

SNAPSHOTS OF ASIA

Malaysia




Australian Government
Department of Education,
Science and Training

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A NALSAS Initiative



SNAPSHOTS OF ASIA

ASIA: 60°-170° EAST



Malaysia

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Meet My Family

I live with my father, mother, grandmother and older sister. We follow the religion of Islam.

I call my mother *Mak*, my father *Ayah*, my grandmother *Nenek*, and my older sister, *Kak*.

We live in a *kampung*, near Kuala Selangor on the west coast of Peninsular Malaysia.

My *Nenek* tells me about the past. Last night she told me about proverbs.

Nordin: *Nenek*, my teacher said I was 'pounding pepper to curry a bird on the wing'. What does that mean?

Nenek: That saying is a Malay proverb.

Nordin: What is a proverb?

Nenek: A proverb is a wise saying used to teach important lessons in life. Malay proverbs often use words from *kampung* life. Other cultures may say the same thing very differently.

Nordin: What is the lesson of my proverb?

Nenek: It says it is unwise to boast about something before it happens.

Nordin: Oh! How do other cultures say that?

Nenek: Well, a similar English proverb says, 'don't count your chickens before they hatch'.





family outside house



mother and son



kampung house



Kuala Lumpur

Fact File

- Many more people live in Peninsular Malaysia than in East Malaysia.
- Indigenous people of Peninsular Malaysia are known as *Orang Asli*, original people.



family at home

Match each of the Malay proverbs with an English proverb. What is the lesson of each proverb?

Malay Proverbs:

I am not a banana-eating child.

It is with hornbills that hornbills fly.

Jump from the jaws of a crocodile to those of a tiger.

Like a mousedeer in a clearing.

English Proverbs:

Birds of a feather flock together.

I wasn't born yesterday.

Like a fish out of water.

Out of the frying pan and into the fire.



Our Environment

Every day it is hot and humid throughout most of Malaysia. This climate is perfect for tropical rainforests.

Birds, animals, insects and plant life thrive in the rainforests. Where I live it is mainly coastal wetlands and many birds live and migrate here.



Fact File

- Gunung Kinabalu in Sabah is Malaysia's highest mountain, at 4,101 metres high.
- More than half of Malaysia is covered in rainforest and woodland.
- Malaysia is one of the world's largest producers of palm oil, timber, cocoa, pepper, coconut products, tin and rubber. It exports these and other products such as electronics, transport, steel and textiles.
- *Orang-utan* means 'man of the forest'. It is an endangered species.





rainforest



rubber-tapping



rafflesia



harlequin tree-frog



baby orang-utans



Rainforest Word and Picture Puzzle

Come trekking through the Rainforest Word and Picture Puzzle to see what you can find.

	O	M	O	O	N	M	O	T	H
T	R	S	U	N	B	E	A	R	O
R	A	T	A	P	I	R			R
E	N	P	A	N	G	O	L	I	N
E	G	G	I	B	B	O	N		B
F	U		B	A	T				I
R	T	S	Q	U	I	R	R	E	L
O	A		O	R	C	H	I	D	L
G	N	E	L	E	P	H	A	N	T
R	A	F	F	L	E	S	I	A	

Orang-utan, elephant, tree-frog, bat, pangolin, hornbill, moonmoth, sunbear, squirrel, tapir, gibbon, rafflesia, orchid.

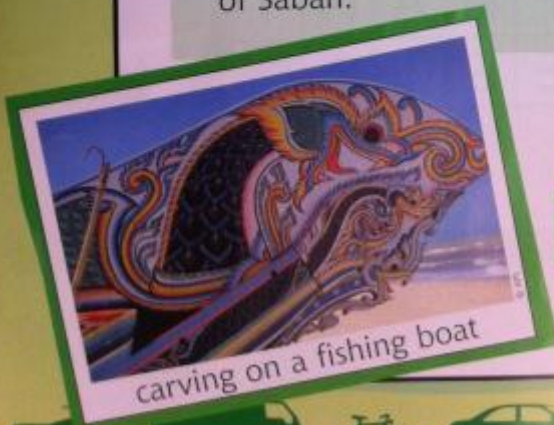
Nordin, Nordin, what can you see?

I see an orang-utan in front of me.

Getting About

Fact File

- Pulau = Island.
There are about 1,000 islands in Malaysia.
- Sailors once called Peninsular Malaysia, 'the land where the winds meet'.
- Carvings on the front of traditional fishing boats are believed to help keep storms and demons away.
- KL has a driverless electric Light Rail Transit (LRT) system.
- A national railway system runs in Peninsular Malaysia and parts of Sabah.

