



INDONESIA:

HELPING K-8 SCHOOL LIBRARIANS AND EDUCATORS UNDERSTAND ITS HISTORIES, CULTURES, AND LITERATURE

by Frank Alan Bruno and Patricia F. Beilke

Indonesia is the world's largest archipelago. It stretches over 3,000 miles, from Sumatra on the west to the islands south and east of Irian Jaya (West Papua) on the east. It is made up of between 13,677 to 18,000 islands with hundreds of ethnic groups. People inhabit only 6,000 of the islands.

All together, the land would be about three times the size of Texas or one-fifth of the United States. There are more than 242 million people living on the islands, making it the fourth most populous country after China, India, and the United States. It is the largest Muslim country in the world, with 88 percent of the population being members of the faith. There are more Muslims in Indonesia than in the whole Middle East combined. There are approximately 100,000 Indonesians living in the United States for various reasons. Los Angeles has a sizeable population.

Half of all Indonesians, 130 million, live on the island of Java, which contains the capital of Ibu Kota (or Jakarta), with a population of 12.5 million. Jakarta is an

the most famous volcanic eruptions in history: Tambora and Krakatoa. In 1815 Tambora erupted, killing an estimated 12,000 people directly and another 80,000 later through starvation. Krakatoa (Krakatau), a volcanic island in the Java group, erupted in 1883 and destroyed about two-thirds of the island, throwing debris 17 miles into the atmosphere and producing a tsunami that destroyed 165 villages and killed at least 36,000 people.

Bali, a popular tourist attraction, is a Hindu island that is lush and green. One million people visit each year. About half the size of Rhode Island, Bali is known for its beach resorts. It is common to find surfers and swimmers clothed in modern swimwear at the resorts. There are a lot of dance and drama presentations to entertain the tourists. Bali was the site of a terrorist bombing on October 12, 2002; Jemaah Islamiyah, a group linked with al-Qaeda, attacked the Sari Club and killed more than 200 people. The group struck again in summer 2003, bombing the Jakarta Marriott. Thirteen people were killed and 150 injured.

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interesting place, with ultra-high skyscrapers next to shacks with corrugated metal roofs. Java has three other major cities, including the university city of Bandung, with 3.5 million people.

Indonesia is within the "Ring of Fire," and most Indonesians are born and die within sight of a volcano. There are as many as 500 earthquakes per year, which can cause tsunamis. Between the volcanoes, earthquakes, and tsunamis, life can end quickly. On December 26, 2004, an ocean earthquake with a magnitude of 9.0 caused a 50-foot tidal wave to roll over Sumatra, with a death toll exceeding 100,000 in the two cities of Banda Aceh and Meulaboh. Every single house was crushed.

Sumatra and Java are the general location of two of

Kalimantan (Borneo) is known as the river of diamonds. The island is shared with the countries of Malaysia and Brunei. The large island has three major rivers, and river travel, often in bamboo rafts, is the preferred mode of transportation. Though depleted by logging, mining, and oil drilling, Tanjung Puting is one of the most beautiful rainforest areas in the world, offering close contact with orangutans.

The island is sparsely populated along the coastline, since the coastal areas are swampland. Most people live in the interior along the rivers or in the mountains. The Dayak people live in raised longhouses over the water, with many families sharing each one.

Sulawesi, formerly the Celebes Island, is shaped like

a starfish and is a very dramatic place, with 11 active volcanoes forming a ring of fire. It was once occupied by infamous pirates, who looted the oceans nearby. Its beaches have sugar-white sand and sapphire water. It has some very rare wildlife, such as the deer pig and pygmy buffalo. More than 12 million people live on Sulawesi. Lake Tempe, which forms a beautiful blue body of water, can sometimes overflow and flood. People in surrounding areas have built their houses on stilts to avoid its unpredictable behavior during rainy season. During the dry season, however, it can be completely dried up. The island is also known for its exquisite silk products. The Minabasa people are the predominant ethnic group.

On Toraja, in the mountainous center, the people live in *tongkonans* (boat-shaped houses) and have complex funeral ceremonies that last for up to a week. These Tana Toraja people, in central Sulawesi, are famous for their funerals and buffaloes. They spend much of their time hunting and carving.

Maluku (Malocca) was once known as the Spice Islands. There are a thousand islands in the chain. It was a Portuguese colony later acquired by the Dutch. The two countries fought over cloves, nutmeg, and mace. The islands have great natural beauty, with coconut-fringed beaches. The dominant religion in this region is Christianity.

Papua or Irian Jaya (West Papua) is a turbulent place with an ongoing independence struggle since the 1960s. The island, shared with the country of New Guinea, has some stunning mountains and is the second largest island in the world after Greenland. On occasion the mountains are capped with snow. Papuans live predominantly in the mountain regions, with many still wearing traditional clothing such as grass skirts in the summer. A famous ethnic group is the Dani, who grow over 60 varieties of sweet potatoes.

