



FMWW

GLOBAL ADVENTURES

2025

PHILIPPINES



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GLOBAL ADVENTURES!

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GLOBAL ADVENTURES!

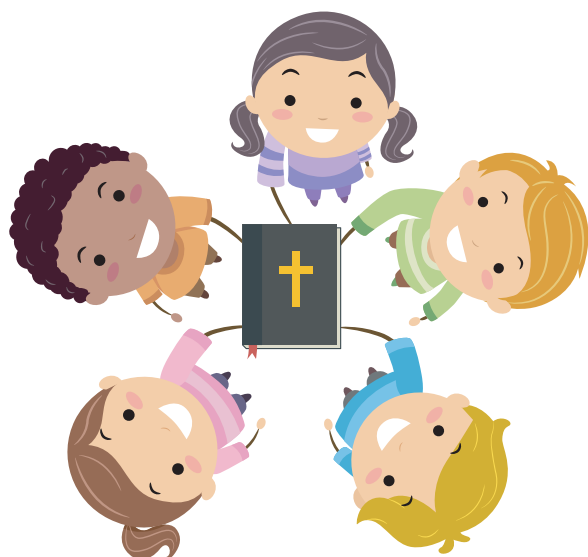
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Thanks for joining the adventure!



THEME VERSE

Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth.

Sing to the LORD, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day.

Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples.

Psalms 96:1-3



Explore the Country

General Information, Interesting Facts and An Up-Close Focus



Explore God's Work

Learn about Free Methodist Ministries



Adventure Story

Enjoy a Story from the Field & Explore More



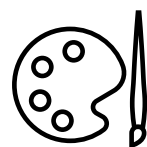
People on Adventure

Meet the Missionaries or Country Leaders



Adventure in Prayer

Walk Through a Prayer Activity



Adventures in Culture

Participate in Culture Through Language, Music, Games, Crafts and Food



EXPLORE THE COUNTRY



PHILIPPINES

Photo: Taylor Keeran/Unsplash

Use the facts and information here to help your students learn about the country. (An accompanying PowerPoint presentation can be found on our website: fmwm.org/resources/children.)

Government: presidential republic

Capital: Manila

Population: 118,277,063

Area: 186,300 square miles, slightly larger than Arizona

General Terrain: mostly mountains with narrow to extensive coastal lowlands

Climate: tropical marine

Major Cities: Manila (15.2 million), Davao (2 million), Cebu (1.1 million)

Languages: Filipino (based on Tagalog), English, between 137 and 195 other dialects, with Tagalog and Cebuano being the most commonly spoken native languages

Religion: Roman Catholic (78.8%), Muslim (6.4%), Iglesia ni Cristo (2.6%), other Christian (3.9%)

Currency: Philippine Peso

National Tree: Narra tree

National Bird: Philippine eagle

National Flower: *Sampaguita* (Jasminum sambac)

National Motto: "For God, People, Nature and Country"

Major Industries: electronics assembly, business-process outsourcing, food and beverage manufacturing, construction, chemicals, petroleum refining, fishing

Agricultural Products: sugarcane, rice, coconuts, maize, bananas, vegetables, tropical fruits, plantains, cassava

Natural Resources: timber, petroleum, nickel, cobalt, silver, gold, salt, copper

Major Exports: semiconductors, electronic products, garments, coconut oil, seafood, bananas/fruit



Photo: Jan Coates

Interesting Facts:

- The Philippines consists of more than 7,000 islands. Most people live on 11 of the islands. Only 2,773 of the islands have been named.
- Spain ruled the Philippines for nearly 400 years. The U.S. then ruled. After World War II, on July 4, 1946, the Philippines became its own country.
- Mount Mayon (meaning “beautiful”) still has its perfect cone shape after erupting 33 times in the last 150 years.
- You might find a gecko in people’s homes. It keeps the house free of insects.
- The tarsier monkey is the world’s smallest monkey. It has large eyes so it can see at night. It eats insects.
- There are over 20 varieties of bananas in the Philippines. Half of the banana crops are exported.
- The Philippine Islands were named in honor of Prince Felipe, who was later King Philip II of Spain.
- The Narra tree is the national tree; it has yellow flowers. Its wood is used to make furniture and wood carvings.



Photo: Deb Dowd / Unsplash



Photo: Jan Coates

- Basketball is the most popular sport.
- In the Philippines, it is considered rude to open gifts immediately after they are given.
- Jellyfish Lake in the Philippines contains more than 13 million jellyfish.
- The Philippines has the longest Christmas season. It begins with the playing of carols in September and ends with the Feast of the Three Kings in January.

Up Close — Philippines

The Land

The more than 7,000 islands that make up the nation of the Philippines look a bit like a jigsaw puzzle. Only

11 of the islands are large enough for people to live on. About 6,000 of the islands don't have people living on them. Some islands are so small they disappear under the sea at high tide. Then at low tide, they reappear.

Off the island of Mindanao is the Philippine Trench, a huge gash in the floor of the Philippine Sea. It is 33,000 feet deep. That is deep enough that you could drop in the world's tallest mountain, Mount Everest, and it would disappear.

Animals

The Philippine rainforest is home to such animals as monkeys, small deer, snakes, lizards, crocodiles and 800 species of birds, including the world's largest eagle — the monkey-eating eagle.

