

SOCIAL SCIENCE

GRADE 7

PROJECT 1

CASE STUDY: FIJI

Chapter 1:	The General Background of Fiji
Chapter 2:	History, Government and Politics
Chapter 3:	Economy and Lifestyle
Chapter 4:	Culture

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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PRINCIPAL

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INTRODUCTION



Dear Student,

Welcome to this Strand of Grade 7 Course work. This course work is in the form of a Project Booklet. In this booklet you will have the opportunity to do a case study on Fiji. There will be a Project Assignment for this case study booklet. You will work on the project assignment as soon as you complete reading this case study booklet.

The four main chapters you will study are:

- Chapter 1 The General Background of Fiji
- Chapter 2 History, Government and Politics
- Chapter 3 Economy and Lifestyle
- Chapter 4 Culture

In Chapter 1, you will learn about the physical geography of Fiji, including the climate and vegetation. You will also learn about the different features of the population of Fiji including ethnic groups and so on.

Chapter 2 will cover the history of Fiji, including colonial rule, independence, a bit on its political history and also about the modern system of government in Fiji

In Chapter 3, you will learn about aspects of Fiji's lifestyle and its economy

Chapter 4 will help you to learn about the different aspects of culture, art, music and other important elements of Fijian culture.

In addition, towards the end of the Chapter 4 you explore will the contemporary issues in Fiji such as social, economic, political and environmental issues.

It is hoped that this case study will be informative. In doing so you will be well versed learning about all the important facts and information about Fiji.

We hope you enjoy studying about Fiji.

Your teacher

Chapter 1 General Background of Fiji

This case study is based on the Republic of Fiji. In this case study you will learn many facts about Fiji.

Fiji is an island nation located in the South Pacific, officially known as the Republic of Fiji. It is a popular destination for tourists found among the South Pacific Islands. Fiji Islands is noted as being one of the friendliest and offers many things for the world.

As many people of different cultures can confirm, Fiji's reputation as a world-class tourist destination is well deserved. Fiji vacations are considered among the best with a variety of activities and adventures along with a diverse terrain according to the islands.

In this case study you will not only learn about tourism in Fiji but also learn many other important aspects of this country. You will also explore the unique culture of Fiji. You might even want to compare the culture with your own Culture.

Just like any other country, Fiji has gone through its good and bad times. In this case study you will also learn of how the political turmoil within the government resulted in a series of military coups. These are some of the hardships Fiji has faced.

Otherwise, let us sit back and enjoy this interesting and informative journey throughout the fascinating and beautiful islands of Fiji. Let us explore what we can learn from this case study.

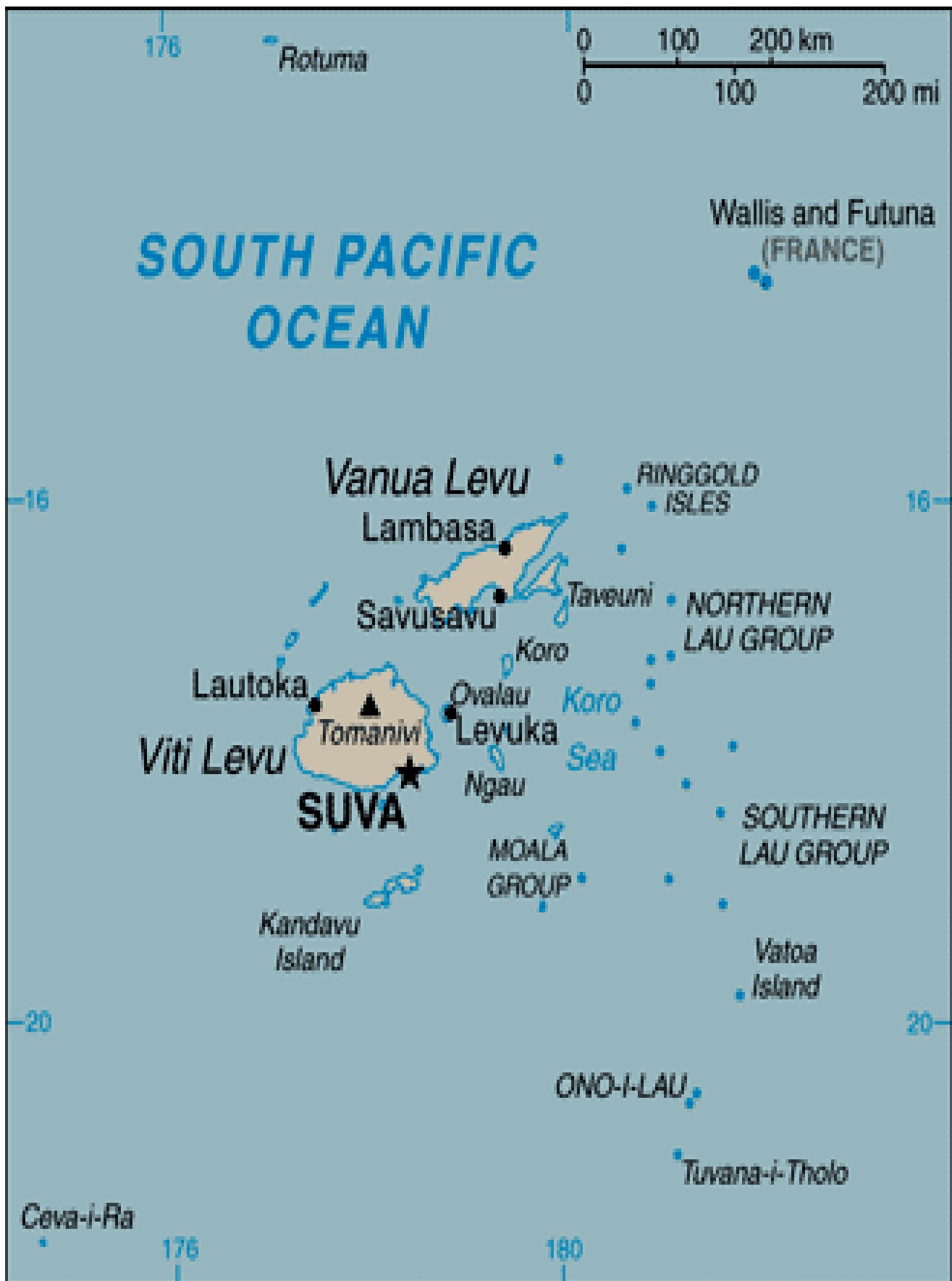
Come with me as we fly all around the beautiful islands of Fiji and learn about this fascinating and beautiful country



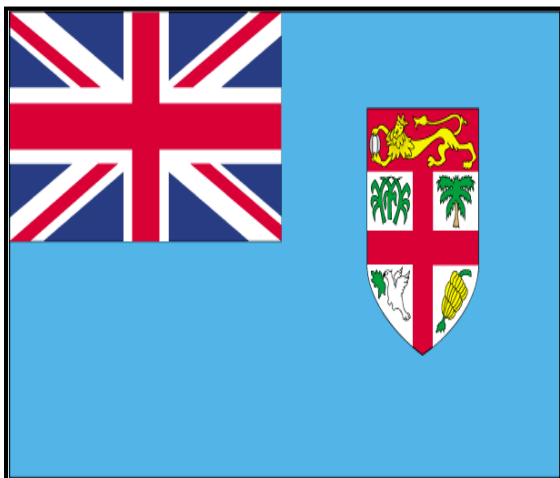
Map of Fiji

Map 1: The map of Fiji in relation to the rest of the Pacific Islands



Map 2: The Map of Fiji

Symbol of Fiji



Flag Description

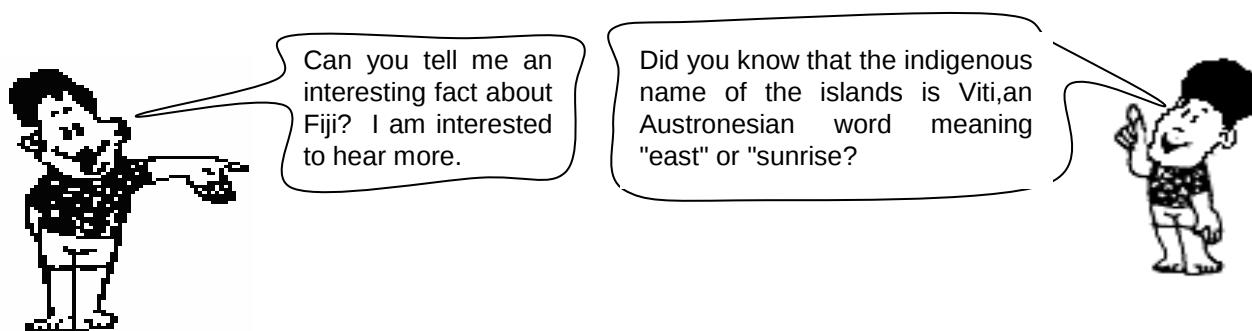
The flag of Fiji displays a colourful and picture. It has its own importance and is a symbolic representation of this unique country. It is light blue in colour with the flag of the UK in the upper hoist-side quadrant and the Fijian shield centered on the outer half of the flag; the blue symbolizes the Pacific ocean and the Union Jack reflects the links with Great Britain; the shield - taken from Fiji's coat of arms - shows a yellow lion above a white field quartered by the cross of Saint George; the four quarters depict stalks of sugarcane, a palm tree, bananas, and a white dove.

Location and Size

Fiji is situated in the South Pacific about 4,450 km (South West of Hawaii and 1,770 km North of New Zealand, The total area (including Rotuma) is 18,270 sq km. Fiji (not including Rotuma) extends 595 km South East and 454 km North East – South West . The largest islands are Viti Levu, with an area of 10,386 sq km and Vanua Levu, with 5,535 sq km. Fiji's total coastline is 1,129 km. Fiji's capital city, Suva, is located on the island of Viti Levu.

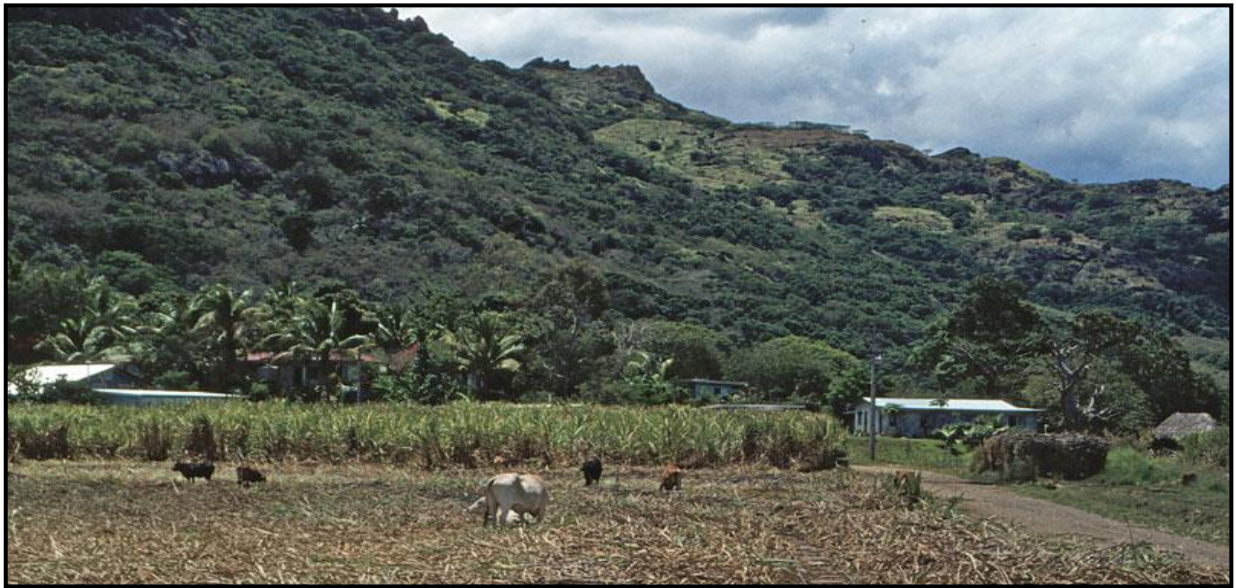
Geography

The larger Fiji islands are volcanic, with rugged peaks, and flat land where rivers have built deltas. Coral reefs surround the islands. Viti Levu's highest mountain is Tomanivi, 1,323 metres. You can cross Fiji's main river The Rewa, 113 km, by small boats. The vast majority of Fiji's land mass is volcanic, with some reef-formed limestone and coastal sedimentary formations. The major islands are generally mountainous in the interiors which creates a rain shadow effect (see the diagram on **the next page**). It is much drier and there is less thickly vegetation on the western sides of Viti Levu and Vanua Levu than the eastern side.



