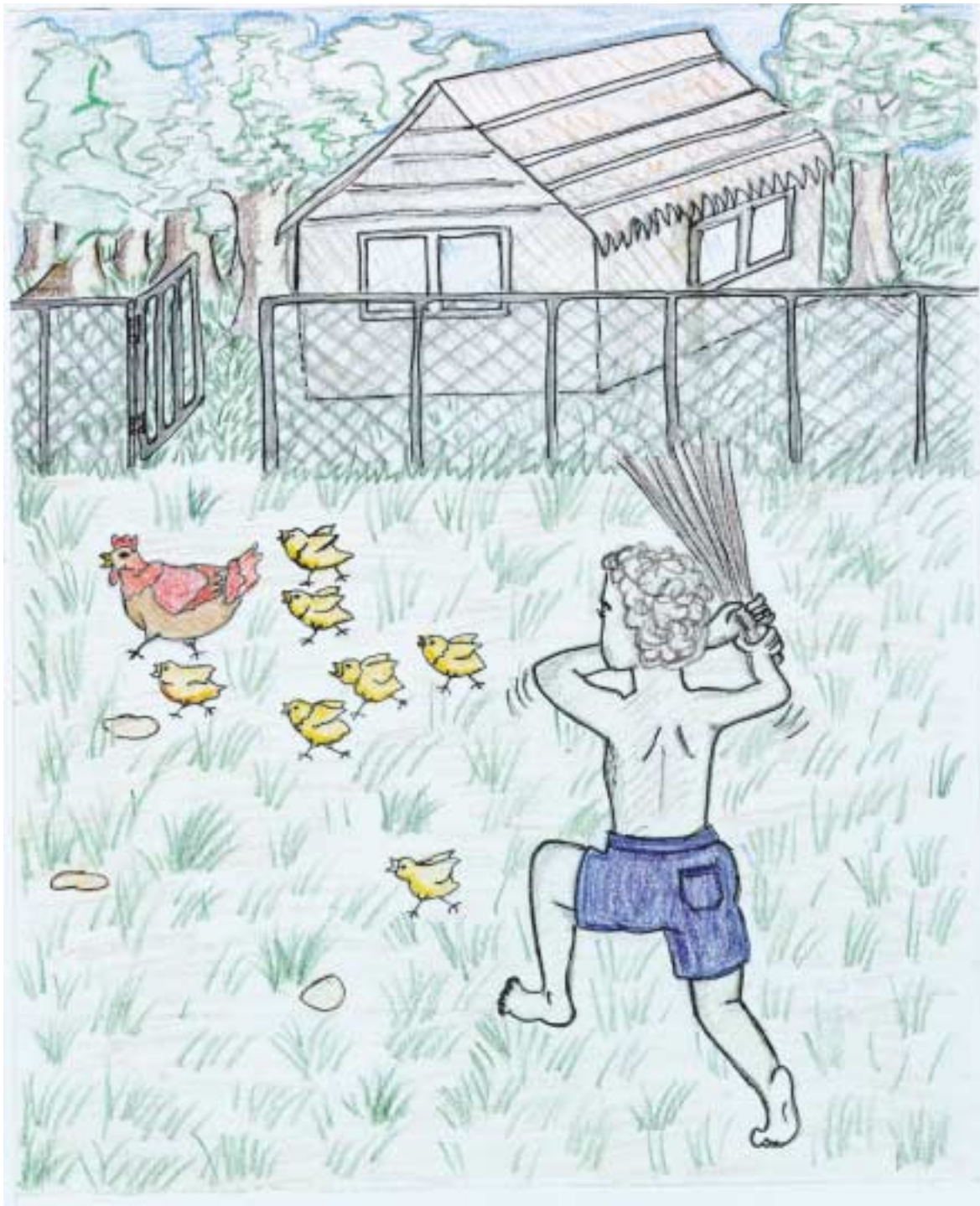
An Angry Hen

Garry was six years old. Early one Sunday morning, his family sat talking under a mango tree.

A mother hen was scratching for food with her chicks behind the house.

Garry liked to chase the hens and roosters. He picked up a broom and ran towards the hen and her chicks. The chicks and their mother flapped their wings and ran away. The smallest chick did not run very fast. Garry caught it in his hands.

Suddenly the angry mother hen flew up at him. It scratched his face and his hand. Garry screamed and dropped the chick.



Garry's mother heard the scream and ran to see what had happened. When she found Garry his face and hands were bleeding.

"What happened Garry?" she asked, and lifted him up in her arms.

Garry told her about the hen.

"I picked up one of the chicks and the hen flew at me," he sobbed.

Garry's mother told him that the mother hen looks after her chicks.

"She doesn't want anything to hurt her babies," she said.

Garry thought for a moment.

"Mama, what would you do if someone wanted to hurt me?" he asked.

"I would scratch them too," his mother laughed.

Garry stopped crying and laughed too.



Why Sting Rays are Flat

Long ago, all the sea animals lived together as one family. Their chief was the shark. Then there was trouble. Fish, crabs and shells started to go missing. This frightened the animals. The fish hid in the reefs. The crabs hid in the sand. The shells stayed closed. Zela and Zefi were two little angel fish. They got tired of staying at home.



They went to play hide and seek among the seaweed. They chased each other over the corals, around the rocks and into a tunnel. The two fish swam through the tunnel and reached a big cave. Inside the cave was a big sting ray. Sting rays were not flat in those days. It was eating a parrot fish. There were fish bones everywhere in the cave. Zela and Zefi swam quickly out of the tunnel.

They went and told the shark about the cave and the sting ray.

There was a big meeting. The shark told everyone why some animals were missing. All the animals were very angry. They went to the cave and shouted to the sting ray to come out.



When the sting ray came out, the angry animals jumped on top of it. They bit and hit the sting ray. They pinched and punched it. They squashed and crushed it. After a long time, the animals got tired and left.

The sting ray sank to the bottom of the sea. It was not dead but it was flat!

Polly goes to School

Nellie and Nella were twins. They were ten years old and were in Standard Three. They had a parrot called Polly. Polly liked to repeat everything that people said. Every morning, the twins' mother would say, "Hurry up girls, it's 7 o'clock." One day the twins' teacher asked them to bring Polly to school the next day. The girls hurried home to tell Polly that she was going to school with them in the morning. Polly was so excited that all afternoon she kept repeating, "I'm going to school tomorrow."



The next morning, when the girls went to school, Polly went too. At school Polly talked and talked. All the other children thought that Polly was a very clever parrot.



During their Maths lesson, the children forgot about Polly as they listened to their teacher. She was teaching them how to tell the time.

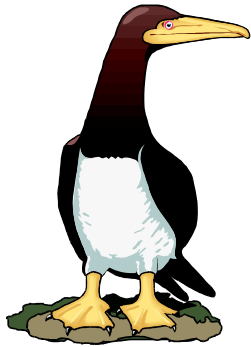
“What time is it now?” the teacher asked, pointing to a clock.

“Hurry up girls, it’s 7 o’clock!” a voice screeched.

All the children turned around and stared at Polly in surprise.

The children looked at each other, then they looked at their teacher and the clock. They all burst out laughing. They cheered and clapped for Polly, the clever talking parrot.

