

Teaching Guide -The Phuan 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 Phuan people group in relation to the equator.
- Ask “Do the Phuan people live close to the equator?” If the answer is “Yes”, this indicates a hot/tropical climate.
- Ask, “Do the Phuan 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 Phuan 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 Phuan 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 Phuan 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 Phuan 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 Phuan 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 Phuan 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 Phuan 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.

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Phuan

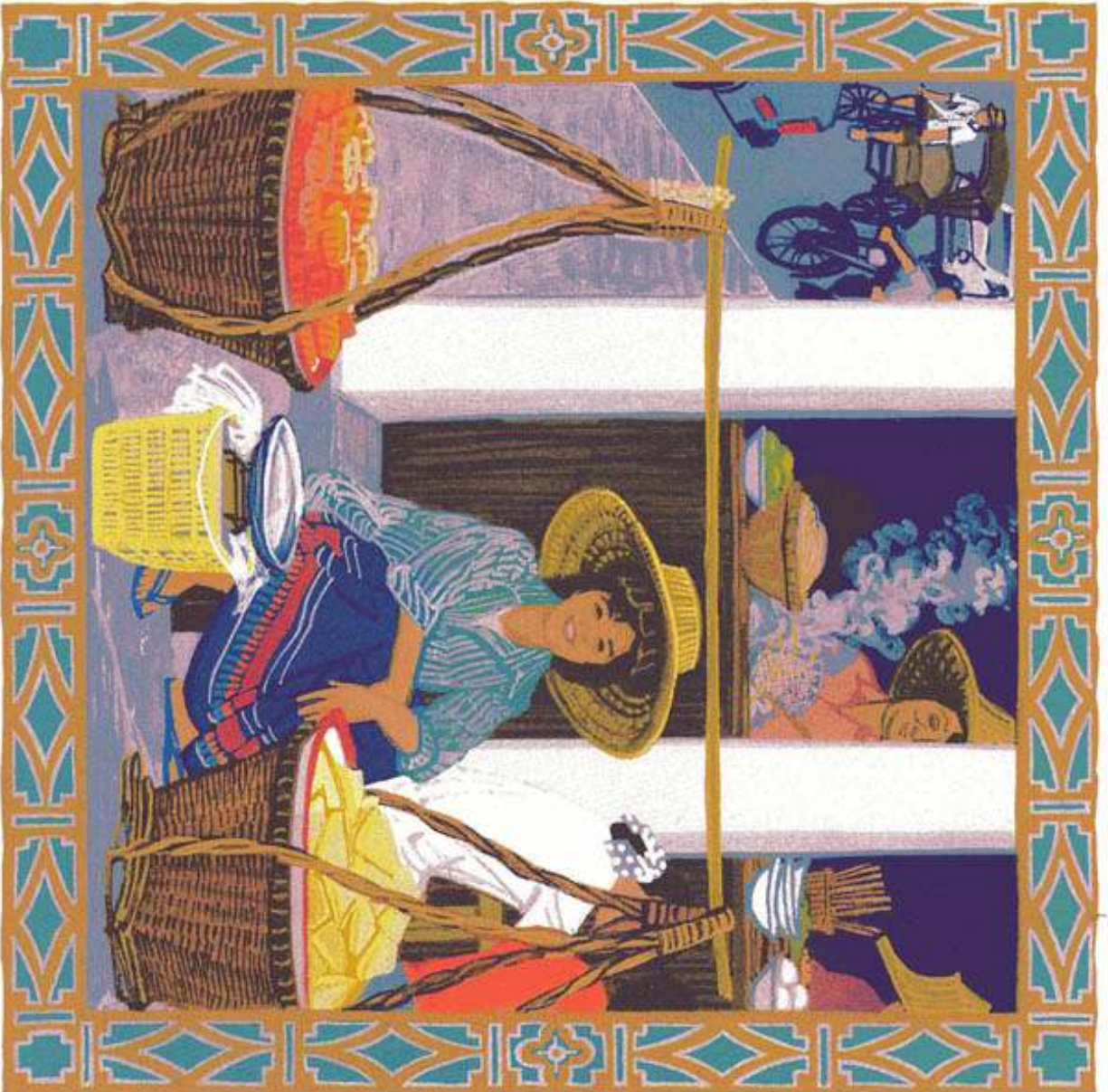
(poo-un)

Beep beep! Brrmmmm. Noisy traffic squeals through the streets of a crowded city. A *samlor* driver pedals a three-wheel cycle taxi past the back street noodle café.