There are more interesting facts about Fiji. Let us continue with more on the geography of Fiji.

Here is a picture of the landscape of the highlands of Fiji shown below.



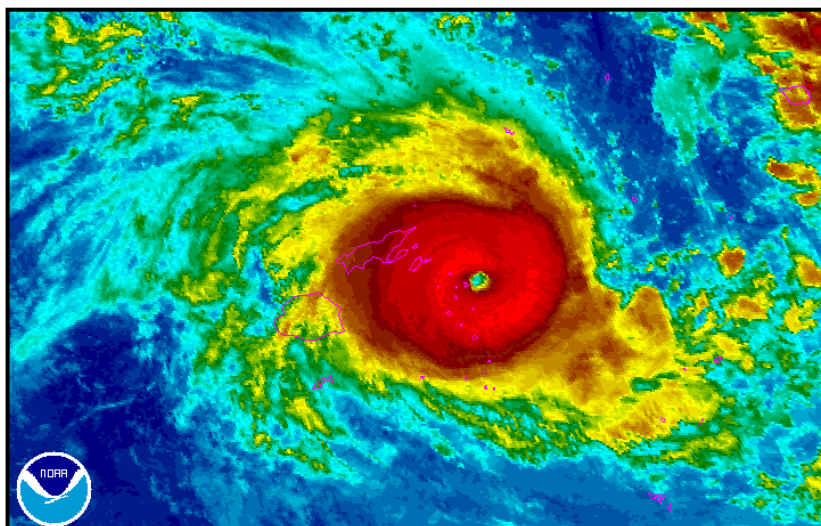
Landscape of Rural Fiji

Climate

Fiji is located in the tropical region. Its climate is influenced by winds from the sea. This means that it has a tropical maritime climate, which has influence from ocean bearing winds.

The eastern side of Viti Levu, where the capital city of Suva is located, has an average rainfall of 300 mm. On the western side where Nadi International Airport is found, averages about 165 cm. Thus on any given day, your chances of getting wet are much greater on any of the larger islands' eastern sides than in the west.

Easterly trade winds blow most part of the year. Annual rainfall is well distributed and averages 305 cm in Suva. At sea level on the **leeward** sides of the islands have wet and dry seasons. Remember Fiji is always affected by cyclones, from November to April. There are huge storms that cause extensive property damage and loss of crops as well as deaths.

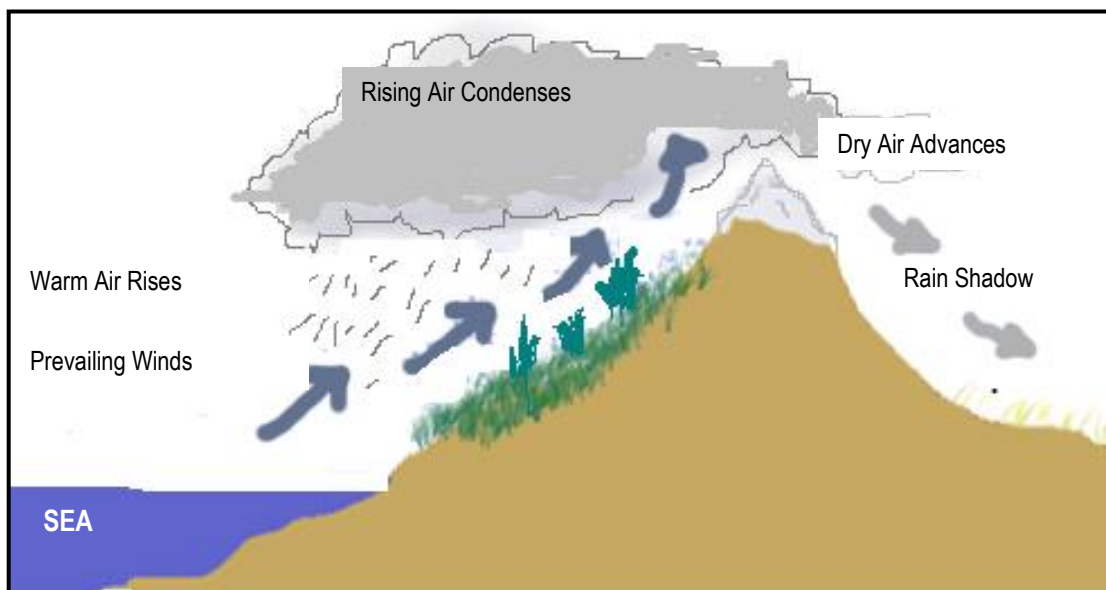


Satellite image showing a tropical cyclone over Fiji

How does relief affect the climate of Fiji?

In Fiji there are mountain ranges that run through the highlands of the two main islands of Fiji. This causes some parts of the islands to experience rainfall while others don't. This is because the mountain ranges cause some places to be in a rain shadow area. A place where the prevailing wind blows gets more rain than a place further in land. The eastern parts of the islands of Fiji have a lot of rainfall while the western parts do not have much rainfall. The map above shows areas of low and high rainfall.

The diagram below helps us to understand how this happens.



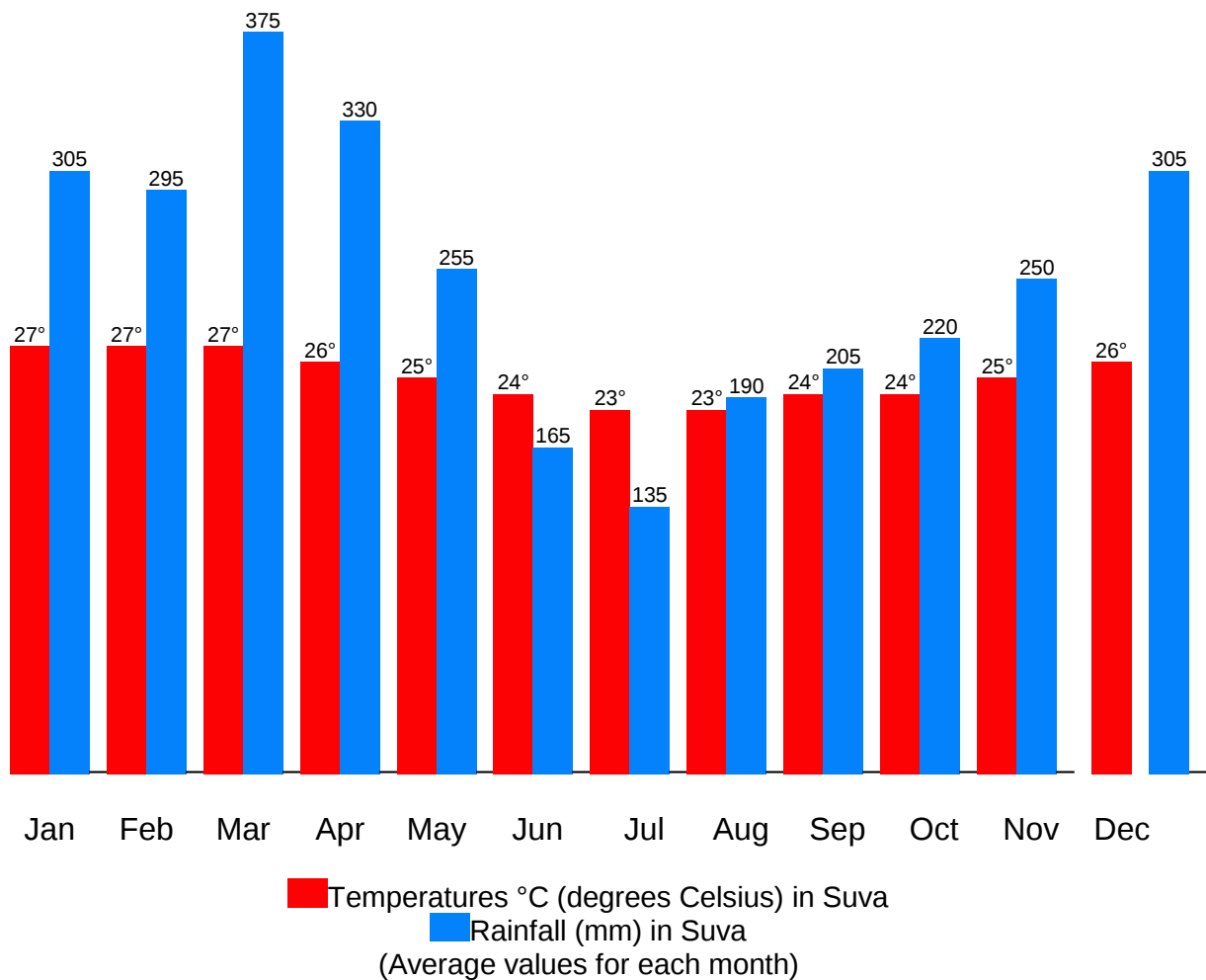
A rain shadow is a dry area on the *lee side of a mountainous area. The mountains block the passage of rain- casting a "shadow" of dryness behind them. As shown by the diagram to the right, the warm moist air is "pulled" by the prevailing winds over a mountain. Then it condenses and precipitates. Then dry air moves forward leaving a rain shadow behind the mountain.

The two main characteristics of climate are Temperature and Rainfall. Remember, these two characteristics influence any type of climate in a particular area.

The graph on the next page shows the annual temperature and rainfall of Suva.

Here is a graph showing the annual temperature and rainfall of Suva.

Graph showing the average Temperature and Rainfall



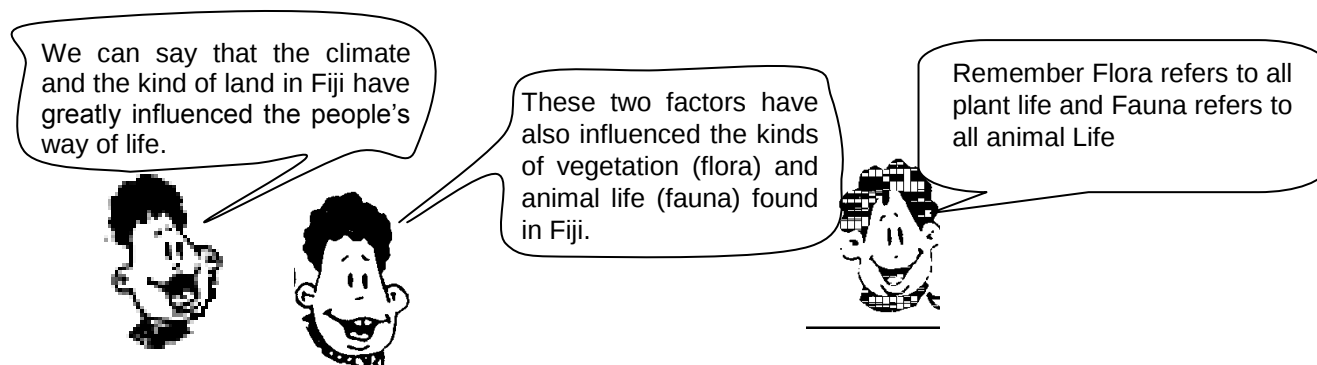
Cyclones in Fiji

Life in Fiji is harmed by one feature of the climate - The Cyclone. A cyclone is a very strong tropical storm. Usually storms happen between May to November. The cyclones usually affect the eastern part of the main islands. The coastal regions are often hit by these cyclones. A lot of damage to houses and crops is done. Papua New Guinea gets these types of cyclones.



Homes Destroyed by Tropical Cyclones in Fiji

VEGETATION



Naturally beautiful, Fiji's flora and fauna are in many respects similar to that of Indonesia and Malaysia. While a few native plant and animal species can be found on Fiji's various islands, most of the birds, animals, reptiles, trees and flowers you are likely to encounter here have been introduced to the islands over 3500 years ago by traders.

The larger islands of Fiji have forests on the *windward side and grassland on the leeward slopes. Fiji's varied terrain provides a variety of habitats or home for flora and fauna. These include lowland and mountain rainforest, mangroves and swamps, mixed grasslands and inland waters. The drier sides have thinner forests and savanna grasslands called **talasiga* (or sun-burned country) by the local people. Coconut trees dominate the coastal regions while mangrove forests are found in a few coastal lagoons.

