

Teaching Guide -The Melenau People

Instructions for Leaders or Teachers

- Study all the material yourself before sharing it with others.
- Introduce the people group to the children.
- Listen to the audio information that describes the people group.
- Listen to any additional information provided.
- Do these things in the order listed. Some points can be skipped over if not usable.
- Use a map of globe to locate the area where the people group lives.
- Have children do map work that is age appropriate.
- Talk about the location of the Melenau people group in relation to the equator.
- Ask “Do the Melenau people live close to the equator?” If the answer is “Yes”, this indicates a hot/tropical climate.
- Ask, “Do the Melenau people live in a mountain area?” If the answer is “Yes”, this will indicate a colder/cooler climate.
- Have the children name the countries surrounding the country where the Melenau people group live.
- Look at the map included and see if the country has any access to an ocean or a river which would allow transport of goods.
- Talk about the ways the Melenau people group provide for basic human needs:
 - Food
 - Clothing
 - Shelter
 - Human relationships
 - Compare the answers with the way your own people provide these needs.
 - Are these customs of the Melenau people different from the way you live?
 - Talk about the importance of color and the meaning of color.
 - Talk about festivals and music.

- Talk about the animals that live in this country where the Melenau people live. Are the animals helpful to the people? Are the animals a danger to the people?
- What are the main spiritual beliefs of the Melenau people?
 - Have any of these people placed their faith in Jesus Christ?
 - Is there a church where these people may gather together to worship and study?
 - Do any Christians in this group face persecution, (treatment in a harsh or cruel way) for their beliefs?
- Ask your group of children if the Melenau people have any part of God's Word (The Bible), translated into their own language?
- Ask if they have any other Christian material?
 - Bible stories
 - Christian radio
 - Christian music Christian drama
 - Christian audiocassettes
- Pray for the Melenau people group using the prayer points you have heard. Are the children able to think of other things for which to pray?
- Are there people groups in your country who are still waiting to hear the message of God's love for all peoples? Pray for them too!
- Are there children or adults in your group who might like to train as Bible Translators? A Bible Translator put the words of the Bible into the words of a different language.
- Review the names and countries of other people groups you have already studied.
- If a craft or color page is included this week and is useful for your group of children to work on, do it now.



M

Melanau

(ma-IA-naw)

Ripple and plop! The river laps and gurgles gently at every home.

It is the main street of the village.

A boy waves to a man paddling his hand-carved canoe. A fisherman swings his heavy gleaming catch upon his shoulders. The Melanau people of Malaysia build boats with great skill and catch fish expertly.

Everyone eats the fresh fish.

As it is roasted, the tantalizing and savory smell makes your mouth water. With steaming rice or sago baked in coconut milk, it tastes scrumptious!

Children noisily splash in the river. They collect wriggling crabs, shimmering shrimp and tiny, slippery fish. It is a great way to stay cool when it is hot and humid.

The Melanau people do not have the Bible in their own language.



The Melanau People

Continent: Asia

Country: Malaysia (The Island of Borneo)

Geographical Information:

Malaysia is part of the continent of Asia.

- The Melanau people live on the Sarawak part of the island of Borneo.
- Sarawak is Malaysia's largest state.
- It is located on the northwestern side of the island of Borneo.

Can you find Malaysia on the map of Asia?

- Can you find Malaysia's neighbors - the countries of Thailand, Indonesia, Singapore and Brunei on the map?
- Some interesting wild apes live in Sarawak.
- Shaggy red-haired, long armed Orangutan apes swing from tree to tree in the lowland swamps.
- In the trees they search for food and build sleeping platforms of leaves and branches.