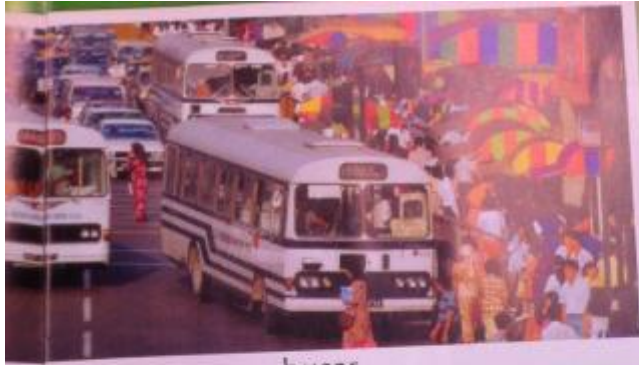


Island Hopping

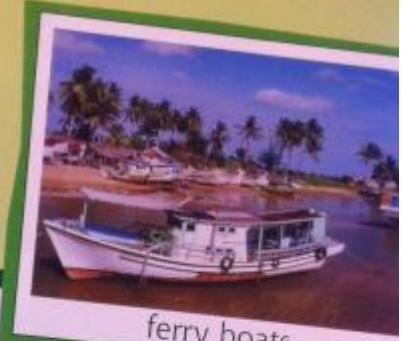
On Pulau Langkawi
We hired a jet ski.
On Pulau Besar
We went by car.
Across Pulau Kapas
We travelled by bus.
But on Pulau Sipidan
All we had was a van.
To Pulau Sapi
We caught the ferry.
On Pulau Aur
We rode a trishaw.
To Pulau Tioman
We will catamaran.
But over Pulau Tulai
We could only fly.



North, South, East and West,
which type of transport
do you like best?



buses



ferry boats



catamaran ferry










LRT driverless train

**Nordin, Nordin,
what can you see?**

I see a driverless train
coming towards me.

Structures and Shapes

What Am I? Where Am I?

-  I have minarets, domes and graceful arches. I am an Islamic place of prayer. I was built in 1907.
-  I house a whole village. I am made from wood and stand on stilts. I have one long veranda.
-  I am three storeys high and eight-sided in shape. On my floors you can find food, clothes and fabric.
-  We were built in 1998 and at 452 metres tall, we are among the tallest buildings in the world.
-  I was begun in 1890 and took 20 years to build. My pagoda is seven tiers high. Before you enter me you must take off your shoes. I am a Buddhist place of prayer.
-  I am in the rainforest, 25 metres above the ground, suspended between several trees.
-  We are hollow and made of limestone. You must climb 272 steps to reach us. We are a Hindu place of pilgrimage.



tiled entrance

Fact File

- In Malaysia it is polite to remove your shoes before entering any holy place or someone's home.
- The shape of the Petronas Towers is based on the Islamic pattern of an eight-sided star.



Kek Lok Si Temple



Central Market,
Kota Bharu



longhouse



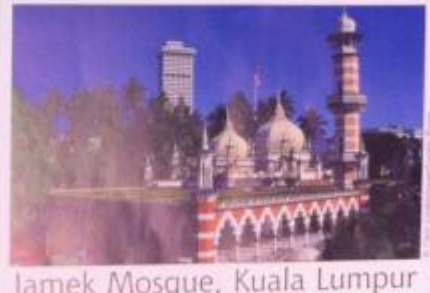
Petronas Towers



canopy walk



Batu Caves



Jamek Mosque, Kuala Lumpur

**Nordin, Nordin,
what can you see?**

I see Petronas Towers
shining at me.

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School

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28 October

Dear Diary,

It is Rainforest Week at school this week. There will be activities to help us explore, understand and promote our rainforests.

I think it will be fun but I'm nervous about Friday.

Nordin

Schedule of Activities

Monday: Rainforest plant survey.  
Count and draw the different plants you see.

Tuesday: Visit from scientist. 
'Could Malaysia's *orang-utans* soon become extinct in the wild?'

Wednesday: A trip down the river. 
Where does water come from, where does it go and who uses it?

Thursday: *Batik* designs on cotton bags. 
Dye a cotton bag to use instead of using plastic bags.

Friday: 7 pm - PowerPoint presentation to parents.
'What Threatens Our Rainforests?'

Saturday: 6.30 am - 10.30 am Bird, butterfly and beast walk. 
Name the birds, butterflies and animals you see.



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School

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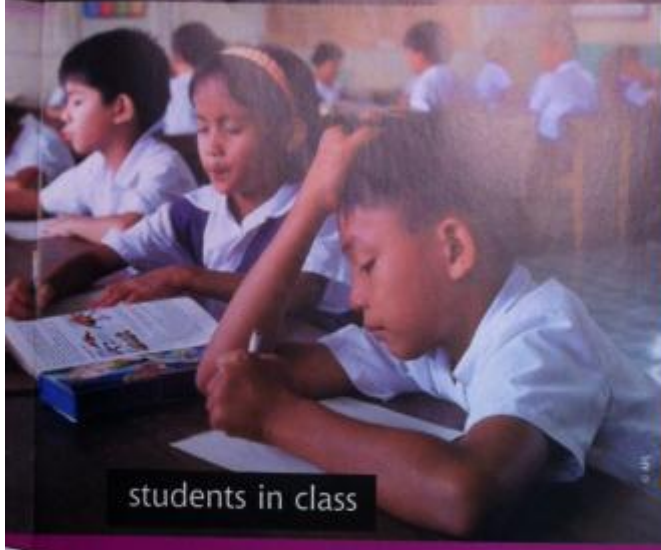
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a b c d e f 12 h i j k l m n