Below is a photograph of the Highlands of Nausori in Fiji. The landscape shows the different vegetation found in the Highlands of Nausori in Fiji. Vegetation types include grasslands, woody forests, shrubs and trees.



Vegetation in the Highlands of Nausori in Fiji

The tropical climate of Fiji allows for dense rainforest jungle and thick bush with its countless number of trees, vines and towering ferns as shown in the images below.



Coconut and Palm Trees



Mangroves



Jungle Ferns



Of the 1596 different plant species that grow in Fiji, 60% are **endemic**. Many of these are not found anywhere in the world.

The islands of Fiji have beautiful flowers from the ever popular bouganvillia, frangipani and hibiscus to wild orchids. Here are some of these plants shown below.



Water Lillies



Tropical Orchid



The Tagamaucia Plant



Did you know that the National Flower of Fiji is the *Tagamaucia*? There is a very special legend about it too! You might want to find out more.



Some people say that it is the *Plumeria*

Fruits

Besides having similar kinds of flowers and trees to those found in Papua New Guinea, you can also find similar kind of fruit. Most tropical fruits like pawpaw, breadfruit, pomelo, pineapple, star-apple, banana, tamarind and mango. Can you see that these are the same fruits found in Papua New Guinea? These fruits are tropical fruits so they will always be found in other tropical countries.



Fijian Fruits- Banana

Animal Life

The ocean environment includes coral reefs, lagoons and its marine life is abundant with fish. Fiji's reef system is rich with a variety of marine life all within a few square meters.

Fiji has a variety of plants and animals including birds, reptiles and amphibians. Fiji's flora and fauna is not so diverse as other South Pacific islands but has its own unique species of plants and animals.

You have been learning that there are many different kinds of plants in Fiji. There are also many different kinds of animals.

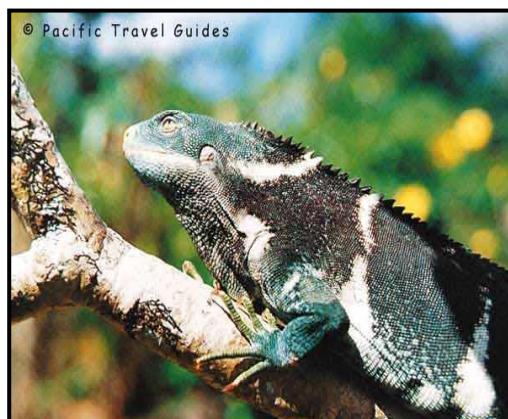
Among indigenous fauna are bats, snakes, frogs, lizards, and many species of birds. The Monkey-faced bat, called *beka*, is the only surviving native mammal. There are about 70 species of birds. Three of the world's seven turtle species: the green, hawksbill and leatherback, nest in Fiji. The varied sea life includes many species of coral, sponges, tropical reef fish, rays, sharks, dolphins and whales. The only native mammal found in the Fiji islands is the bat.



Rainbow Lorikeet –a beautiful bird species found in Fiji

Iguanas

An interesting species in Fiji is the iguana. How iguanas arrived in the Fiji islands is a bit of a mystery. There are two species here and both are related more closely to the jungle iguanas of Central America. The Banded iguana can be found on Kadavu Island.



The Banded Iguana of Fiji

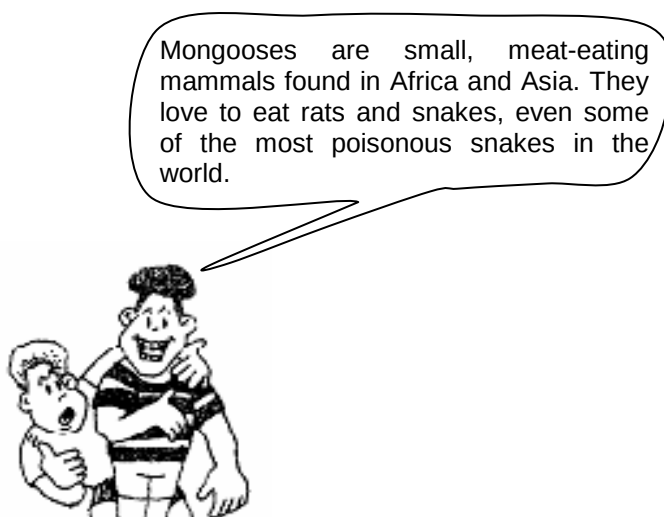
Introduced Animals and Plants

There are other special animals found in Fiji, some of which are unique to Fiji while others are introduced animals. More than 3500 years ago the first settlers introduced poultry, Polynesian rats, dogs, and pigs to Fiji. This was good for the people of Fiji but not so good for the native animals. As a result some birds become extinct especially the giant flightless bird. All other whales and dolphin found living in Fijian waters continue to migrate during seasons. All other land dwelling mammals have been introduced to their Fijian habitat from else where. One interesting animal that is un-common in other Pacific Islands is the mongoose. It was deliberately introduced into the main Fiji islands by G.T. Barker of the Rewa sugar refining company around 1885 to control rats which damaged sugar cane on sugar cane plantations.

Unfortunately the mongoose mostly chooses to eat Fiji's natural snakes, frogs, birds and bird's eggs instead and the rats are still there.



Introduced Animal- The Indian Mongoose



Mongoose are small, meat-eating mammals found in Africa and Asia. They love to eat rats and snakes, even some of the most poisonous snakes in the world.

Man and Vegetation

Unfortunately man has introduced plants and animals that have caused destruction on the population of some native species. For instance the mongoose was brought to Fiji to control rats in the cane fields. The mongoose ended up reducing species of the snake population and went on to destroy many varieties of ground nesting birds. In general, man has greatly changed the environment. Further up the mountains the flora and fauna are safer.

Some of the reef areas and lagoons of the more populated islands have also been drastically changed. Over fishing, run-off from pollution and sewage from urban areas have lowered fish populations and injured natural habitats in and around the capital of Suva as well as Nadi and Lautoka areas of Viti Levu. Fortunately for Fijians (and visitors) much of the marine environments on the outer islands are untouched or at least relatively healthy.

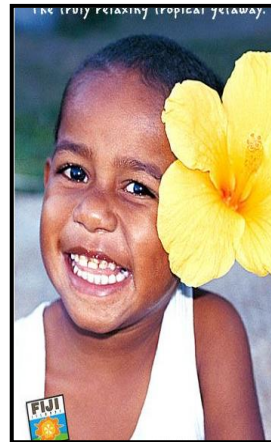
You can see that there are some similarities in the animals and plants that have been introduced to Fiji.



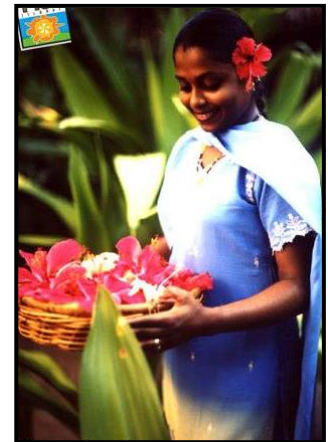
DEMOGRAPHY

Population and Ethnic Groups

When we talk about who makes up the population one of the things we talk about are the ethnic groups. The indigenous Fijian population is mostly Melanesian, with a Polynesian mixture. In 1998, the population was estimated to be 51% indigenous Fijian, 44% Indian, and 5% European, other Pacific Islanders, overseas Chinese, and other.



Young Fijian Boy



Indo-Fijian Girl

Languages

English is the official language, but Fijian and Hindi (Indian) are also used in Parliament. Fijian dialects belong to the Malayo-Polynesian language group; the Bau dialect is used throughout the archipelago except on Rotuma, where Rotuman is spoken. Hindustani (a local dialect of Hindi) is the language of the Indians of Fiji.

Religion

Christianity is the dominant faith of the majority of the Fijian population. Of the Asian religions the Hindu faith is dominant, followed by Islam. There are other belief systems observed by Fijians as well. About 52% of Fijians are Christians, primarily Methodist (37%) and Roman Catholic (9%). Among Indian Fijians, 38% are Hindu, 8% Muslim (Sunni), and 2% other. The newly amended constitution (1998) provides for freedom of religion. Many Christian denominations are present in Fiji, the most prevalent of which is Methodist.



Hindu Temple, Fiji Islands

British settlers brought Indians to work on plantations in the Fiji Islands during the late 1800s and early 1900s. The Fijian city of Nadi, which has a large Indian population, is a center for Muslim and Hindu worship. Religious sites in Nadi include this Hindu temple and two mosques.



Methodist Church in a Village

Another important aspect we also need to learn when studying population is the composition or who makes up the total population!

The composition of the Fijian population can be represented by a population graph called a ***population pyramid** shown below. As you can see it is shaped like a pyramid which is where it gets its name from.



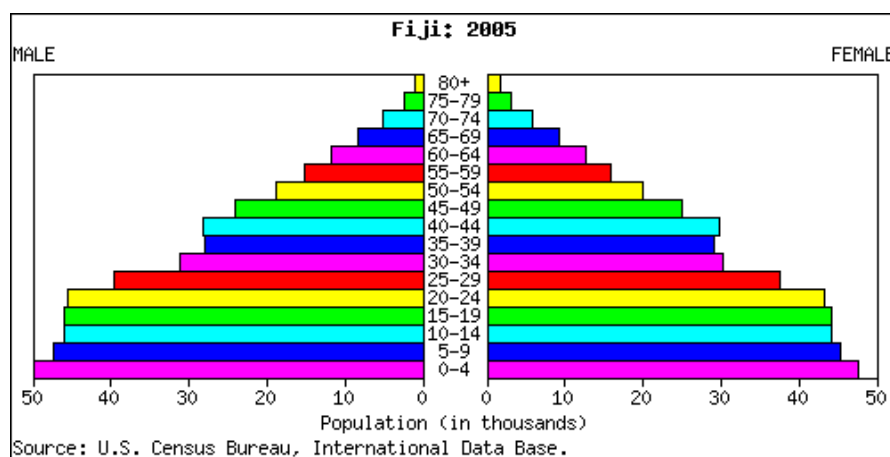
This diagram is very helpful because it helps you understand the population

Yes, and it even shows the age and sex distribution of a particular population in a particular area. You will learn more about this in your Grade 7 skills lessons.

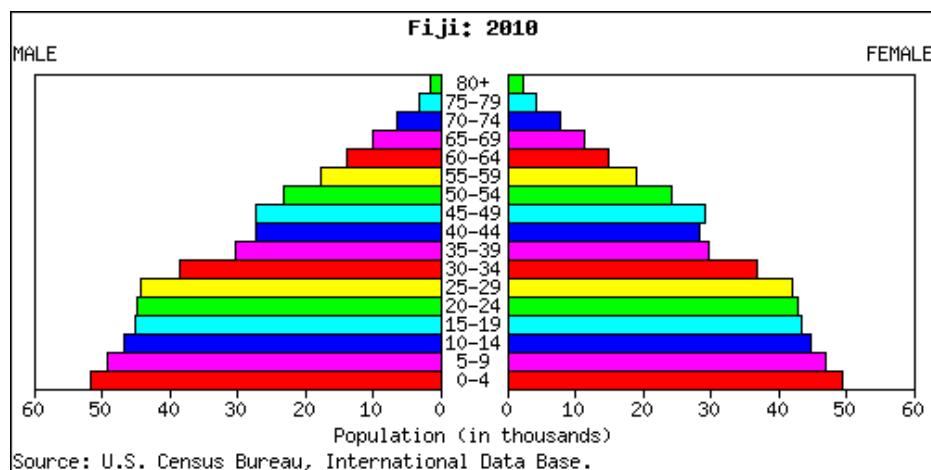


The diagram or graph below shows the age and sex and distribution of Fijian population for the years 2005 and then 2010. It even shows a prediction of Fiji's population in 2020!

