

KEY INTO
INDONESIA

SALLY HEINRICH

Curriculum
CORPORATION



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Fact File

On 4 February 1997, Indonesia's 200 millionth person was born. His name, Wahyu Nusantara Aji, was chosen by the president. It means 'divine revelation', 'Indonesia' and 'precious'. This baby was chosen from the 8000 babies born in Indonesia on that day.

Indonesia has the fourth largest population after China, India and the United States. The population is made up of about 365 ethnic and tribal groups. Almost half the people are Javanese. Other important groups are the Sundanese and Madurese, also from Java, and coastal Malays. The rest of the groups are smaller and include Acehnese, Bataks and Minangkabaus from Sumatera, the Balinese, Sasaks from Lombok and Dani from Papua. Chinese are found in many of the major cities throughout the country and are an important minority.

In some areas there are so many people that it puts a lot of pressure on the environment and resources. The government has tried to lessen this pressure by moving people from densely populated areas like Java and Bali to less densely populated areas such as Sumatera, Kalimantan, Maluka and Papua. This is called *transmigrasi* (transmigration). It has been partly successful, but it has some problems.

Family planning campaigns have been successful in slowing population growth. Wayang Kulit puppet performances (see p 80) have been developed to educate people, along with slogans such as *dua anak cukup* (two children are enough).

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

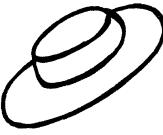
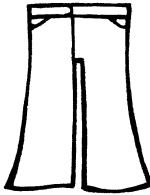
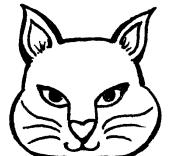
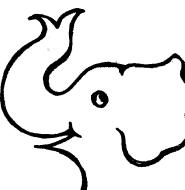
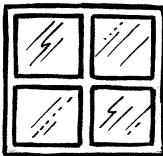
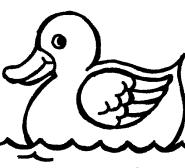
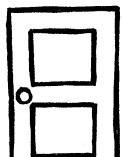
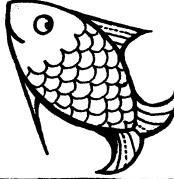
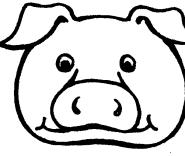
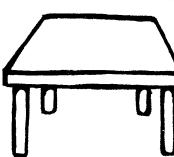
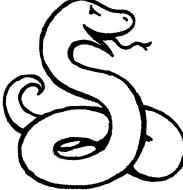
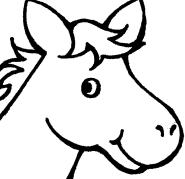
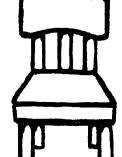
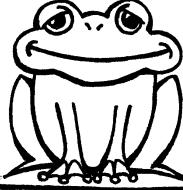
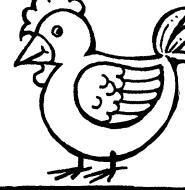
Some of the problems with transmigration have occurred when people have moved from the city to the country, or to an area with different soil and weather conditions. They may find the way they are used to farming isn't suitable, or they may have no farming experience but be expected to make a living from the land. Tensions have sometimes arisen with the local people. How do you think the government could support transmigrants to increase the chances of a successful move?

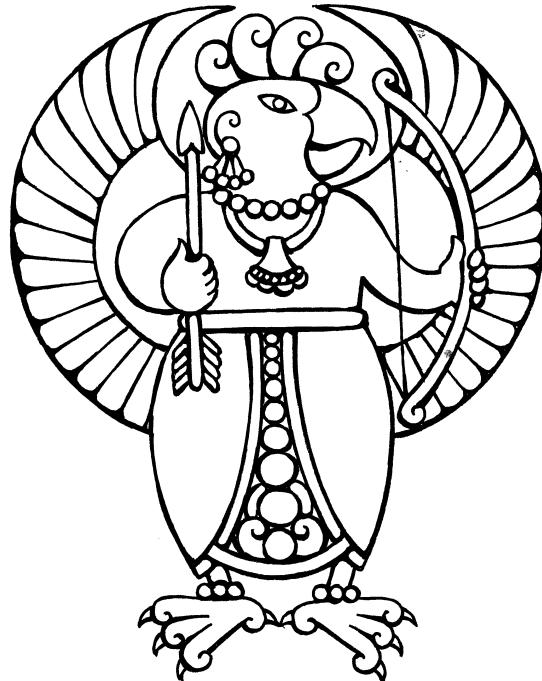
ACTIVITY 1: TRANSMIGRASI

Transmigrasi continues, but on a voluntary basis. Think about how you could encourage people to make such a move. Write an ad, or design a poster or brochure to encourage people from heavily populated areas to transmigrate.