Nusa Tenggara, or the South-East Islands, is a transitional area where the culture changes from Malay to

tourist. They grow up to ten feet in length and weigh 200 to 300 pounds. Their bite is deadly because bacteria from their 26 serrated teeth cause serious infections that are hard to treat. There are less than 10,000 of these “bad boys” alive today, a result of deer poachers killing off their food source and dogs eating their eggs.

Indonesia includes 500 distinct cultural and linguistic groups. Many different groups have migrated there throughout its history, including Malaysian, Chinese, Indian, and Arabian. The largest group is ethnically Malay. There are more than 650 languages and dialects spoken. Since independence, Indonesian (Bahasa Indonesia, the national language, a form of Malay) has spread throughout the archipelago and has become the language of most written communication, education, government, and business. It is a combination of Dutch, Sanskrit, Portuguese, and Arabic.

From 1965 to 1998, Indonesia was a dictatorship ruled by the brutal and corrupt President Suharto. A fragile democracy has emerged since then but faces many challenges, including religious and ethnic conflicts, poverty, economic inequality, and autocratic and corrupt institutions that are a holdover from the Suharto regime. The country has made progress in curtailing Islamic extremism, and many see it as a model for stable democracy in a Muslim country, and in a developing country with such stunning geographic, religious, and cultural diversity.

The climate is varied, with wet monsoons from China from November to March and dry winds from Australia blowing from April to September. It rains occasionally even during the dry season. Because of its temperate climate, Indonesia is home to more than 40 different species of mammals and 75,000 species of flora, which is nearly double that of Africa. The soil is rich and fertile. Two-thirds of the land is covered by tropical rainforest. It is the fifth largest producer of oil in the world and one of the largest natural gas producers.

Indonesians practice folk medicine using a special medicine man called a *dukun*. Sick people will go to him before they go to a clinic or hospital. Most of the remedies he prescribes have a basis in pharmacological properties from indigenous plants. *Dukuns* used quinine to cure malaria before modern doctors. They make their income from the sale of herbs and portions rather than charging a fee for treatment. A few *dukun* exorcise evil spirits or purge poison from patients or lay their hands on clients and heal them.

There are several national holidays celebrated that reflect the country's diverse population: *Tahun Baru* or New Year's Day (January 1); *Imlek* or Chinese New Year (January or February); *Idul Adha* or Muslim Day of Sacrifice for Abraham and Isaac (January); *Waisak* or Buddha Remembrance Day (March); Good Friday and Easter Sunday (March/April); Ascension of Christ Day (May/June); *Muharam* or Muslim New Year (June/July); *Maulud Nabi Muhammad* or birthday of Muhammad (May/June); *Hari Proklamasi Kemerdekaan* or Independence Day (August

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Melanesian. The Melanesians are more isolated, and many practice pagan religions. Animal sacrifice is common. Komodo is part of this group. Here and on Rinca, Flores, and Padar live the *ora* (Komodo dragons). These massive lizards are reputed to eat anything that appeals to them, including humans and water buffalo. They have large appetites and eat their body weight daily. They consume mostly carrion but have been known to eat deer, goats, rodents, monkeys, and an occasional

17); *Idul Fitri*, last day of Ramadan (October/November); *Irsa Miraj Nabi Muhamed*, Ascension Day of Muhammad (December); and *Hari Natal*, Christmas Day (December 25).

Other celebrations are *Katini Day* or Women's Day (April 21) and *Nyepi* or Balinese New Year (March/April). Balinese also celebrate *Hari Raya Sarsawati* (July). On this day they remember the Hindu goddess of learning. Blessings are made for Holy Scriptures, literatures, and all tools of learning. Offerings are made for books and libraries on this day, but ironically, it's forbidden to read—or to play instruments or use computers, either.

Sports are popular, and each September there is a national sports day. Dancing takes place at celebrations, weddings, birthdays, purification ceremonies, and processions to the sea. Many dances as well as puppet shows are accompanied by a bronze percussion *gamelan* orchestra of gongs, drums (hand-beaten), metallophone or a bamboo version called an *anklung*, violin instruments, a zither (*celempung*), a *rebab* (two-stringed upright lute), and flutes. Singing is sometimes part of the performance. *Gamelan* has an eerie or mysterious sound, like moonlight and rippling water, and can be quite loud. *Jaipongan* is a popular form of music that uses gongs, drums, and shouting. *Dangdut* is a blend of Malay, Western rock, and Indian and Arab pop and is popular with young people.