The tarsier monkey is a nocturnal animal; it sleeps during the day and is awake at night. It has huge eyes, legs like a frog, hands like a monkey and a silky gray-brown coat. The tarsier monkey's head can spin around 180 degrees. It is about the size of a squirrel and can jump about 20 feet.

More to Know

The Jeepney is a popular way to get around in the Philippines. The Filipinos took old American Jeeps used during World War II (1939-45) and turned them into minibus taxis. They decorate the rebuilt Jeeps with tassels, silver foil, small animals, and folk and religious art.



Photo: Jan Coates



Photo: Hitoshi Namura/Unsplash



EXPLORE GOD'S WORK



Use the facts and information found here to help your students learn about the church in the Philippines. (You will find photos in the accompanying PowerPoint presentation for the Philippines on our website: fmwm.org/resources/children/.)



Photo: Jan Coates

How the Free Methodist Church Began

In 1949 missionaries Walter and Gertrude Groesbeck and John and Ruby Schlosser transferred from China to the Philippines. They settled on the island of Mindanao. The first Free Methodist church was constructed at Bunawan. Other missionaries soon joined the two couples. A Bible school was started in 1955.

Present Ministries

FM Churches: 372

FM Membership: 36,390

Bishop: Tereso Lanzon Jr.

The Free Methodist Church in the Philippines celebrated its 75th anniversary with 12 conferences, 392 established churches, 39,390 members, 198

ordained ministers, 170 ministerial candidates, 341 assigned lay ministers, and 800 leaders in development. Training occurs at Light and Life Bible College and John Wesley Training Institute, preparing leaders for ministry and global missions. The church partners with International Child Care Ministries and Compassion International to support children through the Philippine Social Ministries. The FREE LIFE Community strategy aims to reach youth on campuses, and FreePH2025 and Beyond sends student missionaries to three Philippine regions without an FMC presence. The church also sends missionaries to Creative Access-HK, Creative Access-PN, Australia and tribal groups in the Philippines. The plan to send missionaries to Fiji in 2026 adds to the Philippines' significance as a mission-sending church.

Ministry to Children

International Child Care Ministries (ICCM) in the Philippines started in 1978. ICCM Philippines has some of the best holistic child-development projects in the ICCM ministry. Many pastors' children receive sponsorship, which is deeply valued, provides encouragement for pastors' families, and helps alleviate some financial hardship. Seven study centers use a holistic approach to ensure all aspects of the child's growth receive attention.

These study centers minister to various groups of children: children in mountain villages, children in urban areas, street children, children who live in the local garbage dump site and children who have been abandoned. Many churches also have strong ministries to children in their local communities through preschool programs or feeding programs.

Pray

- Pray for wisdom and guidance for the national leaders, especially Bishop Tereso Lanzon Jr.
- Pray for the increased sending of missionaries to other countries.
- Pray that new believers will grow in Christ as others come alongside to show them what it looks like to follow Jesus.
- Pray more students will be trained to be pastors and church leaders.
- Pray for ICCM ministries to street children in Davao, Butuan City and Manila, as well as the tribal children in La Paz and Sibagat, Agusan del Sur.
- Pray for new churches to be started in the cities – Manila, Baguio, Cebu and Davao.
- Pray for growing campus ministries for college students.
- Pray for the Free Methodist schools at all levels.



Photo: Jan Coates



ADVENTURE STORY

Abandoned but Not Lost

By Jordan Rosales

Hi! My name is Jordan Rosales, and I want to tell you a story of how God changed my life in a big way.

When I was younger, life was really hard. My family made a lot of bad choices. My stepdad was doing something very wrong – he was selling drugs. When the police came looking for him, he ran away. But my mom, who was going to have a baby, got caught and taken to jail instead. A month later, the police caught my stepdad. My older brother got scared and left town. That meant I was all alone. I had no one to take care of me. I had to live on the streets, find food, and figure out where to sleep every night.

Then something amazing happened. In 2003, I met a kind man named Pastor Willy Abrao. He loved God and helped kids like me who were living on the streets. Even though we were dirty and had no homes, Pastor Willy hugged us and made us feel special. He told us Jesus loved us and that there was hope for our future.

Because of Pastor Willy, I got to live at a place called the Ahon Community Care Center in a home for boys like me. There, we had food, clothes, a place to sleep and were able to attend school. We also learned about Jesus and how to live with kindness and discipline. A woman we affectionately called Ma'am Tess helped raise us. She was strict but loved us and taught us to follow rules and respect others. She pointed us to Jesus every day as He helped her provide for our needs.

At first, I didn't like the rules and tried to run away a few times. But I started to understand that God had a better plan for me. I began to grow and learn, and I started to believe in the future God had for me.

I finished high school and then went to college! In 2019, I graduated with a degree in secondary education and a focus on biology. I even got honors for doing so well! That same year, I passed a big test to become a professional teacher. I was the first boy from the center to finish college like that!

After college, I worked as a campus missionary with the Philippine General Conference of the Free Methodist Church. My friend Kanaku and I



helped college students learn about Jesus, just as Pastor Willy and Ma'am Tess had helped me. I was also mentored by Bishop Alan Bacus and his wife, Ammabelle, who taught me even more about ministry and how to love and serve others.

