

Reading Comprehension – Finding The Facts

Tree Of Life

If there is one thing that really comes to mind when the words, “South Pacific”, are spoken then it must be palms, especially coconut palms. We all have images of tall coconut palms leaning gracefully over sandy coral beaches. But the coconut tree is more than a beautiful palm that is the central feature of picture postcards purchased by tourists.

To people of the South Pacific the coconut tree is also known as the “Tree of Life”. It owes this name to the wide variety of products which the coconut palm provides from its various parts. From the leaves down to its roots it plays a significant part in the life of many island people. Name it, the coconut provides it – food, shelter or fuel – as well as income from exports.

Leaves. Coconut leaves produce good quality paper pulp, midrib brooms, hats and mats, fruit trays, wastebaskets, placemats, and bags.

Coconuts (fruit). Flesh and water (often called the milk) from the young, green coconut can be taken as a health food and drink. It is also used as a main ingredient for salads and other delicacies.

Husks. Coconut husks contain 10% bristle fibre, 20% mattress filling and 70% coir. Often the husk is thrown away, but it can be used to produce a wide variety of useful products such as ropes, mats, fishing nets, household walling and floor coverings.

Water. Coconut water can be used in the production of vinegar and wine and is also used to treat a number of medical disorders.

Flesh. The white coconut flesh is a good source of protein, coconut oil, coconut flour, shredded coconut, coconut chips, and feed for animals.

Coconut shell. From the shell is made attractive handicrafts, novelty items, charcoal briquettes for cooking and high quality industrial carbons.

Trunk. The trunk of the coconut tree is a hardy and **durable** wood. It is used to make furniture. Paper pulp can also be made from the trunk.

Roots. Medicines, beverage extracts and dyes are obtained from the roots.

The English oak, the Lebanon cedar or the Australian gum tree all have a place in history but the coconut palm is the only true “Tree of Life”.

1. What are the four useful parts of the fruit of the coconut palm?

2. How do tourists react to coconut palms?

3. Why do many South Pacific people call the coconut palm the “Tree of Life”?

Answer **True** or **False** to the facts expressed in Questions 4, 5 and 6.

4. Medicines can be produced from the leaves. _____

5. The wood of the coconut palm has limited use in building. _____

6. Palm leaves can be used in paper making. _____

7. In your own words, explain the meaning of the word **durable**.

8. The South Pacific people regard the coconut palm as
A a visual pollution B a tree of little C a tree that is in D one of the
of coral beaches local importance oversupply world’s great trees

9. In your opinion, what part of the coconut palm is most useful?

Homework Sheet for Week 3

Name: _____

Critical Reading

Includes – Novels, non-fiction books, magazines, newspapers and as negotiated with teacher

Book: _____

Author: _____

In your own words, summarise your reading for this week.

Spelling		
a	b	c
children	aftermath	advertisements
creed	agreement	application
flags	bounty	beneficial
decrease	census	boutique
fashion	encourage	ceremonies
fugitive	festivals	condiments
labour	illegal	depression
lifestyle	migration	employment
origin	prayer	language
respect	residence	multicultural

English Rules!

Choose the best conjunction to complete the sentence.

1. I bought the book (**if / when / unless**) I went to the city.
2. The students were happy (**because / until / so**) it was a holiday.
3. The principal was strict (**as / but / since**) fair with all the students.

Common Curriculum Elements

CCE 14 is *Graphing*. This should be pretty easy – you’ve been doing it for years! Take the table you made last week and turn it into some kind of graph (your choice!). If you’re really computer savvy, put the data into an Excel spreadsheet and create a chart (same as a graph – just a different word) from the data. (or buy a bag of M&Ms and sort by colour – put the info in a table then make a graph).

Who is the target audience? How can you tell?

Would you recommend this reading to your friends?

Why/why not?

Parent Comment & Signature: _____

Teacher Comment & Signature: _____