Puppet shows can be quite intricate performances, employing several actors and a *gamelan* orchestra. The puppeteers employ backlit shadows. The puppets have changed over the years, as have the stories; in addition to traditional legends and religious tales, many of the contemporary ones address principles like freedom and independence. Batik is an artistic form of fabric art using wax application designs that are painted over. The more than 1,000 designs are associated with traditional festivals and specific religious ceremonies. A few popular designs include buffalos, elephants, crocodiles, snakes, lizards, dragons, lions, and birds. Married couples are often wrapped together in a piece to symbolize unity.

The literature included below presents the geography, history, and culture of Indonesia and the diverse experiences of Indonesians. Readers of the following books will learn of the folklore and history of the Indonesian people, their daily lives, their extended families, their encounters with a beautiful but often unforgiving natural world, and their struggles for independence, freedom, and social justice. A list of recommended videos and web sites follows the book list.

Folklore

Bunanta, Murti. *Indonesian Folktales*. Westport, Conn.: Libraries Unlimited, 2003. 144 pp. Series: World Folklore Series. ISBN 1-56308-909-2. Gr. 7–8.

The author has collected 29 stories from oral and written sources. Three of the stories she heard as a child

from her mother.

Bunanta takes a topical rather than a geographical approach. The book is divided into three parts: A General Introduction to Indonesia; Food, Games, and Crafts; and The Tales. The Tales includes the topics of Jealous and Envious Brothers and Sisters; Stories of Independent Princesses; Stories of Ungrateful Children; Stories about Rice; Stories of How Things Come to Be, and Legends about Places. In the back are Motifs and Tale Sources, a glossary, a bibliography, and an index. Black-and-white line drawings are scattered throughout the book, showing different motifs and characters. There are a few color photographs of the people and places.

Terada, Alice M. *The Magic Crocodile and Other Folktales from Indonesia*. Honolulu: Univ. of Hawaii Press, 1994. 148 pp. Illus. by Charlene K. Smoyer. ISBN 0-8248-1654-4. Gr. 7–8.

With more than 300 different cultural groups, Indonesia has a rich storytelling tradition. The author shares 29 representative folktales from six regions of Indonesia: Sumatra, Java, Bali, Kalimantan, Sulawesi and Nusa Tenggara, and Irian Jaya. The color illustrations are quite striking, with bright watercolor images.

Fiction

Gelman, Rita Golden. *Rice Is Life*. New York: Henry Holt and Company, 2000. Unp. Illus. by Yangsook Choi. ISBN 0-8050-5719-6. Gr. K–3.

Gelman presents the raising of *nasi*, rice that is eaten for breakfast, lunch, and dinner by families on the island of Bali. The raising of rice in a *sawah*, a wet rice field, is told both in poetry and prose by Gelman, who lived nine years in Bali. Beautiful paintings of oil on paper illustrate each step of the raising of rice. The artist made a trip to Bali to do the colorful illustrations and endpapers. Readers are introduced to many animals and insects that may be seen in the rice fields. Children will enjoy hearing this book read to them more than once—and may welcome the challenge of making their own illustrations inspired by the text and accompanying paintings.

Lewis, Richard. *The Flame Tree*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2004. 278 pp. ISBN 0-689-86333-0. Gr. 7–8.

Isaac Williams, the son of missionaries, enjoys living on the island of Java and playing with his Indonesian friend, Ismail. After the September 11 attacks, his world shatters. Emboldened Islamic militants threaten the Christian mission; Ismail, as well as Isaac's favorite teacher, joins the extremist group. When the helicopter sent to evacuate Isaac crashes, he is captured and held hostage, and his captors seek his conversion for propaganda purposes. Although Isaac is twelve years old, this

is a book for mature readers, as he witnesses beheadings and undergoes a forced circumcision. Despite the book's harsh content and focus on Islamic extremism, the details of daily life in rural Indonesia, the exciting plot line, and the exploration of contemporary issues make it a good choice for older students.

Lewis, Richard. *The Killing Sea*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2006. 188 pp. ISBN 0-4169-1165-0. Gr. 6–8.

Lewis, who grew up in Indonesia and volunteered as a relief worker in Aceh in 2004–05, describes the deadly tsunami and its aftermath from the point of view of

two 16-year-olds—Ruslan, an Indonesian boy who lives in Meulaboh, near Banda Aceh, and Sarah, an American girl who is accompanying her family on a boat trip around the world. In alternating chapters, the novel details Sarah mother's death, her father's disappearance, and her younger brother's illness, as well as Ruslan's efforts to find his missing father. The two teens meet in the jungle, and Ruslan leads Sarah and her brother to a hopelessly overwhelmed medical facility before government troops force him into servitude collecting bodies. The ongoing civil war in Aceh province appears as a subplot, as Ruslan discovers his family's ties to the insurgency.