Concentration / Snap

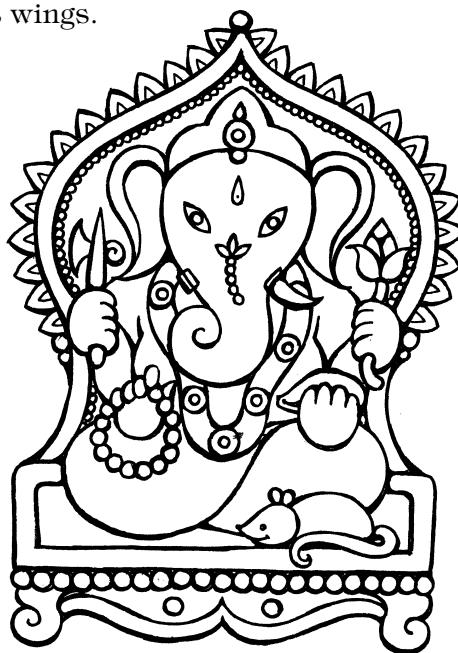
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	pintu		ikan		babi
	meja		ular		kuda
	kursi		kodok		ayam



Garuda is the prince of birds. He is the vehicle of Vishnu. During the great battle of the Ramayana (see p 74), Rama's brother, Laksmana, was wounded and lay unconscious. Garuda appeared and healed him with a touch of his wings.



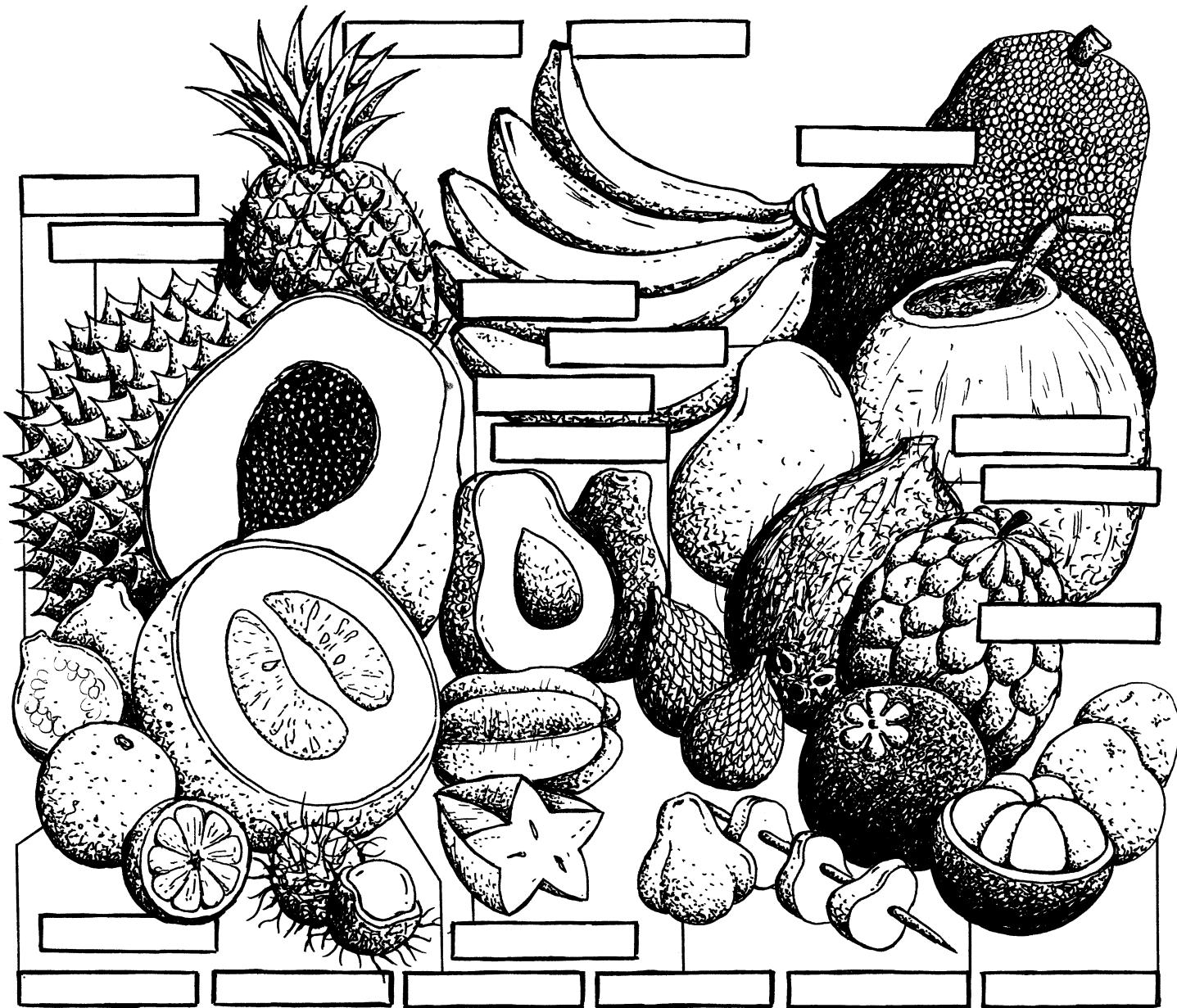
Saraswati is the goddess of language, art and education. She is often depicted playing an instrument called a *vina*. She sometimes rides on a swan or a peacock.



