



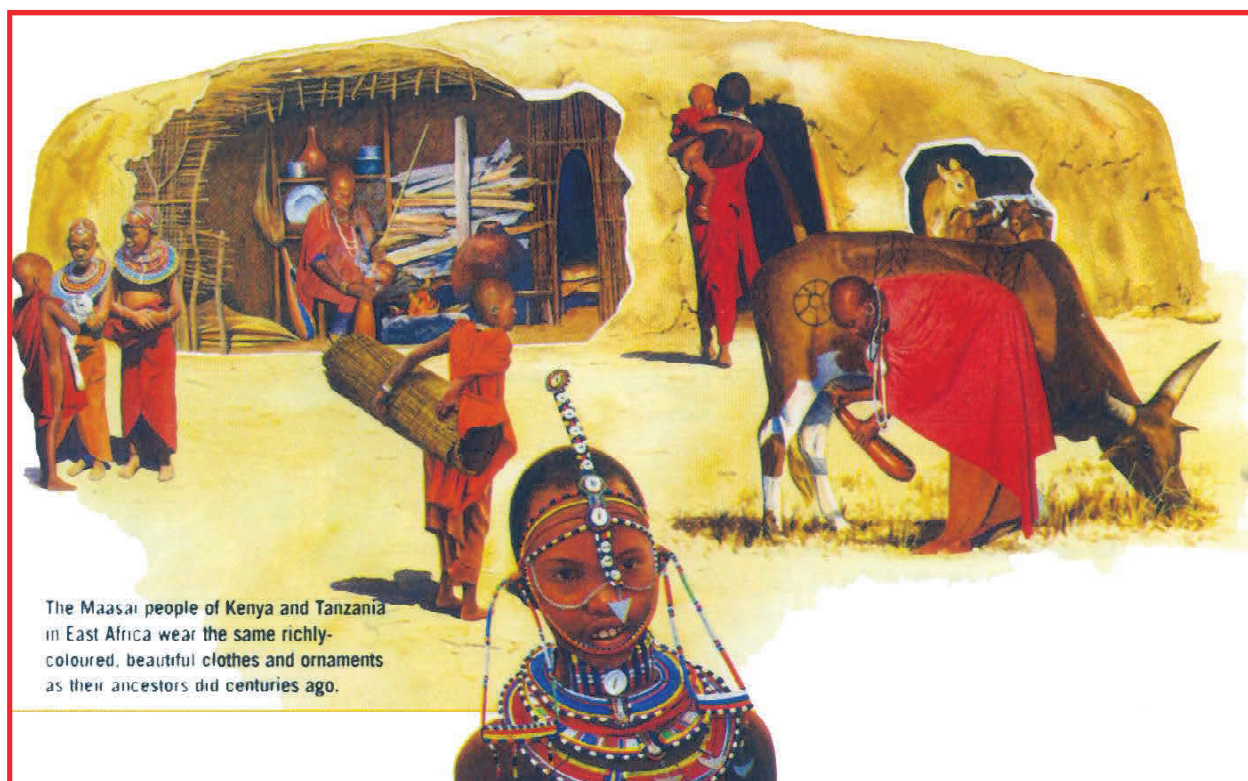
4. A Masai Home

Masai is a tribe that lives in East Africa. The Masais like to live in small traditional houses on the grassland plains near their cattle or their fields. The Masai women build their own homes.

First, they draw the shape of the house, a rectangle, on the ground. They make a frame by weaving together branches and twigs. Then, they pack grass and dung over the outside to keep the building dry. This is necessary because the weather is moist.

There is just one room inside a Masai house. Almost six people sleep together in one large bed made of large branches covered with hide. The mother and children sleep in an inner corner of the house.

In the centre of the house is a fireplace. Fire burns there. It is used for cooking, warmth and light. There are no windows in the Masai house. Only one opening is kept to let light in and smoke out.



The Maasai people of Kenya and Tanzania in East Africa wear the same richly-coloured, beautiful clothes and ornaments as their ancestors did centuries ago.