Facts about the Melanau people:

- The Melanau people still live in the old manner and celebrate festivals from long ago that are part of their culture. (Culture is a word that means, the way a group of people live: their customs, languages, and beliefs).
- These people are fine boat builders and fishermen.
- They live along coastal rivers and build their houses over water.
- The Melanau people are different from other people groups who also live in Sarawak.
- The Melanau people prefer to eat sago instead of rice.
- Sago palms originally grew wild in the coastal swamps of Sarawak. Long ago the Melanau people began to grow these plants for food.
- The Melanau people also catch and eat different kinds of fish and other sea food.

- The old religion of the Melanau people taught that, life and the world around were all one.
- The people worshiped many spirits whom they thought caused sickness.
- Today most Melanau people are either Christians or Muslim.

You can pray for the Melanau people.

- Ask God to send people to translate God's Message and other Christian materials for the Melanau people.
- Ask God to encourage those who are Christians to share the Good News of Jesus and his love.
- Ask God to help the Melanau people understand that God gave them the sago palms and fish to catch and eat. God created their lovely country and He is the one that gives them special skills for making boats and fishing.

Malaysia Animal Studies

Orangutans

Orangutans are large apes that live in Southeast Asia (on the islands of Borneo and Sumatra). These large apes move easily through the trees. Using their very long arms they swing from branch to branch. When standing upright those long arms reach to their ankles.

- Orangutans can climb to the top of the highest trees in the rainforest.
- On the ground Orangutans usually walk on all four legs.
- Orangutans have big bulky bodies and large heads with thick necks.
- They have short, bowed legs and no tail.
- Orangutans are usually covered with long reddish-brown hair.
- They have hands that are much like the hands of people. They have four long fingers and a thumb that works like ours. They also have feet with four toes and a big toe that works like a thumb.
- Orangutans grow from 2.6 – 4.5 feet (0.8 – 1.4 m) tall.
- Female orangutans usually give birth only once every eight years. The young stay with their mother's for 11 or 12 years.
- Except for mothers with their young, orangutans usually live alone, moving from tree to tree in search of food.
- Orangutans eat both plants and animals. They enjoy fruit, leaves, seeds, tree bark, plant bulbs, plant shoots and flowers. They also eat insects and small animals like birds and small mammals.
- They drink water that has collected in the holes between tree branches.
- Each night the orangutans make a new nest out of leaves. It looks like a soft platform and is often in a tall tree.
- To protect themselves from rain and sun, orangutans will put large leaves on their heads and necks or even build a shelter from small branches and leaves.



Orangutans



Illustration by Natalya Zahn © 2001, 2002 National Geographic Society. All rights reserved. Copyright Statement

Permission given to make copies for personal and educational use only.

http://www.nationalgeographic.com/coloringbook/sketch_orangutans.html

1/6/2003

A sago palm tree is about ten-meters high and gathers starch inside its trunk.

- The tree swells just before flowering. This tells the Melanau people it is time to harvest the sago by cutting down the tree so that the pith can be dug out.
- The pith is then grated to a fine mash.
- The mash is soaked in a long wooden trough.
- Then the Melanau people walk upon the mash to squish it through a mat.
- What they end up with is the sago starch.
- After the starch settles it is spread on other mats to dry into lumps.
- These lumps of sago starch are broken up and ground into flour.



Sago Palm Trees

Copyrights and Creative Commons license

The license used here makes 7 important provisions.

You are free, indeed encouraged, to do the following:

- Copy, print, distribute, display, and teach from Spark materials in any way you wish.
- Make changes for your own use and for distribution to others.
- Make any sort of non-commercial copies, ministry copies, or personal copies, from any Spark material, without further notice.

Under the following conditions:

- You properly cite the original authors of the material you find here. Pages on www.vernacularmedia.org without a clear authorship should be cited to vernacularmedia.org on your copies.
- You must retain the BY-NC-SA license on your copies of materials copied from www.vernacularmedia.org. (You must not trample the commons.)
- You must not change the license. (You must not steal from the commons.)
- You must ask for permission for use of Spark materials outside of this list. (You need permission to take work out of the commons.)

By Spark Team