

Tropical Island Puzzle

Look carefully at these pictures of an island and see if you can discover which one is different!



Being thankful for what we have is just the beginning of what we can do when we learn about suffering in other countries. We need to pray regularly for these people and try to find ways we can personally help them. Some years ago I encouraged a small group of children to bring items such as gum, colorful stickers, balloons, colored pencils, powdered drink mix, pretty hair clips and small toys, to put in a box to be sent to some missionaries we know, Brent and Kim Burdick, in the Philippines. I added a few things myself, including a package of Christmas cookie cutters. We mailed the box in August to allow plenty of time for it to travel by surface mail and arrive by Christmas.

In February we received a letter telling us how God had used our gifts. Kim had planned to teach the Filipino women in her church how to make Xmas cookies, but on the day of the baking, she still had been unable to find or buy any cookie cutters. She could only pray for God's help. On the way to the church, she stopped at the post office and found and opened our box of goodies to see the Xmas cookie cutters lying on top! She was able to tell the wonderful testimony of answered prayer as she baked cookies with the Filipino women!



God is looking for willing believers that He can use to bless others! Maybe you can send some goodies or drawings for a missionary to share and bless some needy children.

'Til next time, love from Shirley.

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World Kids

Fun facts for kids!



True stories!

PAL Page

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Have YOU ever been near an erupting volcano or in a hurricane?



Even a big storm with thunder and lightning, strong winds and hail, can make us very scared, but in many parts of the world there are even more dangerous "natural disasters". Where I live in East Texas, there are sometimes tornados (very strong whirlwinds) that appear suddenly and jump across the land, destroying trees, buildings and even whole communities! In Afghanistan there are sometimes earthquakes, and India suffers each year from monsoons with torrential rain lasting for months and causing flooding of huge areas.

This month we want to look at a country that experiences many different kinds of natural disasters - it is a group of over 7,000 islands called the **PHILIPPINES**.

Can you find the Philippines on a world map?



It's in South East Asia, south of China and north of Australia and Indonesia.



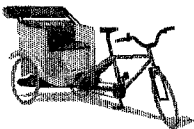
The Philippines are very mountainous islands on the western edge of the Pacific Ocean, just north of the equator. They are affected by two seasons of typhoons (or hurricanes), usually experiencing about 15 each year!

All this powerful wind and rain causes landslides (where whole areas of rock, earth and trees collapse and slide down the hillsides). There are several active volcanos in the Philippines too. In 1991, Mt. Pinatuba erupted and poured out tons and tons of ash burying many towns and villages. Earthquakes also occur in the area and sometimes these cause "tsunamis", which are gigantic waves that form in the ocean and hit the land causing great flooding and damage.



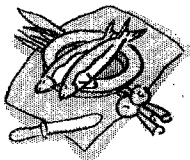
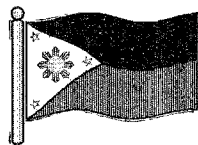
Imagine living in a country where so many things can happen that could damage your home or injure your family! It must be very scary! But as Christians we can know that God promises to protect us and be with us no matter what happens! Get a Bible and read Isaiah 41:1-3.

There are more than 84 million people living in the Philippines and many have moved to the big cities, such as the capital, Manila, because they lost their homes in a disaster. But life in the cities, also has many problems. Manila is so crowded with people and vehicles that there is terrible pollution (often a thick fog covers the city) so that the air, and even the water, are bad. There are terrible traffic jams throughout the city and thousands of people travel in bicycle-taxis called pedicabs.



Hundreds of thousands of people, even children, live in the streets or in houses made of crates and boxes near the garbage dumps. They hunt through the rotting trash, trying to find something to eat.

The Filipino people have had people from many countries come to their land to rule or govern for different periods of time, and two main languages are spoken there - English and Tagalog. There are many traditional dishes that use the foods that grow abundantly around these beautiful islands - foods such as fish, coconuts, rice and tropical fruits.



Most Filipinos consider themselves Christians, and there are only about 4% who are Moslems, but this small group causes a lot of trouble as many have become guerillas who kidnap and take people hostage for many months to try to get what they want from the government. Two years ago an American missionary couple was held hostage and forced to march through the jungle with very little food for over a year. Government soldiers finally rescued them but the husband was killed during the rescue; however his widow continues to minister to the Filipino people.



See if you can figure out this verse in Tagalog!
Ito ay sapagkat hindi tayo binigyan ng Diyos ng espiritu ng pagkatakot, sa halip, binigyan niya tayo ng espiritu ng kapangyarihan at ng pag-ibig at ng maayos na pag-iisip.
2 Kay Timoteo 1:7

True story!

One 10-year-old Moslem girl in the Philippines heard about Jesus and started attending a church. As she learned more about the Bible, she decided to give her heart to Jesus and become a Christian. Her friends at church bought her a new white dress to celebrate her new life with Jesus. But when her father found out that she was a Christian, he became very angry and he beat and kicked her, injuring her badly. When she did not show up for church as usual, her friends went to look for her and found her lying bleeding in the mud. They took her to see a doctor where she insisted upon holding on to her dirty, blood-stained new dress. "I want to show my dress to Jesus," she said, "He was willing to bleed for me, and I want Jesus to know I was willing to bleed for him." Not long after, this brave little girl died and went to be with Jesus in heaven.



It makes us very sad to hear about children around the world without a home or food, or suffering because they love Jesus. We need to thank God every day for our own home and family, and even for being able to learn more about Jesus.