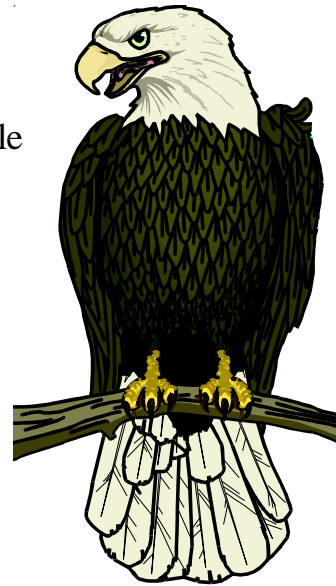
Birds



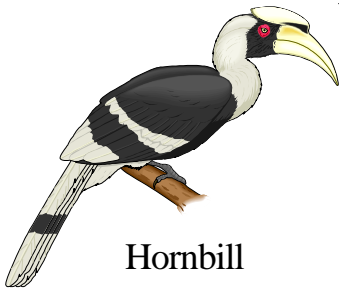
Brown booby



Heron



Eagle



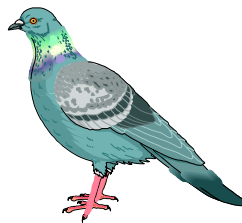
Hornbill



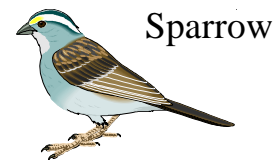
Kingfisher



Parrot



Pigeon



Sparrow

There are many different birds in Solomon Islands. They are beautiful creatures with coloured feathers. Often they are noisy too.

Some birds can fly many miles across the sea. Others cannot fly at all.

Some birds like ducks and boobies can swim. They have webbed feet to help them paddle through the water.

When a bird wants to lay eggs, it makes a nest. It collects bits of grass and sticks for its nest. Then it lays its eggs inside. It sits on the eggs to keep them warm.

When the eggs hatch, the parents find food for the babies. They also teach them how to fly.

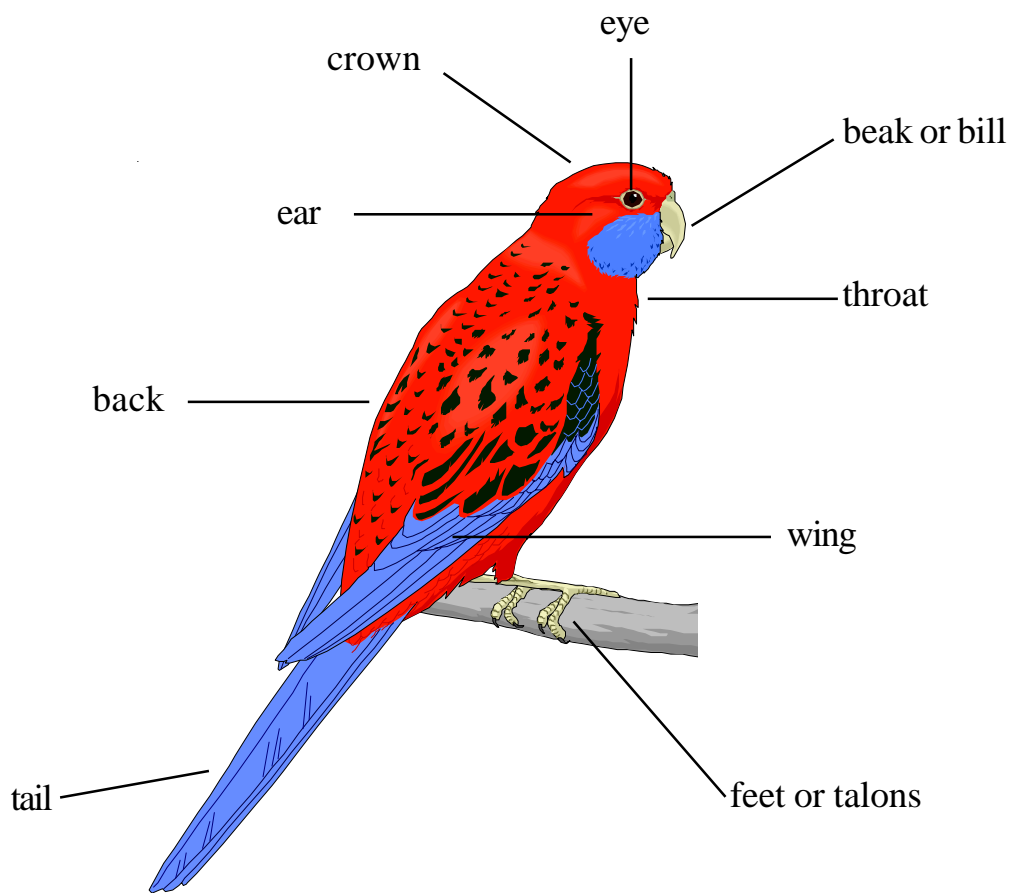
When the young birds are old enough, they leave their nest and fly away.

Different birds eat different food.

Some birds eat seeds and fruits. They have short, strong beaks to break nuts.

Others, like fantails, eat insects. They have long, thin beaks that they can push into small holes in trees and into the ground to catch their food.

Large birds like eagles catch small animals and birds to eat. They have sharp hooked beaks to tear the meat. Some birds, like herons, catch fish. They have hooked beaks to catch and hold their slippery food. They can open their mouths very wide and swallow a whole fish.



Joe's Hiccup

Joe and Lisa were playing outside the classroom during break.

Suddenly Joe started to hiccup. "Hic! Hic! Hic!"

He tried to stop but he couldn't. He asked Lisa to help him get rid of his hiccups.

"Run around that big mango tree without stopping," she said.

So Joe ran around the mango tree three times. As soon as he stopped, he gave another hiccup.

"That doesn't help at all," said Joe, and he hiccupped again.



"Try drinking some water," said Lisa. They went to the school tank and Joe drank some water. Soon he started to hiccup again.

"That doesn't help either," said Joe and he hiccupped again.

"I know," said Lisa, "try to hold your breath and count to ten."

Joe took a deep breath. Lisa counted for him. "One, two, three, four, five,"

When Lisa reached ten Joe breathed out. Then he hiccupped loudly.

Just then a boy called David ran past Joe and Lisa. He threw a snake at them. Joe and Lisa screamed and ran away.

“Come back,” David laughed, “it’s only a toy snake.”

Lisa and Joe stopped running.

Five minutes later Joe remembered his hiccups, but they had gone.



The Sailors

The hawk, the turtle and the rat decided to go on a journey.
They made a canoe and collected food, water and coconuts. When everything was ready they climbed inside the canoe and off they went.
When there was no wind, they paddled and sang.
When the wind blew, they put up their sail and watched the frigate birds.
At night, they watched the stars.
The three friends were having a wonderful time.



While the animals were sleeping, their canoe bumped into something and they all woke up in fright.
“It must be a shark,” the turtle whispered.
“No, it must be a huge whale,” the rat squeaked.
The hawk peered over the side of the canoe.
“Open your eyes my friends,” he shouted. “We are wrecked on a reef.”
The rat and the turtle looked into the bottom of the canoe. Water was pouring in through a big hole: **GLUG! GLUG! GLUG!**

“What do we do?” cried the rat.

“I’ll fly,” said the hawk.

“I’ll swim,” said the turtle.

“But I can’t fly or swim,” the rat cried.

The hawk and the turtle said goodbye to the rat and off they went.



The hawk flew for a long time. When he came to an island he landed on the beach. The hawk’s ear began to itch.

“I must have got water in my ear,” he said, shaking his head. Out fell the rat!

“Thanks for the ride,” the rat said.

The hawk was very angry and swooped down on the rat. The rat ran into a hole.

They became enemies. That is why hawks always hunt rats.

Rivers

Rivers begin as small streams in the hills and mountains. The rain runs into the streams. The streams become bigger and bigger as they flow downhill.

Streams join together to become rivers.

Sometimes streams and rivers run over steep cliffs, making waterfalls.

When a river reaches the flatter land, the water slows down.

The course of the river may twist and turn, like a snake.



In Solomon Islands, the big islands with high mountains have many streams and rivers. People can collect water from the rivers for drinking and washing.

On small, flat islands where there are no rivers, people must collect rainwater in tanks.

When there is heavy rain, the rivers flood. Often the water is a muddy brown colour. This is because lots of mud and soil is washed into the rivers and carried to the sea.



