

## THE PANDANUS TREE

### Lesson Forty-Two

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**Objectives:** This lesson introduces you to the other significant tree of Kiribati-the Pandanus. Like the coconut, it is used not only for its fruit, but as a material for building and making the objects of daily life. Here you will find some of its uses described, and be exposed to some 'pandanus vocabulary'.

**Activities:**

1. Study the lesson with your teacher by taking turns "acting out" the interview.
2. Prepare a short narrative version.

Note:

There is a book written by Arthur Grimble, in which he calls the I Kiribati 'The People of the Pandanus'. The title of the book is "Migrations of a Pandanus People".

Translation  
of Interview:

#### The Pandanus Tree

What is that tree?

It's a pandanus tree.

Is it of any use?

Quite a bit. The leaves are used for making many things.

Like what?

It can be used for making mat strands, baskets, thatch. Hats can also be made from it, and tobacco wrappers for smoking.

What about its trunk?

Yes, it is used for posts, sticks and walls of houses.

Is any part edible?

Yes, its fruit can be eaten. There are foods which can be gotten from it, like pandanus fruit cake, and powdered pandanus fruit.

It seems as useful as the coconut tree.

Yes, the pandanus tree is the second most useful tree, after the coconut.

TE KAI AE TE KAINA

Reirei Abwi Ma Uoua

Note:

Iai ana boki Arthur Grinble ae e koroia are e araniia I Kiribati iai b'a Aomatan te Kaina. Aran te boki aanne Migrations of a Pandanus People.

Interview  
for Study:

Te Kai Ae Te Kaina

Teraa te kai aanne?

Bon te kai ae te kaina.

Iai boonganana?

E rangi ni bati. A kaboonganaaki baana ibukini karaon b'aai aika a m'aiti.

N aron teraa?

E kaboonganaaki b'a iran te kie, b'aene, raun te auti.  
E konaa naba ni karaoaki mai iai te b'ara, ao te rauara naba ibukin te moko.

Ao kaina?

E eng, e kaboonganaaki b'a bouan auti, kain te auti, ao oon naba te auti.

Ao iai b'aina ae e kaakanaki?

Iai naba te am'arake ae e konaa n reke mai iai n aron te tuae ao te kabubu.

Tao ai kan titeboo naba boonganana ma te kai ae te nii?

E eng, te kaina bon te kauoua ni bongana ni kai iaan te nii.

Additional  
Activities:

Select one of the uses of the pandanus tree - one of the objects made from it for example, or one of the foods prepared from it, and give a short talk on that subject. This may require a little research.

Outside  
Activities:

What other uses can you find that the I Kiribati have for the products of this tree? Is there more than one variety? What kind of cultivation is required? Do you know the English word for this tree?