n o p q r s t u v w x y z



students in class



students on swing

- 1 satu
- 2 dua
- 3 tiga
- 4 empat
- 5 lima
- 6 enam
- 7 tujuh
- 8 lapan
- 9 sembilan
- 10 sepuluh
- 20 dua puluh
- 100 seratus
- 200 dua ratus



Days of the Week

- Monday – hari Isnin
- Tuesday – hari Selasa
- Wednesday – hari Rabu
- Thursday – hari Khamis
- Friday – hari Jumaat
- Saturday – hari Sabtu
- Sunday – hari Ahad



rainforest excursion

Fact File

- Malaysian school students wear a uniform.
- Bahasa Malaysia is the language used for teaching in national primary schools. Some schools also teach in Tamil, Chinese or indigenous languages.
- English must be studied. Science and Maths are taught in English.



batik designs on cotton

n o p q r s t 13 u v w x y z

Interesting Places

1
START
Pulau Langkawi
Jet ski fun

2
Kangar
Listen to Awang Baiti, a traditional storyteller

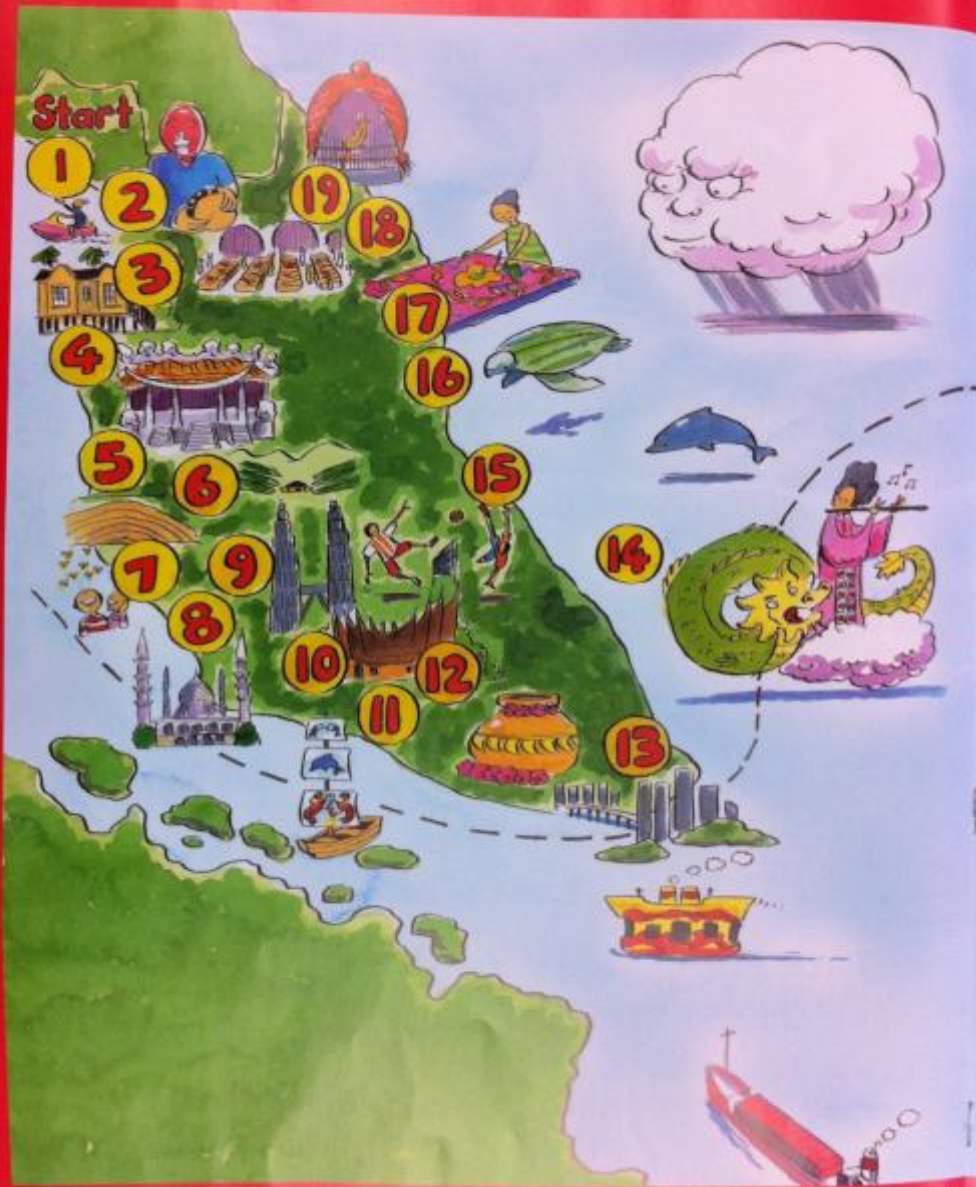
3
Alor Setar
Spend a night in a kampung
MISS A TURN