Biography

Cheneviere, Alain. *Pak in Indonesia*. Minneapolis: Lerner, 1994. 60 pp. Illus. with photos by the author. Trans. from French by Lisa Davidson. Series: My Future. ISBN 0-8225-2826-6, Gr. 3–6.

Pak, a young Indonesian boy, lives in Bandowoso, famous for raising and training bulls for cart racing. This book describes the culture of bull racing and its importance in Indonesian society. A notebook section includes geography, people and their work, history, cultural life, and a glossary. Color photos show Pak in action.

Gallardo, Evelyn. *Among the Orangutans: The Birute Galdikas Story*. San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 1993. 45 pp. ISBN 0811800318. Gr. 3–6.

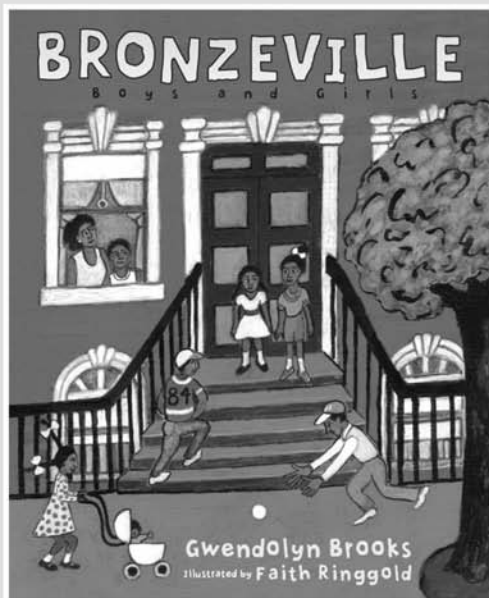
This biography of Birute Galdikas tells of a woman who becomes one of the last protégées of Dr. Louis Leakey and devotes her life to the scientific study of orangutans in Borneo, Indonesia. Colorful photographs show Birute with many orangutans in the Indonesian forests. An afterword by Galdikas, a list of organizations, a glossary, and an index complete the book. Colorful endpapers show maps and locations that related to the naturalist's life.

Culture and History

Berg, Elizabeth. *Indonesia*. Milwaukee, Wis.: Gareth Stevens, 1997. 32 pp. Illus. with photos. Series: Festivals of the World. ISBN 0-8368-1933-0. Gr. 2–4.

This series title highlights Indonesia's linguistic, religious, and cultural diversity. Four major religions are followed in Indonesia—

"[A] gloriously universal celebration of African-American childhood"*



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Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, and Christianity—and this book describes the festivals that accompany each

Muslim festivals included are *Sekaten* (seh-KAH-ten), celebrating the birthday of Prophet Mohammed; the end of the fasting month of Ramadan, also called *Eid al-Fitr*; and *Eid Al-Adha*, the celebration of Ibrahim's (Abraham's) willingness to sacrifice his son. Balinese festivals include *Nypei*, the Balinese New Year, a totally quiet day wherein no fires are lit, no work is done, and no one leaves the home; *Galingon*, ten days when gods and ancestors are believed to return to Earth; and *Odalan*, a festival occurring every 210 days to celebrate the birthday of a Hindu temple with a variety of musical, mystic, and cultural activities. Celebrations of Good Friday on the island of Flores are solemn, barefoot processions, contrasted with whip duels called *caci* (CHA-chee) in West Flores. A coming-of-age celebration, leaping over a two-foot-wide column, for men on the island of Naas is described.

Suggestions are given for activities such as dancing and mask making. There are directions for making a shadow puppet and for frying tempeh. A glossary, an index, and a list of additional books follow the text.

Cassanos, Lynda Cohen. *Indonesia*. Philadelphia: Mason Crest, 2005. 128 pp. Illus. with photos. Series: The Growth and Influence of Islam. ISBN 1-59084-836-5. Gr. 6–8.

The author helps readers to understand the geography, history, politics, economies, and cultures of the Islamic nation of Indonesia. Her chapters include Place in the World, The Land, History, Politics, Economy, Religion, The People, Communities, and Foreign Relations. In the back are a chronology, a glossary, suggestions for further reading, Internet resources, and an index.

Horton, Edward. *Indonesia*. Chicago: Raintree, 2004. 128 pp. Illus. with photos. Series: Nations of the World. ISBN 0-7398-6998-1. Gr. 5–7.

The text is quite interesting, as Horton goes beyond the normal coverage to treat unusual places and subjects. Chapters include Introduction, Land and Cities, Past and Present, The Economy, Arts and Living, and The Future. In the back there is an almanac, a time line, a glossary, a bibliography, and an index. An unusual feature of this culture guide is the full-page color photos opening each section. They are a bit muted and less vibrant than other treatments, but they give a dreamlike tone to the book. Smaller photos are well chosen and depict interesting events and people. There are a lot of color graphs and charts showing demographics such as population, ethnic composition, religious persuasion, and mean age. Horton's most unique contribution is his treatment of geographic places with bizarre happenings, like the disappearance of Michael Rockefeller.

