

1077 RAVIRAVI SANGAM SCHOOL

YEAR 7

SUBJECT: SOCIAL SCIENCE

WORKSHEET # 2

STRAND:	SS2 – Time, Continuity and Change	
SUB-STRAND:	SS2.1 – Understanding the Past	
CONTENT LEARNING OUTCOME:	<i>Concepts, Skills and Attitudes:</i>	Understanding the Past
	<i>Suggested MiLO:</i>	Investigate “colonisation” in the Pacific, and discuss its effects on the different countries in the Pacific.

LESSON NOTES

WHAT IS HISTORY?

Some definitions of history are:

- everything that has happened in the past.
- like a bridge, connecting the past with the present and pointing to the future.
- record of our past prepared by historians.
- understanding one's identity, customs and traditions.
- record of the changing lives of people through time.

WHY IS HISTORY IMPORTANT?

All Pacific Island Countries have history that their people like to talk about. Some of them have common history that makes them have similar features, characteristics and identity. Many of the Pacific Island Countries like Fiji were once ruled by another country. For instance, Fiji and Kiribati were once ruled by the British, Samoa was also looked after by Britain and New Zealand and Cook Island by New Zealand. When a country is taken over and ruled by another country, it is called colonization. It is therefore important to find out the reason why Pacific Island countries were colonised by these European or bigger countries.

The Republic of the Fiji Islands is a multicultural island nation with cultural traditions of Oceanic, European, South Asian, and East Asian origins. Immigrants have accepted several aspects of the indigenous culture, but a national culture has not evolved. Commercial, settler, missionary, and British colonial interests imposed Western ideologies and infrastructures on the native peoples and Asian immigrants that facilitated the operation of a British crown colony.

The indigenous name of the islands is Viti, an Austronesian word meaning "east" or "sunrise." Ethnic Fijians call themselves Kai Viti ("the people of Viti") or i Taukei ("the owners of the land"). People from different parts of India, now called Fijians, came to work as indentured labourers on sugar plantations. After their term of service, many remained in Fiji. Some became merchants and business-people; others remained on the land as free peasant cultivators. The early immigrants were joined later by freely-migrating people from India's merchant castes, mostly from Gujarat. European immigrants came primarily from Australia, New Zealand, and Great Britain.

ACTIVITIES/EXERCISES

1. Define “history” in your own words.
2. Discuss some positive and negative effects of colonisation on the Pacific Island countries.