4
Georgetown
Visit the Khoo Kongsi clan temple

5
Ipoh
Discover Perak's tin-mining history

6
Cameron Highlands
Cool down at a hill station
MISS A TURN

7
Kuala Selangor Nature Park
Stay a night to watch the fireflies
MISS A TURN



8
Shah Alam
Visit the Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah Mosque
GO FORWARD 2

9
Petronas Towers
View KL lights at night from Floor 42

10
Seremban
Photograph interesting Minangkabau buildings

11
Melaka
Join in Festival of San Pedro, patron saint of fishermen

12
Melaka
Stay overnight at a rubber estate for Thaiponggol celebration
MISS A TURN

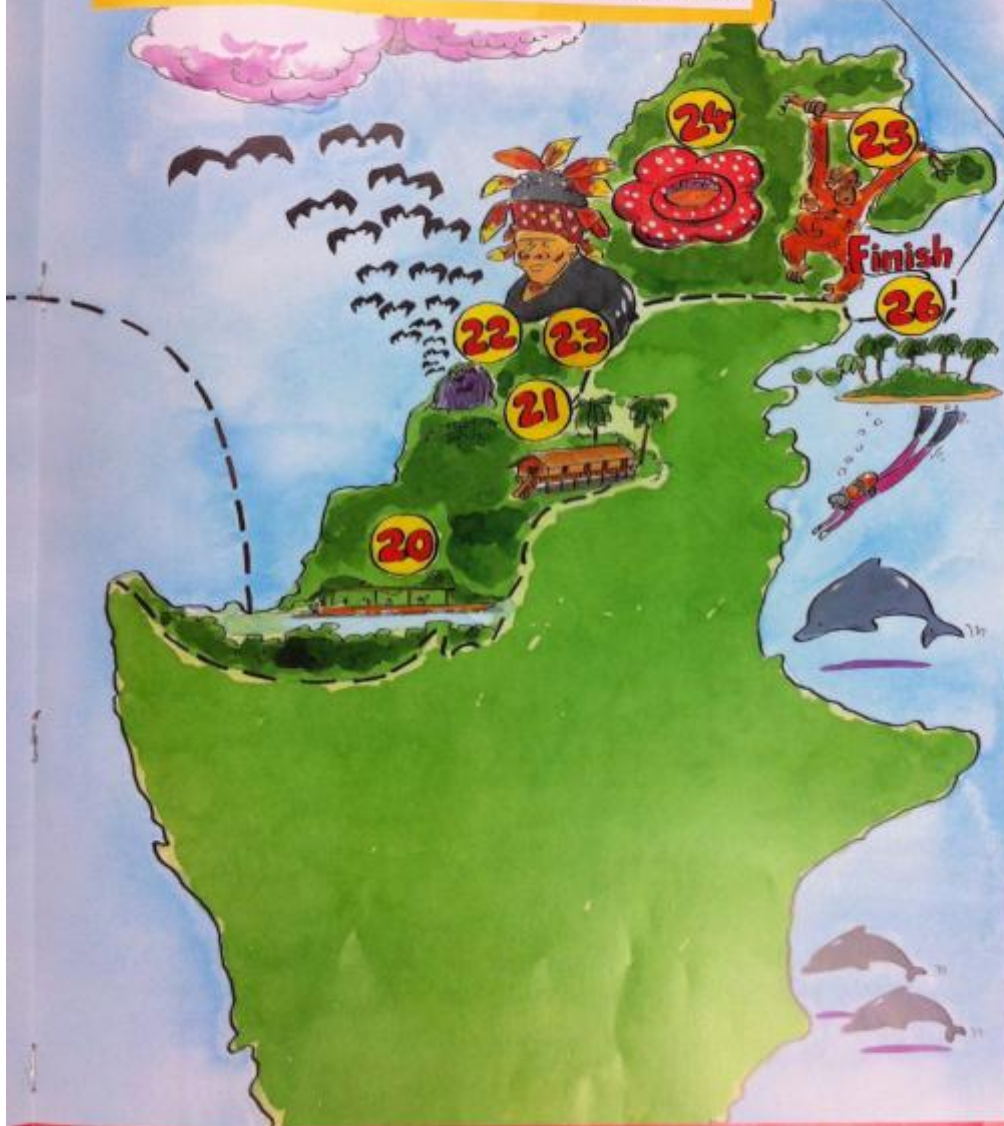
Trekking Malaysia

You will need

A die or a spinner
Some counters
A friend to play with.

How to play

Take turns to throw the die.
The first to reach Pulau Semporna wins.