In Solomon Islands, rivers do not have far to go to reach the sea.

In other countries, rivers may run for thousands of kilometres.

The longest river in the world is the River Nile in Africa.

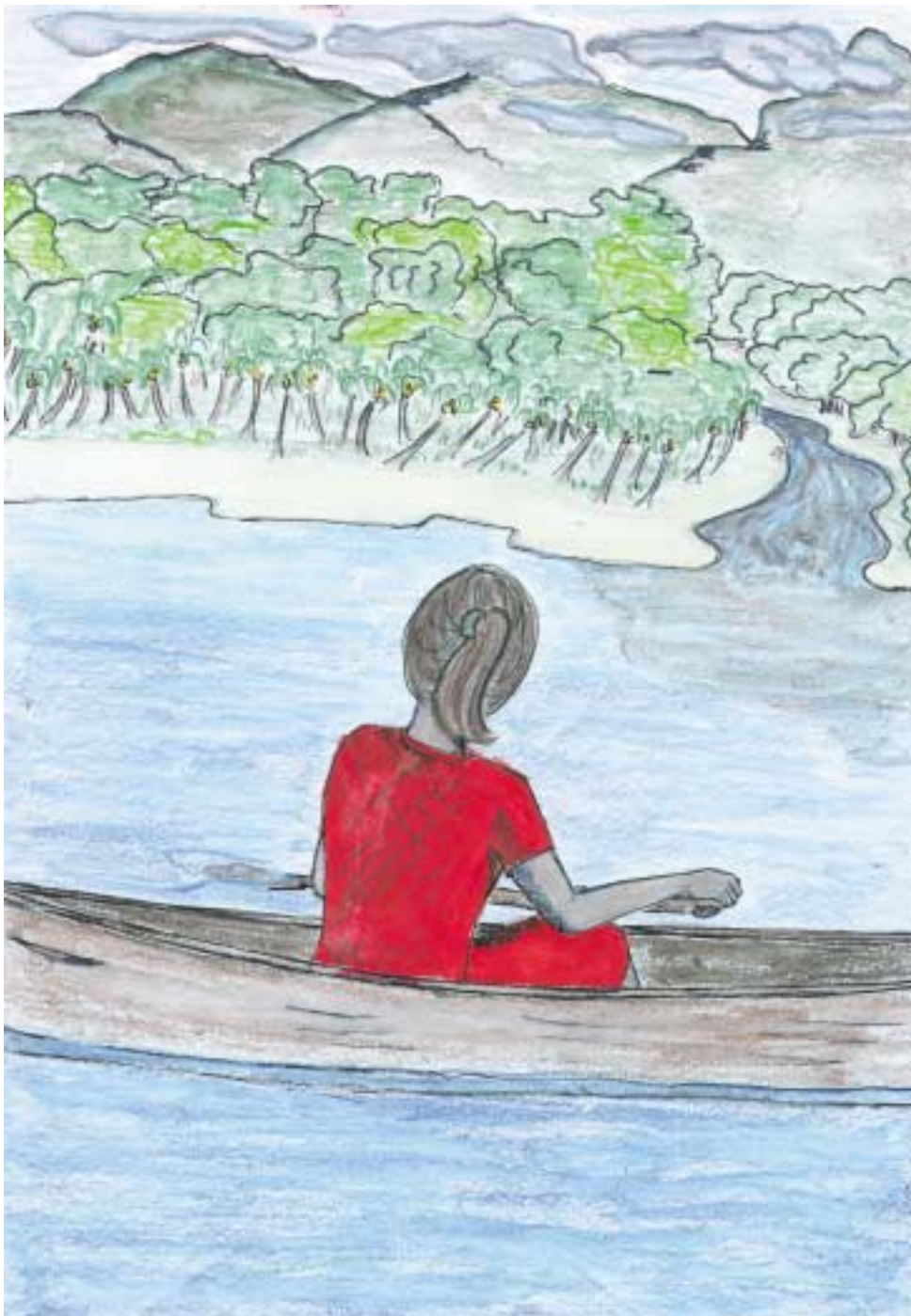
It is 6,670 kilometres long!

The Rescue

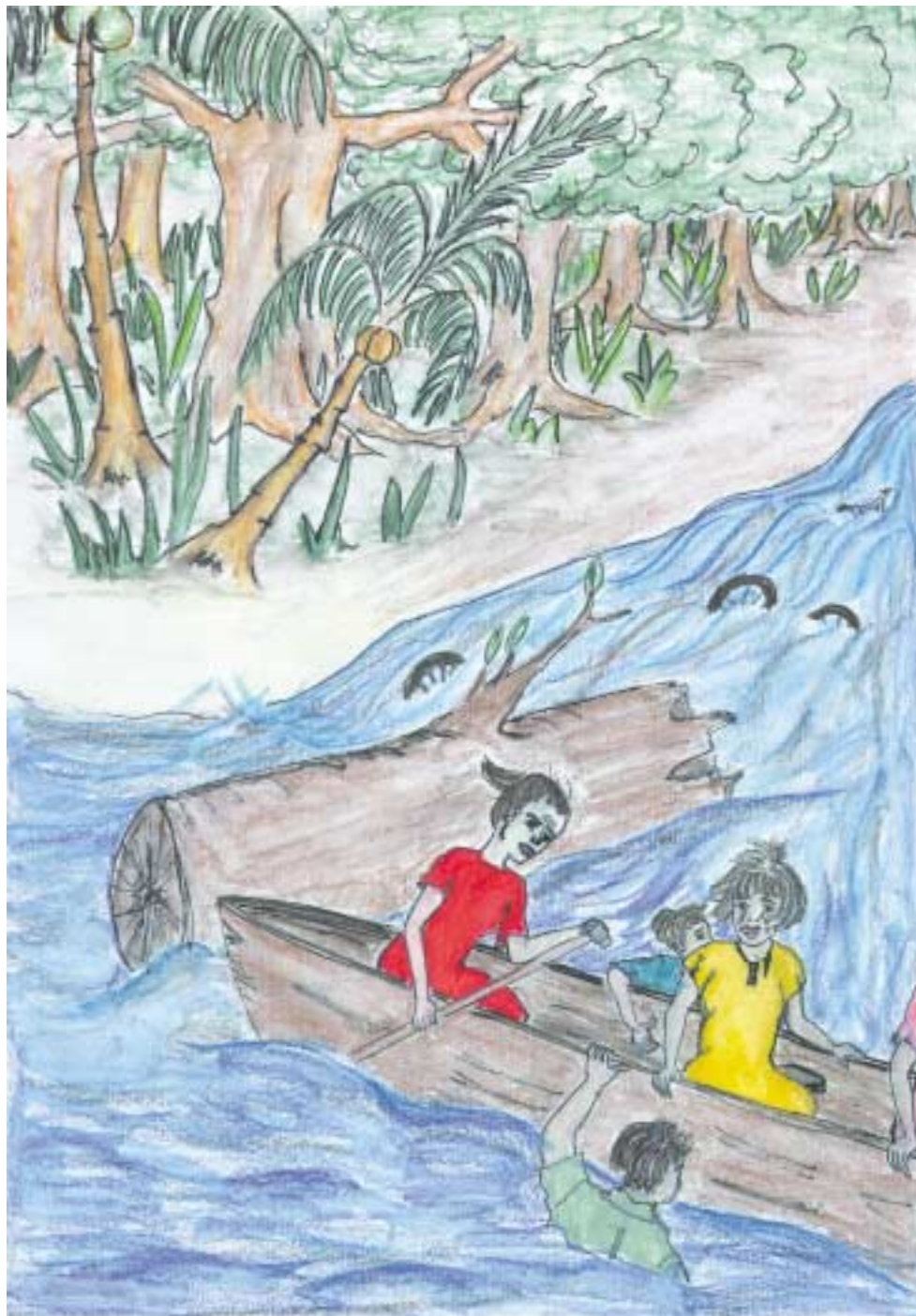
Every morning Lucy paddled to school in her canoe. She left the village early in the morning.

