



Excursion Guide

Indonesia

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Read Aloud Folktale, Legend or Myth:

“The Mousedeer Becomes a Judge” from *Asian Children’s Favorite Stories* retold by David Conger, Kay Lyons, Liana Romulo, Joan Suyenaga, and Marian Davies Toth (2006). This is a clever and funny story about how Buffalo rescues Crocodile, and then nearly becomes Crocodile’s dinner. Other characters include a banana tree trunk, a horse, and the Mousedeer. There is a good deal of dialogue, and the language is straightforward and simple.

This story is based on a Jataka tale called “The Tiger, The Brahmin, and The Jackal,” or “The Crocodile, The Brahmin, and The Fox.” The Jataka tales are stories of the lives of the Buddha before he was incarnated as Siddhartha Gautama, and became the Buddha. As Buddhist monks and travelers spread their religion beyond India, these stories spread as well. Many Jataka tales are shown in sculpted relief on the Borobudur Stupa in Magelang, Central Java.

Remember to:

- Greet each person individually
- Use a globe or large map to show each person the starting point and destination
- Engage people in informal conversation
- Include supplemental materials such as music, souvenirs, coloring pages, or food to enhance the program



About Indonesia

1. Indonesia is home to the rafflesia, the largest and heaviest flower in the world. The blossoms usually weigh up to 20 pounds and can be over three feet across!
2. Indonesia is made up of 18,000 islands, and is located between Thailand, The Philippines, and Australia.
3. The islands of Indonesia are part of the “Ring of Fire,” a circle of volcanoes surrounding the Pacific Ocean.
4. Indonesia is the fourth most populated country in the world. Only China, India, and the U.S.A. have more people.
5. Forty kinds of bananas, and hundreds of kinds of chili peppers grow in Indonesia.



Annotated Bibliography

Unless otherwise specified, the non-fiction books listed here have many color photographs and images (but not cartoon-style illustrations); and they do not have an intimidating or distracting amount of text on the page. Although many of the selections are children's books, they are not obviously juvenile in their layout and illustrations.

Top Selections

Batik: Design, Style & History by Fiona Kerlogue (Thames & Hudson, 2004): The large images of intricate and colorful textiles make this book a joy to browse. The selected textiles showcase a wide variety of motifs, such as birds, flowers, warriors, calligraphy, and geometric designs. There are also historic black and white images of the batik-making process; and of Indonesian priests, courtiers, rulers, and everyday people wearing batik cloth. This is a beautiful and engrossing book.

Foods of Indonesia by Barbara Sheen (Kidhaven Press, 2012). The photographs in this book show traditional Indonesian dishes such as bakso, Indonesian meatball soup, as well as Indonesian people making and enjoying meals. Taken together, they remind readers that although the ingredients and dishes may be unfamiliar, we all share similar rituals of preparing, eating, and celebrating with food.

Indonesia by Gouri Miripuri, Robert Cooper, and Michael Spilling (Marshall Cavendish Benchmark, 2012): This book is longer and has more text than the other juvenile selections listed here; however it also has many photographs, including full-page photographs to introduce each chapter. Because it is geared toward more advanced readers, it delves more deeply into subjects that are covered superficially in the other selections. As a result, there are more photographs associated with each topic than there are in other selections. There are thirteen chapters, each broken into multiple sections. Chapters include "Geography," "Environment," "Indonesians," "Arts," "Festivals," and "Food," among others.



Indonesia by Tamra Orr (Children's Press, 2005): This book offers an excellent array of photographs, and a good deal of fascinating information. Like others in the "Enchantment of the World" series, the layout is very elegant and includes at least one photograph on each page. There are beautiful images of nature, portraits of Indonesians at work and play, and many photographs depicting religious ceremonies, art, and architecture. The ten chapters include "Unity in Diversity," "A Wildlife Treasure Trove," and "A Culture of Celebration and Tradition."

Orangutan by Suzi Eszterhas (Frances Lincoln Children's Books, 2013): Eszterhas is an award-winning wildlife photographer and in this book, she follows the first five years in the life of an orangutan in Sumatra. Many of the photographs are sweet, and some are downright hilarious. The large font and short, clear sentences encourage reading, but the book can easily be enjoyed for its images alone.

Welcome to Indonesia by Patrick Ryan (Child's World, 2008): This book features fourteen sections, each with an interesting selection of images. Readers will see women harvesting rice, the skull of the "Java Man," ancient temples, and brightly colored puppets. The font is large and the sentences are short and simple. Sections include "Work," "Pastimes," "Long Ago," and "Indonesia Today," among others.

Alternate Selections

Bali & Lombok DK Eyewitness Travel (Dorling Kindersley Limited, 2011): This book is full of brightly-colored photographs, depicting the people and sites of Bali; however, it is listed as an alternate selection because most of them are quite small. Nevertheless, there are a few double-page spreads, and each section is introduced with a full-page image. For readers who are comfortable with the small pictures, it offers a lot.

Bali & Lombok Insight Guide (Apa Publications, 2011): This guide has even more photographs than the *Eyewitness* guide; however, they are small as well. In addition, the book is small and thick, and so may be difficult for some readers to handle. Topics include "Performance Art," "Cuisine," "Religion and Ritual" and "Gifts to Deities and Demons," among others.



The following titles are listed as alternate selections because the annotations are based on online viewings and reviews only.

Balinese Dance, Drama & Music: A Guide to the Performing Arts of Bali by I. Wayan Dibia and Rucina Ballinger (Tuttle Publishing, 2011): This book includes sections on gamelan (traditional Indonesian music); traditional dance, drama, and puppetry; and contemporary art forms. Religious and secular performance art forms are discussed. The format is similar to an *Eyewitness* book, with multiple small pictures on each page, surrounding the main text. The illustrations include photographs and watercolor paintings.

Borobudur: Golden Tales of the Buddhas by John Miksic, Anita Tranchini, and Marcello Tranchini (Periplus Editions (HK) Ltd., 2000): Borobudur is a stupa (Buddhist temple), located in Java; and is the largest Buddhist monument in the world. This large-format photography book includes sections on the history and archaeology of the site, its architecture and symbolism, and the relief sculptures. There is a subsection devoted to the reliefs of the jataka tales; the folktale for this unit is based on one such tale.

Indonesia Islands of the Imagination by Michael Vatikiotis and Jill Gocher (Tuttle Publishing, 2014): The 140 photographs in this book showcase Indonesia's various landscapes, from the city of Jakarta to the outer islands; subjects include animals and nature, agriculture, and Indonesian people. Gocher's photographs have also appeared in *National Geographic* and *Time*.



Supplemental Materials

Souvenirs: small ornamental bamboo plants; Indonesian spices to smell and touch, such as nutmeg, cinnamon sticks, coriander seeds, and coffee (wrapped for each participant in small bags or boxes)

Food: tropical fruit such as banana, watermelon, guava, or mango; coconut rice (recipe in *Foods of Indonesia* by Barbara Sheen); coconut water, coffee, or tea



Music Suggestions (to search on <http://www.youtube.com> or in your own library's collection): traditional Javanese or Indonesian music; gamelan ensemble music

Coloring Page Suggestions: Free coloring pages are available on the Internet from helpful resources such as <http://www.coloring.ws> and <http://www.supercoloring.com>. All coloring pages are subject to their own terms of use, separate from the Tales & Travel Creative Commons License. The following link is suggested for this Excursion:

Orangutan Mother and Baby: (<http://freecoloringpagesite.com/17-orangutan-coloring.html/Orangutan-coloring-5>)