Ganesh is the god of wisdom, literature and new projects. His father, Shiva, was away for so long he didn't recognise the boy Ganesh guarding his mother's room. Ganesh wouldn't let him in so Shiva knocked his head off in rage! Shiva then took the first head he could find, an elephant's, to restore him to life. Ganesh rides a rat.



Durga is the ferocious aspect of Parvati, who rides on a lion and fights demons. She has 8–10 arms with which she carries her weapons. She is often represented in the village *pura dalem*.



apokat (avocado) – often eaten as a dessert with ice cream, or made into a sweet drink.

belimbing (starfruit) – a yellow, crisp and watery-tasting fruit.

durian – a large fruit with a hard green spiky skin and creamy white flesh. Some hotels and airlines ban them because of their horrible smell. They are said to 'taste like heaven, smell like hell'.

jambu air (water apple or wax jambu) – glossy white or pink fruit that come from a common garden tree. Children often sell them on a bamboo skewer.

jambu batu (guava) – comes in many colours, shapes and sizes.

The most common are yellow with pinkish flesh and lots of seeds. They can also be eaten unripe, dipped in soy sauce with sliced chilli.

jeruk manis (orange)

jeruk nipis (small green orange)

jeruk muntis or **jerungga** (pomelo) – larger and sweeter than a grapefruit, with very thick yellow skin.

kelapa (coconut)

kelapa muda (young coconut) – drink the juice, then scoop out and eat the flesh.

mangga (mango)

manggis (mangosteen) – a small purplish fruit with soft pure white segments inside.

nanas (pineapple)

nangka (jackfruit) – a yellowy-green fruit that can weigh over 20 kg and is full of yellow, slightly rubbery segments. It is used also in cooking.

papaya (pawpaw) – yellow skin and bright orange flesh with lots of round black seeds.

pisang (banana) – there are many varieties, from tiny to over a foot long.

rambutan – a bright red fruit covered with soft hairy spines; similar to a lychee, with soft juicy white flesh surrounding a large stone.

salak – its brown skin looks like snakeskin; the inside texture is similar to a cross between an apple and a walnut, though the taste is unique.

sawo – looks like a small brown potato, with honey flavoured flesh.

sirsak (soursop) – it is ripe when its warty green skin begins to look darker and spotty, and feels slightly soft. The flesh is white and soft with a slightly lemony taste.

Fact File

Wayang (Javanese for 'shadow') is the word used for puppet theatre. There are several different forms of wayang. *Wayang kulit* originated in Java and uses flat intricately carved and painted leather puppets, with movable arms attached to sticks. The *wayang golek* of west Java uses three-dimensional wooden puppets with moveable heads and arms. *Wayang wong* uses human actors whose make-up and movements imitate that of puppets. *Wayang topeng* is similar except that the actors wear stylised masks (see p 78).

Wayang often acts out traditional stories, legends and religious tales. As well as being a popular form of entertainment, wayang can be used for religious and other types of education. Government information campaigns, such as population control, have used wayang as a way to educate the public. Often the *dalang* (puppeteer) will include commentary about current events.

In *wayang kulit*, the *dalang* sits cross-legged behind a large white screen. A lamp is used to light the screen from behind and to cast shadows of the puppets onto it. The audience sits either in front of the screen where they see the moving shadows, or behind with the *dalang*. His role is extremely demanding. For the duration of the performance, which traditionally lasts about nine hours, he manipulates as many as 200 puppets, maintaining different voices for each character, mood and emotion. He creates sound effects and emphasises the action by striking a *kechrek* (metal plates hanging from the edge of a wooden box) with a small wooden rod clutched between the first two toes of his right foot, while directing the musicians and tending to the wick of the lamp. All without a break!

A CTIVITIES: WAYANG KULIT PUPPETS

YOU WILL NEED: thin cardboard, glue, scissors, sticky tape, ten split pins, wooden chopsticks or skewers, a digital camera and means to print out photos (for Activity 2)

Activity 1

- ◆ Glue the parts of the puppets onto thin card.
- ◆ Colour and cut out the pieces.
- ◆ Assemble the body parts using split pins as shown in the diagram.
- ◆ Tape wooden chopsticks or skewers to the back to manipulate the puppets.

Activity 2

- ◆ With a digital camera, take a photograph of each person in the class. (Make sure that arms are held away from the body and legs are slightly apart.)
- ◆ Print out the pictures and glue them onto thin card.

- ◆ Using the pattern pieces as a guide, cut out the photos in pieces and assemble with split pins to make a puppet.
- ◆ Working in groups, invent stories to act out as short plays. Take it in turns to be the *dalang*.

Variation

Instead of using photographs, each student draws a puppet version of themselves.