Lamoreaux, Florence. *Indonesia: A Global Studies Handbook*. Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-CLIO, 2003. 251 pp. Series: Global Studies, Asia. ISBN 1-57607-913-9. Gr. 7–8.

This book is for advanced readers in junior high and high school. It contains some very interesting facts and details about the country in four chapters that cover geography and history, the economy, public and private institutions, and society and contemporary issues. Back-matter includes a chronology; brief biographies of significant people; an introduction to language, food, and etiquette; a directory of organizations; a bibliography; and an index. There are a few scattered black-and-white maps and photos that help readers conceptualize places and people.

Lim, Robin. *Indonesia*. Minneapolis: Carolrhoda, 2001. 48 pp. Illus. with photos. Series: Globetrotters Club. ISBN 1-57505-150-8. Gr. 2–5.

Basic concepts are covered for older elementary readers, with a few vocabulary words highlighted in bold print. There is a photograph on each page. The book covers a variety of themes in 16 chapters, including geography, the animals of the rain forest, ancient Indonesians, city and country life, families, religion and religious holidays, schools, sports and pastimes, the arts, and food. In the back are a glossary, a pronunciation guide, a list of books for further reading, and an index.

Lyle, Garry. *Indonesia*. Philadelphia: Chelsea House, 1999. 104 pp. Series: Major World Nations. ISBN 0-7910-4987-6. Gr. 6–8.

This book opens with a two-page spread of a map that shows the Republic of Indonesia. The next two pages are entitled Facts at a Glance, which is followed by four pages of History at a Glance. "Unity in diversity," "*Bhinneka Tunggal Ika*" in the Bahasa language, is the motto of the Indonesian people. This history of Indonesia focuses on the influence of the various peoples who migrated to its shores, bringing their religions (Muslim, Hindu, and Christian), their cultural practices, architecture, and government. After many colorizations and wars, the independence of the Republic of Indonesia was declared on August 17, 1945. Later chapters describe developments since independence in this turbulent land, though the book predates the 2002 terror attacks and the tsunami. A glossary and an index are provided.

Matthews, Rupert. *The Eruption of Krakatoa*. New York: The Boatwright Press, 1989. 32 pp. Illus. by Tony Smith and Peter Bull. Series: Great Disasters. ISBN 0-531-18239-8. Gr. 1–4.

Colorful pastel illustrations plus color and black-and-white photos illustrate the island of Krakatoa before,

during, and after the August 27, 1883 volcanic eruption. The blast of this volcano was estimated to have exceeded the power of many atomic bombs. It killed people, animals, and plants and instigated tsunamis. Diagrams are shown of the extent of the ash that fell and the far-away locations where explosions were heard. A glossary, a list of books to read, a list of important dates, and an index are provided.

Miksic, John. *The Mysteries of Borobudur*. Singapore: Periplus, 1999. 32 pp. Series: Discover Indonesia. ISBN 962-593-198-8. Gr. 2-6.

The contribution of this book is that it deals specifically with the importance of the Hindi religion and the Borobudur temple on Java. It adds specific details about the construction of the temple, its importance, and the cultural practices of Hinduism. Buddhism, which is also practiced on the island, receives coverage as well. Chapters explore early Javanese society; the architecture and construction of the temple; statues; texts such as Mahakamavibhangga, Jatakas, Avadanas, the Lalitavistara, and the Gandavyuha; and their meaning. In the back are a glossary and an index. The color photographs are a bit dull and could have been better selected.

Miller, Debra A. *Indonesia*. Farmington Hills, Mich.: Lucent, 2005. 112 pp. Illus. with photos. Series: Modern Nations of the World. ISBN 1-59018-442-4. Gr. 5-8.

This book covers the country's climate, geography, agriculture, industry, daily life in both rural and urban areas, and arts and culture. Indonesia, a beautiful Southeast Asian country formed from thousands of islands, was once a popular tourist site but today is associated mostly with Islamic terrorism and a deadly 2004 tsunami disaster, issues that this recently published title covers. The book features maps, black-and-white photographs, and special boxes. In the back are facts at a glance, a detailed chronology, an annotated bibliography including works for both children and adults, an annotated list of works consulted (including web sites), and an index. Photos and maps are interesting and informative.

Mirpuri, Gouri and Cooper, Robert. *Indonesia*. New York: Marshall Cavendish, 2002. 144 pp. Illus. with photos. Series: Cultures of the World. ISBN 0-7614-1353-3. Gr. 5-8.