Fiji Population Pyramid for 2005



Population Pyramid for 2010

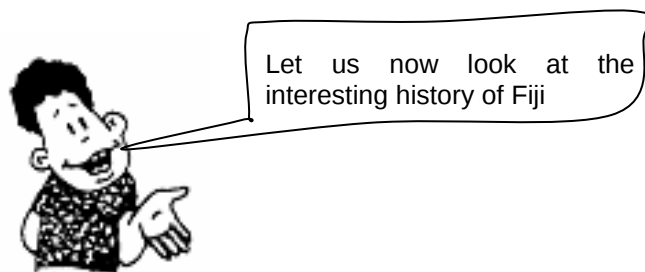


Summary

- Fiji is situated in the Pacific with a total land area of 18, 270 km². The largest islands are Viti Levu and Vanua Levu.
 - Fiji's coastline is 1,129 km with the Capital city Suva, located on the island of Viti Levu.
 - The larger Fiji islands are volcanic with rugged peaks and flat land where the rivers have built deltas.
 - The climate is greatly influenced by winds from the sea as well as the mountain ranges on the two islands.
 - Strong winds such as cyclones are dominant in the region.
 - There are mixed variety of vegetation influenced by climate and they range from forests, grasslands, mangrove forests and coconut trees.
 - There are varieties of fruits, animal life as well as introduced animal species.
 - The ethnic composition of the population reveals more native Fijians and then the Indians, Europeans, other Pacific Islanders, Chinese and others.
 - The main official language is English but Fijian language and Hindi are also major languages spoken.
 - Christianity is the dominant faith followed by Hindu and other minor religions.
-

NOW TURN TO YOUR ASSIGNMENT BOOK AND DO SUBSTRAND TEST 1

Chapter 2 History, Government and Politics



HISTORY

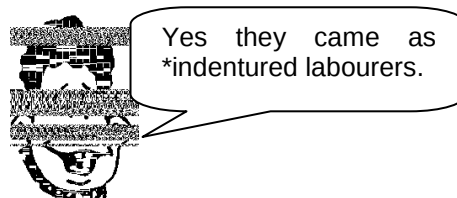
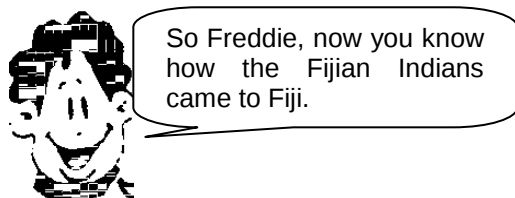
European Exploration

During Fiji's long history, people from different places moved to the islands. Voyagers from the east settled in Fiji at least 2,500 years ago. Some of their descendants later moved on to settle in the Polynesian islands to the west. The first known European contact came when the Dutch navigator Abel Tasman sighted the Fiji group in 1643.

Did you know that English Captain James Cook visited Fiji in 1774? Also, European *sandalwood traders, army deserters, and shipwreck survivors also landed on the islands during the first half of the 19th century,.

During a civil war in the 1850s, Cakobau, the most powerful chief in Fiji, combined forces with the king of Tonga to become paramount chief of western Fiji. In 1871, some 3000 Europeans supported Cakobau's claim to rule as king of all Fiji, but unrest continued. Cakobau's government appealed to Britain for assistance and, on 10 October 1874, Fijian chiefs signed a Deed of Cession making Fiji a British Crown Colony.

From 1879 to 1916, more than 60,000 **indentured** laborers from India arrived to work on European-owned sugar plantations, and by 1920 they had settled as free farmers. Great Britain had plantation colonies in the Pacific and Fiji was one of these. India was already under British colonial rule so Indian labourers were brought to Fiji to help on the sugar-cane plantations. Fiji was under British colonial rule until 1970 when it gained its political independence.



Indentured labourers working in Sugar-Cane Fields



Sugar-Cane Farmer Settlements

Independence and Political Instability

On 10 October 1970, Fiji became a sovereign and independent state within the Commonwealth of Nations, with Kamisese K. T. Mara, as prime minister. He and his majority party won elections in 1972, 1977, and 1982, but lost the April 1987 elections to a coalition of the Indian-based National Federation Party and the Labour Party. Within a month, the government was overthrown by a military coup led by Lieutenant Colonel Sitiveni Rabuka.

After Fiji gained its political independence there was a lot of political problems. Let us find out what these were!



The coup was aimed at restoring political leadership to ethnic Fijians. On 20 May thousands of rioting Fijians attacked Indians. Under a compromise reached the next day, the governor-general temporarily was to head the government, assisted by an 18-member advisory council, including the coup leader and former Prime Minister Mara.



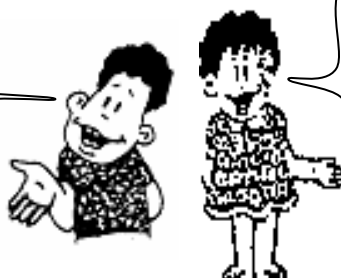
Old Parliament Building

Political Instability and the Coup

On 25 September 1987, however, Colonel Sitiveni Rabuka led a second coup, suspending the constitution, dissolving the parliament, and declared Fiji a republic. The governor-general, Ratu Sir Penaia Ganilau, was appointed president of the republic, and Mara was reappointed prime minister. Full civilian rule returned in January 1990 when Rabuka gave up his position and returned to barracks as head of the armed forces.

The second *coup in 1987 and the adoption of the 1990 *constitution, which favored ethnic Fijian control of the government, led to heavy Indian *emigration, especially among those Indians with sufficient capital to move. This emigration caused serious economic difficulties for Fiji. Then in May of 1992 elections, Rabuka formed a coalition government with the General Voters Party (GVP) and with Fijian Labour Party (FLP), and became prime minister. After President Ganilau's death in December 1993, the Council of Chiefs elected Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara as the new president in January 1994.

When Parliament is ***dissolved** this means that it is adjourned or stopped from operations until a later time. All political powers to function as a parliament are put on hold!



So when parliament was dissolved in Fiji, parliament was adjourned and there was a temporary government in power.

New elections were held in February 1994 with Rabuka forming a coalition government with the GVP. Beginning in 1995, a Constitutional Review Commission spent almost two years to develop a system that would avoid purely ethnic politics. Its recommendations were adopted by Parliament in July 1997. In 1999, parliamentary elections were held that resulted in a government led by Mahendra Chaudhry, leader of the Fiji Labour Party (FLP), who became the first Indian Prime Minister.



Parliament House



- Martial Law- a situation where the army of a country controls an area instead of the police during a time of trouble
- Multi-racial- having many races living together in a community or country
- Hostages – People who are taken and kept against their will
- Civil unrest – a situation where civilians (public) are having riots
- Care taker government- A temporary government in place until government is permanently restored, usually for a certain period of time.
- *Treason is when a citizen of a country betrays his or her country, by being disloyal to his or her own country, e.g. by aiding an enemy, or conspiring to kill a political leader.

REMEMBER to study these terms and understand what they mean.

Political House Arrest

On 19 May 2000, George Speight, a failed businessman and son of Sam Speight, an opposition member of Parliament, took control of Parliament by force and held Prime Minister Chaudhry and most of his multiracial cabinet hostage for 56 days. In exchange for the hostages' release, the military—which imposed **martial law** during the crisis—agreed to replace Chaudhry's government, and to stop Fiji's multiracial constitution. One of Speight's demands was a new constitution that would only permit indigenous Fijians to hold the posts of prime minister and president.



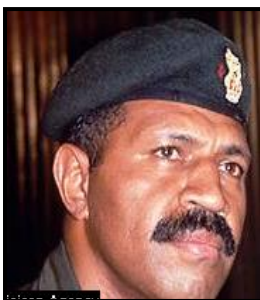
2000 Uprising: Soldiers struggle with Rebel Leader's Supporters

The coup resulted in widespread civil unrest and attacks against ethnic Indians, and caused a drop of 41% in tourism. Speight and 369 of his supporters were arrested in July 2000, and the military installed ethnic Fijian Laisenia Qarase as Prime Minister in a caretaker government. During the coup indigenous Fijians went on riot. The military had to take control of movement of people for a period of time.

In parliamentary elections held in August and September 2001, Qarase was elected prime minister. When Qarase's took over power, almost all his ministers in his new government were indigenous Fijians. In February 2002, the Fijian Supreme Court ruled that Laisenia Qarase had to include ethnic-Indian members of the Fiji Labour Party in his cabinet.



Here are photographs of some of Fiji's famous political leaders.



Sitiveni Rabuka



Timoci Bavandra



Mahaundra Chaundry
Fiji's First Indian Prime Minister



Sir Ratu Se Kamisese Mara
- Fiji's First Prime Minister

Colonel Sitiveni Rabuka became famous worldwide in 1987 when, as a young army officer, he overthrew the democratically elected government of Fiji. In 1990 he instituted a new, racially based constitution that formally excluded from political power all those who were not ethnic Fijians. He later became prime minister. In 1997, however, he allowed a new constitution to be adopted that broadened the political power base in Fiji, and in 1999 he was voted out of power.

One thing we can learn from these series of military coups that happened in Fiji is that the coups really affected Fijians, especially the Fijian Economy. As you have learnt, there was a decline in Fiji's revenue from the Tourism industry and the whole economy.

In fact, the Fijian economy is dominated by the Fijian Indians who operate and own most businesses in Fiji. Even in rural sugar cane farms in Fiji, Fijian Indians make up most of the semi-skilled and skilled labourers'.

When the Coups happened, Many Fijian Indians were affected. They even feared for their lives so they migrated to other countries like Australia and New Zealand. Although a few returned, many decided to settle permanently in other countries

In January 2003, more than 14,000 ethnic Indians left the country since the May 2000 coup, mainly professionals and skilled workers.

Summary

- Fiji had its own experience of European exploration from the 1600s to the 1900s.
- The indentured labourers' arrival in Fiji to work in the sugar cane farms.
- Fiji gained its independence on 10th October 1970 to become a sovereign and independent state.
- Fiji in its history had experienced political instability and coups.
- Many leaders had come and gone due to political problems.
- Martial law was introduced during the coup and political instability period.

NOW TURN TO YOUR ASSIGNMENT BOOK AND DO SUBSTRAND TEST 2

Chapter 3 Economy and Lifestyles

FIJIAN LIFESTYLE

Fijians live a care free life similar to other Pacific countries. The rural settings have rural villages with bush material houses. People live simple sub-sistence lives. Daily activities in the rural setting include gardening, fishing, hunting and other daily routines. Other activities include art and craft and canoe making.



Children Playing In Naval Village

As you will learn later, men and women do separate activities.



Most villagers live a civilised lifestyle, mixing western culture and their traditional culture

Many people from other cultures have always admired Fijian lifestyle and cultures.

Here is an account of a foreigner describing the simple and care-free lifestyle of average Fijians

“One morning I watched women push their boats out into the bay at high tide and set a long net inside the reef. Six hours later, after the tide went out, they walked the shallows with their children in tow, collecting trapped fish. They sat in the water to clean them while the children played. One small boy held a boxy green triggerfish in the air like a toy airplane, then put it in a pool and gave it a push. The fish moved its tail twice, then drifted. The boy laughed with delight.”

So you see this description shows how Fijians are carefree people and so is their lifestyle



Is it similar to your culture?



Subsistence Economy

Fijians who live in villages engage in subsistence farming using traditional agricultural practices. You will find that not only ethnic Fijians live in rural areas but also the Indo – Fijians (Fijian Indians). Some subsistence farmers earn cash from the sale of copra, cocoa, kava, manioc, pineapples, bananas, and fish. There are many Indo-Fijian and Chinese, but many fewer ethnic Fijian, shopkeepers and small-scale businessmen. Tourist services provide a living for some members of all the ethnic groups.



Indo-Fijians Collecting Firewood-Subsistence Way Of Life

The majority of indigenous Fijians who live in rural areas are either subsistence farmers and fishermen or small-scale cash croppers, while in town they are largely in service-providing occupations, as unskilled, semi-skilled, or skilled workers. Rural Indo-Fijians are mostly cane farmers on leased land, while Indo-Fijians largely dominate the manufacturing, distribution, commercial farming, and service industries. Other non-ethnic Fijians and expatriates also have some input in these sectors.

Fiji has one of the most developed of the Pacific island economies, being blessed with forest, mineral, and fish resources, though it remains a developing country with a large subsistence agriculture sector.

Agriculture makes up 18 percent of Gross Domestic Product, although it employs some 70 percent of the workforce as of 2001. Did you know that Sugar exports and a growing tourist industry are the major sources of foreign exchange? We will look at the tourist industry later on in the lesson.

The two largest exports are sugar and garments. Sugar production, begun in 1862, dominates and now engages over half the workforce. A garment industry relies on cheap labor, mostly female. The sugar industry suffered in 1997 due to low world prices and rent disputes between farmers and landowners, and again in 1998 from drought, but recovered in 1999. Sugar cane processing makes up one-third of industrial activity; coconuts, ginger, and copra are also significant.