Her friends had bicycles and always reached the school first. They would make fun of Lucy as she dragged her canoe up the beach. Lucy's parents did not have the money to buy her a bicycle.

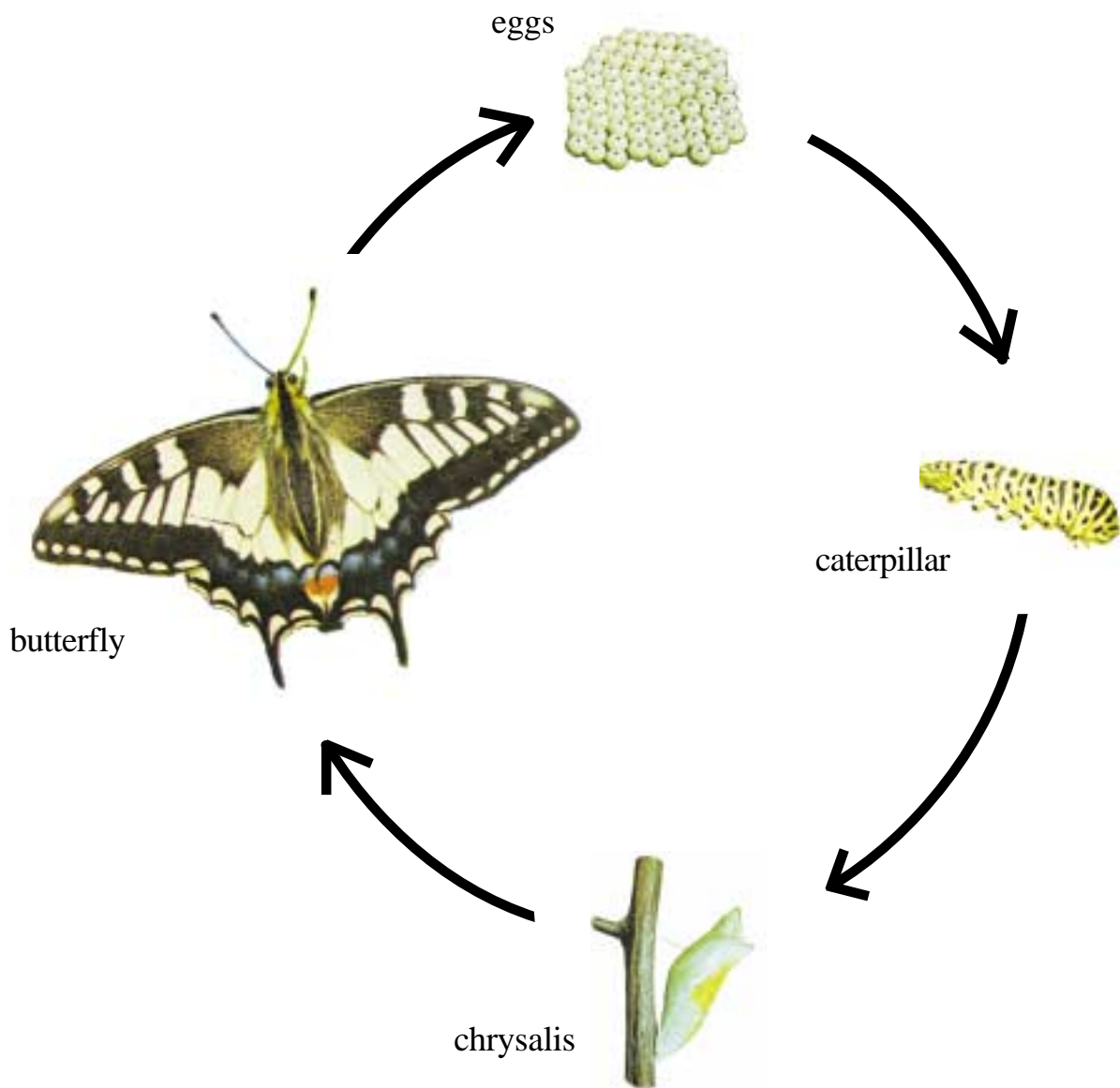
One morning Lucy set off even earlier than usual. It had rained in the night and the sky was cloudy. Lots of muddy brown water was pouring into the sea from the big river. As she reached the mouth of the river, Lucy could hear someone shouting.



As she paddled closer, she saw some of her friends trying to swim to the river bank. A huge log was rushing down the river towards them. She paddled quickly to her friends and helped them climb into her canoe. When the log was very close, Lucy paddled as hard as she could. They were just in time to avoid the log as it rushed past them and out to the sea. Lucy's friends told her they had been trying to cross the river when their bicycles were washed away in the flood. They said they were sorry they had laughed at her. Lucy was just glad they were all safe.



A Butterfly's Life-cycle



A butterfly lays its eggs on a leaf, where they are safe. The eggs hatch into caterpillars. A tiny caterpillar eat lots of leaves and grows fat. When it is very fat, it finds a safe place and builds a chrysalis. It crawls inside the chrysalis and goes to sleep. The caterpillar sleeps inside the chrysalis for three weeks. When it wakes up, it makes a hole in the chrysalis and crawls out. It spreads out its wings to dry. The caterpillar has changed into a colourful butterfly.

Spiders

Spiders have two main body parts and eight legs. Their legs have six joints.

If a spider loses one of its legs, it can grow a new one.

Spiders do not have good eyesight so they use their legs to feel around.

Some spiders are very poisonous and some spiders even eat their babies.

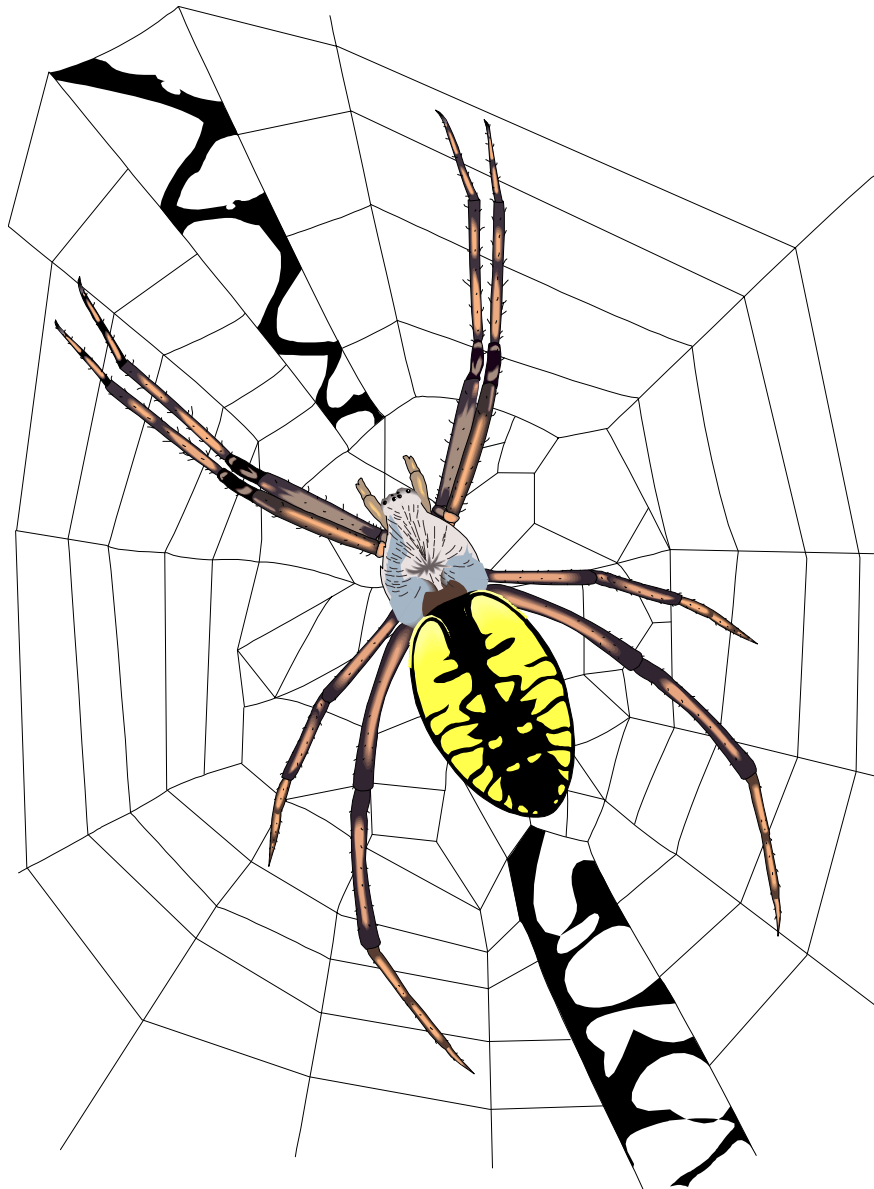
Spiders make silk to spin a web. The web catches small insects for the spider to eat. Usually spiders spin their webs at night. They have oil on their legs to stop them from sticking to their webs.