26

FINISH Pulau Semporna

Go diving in crystal waters.

25

Sepilok Forest Reserve

Visit the Orang-utan
Rehabilitation Centre.
GO BACK 1

24

Gunung Kinabalu

See rafflesia on the
climb up the
mountain.
GO FORWARD 1

23

Gunung Mulu National Park

Follow the old Kayan
Headhunters' trail.

22

Niah Caves

Watch millions
of bats fly in and
swifts fly out of the
huge caves.

21

Iban Longhouse

Stay a night to see
traditional dancing.
MISS A TURN

20

Rajang River

Journey by long-
boat up the river.

19

Tumpat

Stay and listen to
a songbird
competition.
MISS A TURN

13

Johor Bahru

Gateway to
Singapore.

14

Pulau Tioman

Hear the story of how
the island was once a
dragon princess.

15

Kuantan

Watch a
Sepak Takraw game
in the park.
GO BACK 2 SPACES

16

Rantau Abang Turtle Sanctuary

See giant leatherback
turtles hatching.

17

Kuala Terengganu

Visit a batik-printing
and songket-weaving
workshop.

18

Kota Bahru

Shop at the colourful
Central Market.
**GO FORWARD
1 SPACE**

Going Shopping

One of the most popular night-time activities throughout Malaysia is the *pasar malam* or night market.

At dusk some roads are closed to traffic and stalls are set up on the street.

You can buy almost anything: from kites to baby clothes, electronic games to farm tools, and food and vegetables of various kinds.



I enjoy the *pasar malam* as it is good to escape the heat of the day and everyone is relaxed. It is also a chance to eat some delicious snacks from the hawker stalls.

Most towns have a *pasar malam* once a week. In the big cities they can happen every night.

Fact File

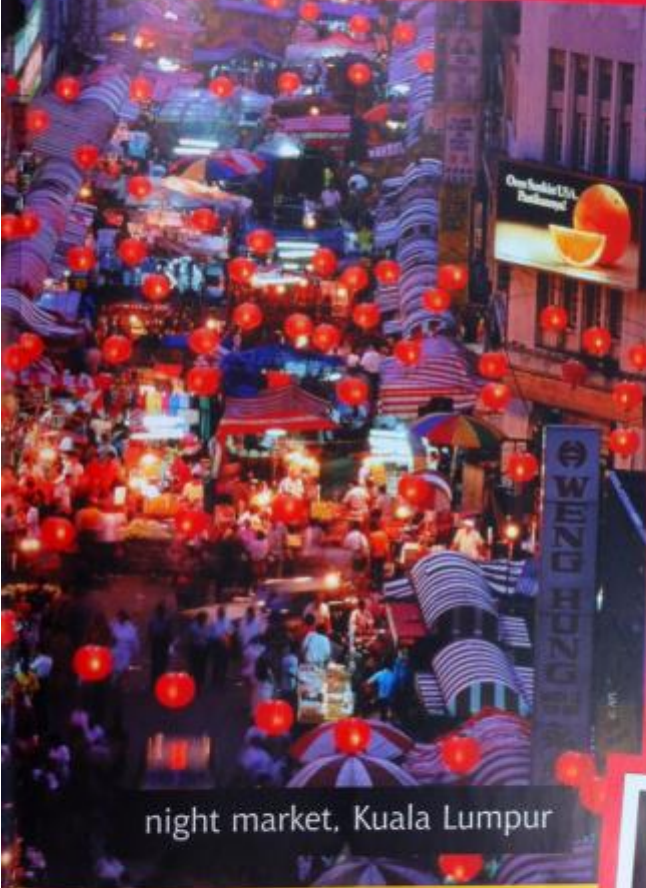
- Malaysian money is called the *ringgit* (RM)
- 100 *sen* = 1 *ringgit*
- Bargaining is important at the *pasar malam*.



hawker's stall



shopping mall, Kuala Lumpur



night market, Kuala Lumpur



family eating



rambutans



kite maker

**Nordin, Nordin,
what can you see?**

I see beautiful kites in
front of me.



Cooking

Coconuts grow everywhere in Malaysia, and there are many dishes that make use of this easy supply.

Kuih Dadar, coconut pancakes, is a simple recipe that uses coconut milk (*santan*), and dried coconut. Why not try them for an afternoon snack?