The authors help readers to get a sense of Indonesian culture. Besides chapters on geography, history, politics, and government are ones focused on the environment and environmental preservation, the Indonesian people and their lifestyles, the country's four main religions, language, the arts, leisure, festivals, and cuisine. The color photos are vibrant, with vivid greens that show the lush tropical flavor of the islands. Subjects chosen in the photographs are attractive and usually smiling, thus

depicting the warmth of the people. In the back are a map, fast facts, bibliographies, and an index.

Moose, Christina J. *Dropping in on Indonesia*. Vero Beach, Fla.: Rourke, 2003. 32 pp. Illus. with photos. Series: A Geography Series. ISBN 1-55916-281-3. Gr. 1-3.

This is a very basic treatment of Indonesia, a good starting point for younger children as it gives a few interesting facts in simple terms. There is a color photograph on every other page. In the style of a tour program, places are covered in "stops." Stop 1 is Jakarta. Stop 2 is Borobudur and Prambanan on the island of Java, where readers learn of the country's religions. Stop 3 is Bali, and Stop 4 is Kalimantan, habitat of the Komodo Dragon. Stop 5 is Sulawesi, where readers learn of the daily life of Indonesians, and Stop 6 is Sumatra, where food is featured. In the back are a glossary, further readings, suggested web sites, and an index.

Nardo, Don. *Krakatoa*. San Diego, Calif.: Lucent, 1990. 64 pp. Illus. by Brian McGovern. Series: World Disasters. ISBN 1-56006-011-5. Gr. 5-8.

The author says that a disaster should not be viewed in isolation; therefore, he presents historical information, plus information about the culture in which the disaster occurred. On August 26, 1883, the uninhabited island of Krakatoa blew up. It produced the loudest sound ever recorded in human history, a sound so loud that it was heard 3,000 miles away. The nearest inhabitants to Krakatoa lived on the large islands of Java and Sumatra, and by August 27, tsunamis had killed thousands of people there. Although Krakatoa had brought death and destruction, new life emerged after its volcanic explosions. Where there had been 34 plant species in 1886, there were 61 in 1896. In 1929, 300 plant species were identified. In addition to the new plants and animals observed, scientists learned about the recurring process of volcanic caldera formation. On December 29, 1927, a new island named Anak Krakatoa, child of Krakatoa, appeared where the craters of Danan and Perboewatan had disappeared. Included are a glossary, a reading list, and an index.

Orr, Tamra. *Indonesia*. New York: Children's Press, 2005. 144 pp. Illus. with photos. Series: Enchantment of the World, Second Series. ISBN 0-516-23684-9. Gr. 5-8.

The author has added a few interesting facts along with a color illustration on every page in the revision to a venerable series title first published in 1990. However, the tsunami is not covered, and the tone is mostly positive, with little on the country's political and religious turmoil. For instance, the ten chapter titles include an introduction called "A Tolerant and Artistic Country," "Forests, Flowers, and Wildlife," "A Varied Population," "Religious Beliefs," and "A Lively Culture." In the back

are fast facts, a bibliography, and an index.

Phillips, Douglas A. *Indonesia*. Philadelphia: Chelsea House, 2005. 112 pp. Illus. with photos. Series: Modern World Nations. ISBN 0-7910-9022-6. Gr. 5-8.

This is a current account of Indonesia that covers recent turmoil and disasters as well as presenting some unusual facts about the people and the country. Chapters examine the natural environment, Indonesia's history, people, culture, government and economy, the smaller islands, and Indonesia's future. Backmatter includes facts at a glance, a chronology, a list of books for further reading, and an index. This is a highly recommended treatment for children's collections with country studies.

Riehecky, Janet. *Indonesia*. Mankato, Minn.: Bridgestone Books, 2002. 24 pp. Illus. with photos. Series: Countries of the World. ISBN 0-7368-1106-0. Gr. 1-3.

The author covers basic concepts including land, home and school life, food, clothing, animals, holiday and celebrations, language, and crafts. There are a few words in Bahasa Indonesian and instructions for making a shadow puppet. A color photo accompanies each concept, and front- and backmatter include a map, fast facts, a bibliography, a list of Internet sites, and an index.

Ryan, Patrick. *Indonesia*. Plymouth, Minn.: The Child's World, 1998. 32 pp. Illus. with photos. Series: Faces and Places. ISBN 1-56766-275-7. Gr. 3-5.

The author has kept his text short and to the point with about a paragraph in each chapter. The color illustrations and photos are quite dramatic on high-quality glossy pages, and these visuals distinguish this volume from other series books. Our favorite is one of seven women carrying on their heads colorful fruit baskets to the market.

Simpson, Judith. *Indonesia*. Broomall, Pa.: Mason Crest, 2003. 47 pp. Illus. with photos. Series: Ask about Asia. ISBN 1-59084-208-1. Gr. 3-6.