When they are frightened, spiders pretend to be dead.

They don't have bones and they shed their skin as they grow.

When they grow a new skin, they stay hidden until it hardens.

Female spiders are usually bigger than male spiders and keep their eggs in a special egg sac.



Why It Rains In The Mountains



Long ago, three brothers lived with their mother in the middle of the forest. Every day the two older boys would go fishing. The youngest brother would help their mother in the garden.

One day the boys' mother got very sick, and after a few weeks she died. The three brothers were very sad. The youngest brother was saddest of all. Whenever the little boy returned to the garden, he thought of his mother and began to cry. He became sadder and sadder until finally he decided to go away. One day, while his brothers were out fishing, the little boy walked deep into the forest and up to the mountains. He climbed to the top of the highest mountain and sat down.



“What are you doing on my mountain?” a voice asked. He looked around in fear and saw the God of the Mountains sitting on a cloud above him.

The boy told him about his mother, and that he wanted to go far away.

The Mountain God felt sorry for the boy and invited him to stay and live in the mountains. The boy was happy in his new home.

He saw many different places as the cloud floated over villages and islands. But the cloud always went back to the mountain. Every time the boy looked down and saw his old home, he would cry.

This is why it always rains in the mountains.

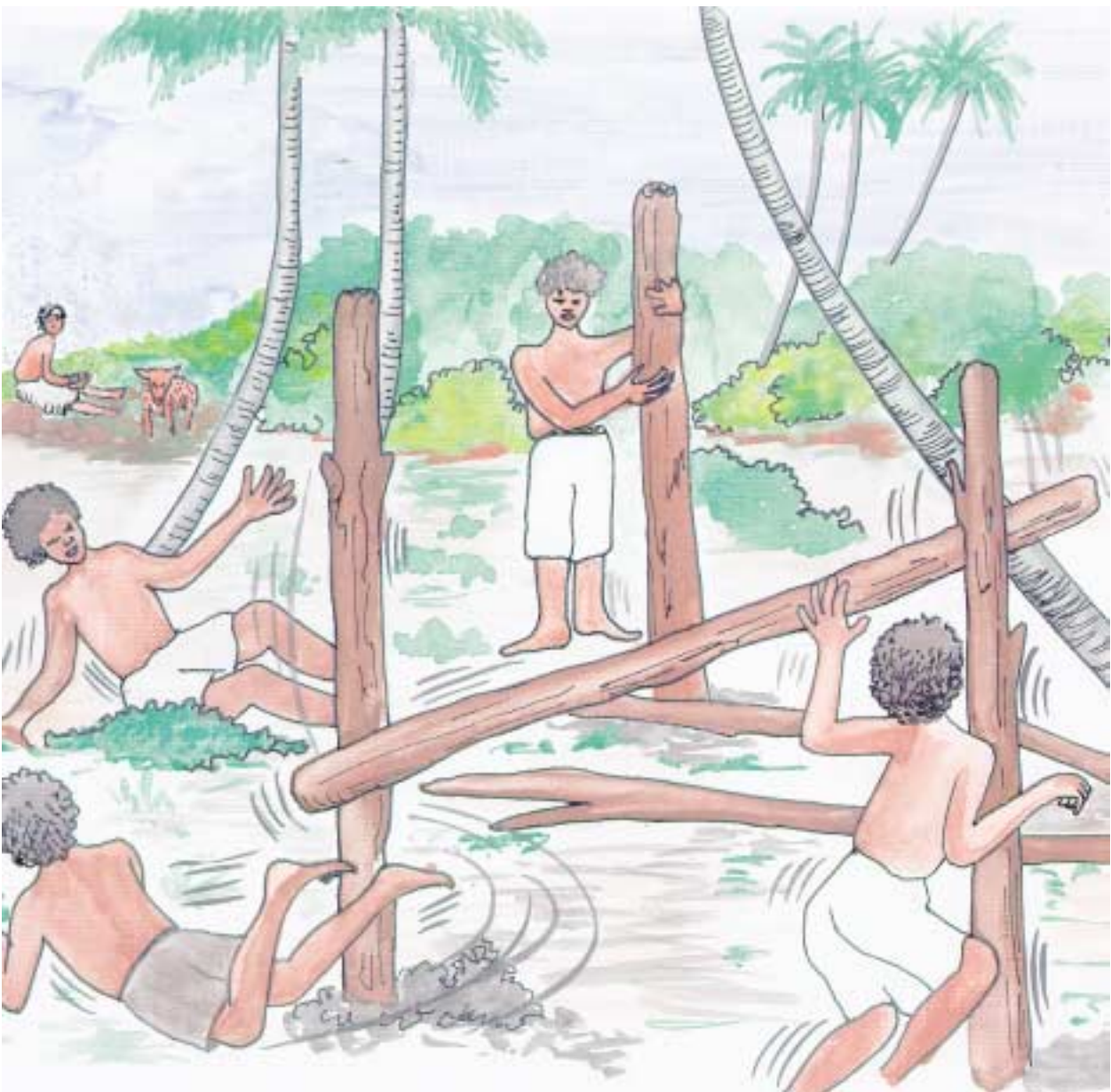
The First House

Many years ago, people lived in caves and huge logs. They had never seen a house. One day, the people of one tribe decided to build a shelter.

They went into the bush to cut wood. They made posts and put them in the ground. They tried to put a beam on top of the posts, but the beam rolled off and fell to the ground.

Each time they tried to place the beam, the same thing happened.

They didn't know what to do.



An old woman sat watching at the entrance to her cave. She looked at her dog sitting near her, then she had an idea.

“Why don't you shape the posts like my dog's ears?” she called to the men.