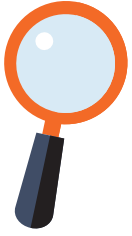
Now, I work in a local government office. Even though this is not a job in the church, I still serve God by doing my best and sharing His love with my coworkers. I also help at the Ahon Free Methodist Church and am helping start a new church, too!

One of the happiest moments in my life happened in 2023 — when my mom and my siblings gave their lives to Jesus! Now, my whole family is serving God together. I know this is just one of the many things God has done and will do in my life.

Meeting Jesus changed my life as a child, and it has changed everything since. I was once abandoned and lonely on the streets, but now I am living the life Pastor Willy and Ma'am Tess prayed I would have. I am so thankful for the people who invested their lives in me; their time, efforts and resources have changed my life and the lives of the other boys who lived in the home.

I am Jordan Rosales, a kid who met Jesus on the street and now lives to share Jesus' love with others. My heart is full of joy! I am singing a new song, telling the world all the wonderful things the Lord has done!

(Edited by Jan Coates)



EXPLORE MORE

In Jordan's story, Pastor Willy showed "compassion" to Jordan and the other boys living on the streets. Compassion is a bigger word that means we recognize or see how someone else is in need or suffering, and then we take action to help them. We try to make the situation better for them.

The Bible talks about compassion:

- Jesus saw those who were sick. He had compassion and healed them (Matthew 14:14).
- Jesus recognized people are like sheep without a shepherd to care for them. He had compassion and cared for their needs (Mark 6:34).
- Jesus recognized physical hunger. He had compassion and performed a miracle to feed them (Mark 8:2).
- Jesus told a story about a man who had a lost son. The father had compassion and welcomed the son home (Luke 15:20).

Talk about ways, both as a class and as individuals, you can show compassion to others.

Discuss how your actions might impact others and honor God.

There may be people in your community who are homeless or in need of some basic things like food or clothing. Sometimes, like Jordan, they don't have the ability to change their situation. Take a few minutes and think about ways the children might help.

- Collect food for a local food pantry.
- Collect toiletry items for a local shelter.
- Collect clothing for a local clothes closet.
- Collect coats or blankets for a homeless ministry.
- Sponsor a child through International Child Care Ministries (childcareministries.org).
- Make care bags to give to a homeless person; include items like a bottle of water, granola bars, cheese and crackers, nuts, a packet of wet wipes, and a gift card for a fast-food restaurant.





PEOPLE ON ADVENTURE



Meet Bishop Tereso Lanzon Jr.

In 2022, Tereso Lanzon Jr. became only the third individual to be elected bishop of the Philippines. Before becoming bishop, he had served as a local pastor and superintendent. He is married and has three grown daughters.



Meet Alan and Ammabelle Bacus

Alan and Ammabelle Bacus are FMWM Asia's first international missionaries to share the vision to "Influence a Million in Asia for Christ." They envision mobilizing Free Methodist churches by intentionally planting community churches through campus ministry and forming disciple-making communities in gateway cities in Asia.

Alan is the former bishop, and Ammabelle is the former mission director of FMC Philippines. Together, they initiated vibrant campus movements in their country.

They have three children who are all high school or college age: Alan Josiah, Azaneah Jannah and Asher Jedd.



Meet Teresita Chua Norris

Teresita, better known as Ma'am Tess, is the president of Philippine Free Methodist Social Ministries Inc. (PFMSMI), which cares for abandoned and at-risk children. She has been instrumental in the development of the ICCM programs in the Philippines, including the AHON Learning for Life Program, which serves children who live on the garbage dump in Butuan City, and the AHON Community Care Center, which offers holistic care for children. The community care center is now the location of the boy's home and the girl's home. Ma'am Tess has been instrumental in the life transformation of many children.

In August 2024, Ian and Ma'am Tess visited Fiji, where God placed upon their hearts a mission for long-term church planting, bringing His love and the gospel to Fijian communities in need. Now, they are stepping into a new journey of faith, outreach and transformation in Fiji.

Note: Pastor Willy Abra, mentioned in our Adventure Story, was part of a group, including Ma'am Tess, who initiated ministry to street children and children living on the garbage dump in Butuan City. Pastor Willy passed away several years ago after contracting tuberculosis.



ADVENTURE IN PRAYER



OBSTACLE PRAYERS

Supplies needed:

Items you can use to set up a short obstacle course.

A blindfold.

Preparation: Set up a short obstacle course.

Before proceeding with prayer, ask for a volunteer to complete the obstacle course. Blindfold the participant. Have someone else, an older student or teacher, help the blindfolded child navigate the obstacle course.

An obstacle is defined as something that blocks your way or keeps you from making progress. It would have been very difficult for _____ to complete the obstacle course without the help of _____.

Sometimes there are problems, difficulties or circumstances we have in life that are like obstacles. They keep us from learning, growing or becoming who God created us to be.

Think back to the Adventure Story about Jordan. What were some obstacles in his life?