Kuih Dadar

(Coconut Pancakes)

Ingredients for 12 pancakes

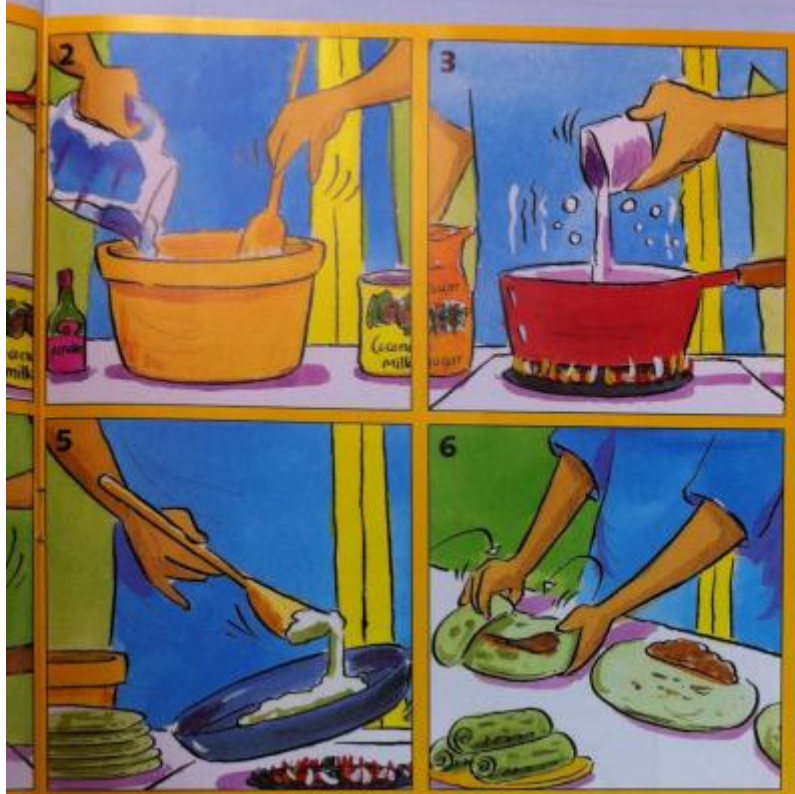
Batter:

- 4 cups of water
- 3 drops of *pandan* essence
- 2½ cups of plain flour
- 3 tablespoons of coconut milk
- 1 pinch of salt

Filling:

- 1½ cups of dark brown sugar
- 3 cups of desiccated coconut
- 1½ cups of water





Lupa Lelah Restaurant Menu

Beef or Chicken Satay	RM 5.00
Barbecued Meat with Spicy Peanut Sauce	
Beef Rendang	RM 7.50
Spicy Beef Dish	
Nasi Lemak	RM 1.00
Rice in Coconut Milk	
Nasi Goreng	RM 5.00
Fried Rice	
Curry Laksa	RM 7.50
Spicy Noodle Soup	
Fried Kway Teow	RM 6.00
Stir-fried Fat Noodles with Sprouts	
Rojak	RM 4.00
Fruit and Vegetable Salad	
Coconut Pancakes	RM 3.50

Method:

Batter:

This can be made the day before and kept in the refrigerator if necessary. Sift flour and salt into a mixing bowl. Stir in the water and coconut milk a little at a time until smooth. Mix in the *pandan* essence at the end. Leave batter to stand for 30 minutes.

Filling:

Boil the water and then add the sugar. Stir until sugar dissolves, mix in the desiccated coconut and stir on low heat until the mix is almost dry. Set aside to cool.

Pancakes:

Grease frying pan lightly, then heat. Pour two to three tablespoons of the batter into a small frying pan. Cook until golden brown, then turn over to lightly brown the other side. Turn onto a plate. Place two tablespoonfuls of filling, in a sausage shape, on each pancake. Fold a pancake side over the filling, fold in the edges, and then roll the pancake up.

Note: *pandan* essence often comes with green colouring added. Vanilla essence may be used instead, or if *pandan* leaves are available, add two to the filling while it is cooking.

Selamat menikmati. Enjoy your meal.

Playing Games, Having Fun

At lunchtime on Fridays I go to the mosque to pray with other boys. Afterwards we have the afternoon to play. Depending on the time of the year we could be rollerblading, swimming, spinning tops, flying kites or practising *silat*.

Kite flying, *silat* and top-spinning are quite traditional activities. They are things my father and grandfather did when they were young. Rollerblading and soccer are more modern activities.

I like them all.

Fact File

- A record time for the longest spinning top, called a *gasing*, is almost two hours.
- The emblem on the tail fin of Malaysian Airlines is a moon kite or *wau bulan*.
- *Sepak takraw*, badminton, hockey and ten-pin bowling are popular sports in Malaysia.
- To see some of the beautiful shapes and designs of traditional kites, or *wau*, visit the Dancing Frog Designs website at <http://www.bhc.com/malaysia2001/wau.html#wau>

Wau Designs



? Discuss why a kite is a suitable emblem for Malaysian Airlines.



