

Experience Palau

Background: This activity is designed to encourage reading comprehension skills as students explore Palau's history, culture, and environment. Students will gain insight into Palau's past and its current role in many global environmental concerns. Students will also complete a virtual tour of the Palau Aquarium and International Coral Reef Research Center to learn about various fields of study being conducted in Palau and careers associated with coral reef research.

Materials/Resources: Computer stations with Internet access and "Experience Palau" web quest.

Websites: <http://www.visit-palau.com/index.cfm>; www.palauembassy.com;
<http://www.palaunet.com/Language.asp>; <http://www.picrc.org/>

Classroom Set-up: This activity is designed to be completed in two 60-minute class periods with students working independently or in pairs.

Procedures: Assist students in locating the Palau website and monitor completion of the web quest.

Follow-up Activities: Prompt students in a discussion of the following:

- Variations in the fields of research being conducted in the PICRC and how this research might be applied to concepts beyond Palau and the coral reef (i.e., medical research, climate, biotechnology)
- Compare and contrast Palau's past to their present
- Variations in species between Palau and North Carolina (or other appropriate region)

Experience Palau

Begin your Palauan experience by typing the following address into the web address bar and press "Enter": <http://www.visit-palau.com/index.cfm>

When the link opens, you should see the title, *Experience the Wonders of PALAU* and several links listed along the left-hand margin. Locate and click the **About Palau** link. As you review the information on this page, complete the table below:

General Information about Palau

Official Languages		
Current Day and Time in Palau ¹	Day: _____	Time: _____
Annual Mean Temperature (F/C)	Fahrenheit: _____	Celsius: _____
Annual Mean Rainfall		
Average Relative Humidity		

¹ Add 14 hours to the current time in North Carolina.

Locate and click the **Island Maps** link to view a map of the islands of Palau. How many states comprise the island nation of Palau? _____ See if you can locate 14 of these states on the map. The capital of Palau is Koror. Locate and click the **Koror** link to see a larger map of this state. Ms. Sutton will be staying in the Sunshine Villa Resort Hotel this week. Use the legend below the Map of Koror to locate Ms. Sutton's hotel on the map. List the location number and the name of the region where this hotel is located in the space below:

Hotel Location Number:	Region of Koror:
------------------------	------------------

Click the BACK button and locate the map link for **Pacific Region**. Click this link to gain a better perspective on where the islands of Palau are located in relation to the world. What continent is located south of Palau? _____ If you cannot locate Palau, find the "R" in the continent of Australia then follow the "R" northward toward the Philippine Sea. You should find Palau to the right of the Philippines. You can also use this map to trace the last half of Ms. Sutton's journey to reach the islands. After leaving Houston, Texas, Ms. Sutton traveled to Hawaii (look toward the right/east), then to Guam (north of Palau), and finally to Koror, Palau. Use the BACK button to return to the **Island Maps** link. Locate and click the **Embassies** link to learn how many countries have established consulate offices in Palau. List the countries that have Palauan Embassies below:

Embassies in Palau:

Experience Palau

What is the role of these embassies in Palau? Not sure? Then, locate the USA Embassy of the Republic of Palau-DC website which is listed at the end of their entry: www.palauembassy.com. Click this link and click the **ENTER** link when the page opens. Read the first paragraph to learn the main purpose of the U.S. Embassy in Palau.

Click the BACK button TWICE to return to the *About Palau* page. Locate and click the **History of Palau** link. Based on the information provided on this page, complete the following:

Palau's ancestors are thought to originate from three different groups of relatives that may have arrived as early as _____BC. List these 3 ancestral groups below:

One of the first documented contacts from foreign visitors occurred in 1783. Captain Henry Wilson was sailing for the country of _____. Why did his vessel stop at Palau? _____

Other countries governed Palau throughout its history. Complete the table below using information from paragraphs 3, 4, and 5 on this page:

DATE	FOREIGN GOVERNANCE
1885	
1899	
1919	
1945	

What was the mandate put forth by the United States when Palau became one of the United Nations Trust Territories under U.S. administration? _____

In what year did Palau gain its independence from the United States? _____

Locate and click the **Culture** link found beneath the *History* heading at the top of this page.