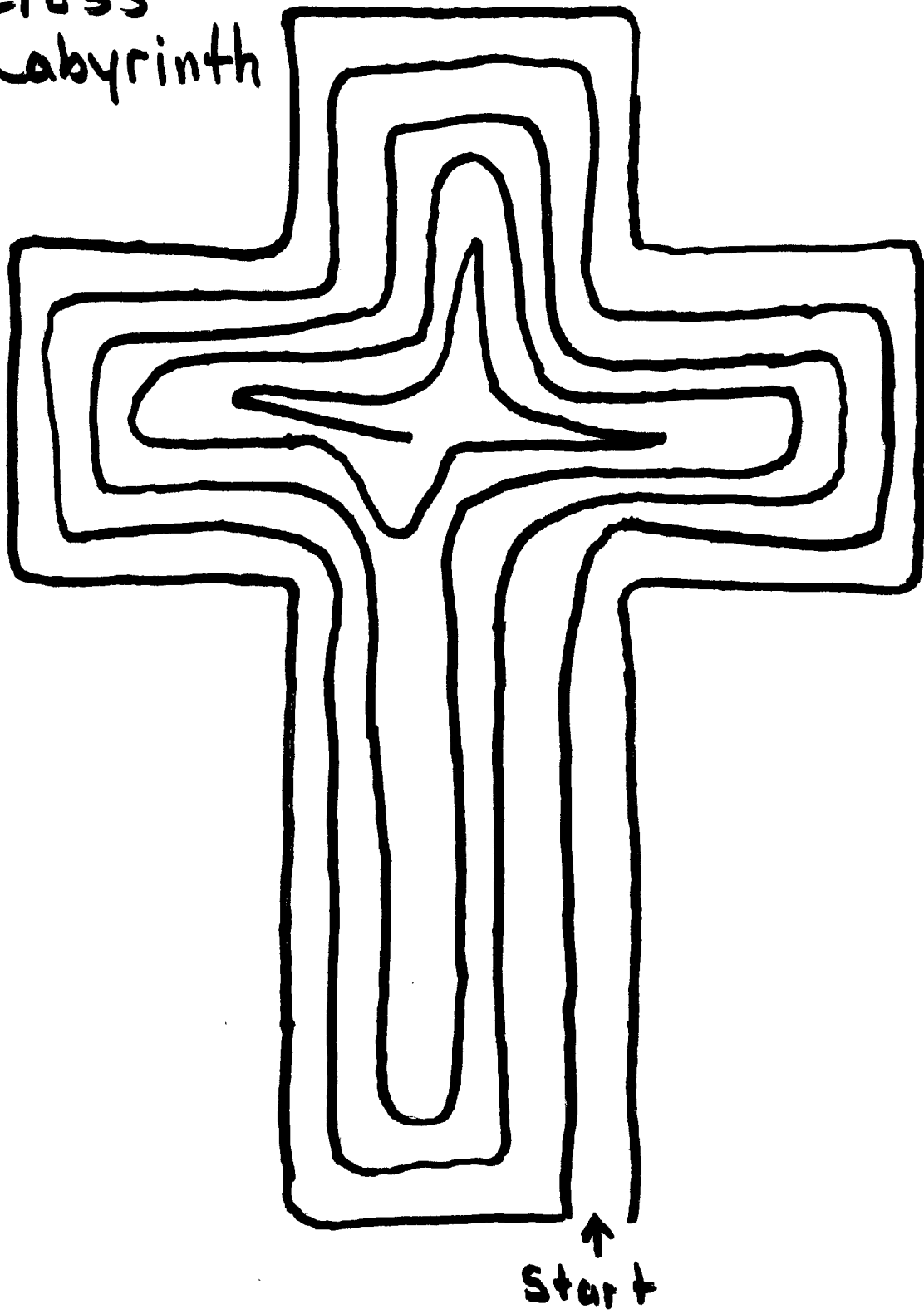
In 2 Corinthians 11:24-28, the Apostle Paul lists a lot of obstacles he faced – beatings, being shipwrecked, being imprisoned and being persecuted because he was a follower of Jesus. But because of his faith in Jesus and because he listened to Jesus, Paul was able to overcome every obstacle. And because Pastor Willy found Jordan, cared for him and told him about Jesus, Jordan has been able to overcome the obstacles in life.

Prayer is one of the ways God helps us work through the obstacles or difficult things in our lives.

- Give each student a cross labyrinth (on [page 13](#)).
- Tell the children that we can trust Jesus to be with us through every difficulty and challenge we have. He doesn't always remove the obstacles, but he helps us recognize where the obstacles are and navigate them.
- Have the students sit quietly for several minutes. Consider dimming the lights. Ask the students to think of one thing that might be an obstacle for them now. It could be something as simple as a subject at school that is difficult or a fear of something. Ask them to tell Jesus about it.
- Have them quietly take their finger and move through the labyrinth on the paper, remembering that Jesus is with them through every obstacle.
- Close the time in prayer for the entire class.



Cross Labyrinth





EXPLORE THE CULTURE

LANGUAGE

Tagalog

Magandang umága

good morning

Magandang hápon

good afternoon

Magandang Gabí

good evening

Kamustá

How are you?

Salamát

Thank you!

Kamustá

Po is often added to a greeting or the thank you to show respect, for example, "Salamát po."

Respect for elders and people in positions of authority is deeply embedded in the Philippine culture. "Mano po" is a greeting and a phrase of respect for elders. It is traditional that the younger person says "mano po" and then takes the elder's hand and places the back of the elder's hand on their forehead. This is also a way of the elder blessing the younger person.

MUSIC

*Here is a tip for pronouncing Cebuano songs on this page: "ang" has the sound like a bell makes in the belfry, "bong" but with no b.