The author discusses the geography, history, economy, government, religion, people, foreign relations, and major cities of Indonesia in five brief chapters. The emphasis is on the country's history and political life, though the final chapter addresses aspects of daily life such as school, family, and food. The author uses as many as four color photos per page, which gives a visual panorama of people and places. She includes some interesting captions with each photo.

Townsend, Sue and Young, Caroline. *Indonesia*. Chicago: Heinemann Library, 2003. Illus. with photos. Se-

ries: A World of Recipes. 48 pp. ISBN 1-4034-09765. Gr. 4-8.

The authors share recipes from Indonesia that children can make: Peanut Fritters, Peanut Sauce, Vegetable Gado-Gado, Crab and Baby Sweet Corn Soup, Prawn and Rice Noodle Soup, Nasi Goreng, Aromatic Chicken, Spiced Beef and Coconut Stew, Steamed Cabbage with Coconut, Carrot and Mooli Salad, Spicy Scrambled Eggs, Sumatran-Style Lamb Chops, Tofu Omelettes, Festive Rice Cone, Coconut Pancakes, and Fruit Salad. The book provides a list of ingredients, a bibliography, a glossary, and an index.

Torres, John. *Tsunami Disaster in Indonesia, 2004*. Hockessin, Del.: Mitchell Lane, 2005. 32 pp. Illus. with photos. Series: A Robbie Reader/Natural Disasters. ISBN 1-58415-2. Gr. 2-4.

This is a very basic level (but high-interest) reader about the impact of the tsunami that hit Indonesia in 2004. The first chapter tells the story of Wong Li Khiun and how she lost her son, husband, and 40 members of her family. She clung to a telephone pole with her son wrapped around her, but so many people came that she was knocked off and her son was swept away. Torres then defines a tsunami and covers the scope of the disaster, international aid efforts, and the rebuilding process.

Wilds, Mary C. *Indonesia*. Farmington Hills, Mich.: Lucent, 2004. 112 pp. Illus. with photos. Series: Indigenous Peoples of the World. ISBN 1-59018-314-2. Gr. 7-8.

The author approaches the subject with an anthropological perspective, with fully documented primary and secondary sources. The focus is on the ethnic groups of Indonesia, their history, ways of life, culture, and folklore, as well as the conflicts between them, past and present. Following the main text are notes, further reading, works consulted, and an index. Although the unique perspective is valuable, the text is dry. Also, I don't like the use of black-and-white photographs when there are so many good color ones, but a few she has chosen are dramatic.

Windham, Jeannette P. *Volcanoes, Betjaks, and "Dragons."* Tampa, Fla.: Global Age Publishing, 1995. 82 pp. Illus. Series: Windows on the World. ISBN 1-887176-05-5. Gr. 4-6.

Although this is an older work, and one that is self-published, its imaginative content will appeal to middle grade readers. Windham structures the book as a fantasy tour, with chapters entitled "Preparation and Travel Itinerary," "Country Briefing," "Our Arrival in Indonesia," "In and Around Bali," "Our Nest in the Treetops," "Bargaining in Bali," "Living Dinosaurs," "Our Very Own

Sultan's Palace," and "Our Betjak Adventure" (a *betjak* is a bicycle taxi, a popular form of transportation). The focus is on the islands Java, Bali, and Komodo. In the back are fast facts, a glossary, and a simple recipe. The quality of the photos is somewhat inferior, but the line drawings are artistically rendered and attractive.

Nature

Martin, James. *Komodo Dragons: Giant Lizards of Indonesia*. Minneapolis: Capstone Press, 1995. 48 pp. Illus. with photos. ISBN 1-56065-238-1. Gr. 2-4.

This book begins with two pages of facts about Komodo dragons. Five brief chapters, enhanced by the author's color photographs, tell about the lives of the reptiles, what they eat, how they hunt, how they reproduce, and how they interact with humans. A glossary, a list of suggested books to read, and an index conclude this book.

Martin, Louise. *Komodo Dragons*. Vero Beach, Fla.: Rourke Enterprises, 1989. 24 pp. Illus. with photos. Series: The Reptile Discovery Library. ISBN 0-86592-574-7. Gr. K-3.

Martin offers a very simple account of the reptiles that describes their physical characteristics, habits, and behavior. Nine short chapters, with a full-color photo on every page, include: Komodo Dragons, How They Look, Where They Live, What They Eat, How They Eat, Their Senses, Their Defenses, Baby Komodo Dragons, and Komodo Dragons and People. In the back are a glossary and an index.

Maynard, Thane. *Komodo Dragons*. Plymouth, Minn.: The Child's World, 1997. 32 pp. Illus. with photos. ISBN 1-56766-266-8. Gr. 1-4.