soccer on the beach



rollerblading



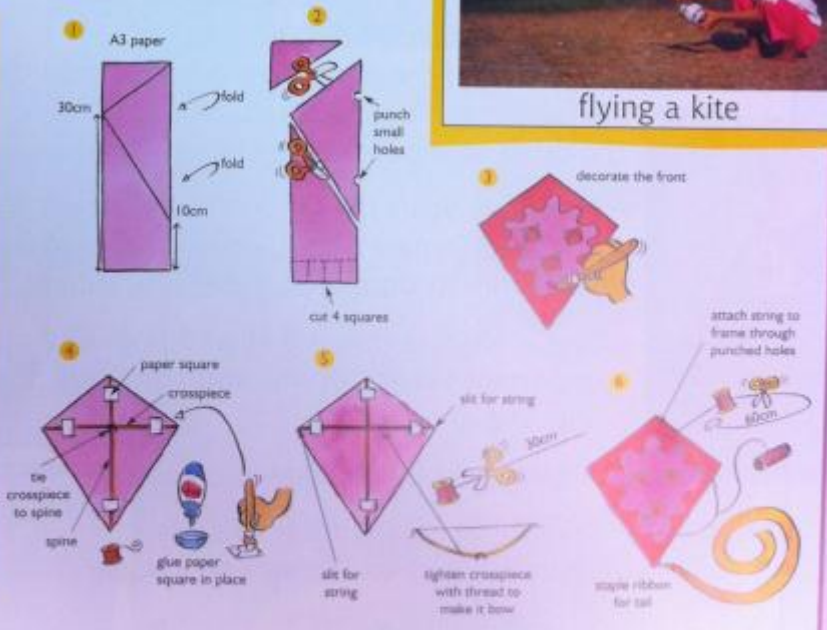
top spinning



flying a kite

Making a Bow Kite

- You will need**
- A piece of A3 paper
 - Ruler, pencil and scissors
 - Single hole-punch
 - 2 bamboo skewers/sticks, 30 cm long with a slit cut into each end of the one used for the crosspiece
 - PVA glue
 - Thick cotton thread (frame)
 - 1 m flat ribbon (tail)
 - Stapler
 - A cardboard roll with strong, fine string (to fly the kite)



Practising and Performing

Silat is a form of martial arts and also a dance. *Silat* is very popular throughout Malaysia. In the past the Sultans of each region had a troop of *silat* fighters to protect and defend them. When they were not fighting they often put on *silat* performances as entertainment for the Sultan.

I have been learning *silat* for two years. We usually train once a week and I practise at home for 20 minutes each day. This month we have been invited to perform at the Sultan's palace for his birthday. There will be other dancing and music, and *wayang kulit* too.

Fact File

- Malaysia has thirteen states and two federal territories; nine of the states are each governed by a separate traditional Sultan family. The other four states have elected governors.
- Every five years the Conference of Rulers elects a *Yang di-Pertuan Agong*, or king, of Malaysia. He is chosen from one of the nine Sultans.
- *Silat* is often performed at weddings and other important events. Drums and gongs are played with the display.
- *Wayang kulit* is a shadow puppet play.
- *Joget* is one of the many traditional dances in Malaysia. It is based on Portuguese folk dance.



wayang kulit



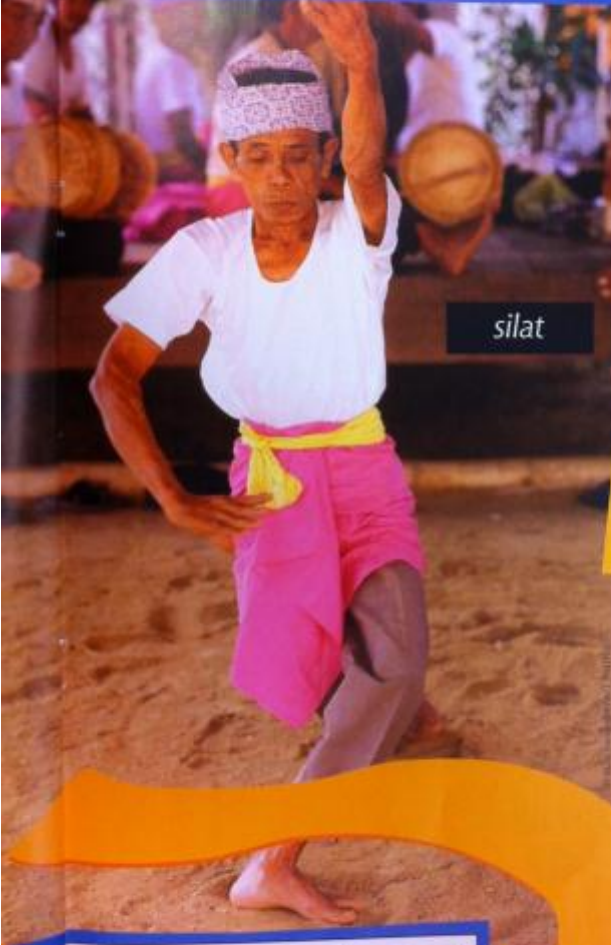
joget



Chinese opera

**Nordin, Nordin,
what can you see?**

I see an opera singer
in front of me.



silat



Iban dancer



Iban sape musician



Something to Celebrate

Hari Raya Puasa is my favourite time of the year. It comes at the end of Ramadan, a month when Muslims fast from sunrise to sunset.