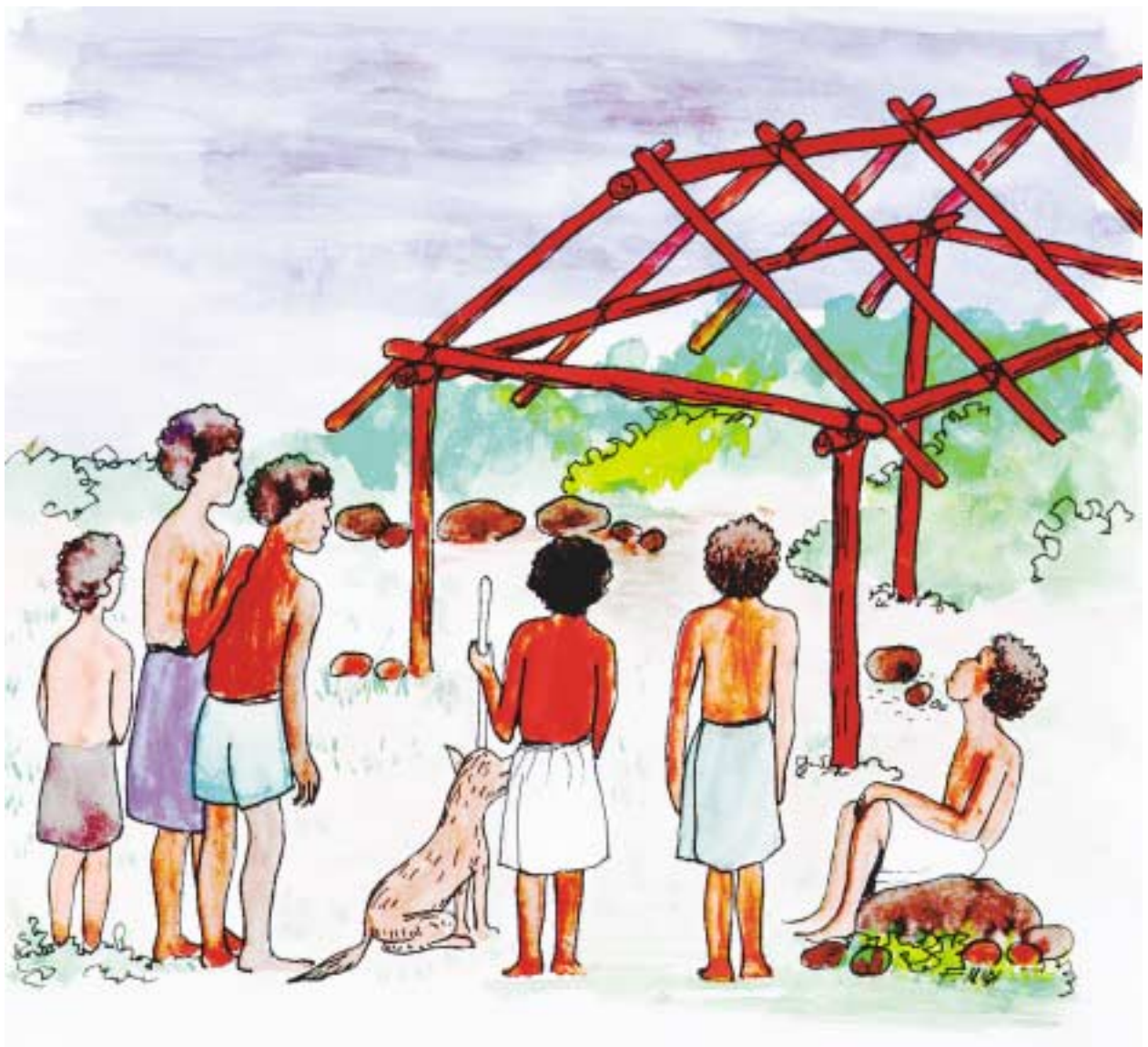
The men did as the woman suggested. They made a fork shape in the top of each post. Now, when they placed the beams on top, they did not roll off.

The men worked until the shelter was completed. It was the very first house.

Everyone thanked the woman for her good idea.

The people built many more houses.

Soon they had built a big village with houses for everyone.



The Nut Tree Sisters

Once upon a time, two brothers lived in the middle of a forest.

Every day the boys went to the garden to work and to the river to catch fish.

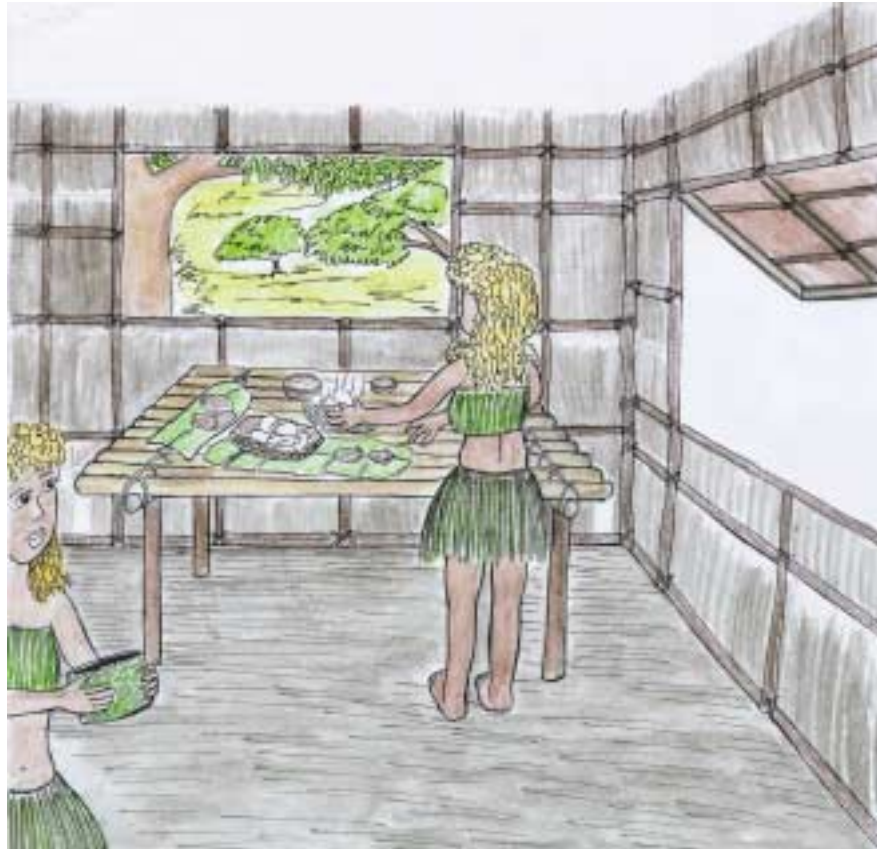
Their house was very untidy and dirty.

Near the house grew a nut tree.

One day, while the boys were at the garden, the wind blew and two large nuts fell to the ground. They broke open and two girls jumped out of the shells.



The two girls cleaned the house and cooked dinner. Then they wrote a note for the two brothers and went back to their tree.



When the boys came home, they couldn't believe what they saw. They wondered who had cleaned and cooked for them. Then they saw the note lying on the table:

Your house was very untidy.
We have cleaned the house and cooked
the dinner, but we are not coming back
until you look after your house properly.
From,
the nut tree sisters.

From that day on, the two brothers cleaned their house every day. In the evenings they cooked dinner.

After two weeks the nut tree sisters returned. They found the house was clean and tidy. The two brothers cooked dinner and they all sat down together to eat a delicious meal of fish in coconut cream with taro.

Trees Everywhere

There are many trees in our islands. Down in the valleys and up on the mountains. On the river banks and near the beaches. Outside our houses and around the schools. There are trees everywhere.

A tree has a thick and strong trunk that grows straight and tall. The trunk spreads out into branches. The branches hold the leaves out in the fresh air and sunshine. It has roots to hold it firm in the ground. The roots spread out and go deep into the ground. They find food and water for the tree. Food and water go up the tree trunk, along the branches and to the leaves.