Cattle are an important part of the Masai family. Young calves and goats live in a special den inside the house. They drink milk in a long vessel called *calabash* made from hollowed out gourd.

Word Meanings

traditional	following ideas or methods that have existed (stayed alive) for a long time. 'Paramparik'
plains	large area of flat dry land.
twig	a small, very thin stem.
pack	to fit a lot of something into a space.
moist	slightly wet.
hide	an animal skin removed to be used for leather.
hollowed out	to make an empty space by removing inner part of something.
opening	a hole or space in something through which light, air, objects etc. can pass.

Reading Comprehension

A. (i) Complete the table about a Masai house.

Who makes it?	
How is it made?	
Number of rooms	
Number of people	
Number of windows	
Number of openings	

(ii) Complete the table

In a 'Masai house' where do you find these ?

1.	Kitchen	
2.	Special den	
3.	Place for sleeping	

(iii) Branches are used by a Masai for

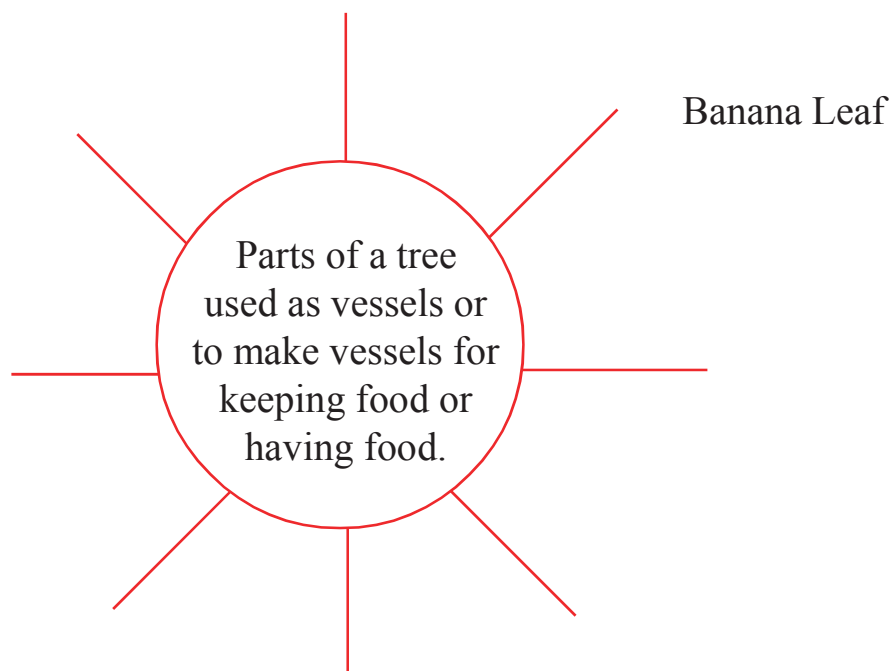
- a. _____
- b. _____

B. Answer the following questions.

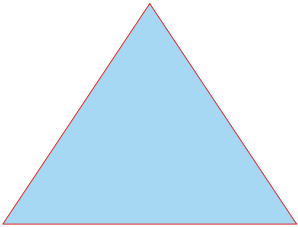
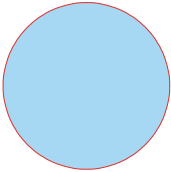
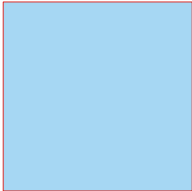
- (1) Where do the Masai women sleep?
- (2) Why do they keep the fire burning in their house? Give three reasons.

Vocabulary

1. Complete the web. Write the names of the vessels in your own language too.



2. Look at the shapes given below carefully and match them with the descriptions.

Pictures	Description
   	A <i>Triangle</i> has three corners and three sides. A <i>Rectangle</i> has four sides. The opposite sides of a rectangle are equal. A <i>Square</i> has four corners and four sides. All the sides are equal. A <i>Circle</i> has no corners.

3. Make as many words as you can from the given word and write them in your notebook. (you can make at least 21 words)