The only commercially valuable mineral is gold, which has declined in importance since 1940. Commercial agriculture consists of the production of copra, rice, cocoa, coffee, sorghum, fruits and vegetables, tobacco, and kava. Foodstuff, machinery, mineral fuels, beverages, tobacco, and manufactured goods are the major imports.

Forestry became important as an export trade in the mid-1980s, when the pine plantations planted in the 1950s and 1960s began to mature.

Study the Pictorial Table (table with pictures) below showing you the economy of Fiji. The table shows the ranking of the economy of Fiji since 2000.

PICTORIAL TABLE SHOWING THE ECONOMY OF FIJI

	Rank	Currency :	Dollar (FJD) = 100 Cents
		Rate of exchange (Sept.2004)	1 Euro = 2.17 Dollars (FJD)
	rank	GDP (Gross Domestic Product), 2002 :	1.83 billion dollars
	rank	GDP per capita, 2002 :	2158 dollars
	rank	GNP (Gross National Product), 2005 :	2.78 billion dollars
	rank	GNP per capita, 2005 :	3278 dollars



By looking at these figures you can be able to compare Fiji with other countries like Papua New Guinea.



Now let us look at one of the most important sectors that make up Fiji's economy - Agriculture

Agriculture

Since Fiji is a developing country, its economy is similar to other developing countries, having most of its revenue generated from the primary sectors. Agriculture plays a very important role in the economy.

In 2001, agriculture included about 30 percent of Fiji's export earnings. More than three-quarters of all households engage in agriculture, livestock production, forestry, or fishing. In 2001, sugar exports accounted for about 21percent (\$112.2 million) of total exports and 70 percent of agricultural exports.

Fijians own the lands, but Indians farm it and produce about 90 percent of Fiji's sugar. Cane is processed into raw sugar by the Fiji Sugar Corporation, which is 68 percent owned by the government. The sugar industry is vital to the national economy; as such, the government plays a leading role in all aspects of its production and sale.

Production of copra and coconuts in 1999 was 12,000 tons and 209,000 tonnes, respectively; paddy rice output was 18,000 tonnes.



Collecting Coconuts for Copra at Vure Vure Estate-Tavuni

Drying coconut kernels is a common activity in Fiji. The white meat of coconuts is spread on the ground to dry according to traditional method. Exposure to air and sun yields copra, a valuable island export. Crushed copra in turn produces coconut oil, which first found a market in Europe in the mid-19th century and is now found in many food products and cosmetics. The pulp residue will be used as livestock fodder.

Fishing

The fishing industry has expanded in recent years, and a new cannery has increased tuna exports. Barracuda, mackerel, and mullet are other principal species caught. In the early 1980s, several new fish farms began to produce carp, prawns, oysters, eels, and mussels. In 2000, prepared and preserved fish exports were valued at \$34.2 million.



Women Drying Coconut Kernels



Local Fishermen

Mining

The mining industry of Fiji contributed 3 percent to the GDP, all of it from gold, the only metallic mineral recovered in Fiji in 2001. Gold was the third-leading export commodity in 2002, generating 6 percent of Fiji's foreign exchange. Gold has been mined and exported continuously since 1933.

Other industries are tourism, sugar, clothing, and gold mining. The largely government-owned Fiji Sugar Corporation has a monopoly on sugar milling and marketing. There is a rum distillery at Lautoka.



Sugar Cane Farming

The major export items are sugar, fish, gold, and garments. The main export destinations are Australia, New Zealand, Malaysia, and Singapore. Imports include mutton and goat meat from New Zealand and a wide-range of consumer goods, principally of East Asian origin.

Fiji's industry is based primarily on processing of agricultural products, mainly sugarcane and coconut, and on mining and processing of gold and silver. Other major product groups are processed foods, and garments. In 2001 sugar production fell 14% to 293,000 cubic tons.

Beef production was some 8,900 tons in 2001; pork, 3,870 tons; and goat meat, 950 tons. A breed of sheep highly adapted to the tropics was introduced in 1980. Fiji's poultry production was 8,420 tons in 2001, and egg production was 2,668 tons that same year.

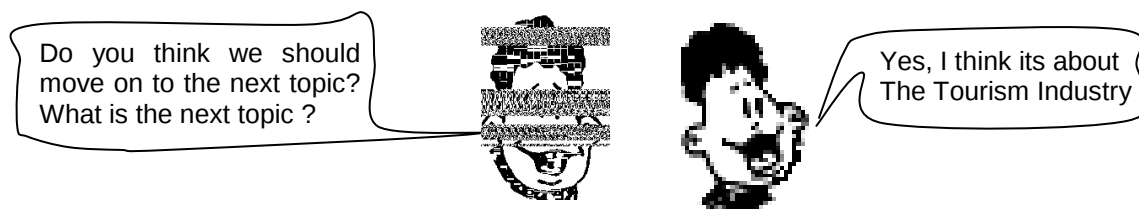
TRADE

Fiji has several large trading corporations and hundreds of small traders. The corporations own retail stores, inter island ships, plantations, hotels, travel services, copra-crushing mills, and breweries. Small enterprises range from a single tailor or shopkeeper to larger family businesses, most of which are operated by Indians or Chinese.

Foreign Trade

Like most developing countries that export primarily basic commodities, Fiji is affected by world wide market price fluctuations.

The development of existing industries has been made possible largely by foreign investment. Fiji continues to promote overseas investment through the Fiji Trade and Investment Board because it requires foreign goods and services to meet many of its domestic needs, including domestic employment.



TOURISM INDUSTRY

Tourism is a very important industry in Fiji's economy, as it generates most of Fiji's revenue exports every year.



Beautiful Fiji Soft Coral Gardens

The island of Fiji is a perfect tourist destination and is packed with many things to do. The Mamanuca Islands are a series of over thirty smaller islands that offer luxury resorts. Tourists can visit many of the other islands on a day cruise and enjoy coral reefs, uninhabited islands, a day at a luxury spa or take a picnic on one of the islands. Tourists can also engage in dolphin watching, fishing and snorkelling off the coast of Malolo Barrier Reef.

This is a description by a foreign tourist of the natural beauty of Fiji

"One afternoon I went for a dive off the island of Taveuni, near Vanua Levu, then went ashore with the boat captain's son. In the bush we picked a bag of wild limes and a handful of hot chilies and stuffed our pockets with lemon leaves. Back on the boat we made lemon tea. On the way home our trolling line caught dinner—a four-foot mahimahi(fish) Later I dived even deeper into Fijian life and traveled two and a half days by boat from Viti Levu to Lakeba, the largest island in Fiji's Lau Group, a collection of about 60 low volcanic and limestone islands strung out along a north-south line. Here are spectacular beaches with thick groves of palm trees—classic images of paradise."



Tropical Paradise-Coconut Palms Line the Secluded White Sand Beaches of Fiji

"Whether you're a backpacker or a jetsetter, Fiji is your kinda place. It's friendly, romantic and fun! Watersports are very popular as Fiji has some of the cleanest seawater on the planet. Coral reefs surround most Fiji islands and the water is comfortable, even in winter.

What makes the beautiful resorts so much fun is that you cannot escape socializing with the other travelers. You get to meet travelers from Europe, NZ, the US, South America & of course Australia.

The Fijians ensure everyone is cared for and happy. The food ranges from good to excellent, although if you're used to American style portions, you might be disappointed because they don't usually offer second helpings in the cheaper places. The more pricey places like to do buffets where you can stuff yourself. "



The Pool Seashell Cove Resort the Home of Scuba Bula



Beautiful Island of Taveuni

Fiji has some beautiful coral reefs. There are thousands of coral reefs all over the islands for scuba diving and snorkelling. Some of the most popular reefs are the Rainbow Reef in the north and the Astrolabe Reef in the south. Ferries transport tourists from island to island, for example the famous Yasawa coral islands.

I wonder what a ferry is.....



It is a boat making regular short crossings: used to transport passengers, vehicles, or goods across water, especially one operating regularly across a river or narrow channel



Here are pictures of snorkelling and scuba-diving –The Fiji way!



Snorkelling



Scuba Diving

***Snorkelling** is a great way to see tropical fish. You float on the top of the water and breathe through a snorkel. One end of the snorkel tube fits in your mouth, and the other end sticks above the water. People can explore the many wonders of the oceans by ***Scuba Diving** below the surface with oxygen tanks.

There are also daily sightseeing tours available by helicopter and seaplane. Most islands can be reached within a minimal amount of time and offer breathtaking views of waterfalls and reefs. Fiji has spectacular waterfalls.

There are optional side excursions available to the Nausori Highlands inland from Nadi, which is home to some beautiful vegetation and wildlife.



Waisila Falls near the Capital, Suva

There are many forms of tourism in Fiji. Let us take a brief description of one just to give us fair idea of tourism in Fiji



Kadavu Islands – Thatched Houses

Kadavu Island is home south of Suva and is another tropical setting for a fabulous vacation in the Fiji Islands. Kaduva Diving is the most popular activity due to the islands diversity of undersea life. The perfect spot for Kadavu diving is at Astrolabe Reef. Kadavu Island is also known for its the rainforest. The rainforest has magnificent flora and fauna and the beautiful birds that call Kadavu Island home, for example, the endangered species- the Kadavu Musk Parrot.

Other important tourist destinations include:

- The Mamuanca Islands, a collection of over 30 small islands located off the coast of Nadi, are one of the highlights of any trip to Fiji. Some tours even offer opportunities to go snorkeling, kayaking line fishing and dolphin watching.
- The Coral Coast on "the mainland" of Viti Levu is speckled with lovely resorts and pristine white sands, for example, Natadola Beach,
- Bouma National Park, located on Taveuni Island, is a stunning tropical rainforest of 15,000 hectares, complete with high sea cliffs, cove beaches, waterfalls, and even 1,000 foot volcanic peaks.
- The Scuba Bula Dive Centre 5-Star dive resort offers excellent diving on some of the highest, most unspoiled, undamaged reefs in the world. The Centre actually has 22 dive sites, for tourists to enjoy all types of dives, including caves, canyons, wall dives, and swim-throughs. Another Dive centre is Aqua-Trek Shark Encounter. In just one dive, visitors can encounter eight species of shark and nearly 300 species of fish!
- The Sri Siva Subramaniya Temple, located in Nadi, Viti Levu, is the largest Hindu temple in the southern hemisphere, and reflects a unique, architectural design rarely seen outside of India.



Tourism is an important service and industry in Fiji. What is another important service in Fiji?

I think it is Media and Communication. Let us now look at this!



MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION

Because Fiji has many small islands radio communication is very important. Radio is a key source of information, particularly on the outer islands. There are publicly and privately-owned stations. BBC World Service and Radio Australia FM relays were shut down under the 2009 state of emergency.

Television is another means of communication to reach the outer parts of the islands in the country. It ranges from free to air channels to commercial channels.

Summary

- Most Fijians live a simple care free life in rural settings.
 - Those who engaged in subsistence agriculture live in villages.
 - Their occupation varies from subsistence farmers, cash croppers. Semi-skilled or skilled workers with Indo-Fijians largely involved in manufacturing commercial farming and service industries.
 - Agriculture is an important sector in the economy with other sectors like forestry, fishing and mining also seen as major contributors in the gross national product.
 - Fiji has several trading corporations owned and operated mainly by the Indians and Chinese.
 - Fiji exports mainly basic primary commodities and its trade is affected by the world market prices.
 - Fiji depends on its tourism industry as a major source of income generating sector.
 - Fiji has the best coral reefs, dive sites and resorts that attract tourists.
 - Media and communication does play an important role in the Fijian community.
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NOW TURN TO YOUR ASSIGNMENT BOOK AND DO SUBSTRAND TEST 3

Chapter 4 Culture



CULTURE

The culture of Fiji is a mixture of fascinating ancient rituals and traditions. Legendary events say that the great chief Lutunasobasoba came and led his people across the new destination of Fiji. Some believe that people from South East Asia visited this Pacific Islands through Indonesia. Fijian culture is a great combination of the Melanesians and the Polynesians and they are responsible for creating a highly developed society even before the arrival of the Europeans.



The Peaceful Villages of the Fiji show Fijian Culture



Picture Potraying Culture and Tourism – Fijian Life

Fiji's culture is a mixture of indigenous Fijian, Indian, European, Chinese, and other nationalities. Elements of Fijian culture are found in traditions, language, food, costume, belief system, architecture, arts, craft, music, dance and sports.