Hallelu, Hallelu

Cebuano, a language from the Philippines

Pronunciation:

Allelu, allelu, allelu, alleluia,

Ah-lay-loo (3x), Ah-lay-loo-ya

Dayga ang Dios!

Die-gah ahng Jos!

Allelu, allelu, allelu, alleluia

Ah-lay-loo (3x), Ah-lay-loo-ya

Dayga ang Dios!

Die-gah ahng Jos!

Dayga ang Dios, alleluia! (3x)

Die-gah ahng Jos, ah-lay-loo-ya (3x)

Dayga ang Dios!

Die-gah ahng Jos!

Translation:

Hallelu, Hallelu, Hallelu, Hallelujah!

Praise ye the Lord! (repeat)

Praise ye the Lord, hallelujah!

Praise ye the Lord, hallelujah!

Praise ye the Lord, hallelujah!

Praise ye the Lord!



God Is So Good

Cebuano, a language from the Philippines

Pronunciation:

Ang Dios maayo

Ahng Jos mah-eye-yoe

Ang Dios maayo

Ahng Jos mah-eye-yoe

Ang Dios maayo

Ahng Jos mah-eye-yoe

Maayo kanako

mah-eye-yoe kah-nah-koe

Translation:

God is so good.

God is so good.

God is so good.

He's so good to me.

GAMES

Rice Relay

What you need: 2 bags of rice

How to play: Divide the players into two teams, with an equal number of players on each team. Each team should stand in a straight line. Give a bag of rice to the first player on each team. At the starting signal, the team passes the bag from one player to the next between the players' legs. When the bag reaches the last person, it is passed back to the first player from one person to the next over the tops of their heads. The winner is the team whose first player gets the bag back first.



Option:

Pass the bag through the first person's legs and over the second person's head, alternating until the bag has been passed down the line and back to the first player again.

Put a at Aso

What you need: "bones" (sticks, slippers, socks)

How you play: The children form a large circle. One child is chosen to be the dog. The dog goes to the center of the circle, where several items (bones) are placed. The bones can be sticks, a slipper, a sock or other items. The dog sits next to the bones to guard them from the other players (the cats). The cats try to take the bones

from the dog while the dog tries to tag the cats. However, the dog must tag the cats with his hands or feet, never standing upright. If tagged, a cat must sit out until the game is complete.

A cat may tease the dog by approaching him while another cat tries to steal a bone. After two minutes, the game should be stopped, and another dog chosen. Play the game several times, giving many children the chance to be in the center.



Flip-Flop Throw

What you need: an old flip-flop, preferably a big one

How to play: Draw a line on the ground. Each person puts on the flip-flop and stands on this line to kick. The object of the game is to see how far each person can kick it. Measure how far it goes. Let this be a noncompetitive game in which each person's score is the best kick out of three tries.



CRAFTS

Philippine Parol

These are traditional Philippine Christmas decorations.

Filipinos start celebrating Christmas as early as September. They celebrate during the “ber” months: September, October, November and December. On September 1, the malls begin to play Christmas music, and you start seeing Christmas decorations in homes. During the time when the Spanish ruled the Philippines, the parol would light the way for people to come home from a midnight Christmas Eve service at church. The parol represents the star of Bethlehem. This parol will not light, but you can enjoy the Philippine Christmas spirit.

Supplies needed:

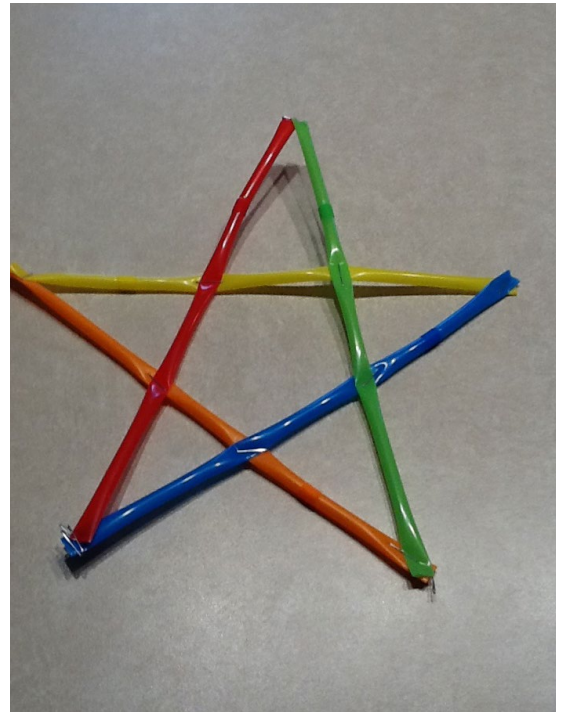
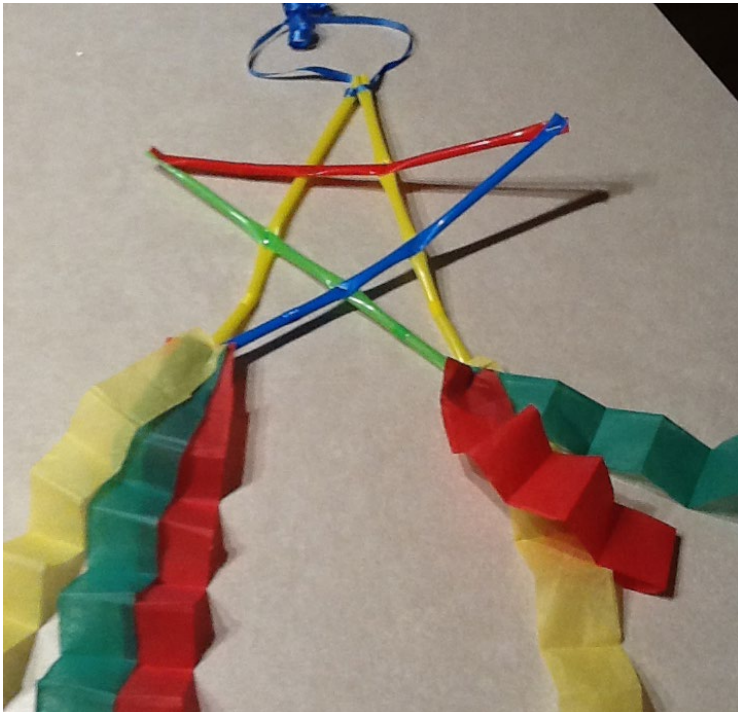
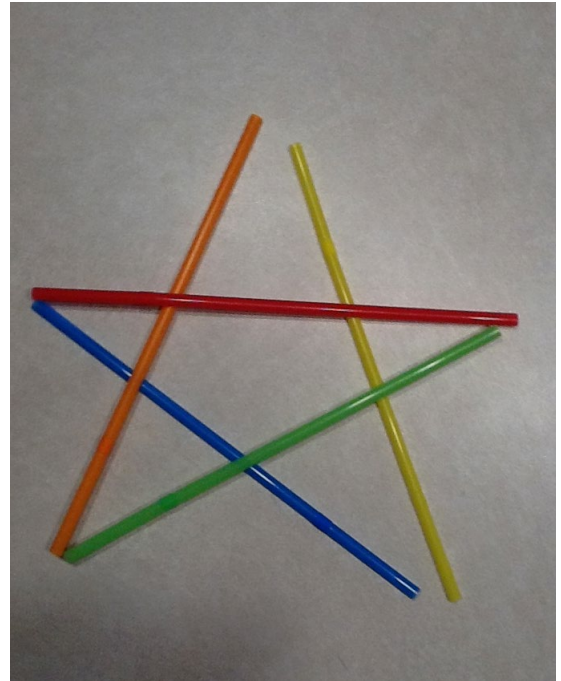
5 plastic straws (the more colorful the better)

four 10-12” strips of tissue paper streamers cut thinly
(could also use brightly colored ribbon)

a piece of yarn or ribbon to hang the parol
stapler

Directions:

Staple two straws into an inverted “V” shape. The ends should be about 7 inches apart. Use the remaining straws and staple them into a star shape. Cut strips of crepe paper into thin strips and staple to the bottom points of the star. Loop a piece of ribbon or yarn to hang the parol.



Shell Art

(Many things in the Philippines are decorated with shells)

Supplies:

- small wooden shapes purchased from a hobby store or cut from tag board or cereal boxes.
- a bag of very tiny shells purchased from a hobby store
- tacky glue or low-temperature glue gun
- magnet strips

Directions:

1. Carefully glue the shells to the wooden or cardboard shape. Arrange the shells to cover the entire shape.
2. Allow glue to dry.
3. Place 2-3 pieces of magnet strip on the back of the shape.
4. Use as a magnet for the refrigerator.



FOOD

Simple Snacks

Try rice cakes – plain or spread with peanut butter or cream cheese. Serve dried mango and dried coconut. Or fix kabobs using fresh fruit such as bananas, pineapple, apples, watermelon, mango, etc.



Palm Trees

Use one large pretzel rod for each child. The pretzel is the trunk. Use several slices of green apple to create the leaves of your tree. Use red or green grapes if you want to make it a coconut tree.

Bibingka

(Coconut pudding from the Philippines)

Ingredients:

- 3/4 cup thick coconut milk
- 1 1/4 cup thin coconut milk
- 1 1/4 cup rice flour
- 2 large eggs
- 3/4 cup soft brown sugar
- 3/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon ground caraway seeds



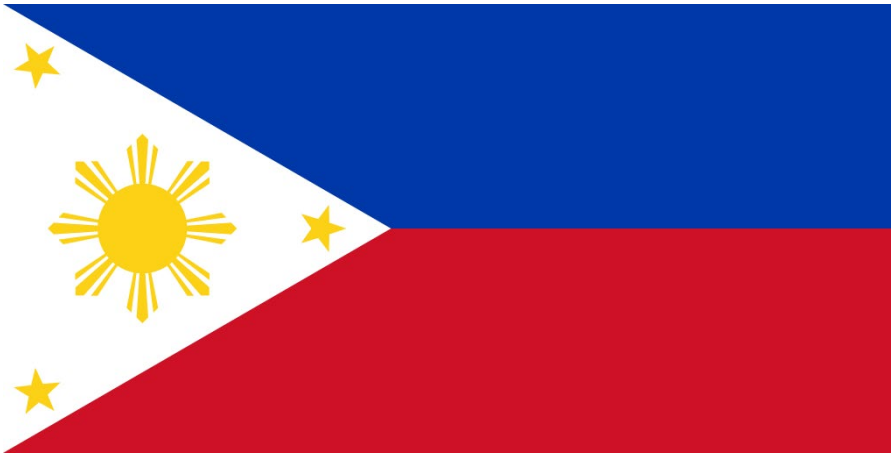
Directions:

Mix the coconut milk and rice flour together. Add the salt and eggs and beat thoroughly. Stir in all but 2 tablespoons of sugar and continue to beat until the sugar has dissolved. Pour into a thickly buttered 9-inch round cake pan and smooth the top. Sprinkle the remaining sugar and caraway seeds over the top; then cover with buttered aluminum foil, pierced in several places. Bake in a preheated oven at 350 degrees for about 35 minutes, until the cake feels firm to touch. Increase the oven temperature to very hot, remove the foil, and return the pudding to the oven to brown the top.



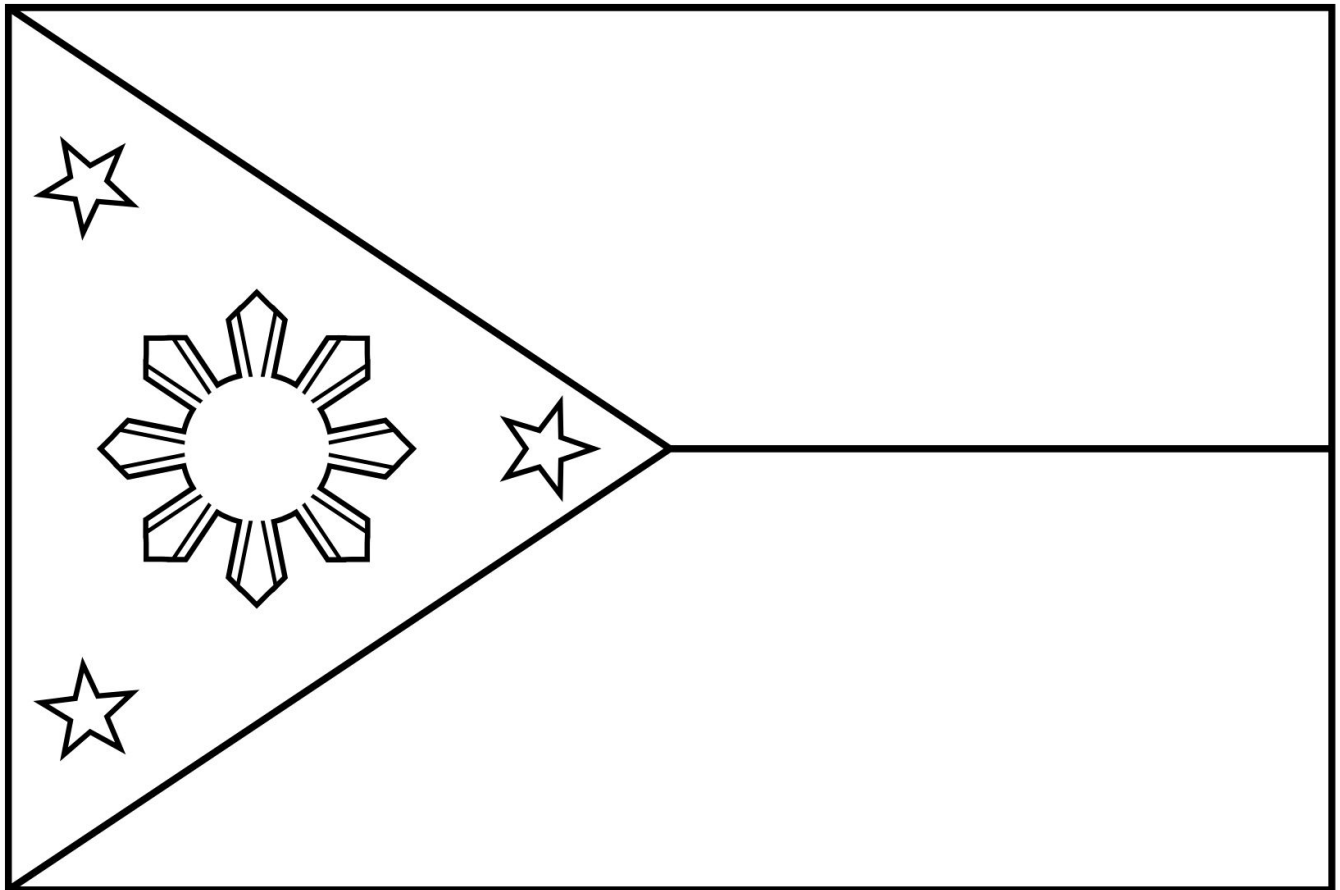
FLAG, MAP AND PUZZLES

Philippines Flag



The top horizontal section in blue representing peace. The bottom horizontal section is red representing courage. The triangle is white representing equality. The sun and the stars are yellow symbolizing freedom and the three island groups.

Color the flag.



Philippines Map

Use a pencil, pen or marker to label the Islands of Luzon, Mindanao and the Visayas (a group of islands in the central Philippines). Label the cities of Manila and Butuan City. Color the Islands and draw or use stickers to decorate around the islands. These things should represent things you have learned about the Philippines (animals, transportation, food, etc.).