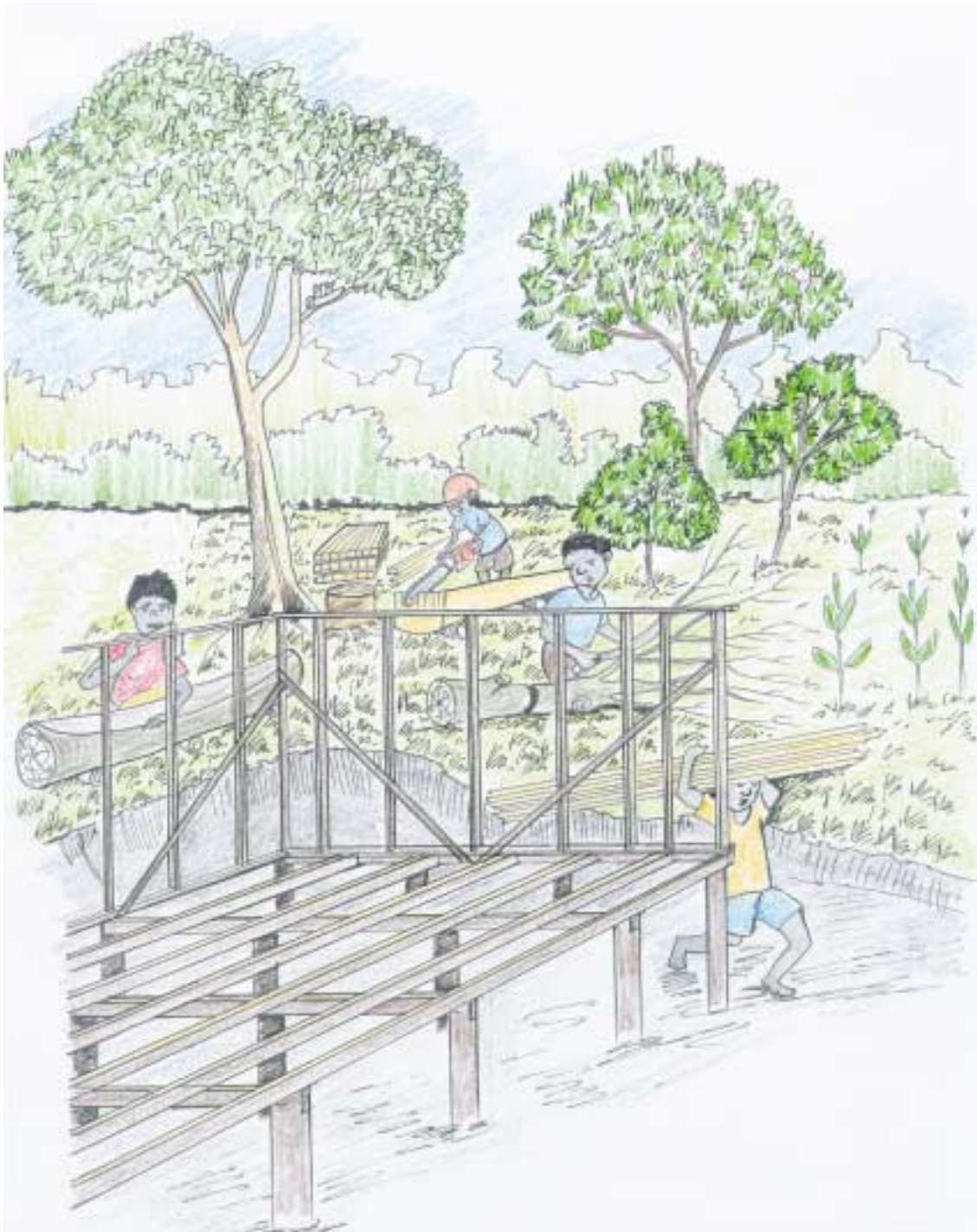


Trees are the homes for many animals. Birds eat fruits of trees and they make their nests in the branches. Honey-bees drink from its flowers and make their hive in the trees.

Fishermen make their canoes from the tree trunk. Builders use timber from trees to build houses. Doctors make medicine from the leaves and fruits.

We get firewood from dead trees to cook our food.

We eat the fruits and plant new trees from the seeds.



The King of the Sea

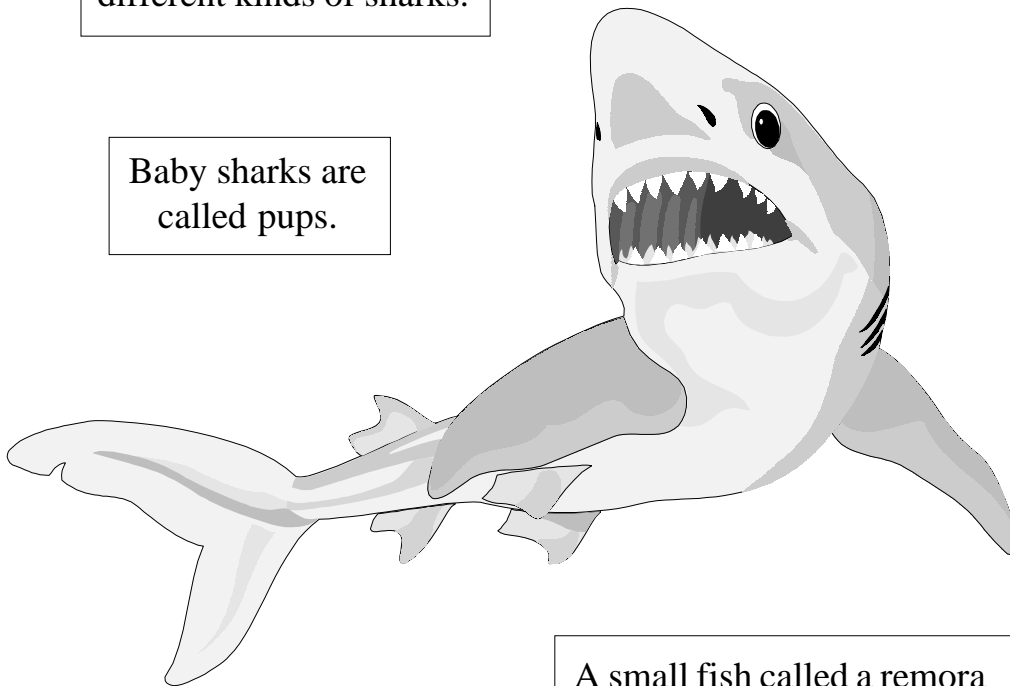
Did you know that ?

Sharks must keep swimming, otherwise they will sink.

A shark's teeth never stop growing. A lost or worn out tooth is replaced by a new one.

There are about 375 different kinds of sharks.

Baby sharks are called pups.

