

Teaching Guide -The Woleai People

Instructions for Leaders or Teachers

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

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

If a craft or color page is included this week and is useful for your group of children to work on, do it now.



W

Woleai

(WO-le-ai)

Rattle. Whoosh and thud! Crunch and crack! Wildly whirling sticks swing and smack each other with perfect timing. Shuffling feet whisk dancing grains of sand. Palm trees seem to sway and rustle to the echoing beat of crashing surf.

On tiny islands in Micronesia, Woleaian men delight in the sweat and clamor of the fierce stick dance. It is the highlight of every celebration. Glossy red and white flowers and sturdy coconut palm fronds provide festive costumes for athletic stickmen.

Dazzling tropical fish whirl and dance in the warm blue lagoon. Green sea turtles and graceful manta rays glide by the coral reef. The children never grow tired of fishing and swimming.

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



The Woleai People

Continent: A group of Islands located in the South Pacific Ocean

Country: Micronesia (The Island of Woleai)

Geographical Information:

The Federated States of Micronesia are four main islands with 607 other smaller islands surrounding them.

- Only 65 of the islands have people living on them.
- They spread across 4,000 miles (2,500 kilometers) of the western central Pacific Ocean.
- These islands are just north of the equator.
- Woleai Atoll is one of the outer islands of Yap State.
- About 800 Woleai people live on five of the 22 tiny islets that make up the Woleai Atoll. (An islet is a very tiny island.)
- Some of these islets are clustered together. At low tide, the islets are joined by sand bars.

Look at the map of the Pacific Ocean.

- Try to imagine what it would be like to live on Woleai during a typhoon. (A typhoon is a violent storm with strong wind, heavy surf and much rain.)
- The only land mammals native to Woleai are bats. Fruit bats have wingspans of up to 3 feet. (1 m). The bats come out at dusk to search for insects like mosquitoes and to eat the fruit.
- The islands also have many geckoes and skinks but no snakes.
- The most common animal life are insects such as mosquitoes, beach gnats and cockroaches.
- The seas that surround the islands are full of fish and other sea life and the air is filled with birds.

Facts about the Woleai people:

- English is the national language of Micronesia.
- The Woleai people also speak the Woleai language.
- The people of Woleai have a rich history passed on by telling stories.

- Part of that history is their special type of music.
- They still live the old ways. They use canoes, not motorboats.
- They have rules against wearing western clothing.
- They live very simple lives and enjoy their beautiful beaches and good fishing.
- Homes on Woleai are made from palm leaves that reach to the ground. Woven mats made from palm leaves, lie on the sand as floors.
- Drinking water is never wasted. It is often in short supply. Sometimes water must be rationed, (given out in small amounts.) It is collected in tanks when it rains. It also comes from wells.
- Instead of drinking a lot of water, the people of Woleai drink coconut milk. They also use coconut milk for cooking.
- Fish is the main source of food. Other foods eaten by the Woleai people include breadfruit, bananas, coconut, taro, papaya and citrus fruits.
- Because Woleai is so close to the equator it is always hot but sea breezes and well built homes make it pleasant beneath the many coconut palm trees.
- Scattered about on the beaches are rusting hulks of World War II tanks, airplanes and bunkers. (Bunkers were war-time shelters, like caves.) This part of the Pacific Ocean was the place of much fighting during the years 1941-1945.
- There is plenty of animal life in the ocean waters. Wales, porpoises, shellfish (including the giant clam) and sea turtles live in the offshore waters around the islands.
- More than 200 types of birds live on the islands.
- The people of Woleai enjoy working together with relatives and friends.
- Women are the heads of clans. Clans include grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins.
- Christian churches have been sharing the Message of Christ for many years on these islands.
- The people of Woleai still do not have Scripture translated into their own language.
- There are Christian radio stations that broadcast the Message of Jesus throughout Micronesia.

You can pray for the people of Woleai.

- Ask God to allow someone to translate God's Message and other Christian materials into the language of Woleai.
- Pray that the music of Woleai will be sung with Christian words which will speak to the inner needs of these people.
- Pray that Woleai Christians will grow and mature in their Christian life.