Philippines



The Philippines is a nation of more than 7,000 islands, located 500 miles from mainland Asia.

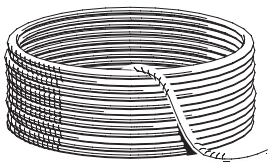
Capital city: Manila
Main languages: Filipino, English
Main religion: Roman Catholic

Did you know?



The flag of the Philippines was first designed in 1897. The sun stands for liberty.

One type of orchid in the Philippines, the waling-waling of Davao, blooms only one time a year.



Farmers in the Philippines grow corn, bananas, coconuts and rice. Abaca is a banana-like plant whose trunks are ripped lengthwise to make rope.



Philippine wildlife includes: water buffalo, wild pig, leopard cat, monkey, mouse deer, squirrel, porcupine and skunk.

TO DO:

Island hop - put the island words in the correct order to read this verse from Psalms 97:1.

earth
5

be
6

reigns
3

let the
8

Lord
2

glad
7

shores
10

distant
9

rejoice
11

let the
4

The
1

P Pray the churches in the
r Philippines can reach out to
a those who need to hear about
y Jesus.

Philippines

O The Free Methodist Church in the
r Philippines has missionaries in the
Philippines, Thailand, Cambodia,
Australia and Hong Kong.



Answer (hold up glass, let the glasses rejoice to a mirror):
The Lord reigns, let the earth be glad, let the distant shores rejoice.



Philippine Word Search

Can you find the words hidden in the puzzle?

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

AHON

COCONUTS

MANILA

RICE

BANANAS

FLIP FLOPS

MOUNT MAYON TAGALOG

BASKETBALL

JEEPNEY

PAROL

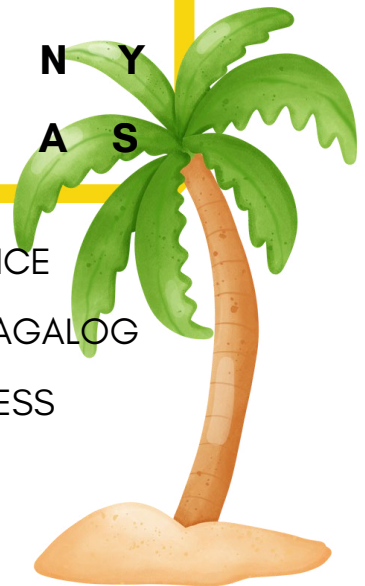
TESS

CHRISTMAS

JORDAN

PESO

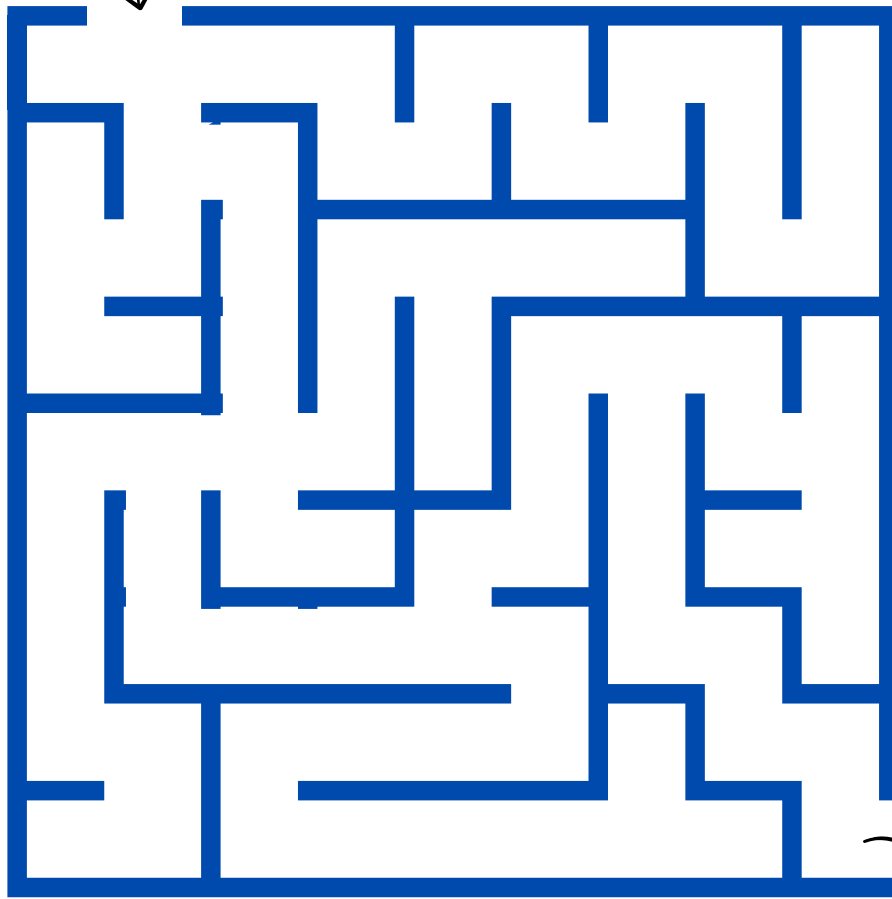
CREATED USING CANVA



PHILIPPINE MAZE



Can you help the children find
their way to the Jeepney?



CREATED USING CANVA

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