The indigenous culture is an active and living part of everyday life of Fijians. However, it has evolved with the introduction of cultures including Indian, Chinese and European culture, and various cultures from the Pacific neighbors of Fiji; in particular the Tongan and Rotuman cultures. The culture of Fiji, including traditions, hierarchy and language, has created a unique communal and national identity.

When it comes to Fijian culture, the Fijian people treasure their beautiful natural environment which is a part of their culture as well. Fiji beaches are diverse in their

terrain, and of course, many other beautiful physical features offer the beat of Fiji's scenery and beautiful geographical landscape. This is part of Fijian Culture and way of life.

Fiji Society

Fiji Society is a mixture of culturally diversified peoples who tend to be warm hearted and gentle citizens. Fiji Islanders are warm people and friendly and their culture.



Fijian Children Having Fun - Care-Free Life

Tradition, Hierarchy and Class Society

Fijian indigenous society is very communal. This means that everything is based on community sharing and great importance is attached to the family unit, the village, and the *vanua* (land). A hierarchy of chiefs control and take charge over villages, clans, and tribes. Chiefly positions are hereditary. Once a chief dies leadership is given to kinsman or kinswoman, his own son or daughter. This is a common practice in Polynesian and other Melanesian societies.

The largest social unit for Fijians is the *Yavusa*,. Leadership is passed from older brother/sister to younger brother/sister, after the death of their father/mother. When the youngest brother/sister dies, the eldest son/daughter of the eldest brother/sister became chief. This tradition still influences Fijian society today, though not so strict. Each brother/sister in the family then formed his or her own branch of the *yavusa*, called the *Mataqali*. The *mataqali* are subdivided into *Tokatoka*, each comprising closely related families.

Several *mataqali* comprise a village, several of which form a *yavusa* or district. The British colonial rulers combined the districts into *Yasana*, or Provinces. The districts also form three *Matanitu*, or *Confederacies*.

As you can see all of this is similar to Papua New Guinean societies. In many Papua New Guinean societies we also have the same form of leadership where inheritance influences leadership, for example in the Trobriand Islands this is common.

Traditions and Ceremony

Protocol and good manners (Etiquette – pronounced *eti-cett*) in indigenous Fijian ceremony is complex. In every Fijian society or community, respect must be maintained

between communal groups as it strengthens social, tribal and family ties. Various cultural symbols and items are used in ceremony.

There are certain ways you have to behave in front of Fijians. Take a look at the example below.

Kava, known in Fiji as Yaqona, is Fiji's national drink or beverage. Traditionally, it was used only in important ceremonies. Nowadays, it is a social drink. There is a strict rule associated with yaqona drinking. One should clap once, clasp the hands, take the cup, and drink the yaqona in a single draft before returning the cup to the bearer, clapping three times, and saying the word maca (pronounced: maPa).



Kava (Yaqona) Ceremony

Fiji People

Fiji people are originally dark skinned races of Melanesian origin and they are mainly dominant in the western Islands and comprises of half the population of Fiji. Eastern Islands on the other hand has a large number of Polynesians and these two races form the main portion of Fiji People. Other small races include the Indians, Chinese, Europeans and Micronesians.

People of Fiji are very warm hearted and that may be the other reason for Fiji to be such a beautiful country.



People relax alongside a creek that runs through downtown suva, the capital of the fiji islands.

Fiji Clothing

Fiji is climatically very soothing as it has tropical climate and moderate temperatures so the Fiji clothing is very cool and light.

Traditional Fiji Clothing known as “Sulu” is very handy and is quite similar to pareau or sarong. One dress can be worn at least in ten different forms and are worn by both men and women. Fiji men wear these skirts to schools, events, and workplace and also prefer them on special occasions. Women mostly wear skirts and the elder ladies prefer floor length skirts. Short length skirts and dresses are the choice of the young ladies.



Sulu worn in 1800s

Did you know that type of sulu worn by both men and women is the 'Sulu va Taga' pronounced Sulu vah Tanga which is a wrap around piece of rectangular material which is elaborately decorated with patterns and designs of varying styles?



Many men, especially in urban areas, also have Sulu va taga which is a tailored sulu. Many will wear a shirt with a western-style collar, tie, and jacket, with a matching Sulu va taga and sandals.

Fiji Language

Language is widely spoken and it's a mixture of different dialects. English is a common Language of Fiji and almost everyone speaks English in Fiji Island. Fiji has three official languages and they are English, Bau Fijian and Hindustani but English is the main medium of communication in Fiji and it is used in education medium, commerce and in courts. The Fijians, however, have the right to communicate in any of their three official languages. The national indigenous language is Bauan which is only one of the many dialects that exist in the Fiji Group, each of the fourteen provinces more or less have their own dialect though there is a clear distinction between the dialects of the West, Central and Eastern parts of the country.

Other languages spoken in the country are Hindi, Cantonese, Rotuman, Gilbertese (Rabi Island), and Tuvaluan (Kioa Island). The Fiji Islands are traditionally linked to their island neighbours Rotuma, Tonga and Samoa, and this is evident in the culture and dialects of the Northern and Eastern provinces being Cakaudrove, Bua, Macuata, and Lau.

Fiji Art

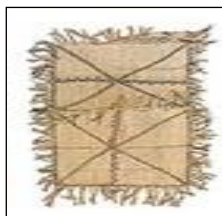
Fiji Art is the complete presentation of the Fiji's Culture. Fiji's arts and crafts reflect local adaptations of their Polynesian and Melanesian heritage and also provide glimpses of ancient Pacific cultures and Fiji's fascinating past.

Fiji's art is uniquely displayed either in a form of souvenir or in the shape of beautifully crafted wooden handicrafts. Fiji art and craft vary. Some good pieces are crafted out and are used locally in the Fijian ceremonies.



Fijians weaving coconut baskets

The weaving material of Fiji Art is done from two sources namely Pandanus and Coconut. The process of weaving is quite lengthy and it usually takes number of days before the materials are ready to be weaved. Weaving is an important part of Fiji Art and beautiful variety of mats, everyday baskets; hats etc. are the outcome from these Pandanus and Coconuts. Another significant souvenir of Fiji Art is “The Tapa Cloth material” and its origin is from the mulberry leaves



Bark Cloth



Dress & Adornment



Daily Life



Ritual & Religion



War & Warfare

Did you know that
By tradition, the
men's and
women's crafts are
separate?



Yes, women are
engaged in Pottery and
other types of weaving.



Women's Crafts

Women are involved in pottery. Our own women in Papua New Guinea are also involved in pottery and weaving. The village of Na lotu on Kadavu Island is famous for its pottery. Nadroga and Rewa also produce fine pottery. Each region has its own unique style in the making of pottery.

The making of *tapa*, or ***masi***, is another craft associated with women. Tapa is made from the bark of the paper mulberry tree and decorated in charcoal with symbolic designs and various patterns. *Masi* are often exchanged as gifts on formal occasions. The island of Vatulele of the southern coast of Viti Levu is famous for its *masi* products.

Most Fijian mats are made from the leaves of the pandanus tree. The long process of preparation includes scraping and boiling the leaves, and drying them in the sun. There are different mats used for different occasions, and some are made as gifts for formal occasions such as weddings. Most mats are bordered with highly decorative and brightly coloured wool. One well-known Fijian mat is the kuta, made by women in Vanua Levu.

Weaving using various materials was another craft generally mastered by the women but also aspects of weaving were mastered only by the men, various types of weaving practiced were and still are; basket weaving, coconut rope weaving, coconut leaves weaving.



Pottery Making



Products - Clay Pots

Well, you can see that in other Pacific Island women make clay pots too



Men's Crafts

Carving was practiced by the men; carving would be used for items of practical use and simple shapes and design were used. A lot of effort was put into well adorned weapons and items for the home and ceremony.

Drua.-Canoe Building was another art practiced only by the men.



Canoes were important in all aspects of Fijian society, from the gathering of food and transporting of crops to use in presentation ceremonies. Also, they were influential in wars and politics which were common in Fiji.-The art of Canoe building was varied across the islands and had several different types but of a similar design.

The most extraordinary of canoes in Fiji were that of the Drua, which was one of the most elaborate and beautiful artifacts of Oceania. The Drua was a double hulled gigantic canoe, a masterpiece of design and craftsmanship, requiring total community involvement in its construction. It was capable of carrying upward of one hundred and fifty warriors and took some 6 to 7 years to build. It would vary in length from 100 feet to 118 feet and have a mast height of 60 to 70 feet, in the mid 19th century the following accounts were recorded:



Traditionally Fijians were great builders and architects.. They even built complex traditional structures

Let us now study Fijian architecture.



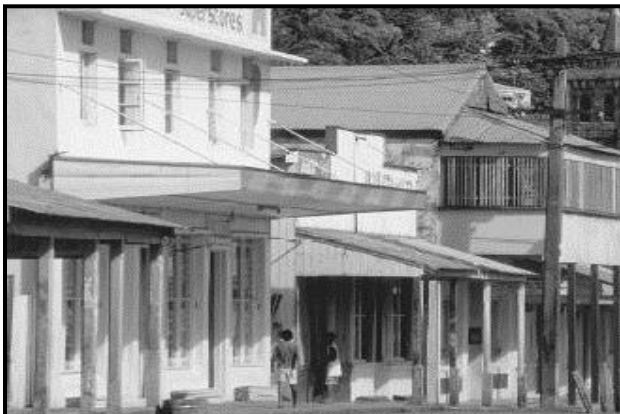
Traditional Fijian Architecture, A *Bure Kalou*, A sketch done in the early 1800's

Fijian Architecture

In Old Fiji, the **architecture** of villages was simple and practical to meet the physical and social need. Also houses were built to provide communal safety, so the houses were square in shape and with pyramid like shaped roofs.

Fijians built their houses in a similar fashion to Papua New Guineans. The walls and roof were thatched and various plants of practical use were planted nearby, each village having a meeting house and a Spirit house. The spirit house was raised on a pyramid like base built with large stones and earth, again a square building with a stretched out as a pyramid like roof.

In present day Fiji, you will also find that there are many old buildings that were built during colonial days, especially built during the British colonial rule in 1800s. Below is an example of an old architectural colonial-style building and also a traditional Fijian house.



Old Colonial Buildings



Modern Day Fijian Bure

With the introduction of communities from Asia aspects of their cultural architecture are now evident in urban and rural areas of Fiji's two main Islands Viti Levu and Vanua Levu. A village structure shares similarities today but built with modern materials and spirit houses (*Bure Kalou*) have been replaced by churches of varying design.

Fiji Music

Fiji music is the combination of the traditional Melanesian and Polynesian music. Another important part of the Fijian music includes vocal church music accompanied by the traditional dance forms. The Fijian's commonly used musical instruments are guitar, mandolin, ukulele along with traditional indigenous musical instruments such as the lali drums.

Most Fijian music is indigenous and displays the social parts of the Fiji Culture. The toughest and complex form is "Meke". In this music, both voice and dance are combined. Co-ordination is an important factor in Meke and the men perform energetic lively and active dance patterns while the women display graceful dance postures and body movement.

Fiji Music Composition often varies but it is composed in the very western style of music. Traditional and ritual patterns are followed while composing the Fiji Music. Thus the Fiji Music is a reflection of the Fijian culture and tradition and it is shown in war songs, spear dances.

Music of Old Fiji consisted of various chants which often told a story or preserved information to be passed on from generation to generation

With the introduction of European and Asian cultures, music in Fiji has evolved and songs sung in the Fijian vernacular are popular. Songs are also sung in Indian and English languages. Some local artists mix all three languages and traditional instruments from each culture producing very interesting musical experience.



REMEMBER, the men also dance the famous Meke dance.



Women Perform the Fijian Meke-Lau, A Sitting Dance.