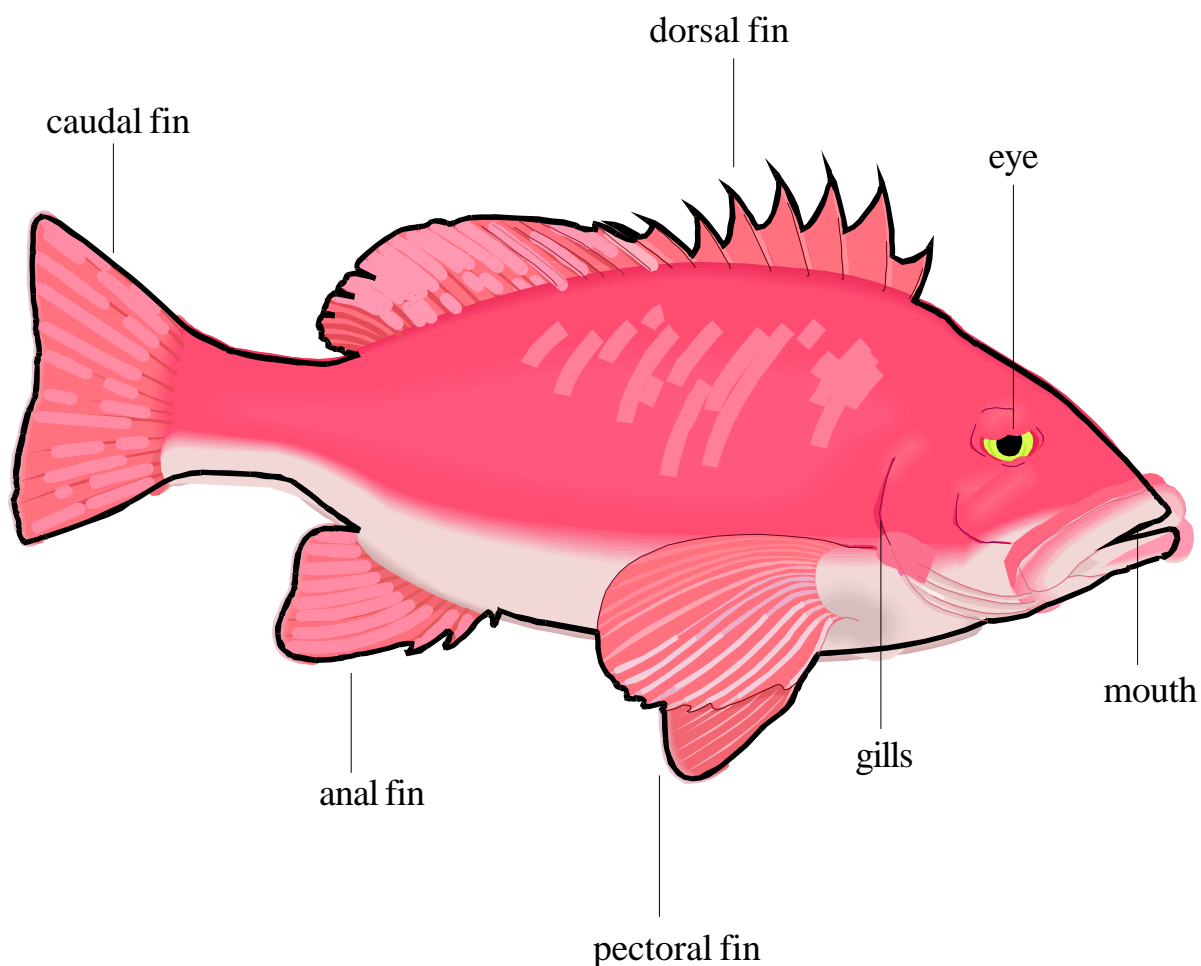


The most dangerous shark is the great white pointer shark. It can grow to a length of 7.5 metres.

A small fish called a remora or 'sucker fish' sometimes clings onto a shark and eats little animals that live on its skin.

Sharks have no bones. Their skeleton is made of a springy material called cartilage.

Fish



Our reefs are full of fish. Many of them are brightly coloured.

They live in holes in the reefs and corals. Some fish live and swim together in big groups called schools. They eat other tiny animals and plants in the sea. Schools of fish do not like to share their homes with other schools. They fight any fish that comes close to their homes. Some fish have sharp blades on the sides of their heads or tails. They use the blades to fight their enemies.

Some fish make nests and lay their eggs inside. Some lay their eggs in holes.

Others lay their eggs and let them to float. The eggs float for some time before they sink to the bottom of the sea to hatch. The parents look after the eggs until they hatch. Fish eggs hatch after about one week.

Cyclone Warning

One evening, little Alice turned on the radio.

“Cyclone warning number one,” the radio announcer said.

Her father listened carefully.

“A cyclone is coming to our island,” he said. “There will be strong winds and heavy rain. We must fetch kerosene and matches, food and water. We need to tie down the roof of our house with strong rope.”



Father and Mother rushed to get everything ready.

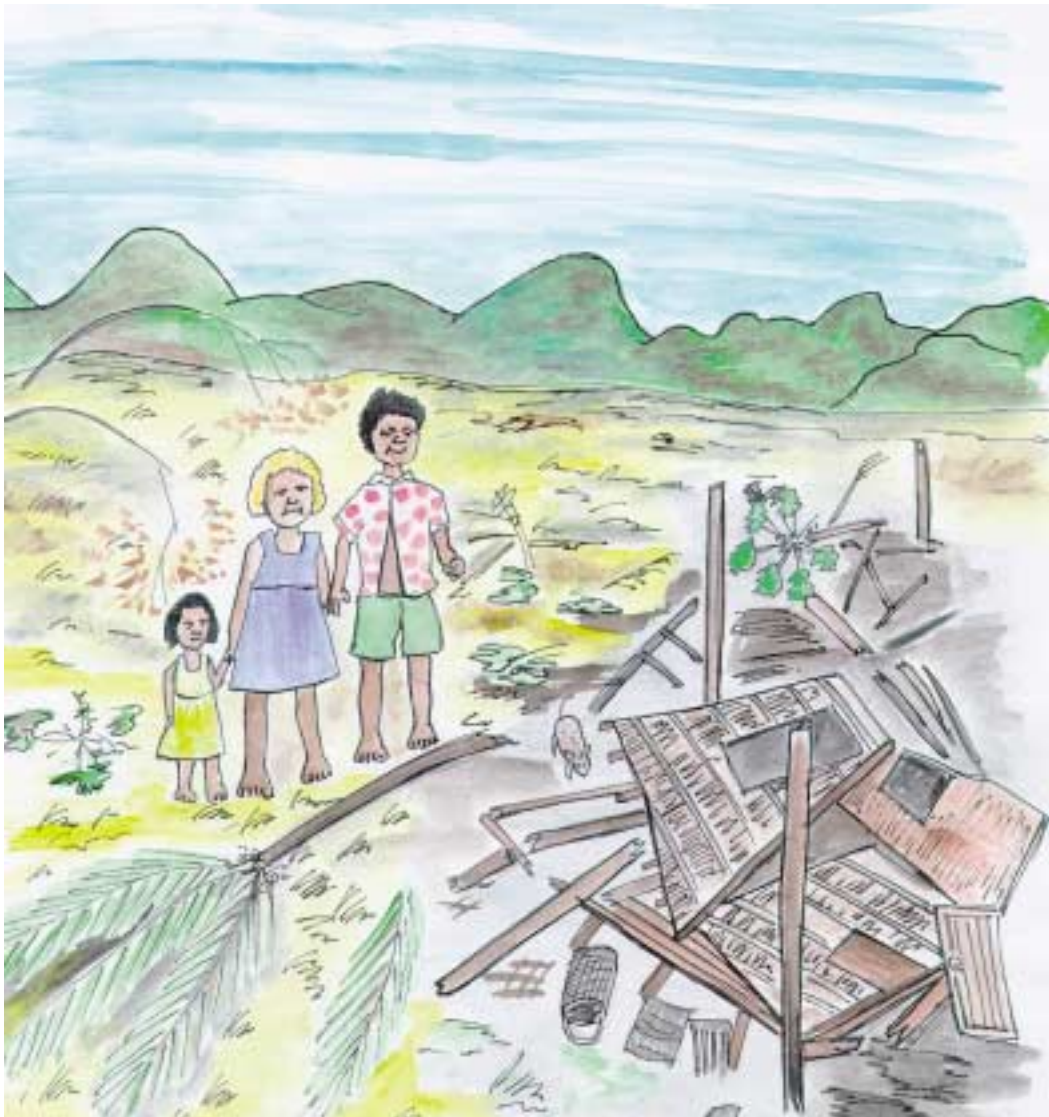
“Hurry up Alice!” Mother called. “We must go to the caves before the cyclone comes.”

All the people of the village were going to the caves. Alice met her friends and they talked and laughed inside the caves.

When it was dark, everyone went to sleep.

At midnight, the rain poured down like a waterfall. Lightning flashed and thunder roared. The wind got stronger and stronger. It howled like an angry giant cat.

The noise frightened Alice and she couldn't sleep. The cyclone went on all night.



In the morning, it was quiet. Everyone came out of the caves.

When they got back to the village, Alice couldn't believe what she saw.

There were no houses left. There were fallen trees lying everywhere.

It looked as if a giant had destroyed the village.