Large print and clear, distinctive photographs tell what Komodo dragons are, where they live, what they look like, what they eat, how their young are born and grow up, and why they need to be protected.

Miller, Geoff. *Komodo Dragons*. Danbury, Conn.: Grolier Educational, 1999. 48 pp. Illus. with photos. Series: Nature's Children. ISBN 0-7172-9361-0 (alk. paper). Gr. 3-6.

Facts are provided in a conversational style of writing, along with very colorful, well-chosen pictures from various photographers. The author indicates that Komodo dragons may be seen on the islands of Pandar, Rintja, Flores, and Komodo. Some books about Komodo dragons mention only the island of Komodo. Words to know and an index conclude this book.

Montardre, Helene. *Volcanoes: A Journey to the Crater's Edge*. New York: Abrams, 2002. Illus. with photos by Philippe Bourseiller and drawings by David Giraudon. 76 pp. ISBN 0-8109-4590-8. Gr. 3-6

Photographer Bourseiller travels to active and inactive craters of volcanoes throughout the world and takes spectacular pictures in color. Two pages at the beginning explain how volcanoes are born and two pages at the end explain how the photographer took the pictures in this book. At each location, a red dot is shown on a world map to indicate the location of the volcano crater depicted. Three pictures were taken in Indonesia: "Vulcanologists on the Merapi Volcano," "Procession Along the Slopes of the Agung Volcano, Bali," and "Sulphur from Kawah Ijen, Island of Java."

Schafer, Susan. *The Komodo Dragon*. New York: Dillon Press, 1992. 60 pp. Illus. with photos. ISBN 0-87508-504-5. Gr. 2-6.

Two pages of facts about the Komodo dragon precede five brief chapters with color pictures. Each illustration relates to the well-organized text. The author's authoritative command of facts and clear explanations lead the reader logically from one life event to another of the giant lizard. Additional sources of information, a glossary, and an index follow the main text.

Tibbits, Alison and Roocroft, Alan. *Sumatran Tigers*. Mankato, Minn.: Capstone Press, 1992. 32 pp. Illus. with photos. Series: Animals, animals, animals. ISBN 1-56065-105-9. Gr. K-2.

This picture book features large colorful pictures of tigers, plus text in large print. Words listed in the brief glossary/index are printed in bold. The authors describe characteristics of the tigers, their habitats, hunting practices, and how they nurture their young. According to the authors, only 200 Sumatran tigers exist.

Videos

ABC News: *Tsunami—Wave of Destruction*. (2005). MPI Home Video. DVD, 124 min., color.

Globe Trekker Indonesia. (2004). London: Pilot Productions. DVD, 180 min., color.

Indonesia. (2005). Silver Spring, Md.: Discovery Education. DVD, color.

Indonesia Island Jihad. (2005). Worcester, Pa.: Vision Video. DVD, 20 min., color.

Indonesia—Java and Bali. (2000). [n.l.]: Travel View. VHS, 60 min., color.

Lonely Planet: The Indonesia Experience. (1997). Oakland, Calif.: Lonely Planet Productions. VHS, 47 min., color.

Wildlife Secret Animals: Africa, Scandinavia, Alaska, Indonesia and India. (2006). Santa Monica, Calif.: Tango Entertainment. DVD, 108 min., color.

Internet Sites

American-Indonesian Chamber of Commerce (www.aiccusa.org)

American Indonesia Exchange Foundation (www.aminef.or.id/)

ArchipelaGo (www.goarchi.com/)
Batik Making (www.expat.or.id/batiksteps.html)

Dutch East Indies (<http://home.iae.nl/users/arcengel/Links/Ned-Indie.htm>)

Gadjah Mada University (www.gadjahmada.edu)
Indonesian Art Net (www.indonesianart.com)

Indonesian Embassy of the United States (www.embassyofindonesia.org)

Indonesian Heritage (www.indonesianheritage.com)

Indonesian History until 1998 (<http://home.iae.nl/users/arcengel/Indonesia/100.htm>)

Indonesian History until 2001 (www.gimonca.com/sejarah/sejarah10.html)

Indonesian Offices of the United Nations (www.un.int/indonesia)

Jakarta Post (www.thejakartapost.com/headlines.asp)

University of Indonesia (www.ui.ac.id/)

World Fact Book (www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/id.html)

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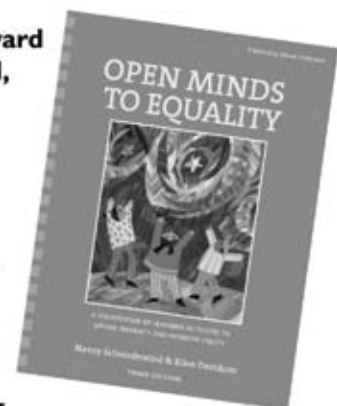
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