Fiji Food and Cuisine

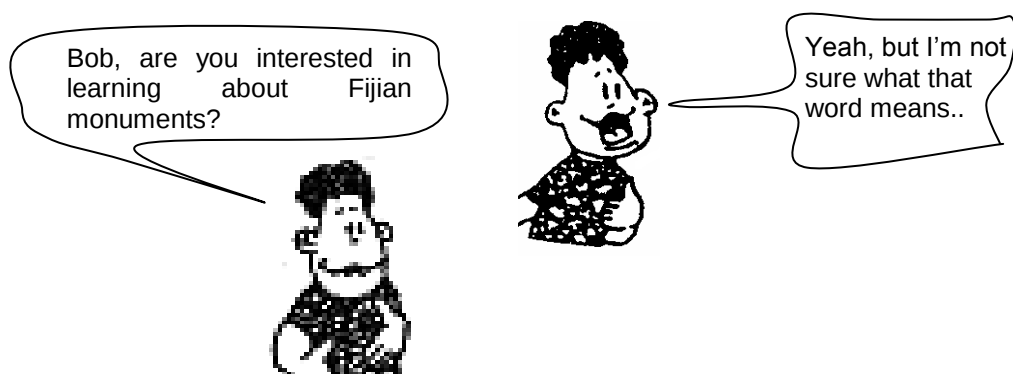
The **cuisine** of Fiji in pre-colonial times consisted of root crops, vegetables, and fruits, as well as wild pig and various birds. The coastal tribes would have had the same, but also had a large amount of local seafood prepared with local herbs and spices on wood fire rock ovens.

Most cooking areas were located in the center of house so the smoke would repel insects and strengthen the roof thatching. Another popular method of cooking, which is still used today, is the lovo which is an earth oven^[12]—a fire made on in a pit in the ground lined with heat-resistant stones. It closely resembles the **hangi** of the New Zealand Māori and

Papua New Guinea *mumu*. Dishes cooked this way include palusami, parcels of taro leaves saturated with coconut milk, onions, and sometimes tinned meat.

Fijian food are prepared mainly in traditional style, and you are sure to get the smell of the Fiji culture in them. The native Fijians along with the Indo-Fijians prefer to use their hands while eating and mostly the Fiji Food is eaten on the floor and the members sit on the mat. Traditional Fiji dishes are incredibly delicious and unique and it mainly consists of rice, sweet potatoes, taro, cassava, coconut and fish. International cuisines are available in Fiji but the popular Fiji food is mainly local Fijian dishes along with Indian delicacies. Some of the national specialties of Fiji food are: Kakoda, Duruka, Lovo, Rourou and Breadfruit.

Did you know that the national and the most popular drink of Fiji is “yaqona” or kava known by the natives of Fiji. The flavor of “Kava” is peppery and earthy and this unique drink is prepared from the root of the pepper plant. The preparation of kava is done by drying the roots in the sun and then pounded to make it powdery. After that it is mixed with water and is strained before drinking and it looks like muddy water. Among all this process pounding the kava is a hard task. Kava is consumed as tea from the ancient times. Kava is often prepared and drunk from half of a coconut shell type cup called as “bilo”.



Monument is a worthy reminder of something or a place that is designed and built as a lasting tribute to a person, group or event

There are many interesting places in Fiji that have monuments that have been preserved for a long time. Here are some described below.

Sigatoka Sandunes National Park, Coral Coast

This 4-mile stretch of large windswept sandunes along the coast is a protected environment administered by the National Trust of Fiji. The park has a very informative visitor centre about the ancient inhabitants, for example, Pottery sherd from the Lapita Era (1000 years ago). Several archaeological finds have revealed ancient fishing settlements.

Tavuni Hill Fort, Coral Coast

This important archaeological site with its preserved foundations has ceremonial sites showing insight into how life used to be in Fiji's past.

Taveuni attractions include natural beauty, historical Fijian monuments, and various activities. One such monument is the The Warrior Burial Cave. Before Europeans discovered the Fiji Islands, Fijians used the cave as a secret burial cave for their esteemed warriors. Shortly after the cave was found in the 1950's many of the large bones were removed.

Another historical monument is the Taveuni Catholic mission also known as the Wairiki Mission. The mission is a home on the edge of a beautiful coconut plantation.



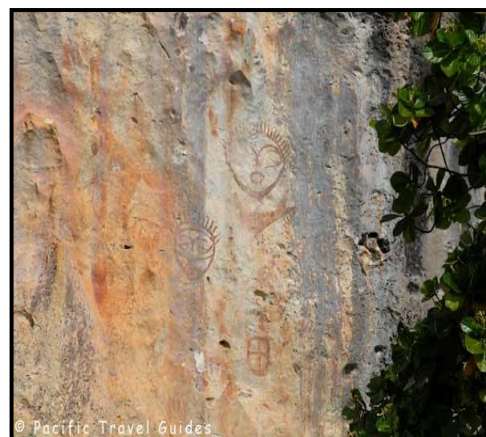
Did you know that Rock paintings are also famous monuments found in Fiji?

Umm...interesting, so where exactly are they located?



Ancient rock paintings can be seen on Vatulele in the Southern Islands. There are two separate sites. One is 20 meters up on a cliff face and depicts human-like figures and hand impressions. The other, at the opening to an inland cave, shows numerous hand impressions. There are also rock paintings in the caves on Sawa-i-Lau in the Yasawa Group.

Also, The Fiji Museum in Suva, Viti Levu, has an excellent display of ornaments from the past as well as some larger objects like traditional canoes. There's a Cultural Centre at Pacific Harbour which has displays of Fiji's past and present culture.



Rock Paintings

Sports Culture



Sport is a culture in itself in Fiji. In Fiji, people treasure their sporting activities and events

There are others you can read and research more on if you are interested, like the *Tiqā* and the *Veisolo*.



Sport is very much a culture of Fijian society. Sports in Pre-colonial Fiji or old Fiji had a practical place, apart from recreation, helping to train young warriors. One such practice would have the older men bring the male children a severely injured captive of war, allowing the boys to practice their archery skills against this living target. One example of old Fiji sports is the Veisaga- form of wrestling the Fijian style.

Sports have developed greatly over the past 2 decades in Fiji with a wide variety of sports undertaken, Fiji is most well known for its prowess in the Game of Rugby and in particular Rugby 7's. Rugby union is very popular in Fiji. The highest level of competition is the Colonial Cup. The national team also competes in international tournaments.

We all know that the Fijian Rugby Sevens team is constantly one of the top two or three teams in the world, often the premier team. Soccer was a minor sport but over the last decade with further international funding from FIFA and sound local management of the sport has grown in popularity amongst the Indian community initially but now also the

Fijian community. There are many other sports in Fiji and in many ways has its on cultural following, sports such as golf, netball, cricket, surfing, windsurfing and so on.



Cultural Events and Festivals are very important in Fijian Culture. You can read about these important festivals later on

Cultural Festivals

There are many different cultural events that occur annually in Fiji. We all know that festivals are important elements of culture. In Fiji, cultural festivals are very important part of Fijian culture. Every town in the Fiji Islands have their own week long Fijian festival at different times but the two most popular are the Bula Festival and the “Hibiscus Festival”.



Polynesian Dancers Perform in Fiji



Fijian Women Performing the Meke

The Bula Fiji Festival is held in Nadi the middle of July each year. During this unique and exciting Fiji event, you will be able to enjoy all the fun and happiness of the locals, watch the parades and even see Miss Bula crowned. The locals come out in style dressed in cultural attire dancing and singing for this festive time.

There are also other historical events that are remembered and celebrated in Fiji. These are either due to respect for explorers, founders, other contributors to the islands, or religious. One such historical event in Fiji that includes a Fijian festival is honoring Ratu Sir Lala Sukuna, who was the father of modern day Fiji. The celebration is held at the last Monday of May to commemorate the death of this founder of modern day Fiji.

The entire week leading up to this day is marked by many Fiji festivals throughout all the islands. On the final day of the Fijian festival, an address is given by the President of Fiji along with residents entering the parliament grounds in order to polish Ratu Sir Lala Sukuna statue.



Can you guess what this cultural festival or event is?



NOW let us look at the other issues and concerns we have in Fiji, for eg. Environmental issues



Yeah! There are so many problems and issues we will look at!

Environment Issues

Fiji is just like any other developing country. It has its share of challenges and problems. One of the major issues is the Environment.

The people of Fiji have relied on the coastal zone for their survival. The increase in population, urbanisation, industrial and economic development over the years has placed increasing pressure on coastal resources leading to environmental problems such as loss of habitats. According to a study by UNCED (the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development), the main environmental problems that were highlighted are as follows:

- Urbanisation with the resulting waste disposal problems and pressure on peri-urban marginal agricultural land
- The potential effects of **global warming**
- Soil erosion caused by increased planting on steep slopes and logging
- Land conversion for agricultural uses
- Lack of long term land tenure
- Use of **pesticides** with little surveillance
- Problem with solid waste disposal and littering in urban areas
- Lack of recycling
- **Deforestation** due to large commercial agriculture or rural development projects
- Potential environmental hazards from gold, sand and coral mining
- Production of toxic chemicals and other wastes by the sugar industry

The main challenges to the environment in Fiji are deforestation, soil erosion, and pollution.



Poorly disposed rubbish in Fiji

Over the last 20 years or so, 30 percent of Fiji's forests have been removed by logging companies. The rainfall pattern, the location of agricultural areas, and inadequate agricultural methods contribute to the loss of valuable soils. Fiji is also concerned about rising sea levels due to global warming. As you know global warming is caused by the burning of fossil fuels in the industrial world. You will learn more about Climate Change in Grade 8 Project 2.

The land and water supply are polluted by pesticides and chemicals used in the sugar and fish processing industries. The nation has about 6.9 cu mi (cubic millilitres) of water with roughly 60 percent used for farming purposes and 20 percent used for industrial activity.



Other important issues are natural disasters that cause damage and cost millions of dollars!

Drought in 1998 further damaged the sugar industry, but its recovery in 1999 contributed to healthy GDP (Gross Domestic Product) growth. Further damage to the economy (estimated at US\$30 million) was created by a cyclone that hit the northern island of Vanua Levu in January 2003. Apart from the economic damage, there were food shortages and outbreaks of diseases due to the pollution of the water supply.

Cyclones and Hurricanes

Because of Fiji's geographical location and climate, it is always exposed to cyclones and hurricanes. This is why it experiences a lot of natural disasters like cyclones and hurricanes.

Here is an account of descriptions of Cyclone Martin and Hurricane.

Mernacing Martin

But as we have seen the weather occasionally turns nasty. Here is how fifth December Debbie Black remembered cyclone Martin in 1986.

It smashed down a few of the neighbours' houses so they lived a real night of terror. Our house only suffered minor damage but Martin still terrified us. In the morning after the cyclone our whole neighborhood was devastated.... All the huge trees were ripped up roots and all, the place was just a real mess, power lines were down everywhere and you couldn't see very far because of the huge trees that had fallen



Homeless Family Affected By the Cyclone

Below is an article on natural Hazard in Fiji

Natural hazards and the economy

Hurricanes and droughts are a constant problem in Fiji. The two most important industries **sugar** and **tourism** can be badly affected. Here is an account from the *Far Eastern Economic Review* of what happened in 1983.

More than 17 000 of the country's 22 000 cane growers were in need of government relief as the drought killed even their subsistence crops. The drought had set in when in March Hurricane Oscar roared in to devastate southwestern Viti Levu, Fiji's main tourist resort area. 'The worst for 50 years' is how Mara described Oscar.

As well as adding to sugar woes, it smashed several major hotels, knocking out 685 of a total of 4000 hotel rooms, destroyed 10 000 houses, schools and other buildings, eliminated telecommunications and destroyed more than 6000 hectares of trees planted by the Fiji Pine Commission — a loss with a potential value of tens of millions of dollars. More than 100 000 people needed government rations for three months because Oscar destroyed their food gardens.²

Mans activities have also become an issue because of the **impact** on the Environment!



Over use of land leads to Deforestation and Soil Erosion...Deforestation causes destruction to animal and plant habitats...Pollution is also a concern!



What can be done to protect the Environment? Fiji's natural environment is protected by the National Trust, which under the 1981–85 development plan began to establish national parks to conserve the island's unspoiled landscape, reefs, and waters, as well as indigenous flora and fauna. As of 2001, four species of mammal, nine types of birds, six species of reptiles and one type of amphibian were considered endangered, as were 64 of Fiji's 1,600-plus plant species. ***Threatened species** include the Fiji banded iguana and crested iguana, the Fiji petrel, the insular flying-fox, and the Samoan flying-fox. The bar-winged rail has become extinct.

There are many other issues that affect Fijian society. These are social issues!



Many of these issues are similar to those found in PNG and other developing countries



Social Issues

Homelessness

A June 2003 survey showed a disturbingly high percentage of squatters - about one in ten Fijian citizens. An estimated 82,350 individuals in 13,725 households lived in 182 squatter settlements, with Suva and Nausori being the worst-affected areas. The number of squatter settlements had increased 14 percent since January 2001, and 73 percent since 1996. Urban migration, unemployment, the expiry of land leases, and the breakdown of nuclear and extended families were among the factors blamed for the trend. The report estimated the population of squatters to grow to 90,000 in the Suva-Nausori corridor by 2006. On 14 September, Prime Minister Qarase said that the squatter problem had become so serious that the government was looking overseas for funding.