Even though Palauans enjoy many modern conveniences today, they continue to practice their traditional culture which includes a variety of ceremonies. Locate the name of the ceremony for each of the following occasions:

Experience Palau

EVENT	CEREMONY NAME
Birth	
First House	
Funeral	

Based on the information in paragraphs 2 and 3, what were the different roles of Palauan men and women?

GENDER	ROLE
Men	
Women	

Palauan villages are organized into ____ clans that survived without a written language until the late _____. Palau's oral communication skills were quite effective and resulted in the development of a variety of art forms for the islands. Locate and click the **Art** link found below the *Culture* heading at the top of this page. Locate and record the different crafts that create such a rich tapestry of Palau's culture:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Select one of these crafts and describe its importance to the Palauan society.

Learn to speak Palauan!

Type in the following link to learn more of the Palauan language: <http://www.palaunet.com/Language.asp>. Use the table on this webpage to interpret and respond to the following conversation from Ms. Sutton:

Ms. Sutton: Alii; Ak Mesiich. Ke ua ngerang?

(Interpret): _____; _____; _____?

Your response: _____

Ms. Sutton: Mechikung

(Interpret): _____

Experience Palau

Let's finish up today with a virtual tour of the Palau International Coral Reef Center. Log on to <http://www.picrc.org/> and continue with virtual tour of Palau.

The PICRC houses an international research center where scientists from around the world can study Palau's coral reef system. Click the **Research** link and then locate the table of contents on the left-hand margin of the Research Center page. Locate and click the **Research Programs** link and view the list of research programs currently being conducted in Palau. Nine research programs are listed. Select one and click on the link to learn more about the research opportunities available. List the program you investigated and write a summary statement that describes the type of research being conducted.

Research Program Title	
Description of Research:	

Close your research program box and locate the **Palau Aquarium** link in the left-hand margin. Click this link and read the Aquarium Overview paragraph. What is the goal of the Palau Aquarium? _____

Locate and click the **Exhibit and Displays** link to begin your virtual tour of the aquarium. The following table includes the 15 different exhibits shown on the aquarium's website. You may complete the table in any order you choose just be sure you visit each exhibit to locate the information needed for the table.

Experience Palau

EXHIBIT NAME	EXHIBIT INFORMATION	EXHIBIT ANSWERS
Seagrass Exhibit	What type of animal feeds on seagrass?	
Mangroves Exhibit	What type of jellyfish hangs out on the muddy bottom of the mangrove forests?	
Inner Reef Exhibit	Besides the napoleon wrasse, what 4 other species can be viewed at this exhibit?	
Reef Crest Exhibit	The Reef Crest exhibit demonstrates why Palau is the world's underwater " . "	
Creatures in Coral Reefs	Find Nemo nestled inside the anemone. This exhibit highlights organisms that live beneficially together in what kind of relationship?	
Marine Lakes Exhibit	What organism is shown in this exhibit and has lost their ability to sting?	
Creatures in Caves	What is the key ingredient that produces light biochemically in organisms with bioluminescent features?	
Creatures in the Deep	The Palua Nautilus is an endemic species, meaning they are found only in Palau. Where do these ancient animals prowl?	
Camouflage	What species do you see hiding in the seagrass?	
Outer Reef Exhibit	This exhibit houses an aquarium tank that is how many liters in capacity?	
Coral Reef Science	Palau's reef system is home to thousands of coral species. This exhibit explores the biology of these unique animals. What 5 species are mentioned in the exhibit summary?	
Palau Exhibit	This exhibit highlights Palau's geology and topography. The islands of Palau originated as what type of landform?	
Legend of Chuab	What is the legend of Chuab?	
Crocodile Exhibit	What species of crocodile is found in Palau?	