After our last day of fasting the fun begins. Our houses have been spring-cleaned, the oil lamps are lit, and we put on new clothes and get ready to celebrate.

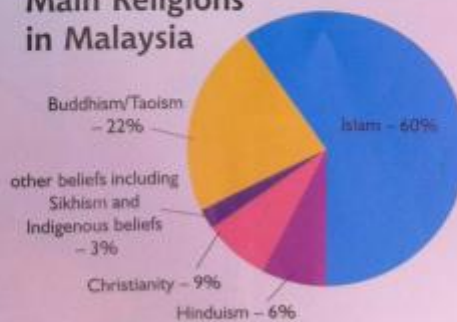
First we visit the mosque early in the morning to pray. Then we visit the cemetery to pray for family members who have died.

After we have finished our prayers we visit the homes of friends and relatives. We usually have something delicious to eat at each place and ask forgiveness for any hurt we have caused in the past year.



children celebrate National Day

Main Religions in Malaysia





Gawai Dayak,
Iban festival



Hari Raya Puasa



Chinese New Year



kolam for Deepavali

Fact File

- The Muslim or Islamic calendar is 11 days shorter than a Western calendar.
- Celebrations in Malaysia often involve 'open house' where friends of other cultures and religions are invited to join in the fun.
- Chinese New Year is a time to spend with family and show respect for ancestors. Children are given *ang pau*, gifts of money in little red packets, to wish them a long and wealthy life.
- Deepavali is a Hindu festival of lights that celebrates the victory of good over evil.
- Indigenous festivals, such as Gawai Dayak, are often based around harvest time.
- Malaysia's National Day (*Hari Kebangsaan*) is 31 August.

? Are there any special times in the year when you celebrate? How do you celebrate?

A Malay Tale

Mouse Deer and Crocodile Told by Aaron Shepard

One day, Mouse Deer went down to the river. He wanted to take a drink. But he knew Crocodile might be waiting underwater to eat him.

Mouse Deer had an idea. He said out loud, 'I wonder if the water's warm. I'll put in my leg and find out.'

But Mouse Deer didn't put in his leg. Instead, he picked up a stick with his mouth and put in one end.

Chomp! Crocodile grabbed the stick and pulled it underwater.

Mouse Deer laughed. 'Stupid Crocodile! Don't you know a stick from a leg?'

And he ran off to drink somewhere else!

Another day, Mouse Deer went back to the river. All he saw there was a floating log. But he knew Crocodile looked like a log when he floated.

Mouse Deer had an idea. He said out loud, 'If that log is really Crocodile, it won't talk. But if it's really just a log, it will tell me.'

He listened. A rough voice said, 'I'm really just a log.'

Mouse Deer laughed. 'Stupid Crocodile! Do you think a log can talk?'

And off he ran again!

Another day, Mouse Deer wanted to cross the river. He wanted to eat tasty fruits and roots and shoots on the other side. But he didn't want Crocodile to eat him first!

Mouse Deer had an idea. He called out, 'Crocodile!'

Crocodile rose from the water. 'Hello, Mouse Deer.
Have you come to be my breakfast?'

'Not today, Crocodile. I have orders from the King.
He wants me to count all the crocodiles.'

'The King!' said Crocodile. 'Tell us what to do.'

'You must line up from this side of the river to the other side.'
Crocodile got all his friends and family. They lined up across
the river.



Mouse Deer jumped onto Crocodile's back. 'One.'

He jumped onto the next crocodile. 'Two.'

And the next. 'Three.'

Mouse Deer kept jumping till he jumped off on the other side
of the river.

'How many are there?' called Crocodile.

'Just enough!' said Mouse Deer. 'And all stupid!'

Then he went off singing his song.

'I'm quick and smart as I can be.

Try and try, but you can't catch me.'

© Aaron Shepard, 2004

Glossary

English

Desiccated:	Dried.
Emblem:	A picture to show an idea.
Exports:	Goods sold and sent to other countries.
Fast:	Go without food.
Indigenous:	Original inhabitant; flora, fauna, fish or human.
Pagoda:	A multistorey tower that is part of a temple.
Pilgrimage:	A journey to a sacred place.
Promote:	Raise interest in something.
Minarets:	Towers on a mosque from where Muslims are called to prayer.
Sultan:	A ruler of a state, whose father was the Sultan before him.
Suspended:	Hanging from something.
Tiers:	Storeys, levels on a building.

Bahasa Malaysia

Bahasa Melayu:	Malay language.
Hari Raya Puasa:	(or Aidilfitri) Day of celebrating at the end of Ramadan.
Kampung:	A village.
Lupa Lelah:	Forget your tiredness.
Nenek:	Grandmother.
Pandan:	Leaf of the screw pine.
Pasar malam:	Night market.
Puasa:	To fast, not eat.
Pulau:	Island.
Sepak Takraw:	Game played with woven rattan ball and net.
Silat:	A form of martial arts.