What are some other social problems? Violent crime, alcohol and drug abuse, undisciplined and troublesome youths, unwanted pregnancy, and poor health are the major social problems. They have increased in frequency as a result of migration to urban centers, where work is hard to find. Theft and assault are the major crimes. These are common problems that are found in other developing countries. For instance, in Papua New Guinea, in our urban towns and cities petty theft, daylight robbery and highly organised armed robbery are major crimes and are definitely on the rise.

Labour Rights

Garment workers, who are mainly female, are paid a lower wage than that set for other workers. Domestic abuse appears to be on the increase partially due to economic hardship, and an active women's rights movement is addressing the issue.

Ethnic Rights

The government clearly promotes the rights of ethnic Fijians over that of other ethnic groups. Ethnic Fijians dominate in senior government positions and in the ownership of

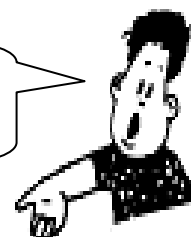
land. Although Indo-Fijians may be found in senior positions in the private sector, few are in government. Indo-Fijians are sometimes subject to discrimination. Human rights abuses are occasionally reported. However, Fiji's major human problem remains discrimination against ethnic minorities.

REMEMBER, Ethnic Problems are to do with differences and conflicts among cultural groups and races.



Economic problems are common in developing countries. Fiji's economic problems are similar to problems found in PNG. Some of Fiji's economic problems were caused by the coups!

Let us look at some economic problems now.



Economic Problems

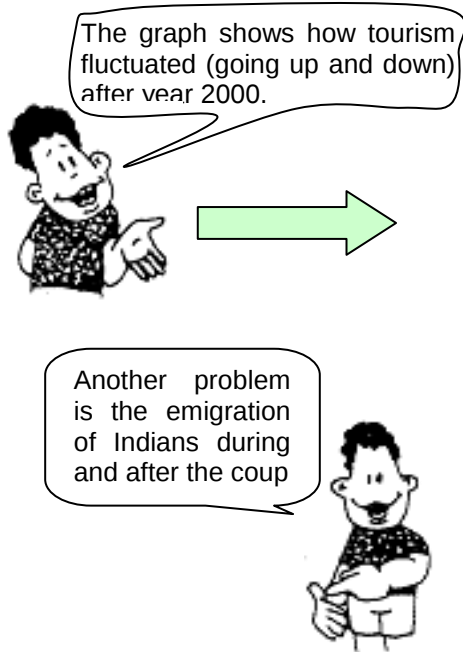
Fiji's economic difficulties have been compounded by the effects of three coups over the last two decades.

Tourism Decline

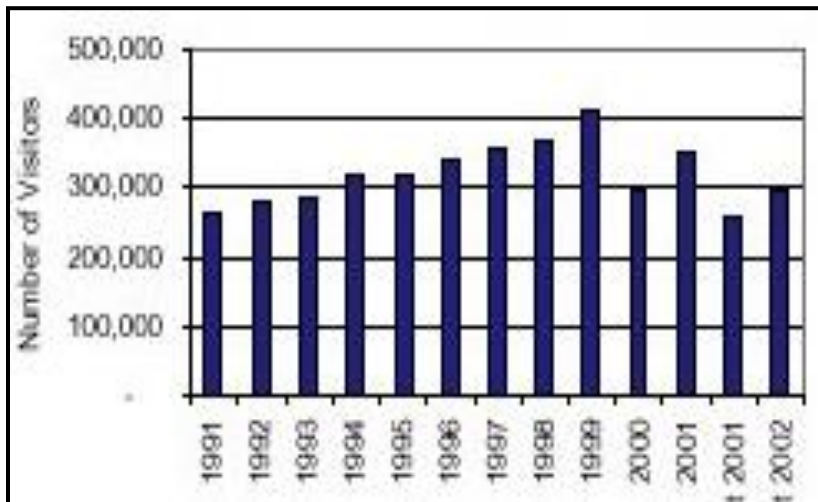
Tourism is Fiji's main foreign exchange earner, contributing around 20% of *GDP. After the political turmoil in 2000 there was a 10-percent decline in the economy, as investment dived and tourist numbers dropped sharply. An estimated 7500 jobs were lost.

International arrivals to Fiji have grown at an average of 3.0% per annum between 1991 and 2001. This result was adversely affected by the sharp decline in arrivals during 2000, as a result of the political coup in May. Arrivals in that year fell by 28.3 percent to a seven-year low of 294,070. However, international tourism numbers have been in recovery mode since the coup in May 2000.

The graph on the next page shows the number of international visitors to Fiji from 1991 to 2002.



International Visitors To Fiii 1991-



The Coup and Emigration

Since 1987, when the country was weakened by two military coups, Fiji has suffered a very high rate of emigration, particularly of skilled and professional ***personnel**. More than 70,000 people left the country in the aftermath of the coups, some 90 % of whom were Indo-Fijians. This similar problem occurred in the 2006 coup.



Fiji's Indians Leaving the Country in Record Numbers

Now turn to the next page to recap the main points in this chapter.

Summary

- The Fijian culture is a mixture of indigenous Fijians, Indians, Europeans, Chinese and other nationalities.
 - The Fiji society is a mixture of culturally diversified people.
 - Their society is based on communal way of living however they do have hierarchy of chiefs.
 - The Fijian traditions and ceremony are active through special occasions like Kava ceremony.
 - The indigenous Fijians are dark skinned races of Melanesians
 - The Fijians have a special clothing called Sulu
 - The handcrafts are displayed as souvenirs or wooden crafts used during ceremonies.
 - Women are also involved in pottery.
 - The Fijian architecture is displayed in the houses that they build.
 - The music in Fiji is the combination of traditional Melanesian and Polynesian.
 - The people prefer their native grown food and fish in earth ovens (mumu)
 - Some of the famous sites in Fiji have monuments.
 - Sports have become part of a recreational activity as well as making Fiji competitive in the international stage. There are also many different cultural events.
-

YOU HAVE COME TO THE END OF THE PROJECT. NOW TURN TO YOUR ASSIGNMENT BOOK AND COMPLETE SUBSTRAND TEST 1. CROSS CHECK ALL YOUR ANSWERS AGAIN AND WHEN YOU ARE SATISFIED, SEND YOUR ASSIGNMENT BOOKLET TO YOUR PROVINCIAL COORDINATOR FOR MARKING.

GAZZETTEER – FACTS ABOUT FIJI

Official Name:

Republic of the Fiji Islands **short form:** Fiji

ISO Country Code: fj

Location: Oceania **Area of Fiji:** 18,274 sq km

Fijian Population: 0.9 million

Fijian Capital: Suva on the island of Viti Levu(pop. 167 000)

Population in Suva: 0.2 million

Major Fijian Cities: Suva, Sigatoka, Viti Levu and Nadi.

Fijian Government: Republic **Government:** Type: Parliamentary Democracy.

Independence (from U.K.): 10 October 1970.

Constitution: July 1997 (suspended May 2000, reaffirmed March 2001).

Geography:

Location: Oceania, island group in the South Pacific Ocean.

Area: 18 333 sq. km.

Terrain: Mostly mountains of volcanic origin or varied, dense tropical forest.

Climate:

Tropical maritime; only slight seasonal temperature variation.

People:

Nationality: Noun--Fiji Islander; adjective—Fiji

GNI per capita PPP: \$ 6 282 (year)

Ethnic groups: Indigenous Fijian 54%, Indo-Fijian 40%.

Religion: Christian 52% (Methodist and Roman Catholic), Hindu 33%, Muslim 7%.

Languages: English (official), Fijian, Hindi.

Literacy: 93%.

Language: English (official), Fijian, Hindustani

Religion: Christian 52% (Methodist 37%, Roman Catholic 9%), Hindu 38%, Islam 8%, other 2% **People:**

Natural resources: Timber, fish, gold, copper, offshore oil potential, hydropower.

Agriculture products: Sugarcane, coconuts, cassava (tapioca), rice, sweet potatoes, bananas; cattle, pigs, horses, goats; fish.

Industries: Tourism, sugar, clothing, copra, gold, silver, lumber, small cottage industries.

Exports partners: USA 23.7%, Australia 18.4%, UK 13.6%, Samoa 6%, Japan 4.8% (2003)

Imports partners: Australia 35.1%, Singapore 19.2%, New Zealand 17.2%, Japan 4.9% (2003)

Currency: Fijian Dollar (FJD)

Glossary

- **Attire** – is another word for dressing or clothes
- **Bula Vinaka** – One of the most common greetings in the Fijian language means "health" or "life". This is a shortened form of the greeting "Ni sa bula", used as a greeting to a number of people. In Fiji, you hear and see this greeting, Bula, most often. It is as common as "Hello".
- **Bure** – a traditional thatched Fijian house made of bush material
- **Coalition**- a government formed by two or more political parties working together
- **Commonwealth**- an organisation consisting of the United Kingdom and most of the countries that used to be part of the British Empire
- **Constitution** – the systems of laws or principles that a state , country or an organisation is governed by
- **Coup de tat**- pronounced [cu dei ta] a sudden illegal and often change of government, usually happens with the military or armed forces taking over the government.
Cuisine- pronounced [kwi zeén] is a style of cooking, especially one that is notable for high quality. Eg. Chinese Cooking. It can also be the range of food prepared by a restaurant, country, or person
- **Deforestation** - the destruction of vast areas of forest (e.g., unsustainable forestry practices, agricultural and range land clearing, and the over exploitation of wood products for use as fuel) without planting new growth.
Deities- gods or goddesses
- **Drua** –a gigantic double hulled traditional Fijian canoe that was built and used in the 19th century. It as used for long voyages and also used during warfare
- **Etiquette**- pronounced [eti-ket] means rules of acceptable behaviour. The rules governing correct or polite behaviour in society in general or in a specific social or professional group or situation
- **Endangered species** - a species that is threatened with extinction either by direct hunting or habitat destruction.
- **Ethnic Fijians**- indigenous Fijians
- **Export** – a good or service that we sell to other countries to make money
- **Flora and Fauna**- All plant (flora)and animal(fauna) life
- **Gross Domestic Product**- the total value of goods and services
- **abitat**- the natural home of plants and animals
- **Import**- a good or service that we buy from overseas country
Indentured labourers – labourers that were taken from their homes under the indentured labour system to work in plantations in British colonies in the 19th century. Fiji was a colony that had indentured labourers from India
- **Interim government** – an interim government is like a care taker government that will only take control until the permanent government is in place

- **Kava** – The national and the most popular drink of Fiji is “yaqona” and often it is known as “kava” or “grog” by the natives of Fiji. The flavor of “Kava” is peppery and earthy and this unique drink of Fiji is prepared from the root of the pepper plant.
- **Lovo**- open oven pit with a fire made in a pit in the ground lined with heat-resistant stones. It closely resembles the hangi of the New Zealand Māori and Papua New Guinea *mumu*. Dishes cooked this way include **palusami**, parcels of taro leaves saturated with coconut milk, onions, and sometimes tinned meat.
- **Masi** – is referred to Fijian traditional tapa cloth
- **Tropical Maritime Climate** – a type of climate that is influenced ocean bearing winds
- **Meke** – a common traditional Fijian dance performed separately by men and women
- **Monument**- a building, or statue, etc., having historical importance, built to remind people of a famous person or event
- **Pesticide**- a chemical substance used to kill pests especially insects
- **Personnel**- the people employed in an organization, business, or armed force
- **Population pyramid**- a diagram in the form of a pyramid that illustrates or shows the breakdown of a population of a particular area according to age and sex.
- **Republic**- a country that is governed by a president and politicians elected by the people and where there is no king and queen
- **Soil erosion** - the removal of soil by the action of water or wind, compounded by poor agricultural practices, deforestation, overgrazing, and desertification.
- **Topography**- the physical features of an area of land especially the position of its rivers, mountains etc., the study of these features
- **Threatened Species**- species of plants and animals that are close to extinction because of decrease in population or quantity (numbers).
- **Toxic**- involving something poisonous or relating to or containing a poison or toxin. A **toxic substance** is a poisonous substance that is deadly and can cause serious harm or death
- **Treason**- the crime of doing something that could cause danger to your country, such as helping enemies during a war.

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