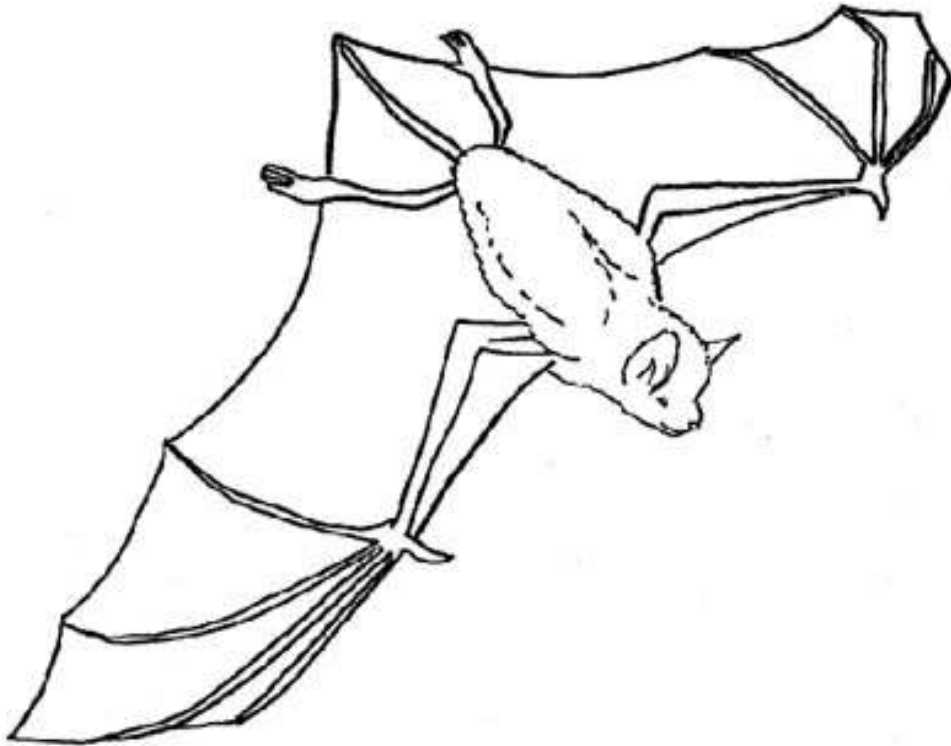
Woleai Animal Study - Fruit Bats

- Bats are flying mammals that live in almost every part of our world. They live on all the continents except Antarctica. It is too cold for them to live in Antarctica.
- On islands that are far from continents, there are only a few different types of bats. That is because it is too far for most bats to fly to reach the islands.
- Fruit bats are one type of bat found on the islands of Micronesia. Fruit bats are sometimes known as flying foxes.
- Fruit bats live in large colonies. They are most active at night. They rest during the day while hanging upside down from their feet.
- Bats have very good hearing. They use it for finding food and locating their babies. Their big ears help with echolocation. The echoes are received by the funnel-shaped ears that face forward.
- Most bats also have a good sense of smell. Fruit bats can find their food by the smell of the ripe fruit.
- Fruit bats have very good eyesight and use their eyes along with their sense of smell to help find food in the dark. God created them with eyes that see best in the dark. But their legs are weak and they don't walk well.
- Bat feet have strong claws that they use to hang upside down in their roosts. Bats fly by using their hands and wings. While the wings are flapping, bats can go up or down by moving the membrane between the body and forth finger. This is called "lift."
- Bats move forward, (called "thrust") by changing the shape of the membrane between the second and fifth fingers.
- Bats are mammals because they have fur or hair on their bodies. The fur protects them because the colors and designs help hide them from danger.
- Bats keep their fur clean by licking it often, like a cat does. In the colder weather the fur helps keep the bat warm.
- As fruit bats fly from plant to plant getting food, they help pollinate the plants they visit. They also spread the seeds as they eat.
- Many plants like avocados, dates, mangos, and peaches, depend on bats for spreading seeds and for pollination.
- Fruit bats mostly eat fruit juice and flower nectar. They chew the fruit and spit out the seeds, peel and pulp.



Fruit Bats

Bat Coloring Project
Big Brown Bat
(Eptesicus fuscus)



Color my eyes black and my chin light pink mixed with brown. Color my furry body light brown. Color my ears and wings dark brown. My arms, legs, and tail should be a very dark brown, almost black.

*Courtesy of the E. Dale Joyner Nature Preserve
St. Johns River Power Park, Jacksonville Electric Authority, Florida Power and Light*

[Click here to go to Animal Coloring Pages](#)

[Click here to go to Bat Fact Page](#)

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