Heavy smells of garlic and curry waft through the open window. Steam rises, tickles noses and brings customers. Sizzle and hiss! Plop and swish! The noodles are scrumptious. People twirl their chopsticks round the noodles and dip stubby spoons in delicious noodle soup. Mmmmm.

Friendly, hardworking Phuan people of Thailand love to cook and eat. One woman swung twin baskets on a shoulder pole and carried her café to the sidewalk. She sells luscious pineapple and tasty sweets.

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





The Phuan People

Continent: Asia

Country: Thailand

Geographical Information:

The Phuan people live in Thailand. Thailand is a country in Southeast Asia. It shares a border with the countries of:

- Myanmar
- Malaysia
- Cambodia
- Laos
- China

Look at the map of Asia and find these six countries.

- In the tropical rainforests of Thailand, Asian elephants are used to transport heavy loads and move things.
- These elephants are no longer wild animals. They have been trained to work for humans.
- The tropical rainforests are also home to many python snakes. Some are very large.
- Pythons are not poison but they are dangerous.
- They kill by squeezing. Then they swallow the animal whole. Humans can also be swallowed.

Facts about the Phuan people:

- The Phuan people used to live in Laos.
- Two hundred years ago many of them were forced to move to Thailand.
- The Phuan people are proud of their own language and ways of living. Many of them are important people in the areas where they live.
- Some of the Phuan people are farmers. They grow only enough food for their own families.

- Their most important crop and food is rice. Rice is grown in wet fields. The Phuan people use irrigation and terraces (like stair steps) built into the sides of mountains as rice fields.
- Some Phuan people have moved to the larger cities looking for jobs that will give them more money. They can also send their children to schools in the cities.
- These people have found jobs as store keepers, business people, skilled workers and government workers.
- Family life is important to the Phuan people. Both men and women do the same work such as plowing fields, fishing, cooking, taking care of babies, cleaning and washing clothes.
- The Phuan people are usually hard-working, honest and peaceful people. They are careful with money and save things for future use.
- In the cities of Thailand the Phuan people often use samlors. Samlors are three-wheeled bikes used to move people and things from place to place.
- The Phuan are mainly Buddhist. Buddhists do not believe in a personal god. Their religion teaches the practice of meditation and obeying moral ideas.
- Each year the Phuan people who live in Bangkok, (Thailand's capital city) have a large celebration to honor spirits.
- The Phuan people believe that they must please these spirits to be safe from danger and trouble.
- There are probably only about 600 Phuan Christians.
- There are no Christian churches for the Phuan Christians. They have no part of the Bible in their own language.

You can pray for the Phuan people:

- Pray that God will give the Phuan Christians boldness in sharing the Good News of Jesus with their own people.
- Pray for people willing to translate God's message of love into the Phuan language.
- Pray that Christian resources will be prepared in the language of these people. They need radio broadcasts, Christian books and Christian videos.

Thailand Animal Studies

Asian Elephants

Asian elephants are smaller than African elephants. Asian elephants have smaller ears and are shorter and rounder than African elephants.

- The top of an Asian elephants head is rounded into two bumps. African elephants don't have the bumps.
- An Asian elephant also has a rounded or hump-shaped back.
- Tusks on female Asian elephants are so short, it is hard to see them.
- Asian elephants have a long history of being trained for labor. Today even with trains and trucks there are still many working elephants in Asia.
- Asian elephants carry people, knock down trees, pull large loads, and carry heavy logs.
- In thick forests, elephants are better than modern machines. They don't need roads or rails to travel on.
- When people ride on elephants, they often ride in a howdah. A howdah is a seat or covered box secured to the back of the elephant.
- The elephant is driven by a boy or man called a mahout. The mahout steers by pushing his feet behind the elephant's ears. A mahout also cares for his elephant.



Asian Elephants

Python Snakes

Royal python snakes are found in Thailand and other parts of the Malay Peninsula. They are the world's second largest snake.

- Pythons can grow to be from 6 to 10 meters long and can weigh more than 135 kg.
- Pythons prefer to live in wooded areas that include evergreen rainforests to open dry scrubland.
- Pythons have also been found living in crowded cities like Bangkok. It is the capital city of Thailand.
- Pythons are excellent swimmers and climbers.
- Pythons are not poisonous. They kill by wrapping themselves around the body of their prey and suffocating it. The victim, usually a mammal or bird, is swallowed whole. It takes a long time for this food to be digested so the snake does not eat very often.
- The female python must keep her 100 or so eggs warm. She pushes them into a pile and coils her body around them and rests her head on top. She may remain this way for as long as 80 days.
- Sometimes she will leave for a short time to get a drink of water

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Python Snakes

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